

City Council Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2018  
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Wade, Chism, and White.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the March 26, 2018 meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ald. Wade seconded, all voted “yes” and the minutes were accepted.

2. Certification of the Municipal Election: This item was tabled and will be taken up at the next regularly scheduled meeting as the City Clerk has not received the County Clerk’s Certification of the Election as of this date. The newly re-elected officers will be sworn in at that time as well.
3. Visitors: Mr. John Langley of 401 Bloomfield Rd. appeared before the Council to ask if the City would be able to provide sewer service to his home. He stated that they had lived there since 1971 and had requested the sewer service several times but had been told that it was not cost effective for the city to install a lift station and lay sewer pipes to his residence. The Mayor stated that that unfortunately, that situation had not changed and that under current situations, the City would never be able to see a return on the large investment that that would require. The second subject Mr. Langley spoke about was the situation of speeding vehicles all along Bloomfield Road. He stated that he had had several dogs killed by speeders and was concerned for the welfare of his grandchildren when they came to visit. He requested that the City Police made an effort to patrol that road and to watch for those breaking the speed limit in order to deter those currently breaking the law. The Mayor asked Chief Higginson, who was present at the meeting, to discuss this with his officers. He also asked Mr. Langley to make an effort to get a description of the vehicles and/or the license plates so that the police could ticket or contact those people to let them know that this would not be tolerated. Mayor Bodi did inform Mr. Langley that if the City has the opportunity to develop the industrial park, they will look at the financial requirements to extend service to the Langley’s at that time and will certainly consider it. Currently the City has a huge project to repair an issue with the drainage of water into the DesCyprie Subdivision that is cause the backfeeding of water into that area that will be a priority right now. He thanked Mr.

Langley for appearing and told him that he would see if and what could be done for them at a later date.

4. The new agenda item, a Resolution to purchase the property at 741 Waters Street was tabled for future deliberation as Atty. Bock informed the Council that the deed showed that there were actually three owners of the property and that further discussion with these individuals would need to take place to determine who had the legal authority to proceed with the sale and if all of the owners were in agreement. This will be taken up again when these conversations have taken place.
5. A Resolution was presented to the Council with a recommendation from Lambert Engineering to award the bid for the FY 2018 Street Improvement Project to Apex Paving Company of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for the amount of \$317,552.00. Apex was actually the only company submitting a bid for this project and the only asphalt company in Southeast Missouri in operation. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution and Ald. White seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the resolution was approved.
6. Liquor License Renewals: A renewal application was presented for the business and liquor license of El Bracero’s Bar and Restaurant. Chief Higgerson was asked if there had been an issues with law enforcement at this establishment. Chief Higgerson said that there had not been any problems at all. Ald. White made a motion to approve the renewal and Ald. Chism seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the license was renewed. M & M Deli and Star Mart had not submitted their application and supporting documents as of the date of the meeting. The Mayor asked the City Clerk if she had contacted the businesses. She stated that she had sent them another letter the week before. The renewal for the other two businesses was tabled until the next meeting.
7. City Administrator’s Report: City Adm. Richard McGill informed the Council that Allegient had been here for the last 3 weeks and feel that almost all of the issues with the water meters have been resolved. They will be auditing the entire water system. Adm. McGill stated that he no longer has confidence in the electric meters either and has asked for an audit of them as well. He stated that he will continue to keep everyone informed. He said that they now have an individual that specializes in trouble shooting only. He said that he speaks highly of our water department and the assistance they have been giving him.

The Chlorine Safety Training took place just last week and it went very well. The training emphasized the potential danger that a Chlorine spill could pose to the citizens of New Madrid and everyone attending the training took it very seriously. He said that Fire Chief Jim Harris and Ud Bodi will be getting the documents and safety procedures for Hazmet training.

Ald. Wade asked about the estimated completion date for the Water Plant. Adm. said that the progress is still good but that the recent wet weather has posed a slight delay but they still expect to be complete by mid May. He told the Council that Keith Budlong of Smith & Company has been really great to work with. He also commended the Water Department Employees to Adm. McGill and said that they were exceptional.

Mayor Bodi said that he had been contacted by several people that live on Main Street about the Crepe Myrtles on their property that the City has planted a few years back. Their complaints is mainly that they obstruct the view and require additional mowing time to mow around the trees. Ald. Wade said that the care and maintenance of the trees is becoming quite a burden on the women of the Botanical Society. The Mayor also mentioned that the City's sewer line is directly below the Crepe Myrtles on the east side of the street and the water lines are directly below those planted on the west side of the street and may pose a serious problem in the future. The Mayor stated that he thought it would be a good idea to speak to the property owners along Main Street and then discuss it further when all of the board members are present. Ald. Chism said he thought they looked nice but understood that the street department struggled to keep them maintained. We must consider what to do if they are becoming a safety hazard. If they are removed, there will be a void left on the street. They would have to determine what could be planted in their place. Also, it would be a shame to lose the investment that was put into those trees. The Mayor mentioned that perhaps they could be transplanted to the walking track at Davis Park.

There being no further business to discuss, Ald. White made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Chism seconded. All voted "yes" and the meeting adjourned.