



City of Charleston, MO

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Charleston City Council

February 13, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Phil Halter. Also present were Council members Michael Jones, Jackie Whiteside, Jack Feezor, and Patrick Farmer along with City Manager Richard Goode, City Attorney Michael O'Rourke, and City Clerk Stefanie Self.

Recognition of Visitors: Several residents attended the meeting, and many of them made public comments:

- Tommy Butler addressed the Council concerning the location of the new fire building and stressed that the building should be put on a site somewhere on East or West Marshall Street and that the city could use the Diesel Fuel Tax revenues and money from the new sales tax to pay for the building. He also stated that the city should wait for the final outcome of the \$350,000 grant application for the building instead of moving ahead before the result of the application is known. Mayor Halter advised that the city has now received official notification that our grant application was not approved. Council member Michael Jones and City Manager Richard Goode advised that Diesel Fuel Tax money is for transportation uses only and, by state law, cannot be used to construct a new fire building.
- Debbie Turner asked the council to try to make sure a vacant lot across the street from her house is mowed at least every two weeks this season.
- Pastor Steve Betts asked the Council why churches cannot be excluded by the city from utility franchise taxes. City Attorney Michael O'Rourke explained that the city does not charge residents utility franchise taxes and, therefore, has no right to exclude anyone. He explained that the city collects franchise taxes from the utility companies as a license fee for doing business in the city; whether or not the utility chooses to pass those charges on to their customers is entirely their choice.
- David Hart, Joseph Rapert, Ronnie Riggins, and Floyd Wade all made comments to the Council concerning the problem with stray dogs on the west side of town. Mr. Hart said a stray dog had recently killed his cat, and Mr. Riggins said his children were afraid of the dogs and asked that a police officer be at the school bus stop when his children were loading and unloading from the bus. Council members agreed that stray dogs are a problem that needs to be solved but also advised that the city is currently without an Animal Control Officer and is trying to fill the position as quickly as possible. Resident Pam Haws suggested the city see if SPCA could provide help, and City Manager Richard Goode said he would explore that possibility.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Mayor Halter asked council members to review minutes from the meeting of January 9, 2018. Jack Feezor made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Patrick Farmer seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Report of City Business: City Manager Richard Goode had provided a written report as part of the meeting packet and had only two verbal comments to add to that report. He advised that lining of the main sanitary sewer lift station will begin the week of February 19 and that interviews of Animal Control Officer candidates had just begun.

Quarterly Budget Report: City Manager Richard Goode had provided Council members with preliminary January and nine month year-to-date revenue and expense results for each of the four city funds as part of the meeting packet. He explained that final January numbers are not yet available but the preliminary numbers provided will change only to reflect interest income for the four funds. He advised that a formal written quarterly report would be delivered to Council members within a few days but that all funds, other than the Water / Wastewater Fund were tracking very close to budget numbers through the first nine months of the fiscal year.

New Business:

- **MoDOT Highway Safety Program:** The Council members took a few minutes to sign the necessary forms to submit to MoDOT for the city's annual participation in the Highway Safety Program. The program reimburses the city for some amount of overtime hours the city devotes to the program.
- **Bill No. 3785 / Ordinance No. 2925: Approval of Lease / Purchase Financing for New Fire Building:** City Manager Richard Goode briefly reviewed the five proposals he had received for financing of the new fire building near the intersection of Missouri St / First St. He referred Council members to a spreadsheet in the meeting packet which summarized each proposal. Mr. Goode recommended Council approve a proposal from Citizens Bank for a \$600,000 lease / purchase transaction based on a 5.25% interest rate fixed for a fifteen year term with quarterly payments of approximately \$15,000 commencing in January, 2019. After brief discussion, Michael Jones made the motion to approve the ordinance, Jack Feezor seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Michael Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patrick Farmer seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

City Clerk

Presiding Officer