

City of New Madrid
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 7, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Bodi called the meeting to order. Ald. Keene, Ald. Chism, Ald. Cravens, Ald. Young and Ald. White were present. Ald. Riley was not present.

Ald. Keene led us in prayer.

Ald. Young joined the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The minutes from October 25, 2021 meeting were presented. Ald. Chism made a motion to accept the minutes and Ald. White seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes". The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Visitors:

Mr. Edward Riley came to speak on behalf of the museum. He questioned as to why there were 3 boats canceled with no discussion, who canceled them, and what can we do to keep this from happening again? Mayor Bodi stated we need to change the way of communicating, get word out about boats in a better way. The boats were canceled due to staff shortage. Mr. Riley stated if the City was short staffed, members of the Museum board or Higgerson school could have stepped in but they were not notified. City Administrator Richard McGill stated it was his fault, he takes the blame and he canceled the boats due to budget and staffing and apologized for his mistake. Mr. Riley asked if we get reimbursed for the boats? Admin. McGill replied occasionally but not always. Mr. Riley asked why does one person have the authority of making this decision? Why aren't they unilateral decisions?

Mr. Riley Bock also came to speak on behalf of the museum and tourism. American Cruise Lines and American Queen Steamboat Co. were 2 of the boats denied and we should be bending over backwards to get them here. We (the City) need to do 3 things. 1.) Owe the company full explanation as to why the boats were canceled. 2.) An apology, by phone and mail.

3.) Assurance this won't happen again.

Ald. Young stated his opinion and agrees with the Museum board members, he's all for tourism and bringing in revenue for the City. However, he fully supports Mayor Bodi and City Admin. Richard McGill and trusts their decisions.

Ald. Keene asked the Museum board about the unilateral decisions question. He stated that's why we have a City Administrator for is to make decisions. It would also be a good idea to get an update this time of year of how the boats impacted us. However, that information would need to come from the Chamber Director, Christina McWaters, not the museum.

Ald. White state tourism is a priority and we hope to get this situation rectified and thanked the Museum board for their time.

Ordinances:

An ordinance amending Chapter 600 Section 160 & 170 of the Municipal Code of New Madrid, MO regarding the hours and sales of alcoholic beverages and Sunday sales. Ald. White made a motion to approve the ordinance, Ald. Cravens seconded. A vote was taken, all voted "yes" and the ordinance was passed.

An ordinance establishing the salary of the office of the City Marshal in New Madrid, MO & setting the effective date. Ald. White made a motion to approve the ordinance, Ald. Keene seconded. A vote was taken, all voted "yes" and the ordinance was passed.

Resolutions:

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign any necessary documents for transfer of real estate from Teddy & Deborah Poynor to the City of New Madrid, as previously contracted in the amount of \$10.00. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution, Ald. Cravens seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes", the resolution was approved.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a change order to Persons & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$17,126.50 for pump station modification along Kingshighway. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution, Ald. White seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes", the resolution was approved.

City Administrator's Report: (please fill in blanks)

1. Update from SEMO Fiber- will lay underground and want to do it themselves.
2. Closing on Guffey Properties, is done and paid but no update on ground breaking just yet.
3. The Christmas parade is Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.
4. The City Christmas Party is Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. We invite you all and your spouse/guest to come.
5. We have 2 new hires. Wendy Campbell started last Monday, November 29, to replace Niala's position. Amber Glenn will start tomorrow, December 8, to replace Martha's position.
6. Housing – Wesley Hodges (who was present at the meeting) would be interested in buying one of the lots that backs up to his business, when the time comes to start selling lots behind the PD. There's been several others shown interest in purchasing lots, as well.

Ald. White made a motion to go into 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) and E. Sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract (RSMo 610.021.12)

Ald. Chism seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes". The meeting went into closed session.

Ald. White made a motion to go back into open session. Ald. Chism seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes" and the meeting went back into open session.

Ald. White made a motion to adjourn. Ald. Cravens seconded his motion. A vote was taken, all voted "yes" and the meeting was adjourned.