

**City of New Madrid**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, January 23, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The January 23, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of Alderman of the City of New Madrid was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Chism presiding. Alderman Keene, Alderman White, Alderman Cravens and Alderman McSpadden were present. Alderman Riley was absent.

Also in attendance was City Administrator, Aaron Griffin, Richard McGill and City Clerk, Paige Keene.

Alderman Keene led us in prayer.

**A. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from January 9, 2023, regular meeting was presented.

**MOTION:** Alderman Chism made a motion and Alderman McSpadden seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

**B. Public Forum**

Lynn Akins came to ask the council about putting a cross up along the riverfront. He provided photos and measurements of the cross. It is about 16ft tall and ready to put up at any time. After some discussion it was decided that the lot across from the museum would be the best place for it. The council and City Administrator will be going down to the lot to find the best spot for Lynn to place the cross.

Police Chief Joey Higgerson brought a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of each of our fire department vehicles and information on the condition of each one. He explained how we are currently operating and how many calls we have received over the last few years. He is proposing we sell two of the trucks while they have low mileage and are operable and use the funds from both to purchase one rescue pumper. The council agrees and feels he should pursue some options and bring them back to the council.

Rick Reed with Easy Portable Buildings and tiny homes came to discuss affordable housing. He brought printouts with pictures of various styles and sizes of the homes and said he would be back later with renderings of what our property would look like with some of these homes on them. Their mission is to build quality homes but keep the prices down.

### C. New Business

Water Street sidewalk- Persons and Sons busted the sidewalk while working in that area. The sidewalk was brand new at the time. Alderman Chism asked that Admin Griffin contact them to see about getting it fixed.

### D. Resolution(s)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

**Motion:** Alderman White made a motion and Alderman Chism seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OT SIGN AN AGRICULTURAL LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PALMER GANG FARMS, LLC

**Motion:** Alderman White made a motion and Alderman Chism seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OT SIGN AN AGRICULTURAL LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT Riley, Jr.

**Motion:** Alderman White made a motion to table this resolution until a future meeting and Alderman Keene seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT WITH SMITH & COMPANY, INC

**Motion:** Alderman Chism made a motion and Alderman Keene seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

### E. Liquor License Renewal

New Madrid Investments  
Family Dollar  
Dollar General  
Ramey's  
Da Five O Foe

Alderman white asked Chief Higgerson if there had been any issues with the businesses listed, he stated there had not.

**Motion:** Alderman White made a motion to blanket approve all renewals and Alderman Chism seconded. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**

### F. City Administrator's Report

- Food bank- Admin Griffin visited the O'Bannon building for last weeks food bank and felt the leak was not as bad as he was expecting but unfortunately the worst of the leak if directly above their work area.

- NMCC Meeting- Admin Griffin sat in on a meeting with school Superintendent Sam Duncan about starting a Rotary club at the school. He plans to attend the next school board meeting to speak and establish more of a relationship with the school.
- Rob Cooksey has begun working on a new lot and busted a water line last week. Our guys have repaired it and moved the line so he can continue working. Alderman White stated he felt the city needs to have an inspector check the homes we are building.
- The new business that purchased property from the city will be in town Thursday for a meeting at the police station and the council is invited to join.

#### **G. Adjourn**

**Motion:** There being no further business Alderman Chism made a motion and Alderman White seconded to adjourn the meeting. All Alderman present voted "Aye." The vote was unanimous **MOTION PASSED.**