

City Council Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 25, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Riley, Wade, Chism, Young, Cravens and White.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ald. Chism seconded, all voted “yes” and the minutes were accepted.

2. The Resolution to award the Mowing Contract that had been tabled at the last meeting was brought forward again. The City Administrator presented a report detailing the 2018 costs for mowing. The total, minus the significant time that our two mechanics spent completing repairs, came to \$99,387.75. He also pointed out that the street department has an opening that will not be filled if the mowing contract is awarded. The cost for this one employee including salary and benefits comes to \$60,000.00 which makes the total potential costs to the City to continue to have City workers to do the mowing is \$159,387.75. The Mayor noted that by contracting out this service, the City could potentially spend less than half. Ald. Wade asked how long the contract would last. Adm. McGill said that typically we would start with a one year contract which could be renewed for an additional 2 years. Ald. Which asked that if we do this but are not satisfied with the results, would we be able to terminate the contract. Adm. McGill assured him that we would make sure that would be in the contract. Ald. Riley asked how the payments would be set up. Adm. McGill said that it would be 12 equal payments. He also stated that he had called the references provided and had received favorable reports. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. White seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes” to award the bid to Quality Lawn Care.
3. A Resolution was presented to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Hope Exchange to provide their charitable organization with free utility services in exchange for their in-kind contributions to the City of New Madrid. In the agreement, Hope Exchange agrees to participate in at least 2 city events, purchase \$400 advertising on the City’s Transit Bus and serve as a member of the New Madrid Transit Committee. This is

comparable to the other non-profit organizations in the City that have similar agreements. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes”. The Resolution was approved.

4. The 2019 Municipal Election Ballot was presented as certified by the New Madrid County Clerk. Ald. White made a motion to approve the ballot as presented. Ald. Chism seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes”. The ballot was accepted.
5. A Resolution was presented awarding the bid for a 3-phase Padmount Transformer to Fletcher Reinhardt for \$14,117.00. Attached to the Resolution was a letter from Delta Asphalt agreeing to pay for the transformer and all costs associated with its installation. That letter will remain a part of the resolution. This will benefit the City by making asphalt readily available for the repair of the City streets and at a lower cost. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the Resolution passed.
6. A Resolution awarding the bid for pest control services to Orkin, Inc. for 2019 with the possibility of 2 1-year renewals. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes”. The Resolution passed.
7. An application for Liquor License renewal was presented by Ramey’s #2 Supermarket. This included package liquor and Sunday Sales. Mayor Bodi asked Police Chief Joey Higgerson if there had been any law enforcement issues at Ramey’s. Chief Higgerson said there that had not been any at all. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the license and Ald. Riley seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes”. The license was approved.
8. Bill #19-1301 “an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for a Federal Financial Assistance Grant on behalf of the City for the Transit Program. Ald. Wade made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Chism seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. White – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
9. Bill #19-1302 “an Ordinance acknowledging the transfer of property purchased by Southeast Hospital from the City of New Madrid for the purpose of constructing a Medical Clinic was presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Cravens seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. White – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
10. City Administrator’s Report: Adm. McGill stated that the water department had been dealing with a lot of sewage issues, mostly related to the heavy rains we have been having. He then stated that he had made progress on the street project list and that project will go out to bid soon. He said that now that Delta Asphalt will be back in business, they will be able to get the asphalt locally and a lot cheaper. Adm. McGill said that he and the Mayor as well as the Street Superintendent and Assistant had been looking over the highest need

areas. He then said that the Corps had been constructing a Cofferdam to mitigate the damage to the levee due to the high water and heavy rains.

Adm. McGill then asked if the 6:00 p.m. start time for the meetings was working for everyone. They all agreed that it was fine. Adm. McGill said that if so, there would be a change on the agenda to make the regular scheduled meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had recently received our annual safety evaluation and assessment. We received a score of 96%. The 4% that we were docked was for a new requirement that we were not aware of. The Mayor stated that John Dubois would soon take over fully as the City's Safety Coordinator.

Next subject addressed was the status of the CDBG grants applied for last year. Adm. McGill said that he had recently talked with Bootheel Regional Planning and that the grants submitted had a few minor errors but they had been given an opportunity to revise and resubmit, which was a very good sign. If so, we will move forward with 3 drainage projects this year.

Ald. Riley asked about the slide at the lagoon. Adm. McGill stated that it had to get dryer before they can actually do anything there. Ald. Riley asked if it had gotten any worse. Mayor Bodi said that it had but not much.

There being nothing further, Ald. White made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Chism seconded. All voted "yes" and the meeting ended.