

City of New Madrid
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Wade, Chism, Riley, Cravens and White.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the March 25th, 2019 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 Election: Mayor Bodi read the New Madrid County Clerk’s Certificate. The Clerk certified the totals to be the true and correct votes cast for each candidate and filed in his office by the Board of Verification. The votes were tallied as follows:

ALDERMAN WARD 1

JIM CRAVENS	83
TOMMY HUNTER	24

ALDERMAN WARD 2

NICK WHITE	145
JONATHON RIGGS	47

ALDERMAN WARD 3

PETER ROST, JR.	59
MARK WADE	116

Alderman White made a motion to accept the Certification as presented and Alderman Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted “yes” and the Certification was accepted. The City Clerk then administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Aldermen, Ald. Cravens, Ald. White and Ald. Wade.

Ald. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ald. Chism seconded. All Voted “yes” and the Council adjourned.

1. The Mayor called the new meeting to order. In attendance were Ald. Riley, Ald. Wade, Ald. Chism, Ald. Young, Ald. Cravens and Ald. White.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Visitors:

David Hunt of 202 Pinnell in New Madrid.

Mr. Hunt was asking the Council to consider installing some additional benches in Obannon Park. His concern was for the grandparents that bring their grandchildren to the park to play and need to be able to sit close to where the children are playing. The Mayor directed him to Adm. McGill. Adm. McGill informed Mr. Hunt that just that morning, the City had ordered two benches for that park. Mr. Hunt was pleased and thanked the Council.

Georgia Babb of 410 Capitol was the next visitor to speak.

Mrs. Babb was here to ask the Council to consider installing tennis courts in one of the City parks. She stated that there were very few sports activities for girls in New Madrid. We should be having some options for them in this area. She said that all of her family plays tennis and it is a sport that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy. Her family is forced to travel to Sikeston or Caruthersville to play and even then not guaranteed that they will get a court when they get there.

Kevin Morgan of 782 St. Anne was appearing for the same reason as Mrs. Babb.

He is an avid tennis player. He said that in other sports, such as baseball or football, you only get to participate when the ball is hit or thrown to you, where in tennis you get to participate the entire time you are on the court. He said that he would love to coach a team for young people and teach them the game. He said that he guaranteed that he could find 15 in less than a week. He also left some information from the USA Tennis Association on applications for grants that would offset the cost to the City. The City of Caruthersville did that and have some very nice courts for their residents. He also stated that tennis is a sport for all ages and abilities and would promote fitness for all of the residents of New Madrid. This is especially important for the teenage girls considering the rising obesity rates and the lack of sports activities open for them. Mrs. Babb said that she and her husband would be more than glad to donate rackets for any team that Mr. Morgan is able to form. Mr. Morgan stated that with that being the case, the cost for those girls would only be a few dollars for balls. He asked that the Council consider their request. He thanked them for their time.

Lee Ann Townsend of 726 Diggs appeared to speak to the Council about an issue she is having at Evergreen Cemetery. Ms. Townsend told the Council that her daughter had passed away last fall. She stated that she is having a troubling ordeal getting the monument that she has ordered set at the grave. She said that the girl's father has installed a monument at the grave without the sexton's, Jimmy McSpadden, approval nor direction which is in conflict with the City's ordinance. Since that was the case, Ms. Townsend had gone to Mr. McSpadden, who had asked Mr. Fields to come to the funeral home to discuss the matter. Ms. Townsend said that they had reached an agreement whereby the small stone would be placed at the foot of the grave and she had agreed to have the girl's last name of Fields, put on the monument that was being carved which would then be placed at the head of the grave. However, she said that she had been contacted again by Mr. Fields stating that he was no longer willing to abide by that agreement. She was asking the Council to direct the Sexton to take action on the matter as the ordinance states. Mayor Bodi said that he would talk to Mr. McSpadden about the matter. He also directed the City's Attorney, Lynn Bock to look into the matter. Ms. Townsend thanked the Council for their time.

