

CITY OF FENTON, MISSOURI
625 NEW SMIZER MILL ROAD, FENTON, MO 63026
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bob Brasses called the Board of Aldermen Meeting of the City of Fenton, St. Louis County, Missouri to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2022. The meeting was held at Fenton City Hall and via Zoom Videoconference (RSMo 610.015).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Brasses led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Jane Hungler called the roll:

Alderman Ralph Cruts - *Absent*
Alderman Kevin Yarbrough - *Present*
Alderman Brian Wisbrock - *Present*
Alderman Joe Maurath - *Present*

Alderman Chris Clauss - *Present*
Alderman Robin Huels - *Present*
Alderman Tom Heard - *Present*
Alderman Susan Jokerst - *Present*

Seven Aldermen were present at the opening of the meeting all in-person.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bob Brasses
City Attorney Erin P. Seele, Esq.
City Administrator Andrea N. Finkbiner
Public Works Director Dan Howard
City Clerk Jane Hungler
City Planner Amy Starck
St. Louis County Police Precinct Captain Kevin Lawson

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Mayor mentioned that he is calling a meeting on the 23rd to discuss ideas and get conversation going on the future of Fenton but that no decisions will be made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

POLICE/MUNICIPAL COURTS – *Ald. Cruts, Chairman (Wisbrock, Clauss, Jokerst)*

- **Consideration of adopting regulations related to disorderly conduct.**

The City's Prosecuting Attorney, Tim Engelmeyer, is requesting that the Board consider adopting regulations related to disorderly conduct, similar to the Valley Park ordinance that was available for review.

Alderman Jokerst inquired how others felt as she thought the regulations were too vague or restrictive. City Attorney Erin Seele explained the example ordinance was from Prosecuting Attorney, Tim Engelmeyer as he recognized a need to have these offenses within the code, but while the form is a Valley Park ordinance, this was actually based on a City provision the City had prior to codification with modification as suggested by City Attorney Erin Seele to remove provisions with questionable enforceability

Alderman Maurath asked if omitted previous violation was in prior code and not in the recodification process. City Attorney Erin Seele replied yes. Alderman Maurath asked the Captain if there were any instances of this previous code provision being abused. Captain Lawson shared not that he knew of and that if adopted it will help with citations issued and enforcement in the courts.

Alderman Wisbrock stated if Prosecuting Attorney, Tim Engelmeyer and St. Louis County Police Precinct Captain Lawson are in favor to adopt it, the Board should move forward as such.

Following discussion, Alderman Jokerst made a motion to forward to the March Board of Aldermen meeting the consideration of adopting regulations related to disorderly conduct. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wisbrock. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

PERSONNEL – *Ald. Maurath, Chairman (Cruts, Huels, Jokerst)*

- **Discussing regarding alternative health insurance options for employees.**

Alderman Maurath stated he has heard employees talk about an interest in having more money rather than health insurance benefits and would like to do a survey of employees to gauge interest.

Alderman Jokerst commented she agreed and wondered if there was a way to pay employees more per hour and have a second health insurance option.

Alderman Maurath also requested Staff to review and amend job descriptions to ensure each reflects actual duties performed and bring back to the Board.

Alderman Maurath would also like to have a policy where evaluations are all done prior to budget time, by October or something like that, so that the Board is not looking at it at the 11th hour. He asked Staff to bring that to the Board.

Kathy Pickett, The Daniel and Henry Company, stated that the Board can offer dual options with two different deductibles to its employees, could lower the percentage the City pays, and could offer as many as three (3) plans. Kathy stated she would bring a third plan option to the City in April.

- **Request for additional Seasonal Workers at Public Works.**
Currently the Public Works Department has three (3) approved Seasonal Worker positions. Public Works also has a total of fifteen (15) approved full-time Maintenance Worker positions. Of those fifteen (15) positions, seven (7) positions are currently vacant.

