



PO Box 70 • 109 N Hickory St • Mount Vernon, MO • Phone (417) 466-2122

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE  
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 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, May 25, 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, Craig Nelson, Lowell Phillips, Sherie Thrasher, Steve Fairchild, Marda Gramm, and Sue Lee. The following city personnel were also in attendance: City Administrator Max Springer, Counselor William Petrus, Jr., Treasurer Shari Weldy, Public Works Director Joe Kelley, Code Enforcement Officer Terry Moore, Police Chief 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. The following changes were requested:

- Correct date on agenda from May 24, 2021 to May 25, 2021.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the agenda with the noted change, seconded by Alderwoman Lee.

Motion passed.

Presentation of Minutes

Mayor Haymes presented the minutes from the Board of Aldermen meeting held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 to the Board for approval. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Alderman Fairchild.

Motion passed.

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. 2021-16 re:** First and seconding reading of an ordinance authorizing execution of a real property lease agreement by and between the City of Mount Vernon, Missouri and the Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District, and authorizing the Mayor to sign all necessary documents, was read twice, by title only, with the following roll call vote recorded:

First Reading:

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

NOES: None

Minutes Approved June 8, 2021

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Second Reading:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Bill No. 2021-16 was passed by unanimous roll call vote and sent to the Mayor for signature, thus becoming Ordinance Number 14.337.

## **Department Reports**

### City Administrator

Mr. Springer held discussion on the following items:

- **Repeal Ordinance 12.70.** Springer relayed that the Lawrence County Commissioners have requested the City repeal the two-hour parking and remove signs on the inside northeast corner of the square. The ordinance was issued on February 23, 2021 at the request of the commissioners. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve preparation of an ordinance to repeal Ordinance 12.70, regarding two-hour parking on the inside northeast side of the square, seconded by Alderman Phillips.

Motion passed.

- **Skatepark at Gibbs Park.** Springer updated the Board on the following skatepark items:
  - American Ramp Company, the contractor on the skatepark, informed the City that a retaining wall would need to be installed on the southwest corner of the skatepark to control storm water pooling on the west end of the skatepark. They gave us an estimate on incorporating the retaining wall into the skate area, which would increase the size of the park by 300 sq. ft. The cost is \$.50.00/ sq. ft. or \$15, 000.00. However, as part of the project they have given us an extended price on our contract of \$6,500.00 to add a bowl corner to serve as a functional retaining wall, instead of adding a standard retaining wall. Discussion was held. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve the \$6,500.00 for American Ramp Company to extend the skatepark with the bowl corner retaining wall, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen.

Motion passed.

- The City is working with American Ramp Company, Community Betterment, Skatepark Citizens Group, and the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce to schedule a ribbon cutting/grand opening of the skatepark, and would like to have as many Board members there, as possible, including the Mayor, who can cut the ribbon and address skaters. Discussion was held.
- **Update on Projects.** Springer presented updates on the following City projects:
  - Gibbs Street – Work is being done to complete all of the drive and sidewalk attachments. Then once there is suitable weather, City crews will finish the dirt work on the yards.
  - Hayward Drive - Blevins is finishing the curb and gutter, and if weather holds should be paving later this week.
  - Restrooms at Spirit of '76 Park – Work is about complete and should be ready to do a punch list this week. The handicap sinks have not been delivered as of Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Sidewalk Tap Project - Sidewalk project is pretty much completed waiting on final inspection with MoDOT. There is still some clean up to do. We have seen a lot of people already using it.
- **City Attorney Position.** Springer informed the Board that the advertisement for the City Attorney position was running, and requested input on how interviews would be held. Discussion was held. It was decided interviews would be done by the Personnel Committee.
- **Reschedule Parks & Recreation Meeting.** Springer requested to reschedule the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. Discussion was held. Meeting will be rescheduled at June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Treasurer

Ms. Weldy held discussion on the following items:

- **Bills Paid.** Weldy presented the bills paid report for April and May and requested any discussion. None brought forth.
- **Bills over \$5,000.00.** Weldy presented the Bills over \$5,000.00 for May and June to the Board for approval with the addition of a check for \$5,000.00 to Answered Pest Management. Alderwoman Lee moved to authorize payment for the bills over \$5000.00 with the addition of Answered Pest Management for \$5,000.00, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **April 2021 Treasurer's Report.** Weldy presented the April 2021 Treasurer's Report to the Board for approval. Alderwoman Lee moved to Approve the April 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Alderwoman Gramm.

Motion passed.

- **Write-offs.** Weldy requested approval to do write-offs in Incode and move them to Online Collections, in the amount of \$24,616.57. Alderman Fairchild moved to approve the write-offs and move them to online collections in the amount of \$24,616.57, seconded by Alderman Beckley.

Motion passed.

- **Letters for Bad Debt.** Weldy reported she had sent out letters for \$4,536.91 in bad debt. Discussion was held.

#### Director of Public Works

Mr. Kelley held discussion on the following items:

- **Water Department – Inventory Purchase.** Kelley requested approval to purchase 150 water meters for \$26,242.50 and 48 ITRON pit ERT's for \$3,984.00, for a total of \$30,226.50 to restock inventory materials that have been used in various projects. Alderman Phillips moved to approve the purchase of 150 water meters and 48 ITRON pit ERT's for \$30,226.50, seconded by Alderwoman McElveen.

Motion passed

- **Tri-State Water Update.** Kelley stated he recently had attended a meeting for the Tri-State Water Coalition. The Tri-State Water Coalition is a billion dollar project to reallocate water from Stockton Lake. Kelley informed the Board that in the next year or two the Coalition would be asking for the City's commitment to the project and \$140,553 for water reallocation capital cost would need to be paid. Ultimately, Mount Vernon has

the smallest portion of cost due to population. The City's total portion will be approximately \$14 million for the water reallocation and water treatment plant construction. Discussion was held.

### Code Enforcement

Mr. Moore held discussion on the following items:

- **Other Items of Discussion.** Moore did not have any agenda items, but informed the board there would be a public hearing on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for the voluntary annexation of Jones Memorial, and welcomed any questions the Board may have for him. None brought forth.

### Police

Chief Hubert held discussion on the following items:

- **Click-it or Ticket Grant.** Hubert informed the Board that May 24<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup> the police department would be doing grant work for Click-it or Ticket, and welcomed 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. None brought forth.

### Closed Session

Alderman Phillips moved to adjourn to closed session pursuant to RSMo, § Section 610.021(1) Legal Actions and Section 610.021(2) Real Estate, seconded by Alderwoman Thrasher. The following roll call vote was recorded:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned for closed session at 7:47 p.m.

### Reconvene.

Meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m. Mayor Haymes determined all Aldermen that were present for closed session adjournment had returned to the meeting. Mayor Haymes requested any other business to be brought to the floor for discussion. None brought forth

### 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 8:17 pm.

Minutes Approved June 8, 2021

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Melissa Aduddle, City Clerk

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Date