3. RESOLUTION: A resolution awarding the bid for the FY 2019 Tree Trimming Project to Gene's Tree Service of Sikeston, Missouri as the best and lowest bid for the amount of \$23,500.00. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution as stated. Ald. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting "yes". The resolution was approved. Mayor Bodi asked the Administrator if the tree in Joann Gardner's back yard was included in the agreement. Adm. McGill said that he would look into it and make sure it was taken care of.
4. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL: Star Mart, 430 Main Street submitted a request to have their Package Liquor and Sunday Sales license renewed for 2019. Mayor Bodi asked Police Chief Joey Higgerson if there had been any issues with this business in regards to their liquor license. Chief Higgerson stated that there had not. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the renewal and Ald. Riley 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 – no. The license renewal was approved by the vote of 5 to 1.
5. Atty. Bock informed the Council that the Agenda needed to be amended to include the required item of the election of a Mayor Pro Tem. Ald. White made a motion to amend the Agenda to open the floor to nominations for the Mayor Pro Tem. Ald. Chism seconded. Ald. Riley made a motion to nominate Ald. Tommy Chism for this position. Nick White seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. A roll call vote was taken as

follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. White – yes. Ald. Chism was elected the Mayor Pro Tem.

6. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill informed the Council that as of that day, Donald Lloyd was no longer the Economic Development Coordinator for the Mayor's Association. The decision to make a change in this position was made at the most recent Mayor's Association meeting. It was also agreed upon to employ Amy Brown in this capacity to complete some of these duties on an hourly basis for the Association. The City of New Madrid has available office space in the old Police Station across from City Hall that will be available for her use.

Adm. McGill informed the Council that a meeting had been held with ASA (Delta Asphalt) to review the street repair project to see if there needed to be any scheduling changes in order to give us the best opportunity to get all the asphalt we will need at the least cost. He said that they feel that they have resolved the issues from last year. Nip Kelly from Cape will do the concrete work.

He noted that there not been any progress on the street repairs on St. John but the contractor had promised to complete the second half of that street the next day. Ald. White remarked that at least they are showing some progress but the deadline is long past overdue. Atty. Bock stated that because of weather related issues, it is extremely difficult to meet deadlines of this kind and even harder to enforce them.

Adm. McGill stated that he, the Mayor, Chuck Palmer, Sam Barnett and Riley James had met with the Corps of Engineers. The Corps now wants to revisit the levee project on Old Kingshighway that had been put on hold some time back. The large pipes that will be installed under the road will be paid for by the Corps. He said that Riley James had gone to battle in order to get that done. Chip Newman had stated that it might take up to 2 years to complete this project as it will be dependent on high water issues. Ald. Wade asked if Des Cyprie will be tied into that. The Mayor answered "yes". Ald. Wade stated that that should help out with the City's drainage issues. Mayor Bodi said that we would have to install 3 more pumps. We actually have 1 but will need to purchase 2 more in order to provide for up to 60K pumping capabilities from the end of Waters Street to Mill Street. This should provide an improvement to the City's drainage problems. Adm. McGill then informed the Council that they would be meeting with the Corps tomorrow at the Coffey dam to make decisions about the dam. He said that their recent meetings with SEMA and FEMA have determined that the City's work on the Coffey dam and preventative measures done in February and early March would not presently qualify for federal assistance as the date of the disaster declaration was March 11th to coincide with the flooding issues on the Missouri River.

A lunch meeting has been set with representatives from Southeast Hospital to discuss Health insurance options. The Mayor, Administrator, Finance Officer and City Clerk will attend to get more information about what they are proposing.

Ald. White pointed out that the sidewalk on Pinnell near Dylan DeJournett's house had been cracked by the backhoe and would need to be repaired.

A motion to adjourn to a closed session pursuant to "B. Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration there for (RSMo 610.021.3). was made by Ald. White. Ald. Wade seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, and Ald. White – yes. The meeting adjourned to a closed session.

Back to open session:

Mayor Bodi asked if there would be room for tennis courts at the Hunter Dawson Park if the playgrounds were to be moved together. Adm. McGill said that he believed that there would be room there. The Mayor asked Adm. McGill to look into the grant process that Mr. Morgan had spoken about and see if it would be a good fit for New Madrid.

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