

City Council Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017
7:30 p.m.

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2017 in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Mayor Richard Bodi presided with the following present: Ald. Chism, Riley, Young, Wade, and Cravens.

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order.

2. Visitors:

Courtney M. Clark and Tony Bilderback appeared before the council to speak about the dismissal of Sarah Fomby, Animal Control Officer. Mayor Bodi commented that the Council could not discuss a personnel matter due to privacy issues for the employee. Attorney Bock stated that the Council would only address the dismissal if Ms. Fomby made an appeal as specified in the Employee Personnel Manual. As of that date, she had not. Ms. Clark stated that she thought a lot of Ms. Fomby and that she was doing an excellent job as the ACO and did not believe that the City could find anyone that would be able to live up to her performance. Mr. Bilderback wanted to know who made the decision to terminate Ms. Fomby. Again, the Mayor stated that they were unable to discuss this issue. He did say that a panel of 3 made the decision to terminate and that the disciplinary guidelines would be followed as stated in the employee personnel manual. He also then reassured both Mr. Bilderback and Ms. Clark that the City would continue the Animal Control Project. He then thanked them for their appearance.

Marilyn Ivy. Ms. Ivy appeared before the Council to make a complaint about the recent utility bills. She asked who the City Administrator was and was told that Mr. Richard McGill held that position. She inquired as to why the electric bills were not being read every thirty days? Mayor Bodi said that many of the last bills covered a larger number of days due to rainy weather and a shortage of staff members available to read the meters due to illness. He said that the City would continue to strive to meet the 30 day readings whenever possible. He also noted that with the installation of the new automatic meters, that should not be a problem in the future. Mayor Bodi directed Ms. Ivy to contact Mr. McGill whenever she had any questions about her bills in the future.

3. Resolution: A resolution was presented concerning the approval of a Letter of Engagement with the firm of Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC for this firm to complete the 2016 Financial Audit for the City of New Madrid for the amount of \$17,300.00. Alderman Chism made a motion to approve the resolution and Alderman Wade seconded
4. Resolution: A resolution was presented to award a bid to Sappington Pro Outdoor for the purchase of (2) Zero Turn 60" Lawn Mowers for the amount of \$23,395.92. Adm. McGill stated that Sappington was the lowest and best bid and recommended by the Street Department managers. Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the resolution and Ald. Wade seconded. All the Aldermen voted "yes" and the resolution was approved.
5. Resolution: The next resolution on the agenda was the bid award for the fencing of the Wastewater Lagoon. Adm. McGill asked the Council to table this item for future consideration as the bids received were not all compatible for comparison. He would like to go back to the bidders to get clarification on their bids and come back to the Council at the next meeting with a recommendation. The Council agreed.
6. Renewal of Liquor Licenses: Ramey's Supermarket and El Bracero of New Madrid submitted applications to renew their liquor licenses with the City. Mayor Bodi asked Police Chief Joey Higgerson if there had been any law enforcement issues with either establishment. Chief Higgerson stated that there had not been any problems at these businesses.
Ald. Chism made a motion to approve the renewals and Ald. Riley seconded. All the Aldermen voted "yes" and the licenses were approved.
7. Ald. Wade made a motion to adjourn to closed session relative to: C. "Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting or particular employees when information relating to the performance or merit of individual employees is discussed or recorded (RSMo 610.021.3)". Ald. Chism seconded and the meeting moved to closed session.
8. Ald. Wade made a motion to return to regular session. Ald. Chism seconded and Mayor Bodi conducted a roll call vote as follows: Ald. Riley – yes, Ald. Wade –

yes, Ald. Young – yes, Ald. Cravens – yes, Ald. Chism – yes. The Council moved to open session.

9. City Administrator's Report - Adm. McGill informed the Council as follows:

The Sidewalk/Lighting Project should be finished in 2-3 weeks. A decision will need to be made as to whether the City wishes to extend the sidewalk on down the remainder of Main Street all the way to Dawson Road. This is estimated to cost an additional \$16,000 for lights and \$14,000 for sidewalks. That will include the cost of the lights and concrete. The only issue that has occurred with this project was the inability of a resident to get into their drive for a short amount of time. That was resolved the following day.

Dirtwork's is to do the levelling for the water plant which is set to start on or about March 1.

For some time the City has been interested in the possibility of using the building on Hwy 61 that had been owned by the USDA. Adm. McGill stated that Senator McCaskill's office will be addressing the use of the building at a meeting on either March 6 or 16th.

The meeting with the "Project Steel" staff took place two weeks ago and went well. Adm. McGill will be going to Jefferson City for a meeting with Associated Electric in order to see if a power deal is possible for this company. He stated that we need to move quickly. As far as this company's needs, there is not a location that is a better fit in Missouri. The City needs to protect ourselves with the power deal due to the uncertainty of our Power Sales Agreement with Associated that was signed at the time of the power plant sale. Adm. McGill said that he was confident that we could go lower but might not be able to get to the 4.0 range that they were asking for.

Ald. Riley asked where we stand with the Cemetery Expansion. Atty. Bock said that Riley James wants to address the Council and make sure they understand what we are buying.

There being no further business, Ald. Chism made a motion to adjourn and Ald. Riley seconded. All Aldermen voted "yes" and the meeting was adjourned.