

City Council Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2018
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, October 22, 2018 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Riley, Wade, Chism, and White.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the September 10th, 17th and October 15th meetings were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ald. Wade seconded, all voted "yes" and the minutes were accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Visitors: Ed Reeves, Caruthersville. Mr. Reeves appeared before the Council to introduce himself and ask for everyone's vote in the November General Election. Mr. Reeves is running for Circuit Court Judge, replacing Judge Fred Copeland, who is retiring in January.
2. A Resolution was presented authorizing the Mayor to sign a document supporting Missouri Proposition D. The Fuel Tax proposition is estimated to bring over \$49,000 to the City of New Madrid annually. Governor Parson, in support of improving the state's infrastructure has traveled all over the state campaigning on behalf of the proposition. Adm. McGill informed the Council that Missouri is currently 7th in miles of highways but 49th in spending in support of those highways. Therefore our roads and bridges are in a horrible condition and this would go a long way in improving the condition of same and making them safer for all citizens at the same time. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the resolution passed.
3. A Resolution was presented awarding the bid for phase 1 of the Tree Trimming Project to M&M Tree Trimmers of Hayti, MO. Ald. White stated that he always wanted to support local business, but the difference in the bids of \$20,000 could not be ignored. Mayor Bodi said that during the ice storm, M&M had been working for the City and had borrowed some of the City's equipment and had damaged it. However, the electric department had great remarks regarding the quality and dependability of their work and recommended

awarding the bid to them as the lowest and best bidder. The Mayor said that he could support that if it was understood that they would be using all of their own equipment. Atty. Bock said that he thought that there had been issues with getting bonding or insurance information. He would support awarding the bid but would suggest only signing a contract upon receipt of the aforementioned documents regarding insurance and bonding. Ald. White made a motion to award the bid to M&M Tree Service. Ald. Chism seconded. A vote was taken and all approved. The resolution was adopted.

4. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill informed the Council that the street project was complete and he felt that Apex had done an excellent job with only three minor problems remaining. Those locations of concern are one in front of Marie Hunter's home on Pinnell, one on Laforge Street and one on Locust street. Adm. McGill said that he would let them know and get them back to take care of those. Ald. Wade remarked they had made a very smooth transition from Kingshighway to Pinnell which is a much appreciated improvement.

5. Adm. McGill referred to the spread sheet provided by Finance Officer, Kristy Taylor in regard to Star Mart's utility account. The business owner had appeared before the council in May with a request to enter into a payment agreement to pay of a nearly \$3000.00 utility bill that was well overdue. The Council granted him the request and set up a pay schedule that allowed him until July 15 to get the past due balance paid. The agreement also included a promise from the owner to pay all of his future bills by the 15th of each month. Mr. Lakhani did not fulfill his agreement. The second payment that was made July 15th, was returned by the bank for insufficient funds. He has since paid that but has not paid any utility bill since then and his balance is currently \$2874.66. He is now on the cutoff list and all attempts to reach him have failed and he has not returned any calls or messages left for him. Even though the Council is sorry that they may lose a business, it seems clear that Mr. Lakhani will not or cannot meet his obligations. It was determined, with the advice of Atty. Bock, to inform Mr. Lakhani in writing, delivered by a City Police Officer, that he must pay the entire balance due in cash no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25th. If not, then his utility service will be disconnected. The Council is granting the 4 day notice to afford him time to secure his premises and move any perishables to another location. He is also be informed that any and all payments now and in the future must only be paid in cash. Ald. White made a motion to proceed with the above stated demand and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the letter was approved. Adm. McGill stated that Honeywell was pressing for a final payment of \$28,000.00 for the AMI metering project. Adm. McGill stated that considering the additional time and employee salary needed to correct some of the many problems with the system, he would

consider \$14,000 a more appropriate amount. Mayor Bodi suggested that Atty. Bock should revisit the original contract so that he could make a recommendation as to how the City should proceed. Adm. McGill said that this has been a mess the whole time.

Ald. Nick White made a motion to adjourn to “closed session” relative to “B. Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration there for (RSMo 610.021.2)”. Ald. Chism seconded. A roll call vote proceeded as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, and Ald. White – yes. The regular meeting adjourned.

After returning to open session:

There being no further business. Ald Chism made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the meeting was adjourned.