

City of New Madrid  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Wade, Chism, Young, Cravens and White.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

The Minutes from the April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 meeting were presented. Ald. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ald. White seconded, all voted “yes” and the minutes were accepted.

2. Visitors

Phillip Pfuehler of 402 Waters appeared before the Council to ask to look into the possibility of adopting an ordinance that requires dog walkers to remove and dispose of any excrement that their dogs might leave on private or public property. He said that he has noticed many dogs defecating on the Riverfront walking trail and park as well as in his own yard. He also stated that dog owners are allowing their dogs to run loose at night when there is no Animal Control Officer available to pick them up. He said that is an issue in his neighborhood as they are leaving the dogs waste in his yard and eating the cat food that he leaves out for his cats. Mayor Bodi said that the Council would take the matter under advisement. Mr. Pfuehler thanked the Council for their time.

3. Resolution: A resolution was presented that authorized Mayor Richard Bodi to execute an Amendatory Agreement to Power Sales Contract No. DE-PM75-96SW00316 (Contract 3160 between the City and Southwestern Power Administration to include provisions for scheduling Peaking Energy to make scheduling more flexible. Adm. McGill said that this was a minor change in scheduling that would have no consequence for the City. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting “yes”. The resolution was approved.
4. Resolution: A resolution was presented that authorized the Mayor to execute a letter of engagement that would engage the services of Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, L.L.C.,

Certified Public Accountants to perform the 2018 annual audit of the City of New Madrid for the sum of \$17,300.00. Ald. Wade asked if the City had been pleased with these auditors in the past. Adm. McGill said that yes, they had been easy to work with and had answered all questions when they arose. Ald. White asked if the City ever bid this out. Atty. Bock said that it was difficult since most CPA firms did not do municipal audits, especially in our area. The City Clerk stated that in the past the publicized "invitations to bid" did not result in any response at all. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Wade seconded. A vote was taken with all Aldermen voting "yes". The resolution was approved.

5. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill informed the Council that Gene's Tree Service had begun the trimming contract just that day. As soon as they started, they knocked out power in the entire east circuit. He said that Pete and Tim will be keeping a close eye on them. They were concerned that this is not a good start.

Adm. McGill informed the Council that he, dickie, Chuck and Sam had met with ADA Asphalt and Nip Kelly regarding the street improvement project. They went over plans for the project and intend to start the week of Memorial Day. They feel that the communication issues that they had last year have been ironed out and that the representatives seem to be on top of the plan. They are optimistic about getting this completed.

Richard then informed the Council that he had received information that the City has been awarded \$492,666.00 in CDBG grant money for 6 drainage projects. He will be getting with Bootheel Regional Planning soon to move these projects forward.

Next item discussed were the funds being expended in support of the Hart Steppe Gallery and the Chamber of Commerce. Last year's expenditures were \$7500.00 for the Gallery and \$48,600 for the Chamber. The increase over previous years was quite alarming. The Chamber has gone from \$15,000 to \$48,600.00. He said that when they had combined the two groups and made some changes they had met with both of the groups. The expectations were that they would be proactive in setting up exhibits but nothing is going on. Ald. Wade said that there was a lot of interest in student exhibits at one time, but there had been nothing at all lately. Ald. Wade stated that the City did not seem to be getting much bang for its buck. Ald. Young said that as the oldest home in New Madrid, it might work as a center hub for events and actually contribute more to tourism. Mayor Bodi said that he would like to see totals that the City is spending on labor for city workers to assist in the events that are sponsored by the Chamber. He said that when he was working for the City, the events accounted for 70% of the street department's overtime. Ald. Cravens said that he felt that we needed to shut down the Gallery and use the Hart Steppe House for special events. The gallery is only generating 1-2 visitors a week, if that.

He asked where the Chamber would move if the Gallery was closed. Adm. McGill said that they could move to the old Police Station across from City Hall unless the Chamber decided to provide another location for the group. Ald. White asked why the City was providing a non city employee with insurance, and providing an additional \$400.00 to her salary. Adm. McGill said that was partially for her role in helping to subsidize tourism. Mayor said that we need some new ideas. Ald. Wade asked if the Chamber Board even knew what they City was expending for their group. Ald. Cravens said that they needed to see the numbers at the next meeting and then come to some decisions. The City is spending a lot of money to subsidize the Chamber.

Ald. White made a motion to move 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 610.021.2)". Ald. Wade seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Ald. White made a motion to adjourn back to the open session. Ald. Chism seconded. All voted "yes" and the meeting adjourned back to open session.

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