Based on the above, Staff is requesting to increase the number of approved Seasonal Worker positions from three (3) to five (5) (same as 2021) in order to assist the existing full-time Maintenance Workers for the 2022 summer season. This request is temporary, as Public Works will still continue to advertise for the open full-time positions and hopefully fill the same before next summer.

Alderman Maurath shared he had heard there were forty-seven (47) applications/resumes for the Maintenance Worker I position. Public Works Director Dan Howard replied many resumes had no information on them, there were “no-shows” to an interview, no labor experience but noted they are trying to find people.

Alderman Maurath made a motion to open the topic to the full Board of Aldermen. The motion was seconded by Alderman Jokerst. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

Alderman Maurath made a final motion to approve the request for additional Seasonal Workers at Public Works. The motion was seconded by Alderman Yarbrough. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Maurath noted that Friday, March 4th will be City Planner Amy Starck’s last day and thanked her for her years of service to the City and wished her the best.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFAIRS – *Ald. Clauss, Chairman (Yarbrough, Maurath, Heard)*

- **Request to approve a one-year renewal term with Specialty Mailing, Inc. to provide printing services for the City’s monthly newsletter.**

On April 23, 2020, via Ordinance 4027, the Board approved a one-year agreement with Specialty Mailing, Inc. to provide printing services for the City’s monthly newsletter, with an option to renew for two (2) additional one-year terms. On April 22, 2021, the Board approved the first one-year extension, which is set to expire on April 30, 2022. Per the contract terms in the agreement, the Board has the option to approve another one-year terms at the existing rates (monthly rate at \$1,357 and optional insert rate at \$345).

Following discussion, Alderman Clauss made a motion to forward to the March Board of Aldermen meeting the request to approve a one-year renewal term with Specialty Mailing, Inc. to provide printing services for the City’s monthly newsletter. The motion was seconded by Alderman Yarbrough. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

- **Discussion regarding the annual Appreciation Dinner.**

During the November 4, 2021, Committee Meeting, the Board approved a motion to cancel the 2021 Appreciation Dinner in December and bring the matter back in the spring for discussion to have the Appreciation Dinner in the summer.

Following discussion, Alderman Clauss suggested to continue to the March Board of Aldermen meeting and have Staff contact food truck vendors and bring back options for consideration.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – *Ald. Huels, Chairman (Cruts, Maurath, Heard)*

- **Consideration of an amended Long-Range Capital Plan.**

A copy of the amended Long-Range Capital Plan (2022-2026) provided by the City Finance Consultant that incorporates Capital Projects approved under the 2022 Budget as well as proposed future projects through fiscal year 2026 was available for review.

Following discussion, Alderman Huels made a motion to forward to the March Board of Aldermen meeting the consideration of an amended Long-Range Capital Plan. The motion was seconded by Alderman Maurath. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS/FORESTRY – *Ald. Wisbrock, Chairman (Yarbrough, Clauss, Jokerst)*

- **Request for the 2022 Spring Bulk Pick-Up.**

Staff has contacted Waste Connections and We Haul STL to provide the residents an opportunity to discard unwanted items through the Spring Bulk Pick-Up event.

The Public Works Department would like to schedule the 2022 Spring Bulk Pick-Up for Saturday, May 14, 2022. Upon Committee approval, the flyer from last year will be updated for 2022. This event will be advertised on the City website and in the City newsletter.

If this event is approved, as part of the City's contract with Waste Connections to pick up trash items, the cost would be \$1,000. We Haul STL will pick up all metal and appliances at a cost not to exceed \$750.

The residents will be allowed up to five (5) items with a 75-pound weight limit for each item, along with unlimited metal items. All items for disposal are to be at the curb by 7:00 am on the day of pick-up.

Following discussion, Alderman Wisbrock made a motion to forward to the March Board of Aldermen meeting the request for the 2022 Spring Bulk Pick-Up. The motion was seconded by Alderman Yarbrough. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

City Administrator Nikki Finkbiner noted that the request came to the attention of the Board as there was a price increase from \$500 to \$750.

