

City of New Madrid
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 23, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bodi called the meeting to order. Ald. Riley, Ald. Keene, Ald. Chism, Ald. Young, Ald. Cravens were present. Ald. White was not present. Ald. Keene led us in prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes from August 9, 2021 meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to accept the minutes and Ald. Riley seconded his motion. A vote was taken and all voted "yes". The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Visitors: None

Ordinance:

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 942, a use tax to the voters of The City of New Madrid, due to a recently passed Wayfair legislation. Whereas the City has imposed local sales taxes, as defined in Section 32.085 RSMo., at the rate of 8.725% and whereas the City is authorized under Section 144.757 RSMo., to impose a local use tax rate equal to the rate of the local sales taxes in the effect in the City.

Ald. Chism made a motion to approve this ordinance, Ald. Keene seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes", and the ordinance was approved.

Resolutions:

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a change order for the FY 2021 street improvements to Apex Paving of Cape Girardeau, MO in the amount of \$71,135.82 for the paving of Evergreen Cemetery.

Ald. Chism made a motion to approve this change order, Ald. Keene seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes", and the resolution for a change order was approved.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a change order for the FY 2021 street improvements to APEX Paving in the amount of \$40,800.00 for the paving of sidewalks on Powell, Mill, and Scott Streets.

Ald. Chism made a motion to table this and bid out again in a month or two, Ald. Riley seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes". The resolution was tabled.

Discussion:

Chief Higgerson spoke on behalf of the fire department. He stated they're still in need of SCBA's, compressor, cascade system, air packs, masks and knows this needs to be made as a project budget wise because it is costly, but is needed because it is safety equipment and they cannot do their job properly without it. What he and Steven Lewis have come up with is right at \$100k and is the lowest bid but also the best bid with most features and best customer service.

Chief Higgerson also stated he has an officer leaving to take a position with the Caruthersville Police Department for \$5 more per hour, another being offered the same and another with an offer from Portageville Police Department. He has one officer out with COVID that will not be back for a while, so he can't afford to lose any more help. He asked for a \$1.50 raise across the board and not give the 2% at the beginning of the year, just to make a difference and to maybe get officers to stay, which that \$1.50 would exclude him.

The board of Aldermen asked City Administrator, Richard McGill, to get a breakdown of what we, the City of New Madrid, pay hourly plus the full benefit package and get the total of what that comes out to versus what the others pay. Maybe once they see that figure instead of just an hourly rate, they'll realize what they're actually being paid.

Ald. Riley asked if we could raise property tax on properties that are empty or abandoned. No one wants to let go of any property and there are people, such as Ald. Riley, wanting to build homes for people to live in. City Administrator, Richard McGill stated he would check into this and get back with him.

With there being nothing further, Ald. Chism made a motion to adjourn. Ald. Cravens seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes". The meeting was adjourned.

City Administrator's Report:

Adm. McGill stated that the Covid relief money from the federal government would be used to supplement what the City spent on sewers.

The City invested its first amounts into the fixed annuities as approved by the latest change to the investment policy. The City received a rate of 2.35%, much higher than what we are getting on CDs and treasury bonds.