

Minutes approved Tuesday, January 26, 2021

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021.

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri met in a regularly scheduled meeting, at the regular place of meeting, 319 E Dallas Street, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Haymes with the following roll call recorded: Scott Beckley, Deanna McElveen (teleconference), Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild (teleconference), Marda Gramm, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Max Springer, Counselor William Petrus, Jr., Treasurer Shari Weldy, Director of Public Works Joe Kelley, Code Enforcement Officer Terry Moore, Chief of Police David Hubert, and City Clerk Melissa Aduddle.

Guests registering their attendance are listed on the sign in sheet attached to and made a part of the minutes.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Haymes presented the agenda to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips made the motion, seconded by Alderman Beckley to approve the agenda with no additions or removals.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to approve the minutes with no corrections.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Haymes announced this portion of the meeting was set aside to receive input from those in attendance and requested any discussion. None brought forth.

Ordinance

Bill No. 2021-01 re: First and seconding reading of an Ordinance authorizing conveyance of real property located in the Mount Vernon Northwest Industrial Park from the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri to Mike Ulmer and Debbie Ulmer, husband and wife.

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2021-01 was declared passed and sent to the Mayor for signature. Bill No. 2021-01 thus became Ordinance Number 14.327.

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Bill No. 2021-02 re: First and seconding reading of an Ordinance authorizing conveyance of real property located in the Mount Vernon Northwest Industrial Park from the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri to the Cutting Edge Precision Machining Services, Inc.

First Reading:

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

AYES: Beckley, McElveen, Nelson, Phillips, Thrasher, Fairchild, Gramm, Lee

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2021-02 was declared passed and sent to the Mayor for signature. Bill No. 2021-02 thus became Ordinance Number 14.328.

Department Reports

City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Sales Tax.** Springer stated the sales tax numbers reported were received in December and January. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic sales tax amounts have held strong. The year to date sales tax for 2020 was up \$145,502.53 from the previous year.
- **Use Tax.** Springer also reported that use tax has done well through the pandemic, particularly in December of 2020, use tax was up \$6,753.83 from December 2019 and for the year use tax was up \$12,884.10 from 2019.
- **Spirit of '76 Park Restrooms.** Springer informed the Board that there were four bidders respond to the solicitation for bids to build the restrooms at the Spirit of '76 Park. Sprouls Construction, Inc. of Lamar, Missouri, was the lowest and best bid at \$235,985.35 base bid and \$240,485.35 with Alternate #1 for raze and removal of the existing building. The lowest bid was \$50,985.35 higher than the engineer's estimate, or \$55,485.35 higher with Alternate #1. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm to accept Sprouls Construction's base bid of \$235,985.35 to build the restrooms at Spirit of '76 Park without Alternate #1.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

- **Skatepark and Gibbs Park.** Springer informed the Board there were five bidders for the skatepark project at Gibbs Park. The lowest and best bid was from American Ramp Company of Joplin with a base bid of \$103,000.00. The estimate for this project was \$132,000.00. Staff recommends the City accept the bid from American Ramp Company. Springer mentioned, if the Board should decide to accept American Ramp Company's bid they have offered to include some added value elements to the original design for an additional \$32,000.00. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderman Phillips to accept the base bid from American Ramp Company in the amount of \$103,000.00, and requested clarification on how the MV ramp would be built before making a decision on the proposed additions to the original design would be made.

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- **Pest Control Services.** Springer reported bids were solicited for pest control services for all City owned buildings. Four bids were received, with Answered Pest Management being the lowest and best bid at \$3,120.00 per year or \$260.00 per month. The awarded contract would be for a term of two years. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to accept the bid from Answered Pest Management, in the amount of \$3,120.00 per year for a period of two years.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

- **Other Items of Discussion.** Springer noted that a part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was to make it mandatory to provide employees up to 80 hours of pay for time missed due to COVID-19. The end date for this benefit was December 31, 2020. This benefit was extended in a voluntary capacity until March 31, 2021. Discussion was held. Alderwoman Gramm made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Lee to continue to provide employees with the 80 hours of COVID pay through March 31, 2021.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Treasurer Report – November 2020.** Weldy requested approval of the Treasurer's Report for November 2020 and requested any discussion. None brought forth. Alderwoman Gramm made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Lee to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2020.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the bills paid report and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Bills Over \$5,000.00.** Weldy presented the Bills over \$5,000 for December and January to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher to approve bills over \$5,000.00 as presented.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

- **Investments.** Weldy informed the Board that the City had two Great Southern CDARS mature on January 7, 2021, a special sales tax in the amount of \$225,000.00, and an industrial in the amount of \$42,000.00. Weldy stated that since Great Southern CDARS process a little different she went ahead and cashed them out and will send out of bids. Discussion was held.
- **Other items of Discussion.** Weldy requested a motion to ratify the email votes taken on December 22nd and December 31st for approval of bills over \$5,000.00. Alderwoman Lee made the motion, seconded by Alderman Beckley to ratify the email votes.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Other Items of Discussion.** Kelley did not have any agenda items, but welcomed any questions the Board may have for him. None brought forth.

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Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Permit Report for December 2020.** Moore presented the Permit Report for December 2020 and requested any questions or discussion. None brought forth.
- **Planning & Zoning Report.** Moore presented the Planning & Zoning report where he discussed the following items:
 - **115 West Patterson.** Moore stated that demolition of the structure should be completed this week.
 - **202 S Vine.** Moore reported the owners are slowly making progress. They are working to get the old shop building cleaned out so they can start demolition.
 - **101 N Vine.** Moore updated the Board on progress Mr. Barker has made. He has gotten the old refrigerators and freezers moved out. Mr. Barker said he has a contract with Highpoint Trading Co. to remove the north wooden structure, so they can reclaim some of the timber. However, Highpoint Trading Co. has backed out of the contract, and Mr. Barker is working on it. Discussion was held.
 - **570 N Spring Park Blvd.** Moore reported the new Napa store going into this location has started stocking material, but hasn't request a building permit as of yet.
 - **500 Mt Vernon Blvd.** Moore informed the Board that Walmart will be starting a large remodeling project on February 4, 2021. The general contractor for the project will be Rick Shipman Construction out of Dexter, Missouri. The awarded contract to remodel 30,000 square feet for \$737,000.00. Discussion was held.

Police

Mr. Hubert held discussion on the following item:

- **Statistics for December 2020.** Hubert presented the statistics report for December and requested any discussion. None brought forth.

Old Business

Mayor Haymes requested any old business to be brought to the floor for discussion. None brought forth.

New Business

Mayor Haymes requested any new business to be brought to the floor for discussion. Mr. Springer brought forth the following new business:

- Springer stated the City owns an empty lot at 320 W Sloan Street, because this property was purchased at a tax sale, it has a title, but title insurance cannot be obtained on the property for ten years. The Church of Christ owns a house on Landrum Street, just north of the church. The church planned to demolish this structure in order to build a fellowship hall. He stated someone is interested in the house and moving it to the City's empty lot. Springer noted this lot has been bid before so the City can just sell it, if that is something the Board would like to do. Discussion was held. Alderman Beckley made the motion, seconded by Alderwoman Lee to sell the empty lot at 320 W Sloan Street to Brad Longley.

With all present members voting in favor, Mayor Haymes declared the motion approved.

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Adjournment

Mayor Haymes announced there being no further business listed on the agenda to come before the Board, the meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Jason Haymes, Mayor

Date

Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

Date