Mike Abbott, 1526 Bent Oak Ridge Drive, Fenton MO, asked for the date for the Spring Bulk Pick-Up. Alderman Wisbrock replied May 14th.

INFORMATION SERVICES – *Ald. Heard, Chairman (Yarbrough, Wisbrock, Huels)*

- **Request to purchase new phones for City facilities.**

In April of 2021, the Board approved a new phone system, which included the purchase of ten (10) desktop phones to replace existing, aged Yealink telephones that would be distributed throughout the City. It was noted that the City would purchase additional phones annually to phase out the remaining older phones.

Based on the above, Staff is seeking permission to purchase ten (10) additional phones for 2022. These phones will be distributed to the following locations: City Hall two (2), Community Development two (2), Courts two (2), and Public Works four (4).

Following discussion, Alderman Heard made a motion to forward to the March Board of Aldermen meeting the request to purchase then (10) new phone for City facilities. The motion was seconded by Alderman Yarbrough. Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Gravois Bluffs Transportation Development District.**

In response to Staff's conversation with the owners of Gravois Bluffs in regard to: 1) The Transportation Development District (TDD) and City of Fenton obligations regarding the maintenance of the rock wall along Gravois Bluffs Boulevard, and 2) the owner's desire to have City owned security cameras in the Gravois Bluffs area, the owner has proposed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for consideration.

As requested by the Board during the November 4, 2021 Committee Meeting, the developer has also provided the below referenced documents:

1. A copy of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Gravois Bluff Transportation District (2000 and 2001, amended).
2. A contract for proposed TDD work in the spring of 2022, based on and including the Rock Wall Assessment by Midwest Testing as 10/21/2021.
3. Information on TDD work based on Midwest Testing Evaluation in 2019.
4. Email providing current balance in the District Account as of 11/24/2021.
5. Data regarding visits per year to Gravois Bluffs.

Following discussion, Alderman Maurath made a motion to authorize Staff and City Attorney to red line Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the three changes discussed by the City Attorney (1) MOU to only cover cameras; 2) renewal each year upon mutual agreement; and 3) funding by the District is nonrefundable) with the Gravois Bluff Transportation Development District and forward to the Board of Aldermen Meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Yarbrough.

Alderman Heard suggested reviewing the recognition of price increase for the Flock agreement.

Upon a vote being taken, the motion passed unanimously by the Committee.

- **Discussion regarding the confirmation of the Mayor's Fenton residence.**

The Mayor stated nothing has changed for him but Alderman Jokerst put this on so he will hand it over to her.

Alderman Jokerst stated that she had missed the announcement but that she went back and listened to the video recording and some things were not clear. Alderman Jokerst asked the Mayor if he was living in Fenton. The Mayor responded it is his intention to live here and he has a residence available. Alderman Jokerst stated it sounds like it is not his intention to live in Fenton. She inquired if the Mayor had a utility bill and noted that he does not sound qualified as you have to prove residency.

In response to questioning, the City Attorney stated that there is no clear definition of residency, and it is a highly factual inquiry where the Court also looks at the intent of the party.

Alderman Maurath stated he agreed with Alderman Jokerst and noted that people are starting to ask questions.

Alderman Jokerst noted that the Mayor has been a good Mayor but that this is not appropriate since he does not live here and is not paying to live here.

Alderman Wisbrock stated he agrees; he was a good Mayor but when he moved out, he should have stepped down.

The Mayor stated that the Board has options.

Discussion ensued concerning the Board's options (investigation, impeachment proceeding where both sides put on evidence at a due process hearing, or turning over to the prosecutor), the possible expense of the options, and whether that was in the best interest of the City.

Following discussion, no action was taken by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session held.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., with no other business before the Board, Alderman Huels made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alderman Maurath. Upon a vote being taken, it was announced that the motion was passed unanimously by the Board of Aldermen.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Hungler
City Clerk
City of Fenton

DRAFT