

City of New Madrid
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, March 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm via the internet. Adm. Richard McGill made the connections for the meeting. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following participating: Ald. Riley, Ald. Keene, Ald. Chism, Ald. Young, Ald. Cravens, and Ald. White.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes from the April 13th meeting were presented. Ald. Cravens made a motion to approve the minutes and Ald. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all voted “yes”. The minutes were adopted.
2. Visitors: The Agenda was posted with the following notice: The public may participate in this meeting by written testimony. Please contact the City Clerk at 573-748-7265. No one asked to participate.
3. Bill 20-1311, an Ordinance to amend Section 54-583 of the City’s Code of Ordinances by amending Section B, paragraph “g” clarifying the regulation of All Terrain Vehicle passengers. It is noted that a passenger is only allowed on an ATV if the manufacturer’s specification identifies the ATV as a two-person vehicle. Ald. Young made a motion to approve the bill and Ald. White seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Ald. Ryan – yes, Ald. Keene – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes and Ald. White – yes. The Ordinance was adopted.
4. Bill 20-1312, an Ordinance Amending Section 22-1 “Fee Schedule” of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Madrid by changing the application of the reconnection fees for utilities disconnected due to non-payment, to \$0.00 during regular business hours. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows: Ald. Ryan – yes, Ald. Keene – yes, Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes and Ald. White – yes. The Ordinance was adopted.
5. A Liquor License Renewal for El Bracero’s Restaurant was presented. Adm. McGill said that he had talked to Chief Joey Higgerson about activity at the restaurant and if there were any concerns with law enforcement. Chief Higgerson stated that he had no concerns. There had been no issues at El Braceros. Ald. Cravens made a motion to approve the renewal and Ald. Keene seconded. A vote was taken as follows: Ald. Ryan – yes, Ald. Keene – yes,

Ald. Chism – yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes and Ald. White – yes. The Ordinance was adopted.

6. City Administrator's Report: Adm. McGill introduced Dennis Pruett of Missouri Partnership to the Council as he had asked him to join the call. Adm. McGill then gave an update on continued negotiations with the Steel Mill project. There has been an effort to assist Nation Steel in finding a power source with a rate that would work for them. This delay has generated some concern about the financial commitments previously made by the Mo Dept. of Economic Development but Mr. Pruett stated that the 3.5 million set aside will go to the city for infrastructure improvements. Mr. Pruett stated that it was unusual that the state and federal funding were both lined up. National Steel will have to reapply and there is no guarantee that the funds will be there but commitments will be honored. The state has essentially said for them to come back when they are ready. Ald. White asked Atty. Bock with the City is at any financial risk with the MOU. Mr. Bock said that he needed to review the MOU. Mayor Bodi then stated that everyone knew and liked Raj but we must protect the City of New Madrid. Mr. Pruett said that the City could disengage from the MOU today if they wanted. Ald. White suggested that they let Atty. Bock evaluate the situation and then get back in contact with Mr. Pruett when a decision is made as how to proceed.

Adm. McGill stated that they have been researching several different possibilities as to how to bring power to New Madrid. He said that the City's power agreement with AECL will expire in 2022. It will benefit the City if we are able to find a much cheaper access to power. That will benefit the City in many ways as well as the possibility that National Steel could find the rate they are looking for. He also told the Council that he had been in touch with a group that is looking to bring in solar power. They are the 3rd largest solar company in the state. They are looking to purchase 700 acres just outside our City limits. He then mentioned that the City had received our first reimbursement from FEMA this week. Lastly, he noted that he had recently been contacted by a gentleman that is looking to build a food manufacturing plant somewhere in Eastern Missouri. He remembered a conversation that he had with Adm. McGill three years ago. He was very interested in the water availability that we have here. He also asked about land that might be available for his purpose.

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