

City Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2015
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 in the Council Room. Mayor Brown presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Cravens, Kolwyck, Riggs, White and Wade.

Adm. John Gilbert asked that the agenda be amended to include a resolution for a change order on the contract with Phoenix Fabricators to include an extension of the waterline project along Hwy 61 and Route U. Ald. White made a motion to amend the agenda and Ald. Chism seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the agenda was so amended.

The Mayor called the meeting to order. The minutes of the June 23, 2015 meeting were presented. Ald. Wade made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ald. Riggs seconded the motion. All Councilmen voted "yes" and the motion was carried. The minutes were accepted.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. VISITOR(s):

Dickie Bodi, City Street Supervisor and Chuck Palmer, Asst. Street Supervisor appeared before the Council to present a request that the City partner with New Madrid County Hwy. Department to purchase an Asphalt Patcher to patch and repair pot holes and alligator cracks along City streets. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve the agreement with the County and proceed with the purchase. Ald. Riggs seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the motion carried.

Rhonda Bramlett, Director of Semo Division of Aging. Ms. Bramlett appeared to ask the City to help the Nutrition Center with difficulties with their budget in regard to their ability to pay their utility bill. A recent discovery that their rate had been calculated incorrectly, resulting in a substantial underpayment and subsequent increase in their bills was the cause of this issue. Ms. Bramlett thanked the Mayor and Council for waiving the underpayment but was asking if the City could assist with current and future bills.

Jeanette Haubold, New Madrid County Representative to Semo Division of Aging; Ms. Haubold stated that the Nutrition Center was of great value to Senior Adults in New Madrid County and she was proud that the City had supported the effort to establish the Center in 1981. She detailed the services that were provided there and how so many citizens rely on it for a full daily meal and opportunities for socialization. They hold several fund raisers for the Nutrition Center but costs have risen to the point that they need to ask the City for assistance. Ms. Haubold extended an invitation to the Council and staff to come to the Center and see all that they had to offer. She also invited them to their annual Christmas Party on the 2nd Saturday of December.

After a discussion as to the valuable services provided to the community's senior citizens, Mayor Brown made a suggestion that MLP assess the bills as a residential customer, thereby saving the Center approximately \$40 a month. In addition, he suggested that they pay a flat rate of \$300 for the next six months, when a review of their bills would help determine the appropriate monthly charge. Ms. Bramlett stated that that would be a great assistance.

Ald. Kolwyck made a motion to change their computation rate to residential and set the bill to \$300.00 for 6 months to see what needs to be adjusted. Ald. Chism seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the motion was passed.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Bramlett, Ms. Haubold and all the other concerned citizens for coming to the meeting.

2. Resolution to amend the Brotcke contract for Well #1 was tabled at Adm. Gilbert's request.
3. Bill 15-1248 – Financial Disclosure Ordinance #1248. Adm. Gilbert informed the Council that this was merely a renewal of an ordinance required by Missouri Ethics Commission to be passed every other year. Mayor Brown conducted a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Kolwyck – yes, Ald. Wade – yes, Ald. Riggs – yes, Ald. White – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The ordinance was adopted.
4. Resolution to change the Brotcke Well Contract was tabled at Adm. Gilbert's request.

5. Resolution – Contract negotiations for Tourism Promotion with the Beender Walker Group. Adm. Gilbert presented this resolution and is requesting that the Council direct him to negotiate an agreement with them to develop a tourism plan for the City. Adm. Gilbert has reviewed the RFQ's of several companies and has determined that Beender Group to be the preferred applicants. They have a lot of contacts for grants. The City of Kennett was contacted about their experience with this company and they gave a favorable response. They set up their program some years back and they are still using it and are quite satisfied. Ald. White made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. All voted "yes" and the motion carried.

6. Resolution – Purchase of Utility Tractor, Loader & Mower from Legacy Equipment - \$14,900.00. Adm. Gilbert submitted this resolution for the Street Department. He stated that this is a small tractor severely needed to mow at the cemetery. Our bigger mowers and equipment cannot work between the headstones and fences. He also mentioned that we would be buying this at the state contracted price but still be buying from a local business. Ald. Riggs made a motion to approve and Ald. Chism seconded. The resolution passed.

7. Discussion – Police Department Schedule. Asst. Police Chief, Brandon Hanner appeared to inform the Council that the newly adopted two week schedule was working very well. The officers work 80 hours in the two week pay period. This is providing the maximum coverage without incurring much overtime. It also allows each officer to have every other weekend off. This also frees up the investigators to gather information during the days. Mayor Brown stated that he appreciated that the department had initiated this change, showing that they not only care for the officers but the City's budget as well.

8. Discussion – Christmas Lights – Walking Track. Adm. Gilbert hopes to expand the "Lights on the Levee" Christmas tour and this is another piece of that plan. He submitted pictures of 12 individual light displays that would be attached to the light poles at the Scott Street Walking Track at a cost of \$5000. Mayor Brown asked if displays could not be attached to all of the light poles along Scott as in the past. He indicated three options as shown on Adm. Gilbert's handout and suggested that he ask the New Madrid Botanical Society to select which one to use. Adm. Gilbert stated that his goal was to encourage all of the citizens in New Madrid to come to town during the Christmas season to see our lights. Ald.

Wade made a motion that the Council approve \$10,000 for Adm. Gilbert to use to expand the Christmas Lights. Ald. Chism seconded and all voted "yes". Ald. Chism told the Council that he had recently been in Jefferson City and met an individual from Ste. Genevieve that remarked on the beautiful light display that he had seen in New Madrid, especially the Veterans' Park. He was greatly impressed and plans to return. Ald. Chism said that it made him proud to be a member of this board.

9. Resolution to approve a change order on the contract the City has with Phoenix Fabricators to include an extension of the 12" PVC Water Line along Hwy. U and North along County Road 728 in the amount of \$82,025.00. Ald. Wade made a motion to approve and Ald. Kolwyck seconded. All voted "yes" and the resolution was approved.

10. City Administrator's Report: Adm. Gilbert informed the Council that construction on both the Water Tower Project and the New Pump Station Project should begin shortly with an estimated completion date of December. The Cemetery Expansion Project is going to require a new easement. The Lagoon Disinfection Project is continuing. He stated that when complete, G & C Contracting will go out and complete repairs to the site and make sure that the fishing hole is stable.

There being no further business, Ald. White made a motion to adjourn, Ald. Kolwyck seconded and all Ald. Voted "yes". The meeting was adjourned.