

MARIONVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Marionville Conference Room, 101 S Central

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Mayor Blankenship called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. On roll call the following Aldermen were present: Murlin Bettinger, Doris Rapp, Mathew Goodman, Gina Herndon and Melissa Freeman. Joanne Lawrence was absent.

Following roll call, Mayor Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Doris Rapp opened the meeting with prayer.

Approve Order of Agenda: Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve the order of the agenda as presented with the change of moving number 17- possible "Exceptions" for Fence's before number 10-Park Board appointments. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Herndon, Rapp, Freeman, Bettinger, Goodman

Approve minutes of the Regular Session on April 15, 2021: Alderman Herndon made the motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2021 as presented. Alderman Rapp seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Rapp, Goodman, Bettinger, Freeman, Herndon

Approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports:

Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports as presented. Alderman Goodman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Goodman, Rapp, Freeman, Bettinger, Herndon

Citizens Comments/Official Guests & Visitors

(None)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Rick Woods, Building Inspector and Code Enforcer: Rick stated he is working on alot of nuisance letters at this time. He is working with the developers putting in a new subdivision in Hayden Heights. The occupancy inspections are going ok. He is helping Public Works addressing the issue of grease getting in the sewer lines.

Karyn Marsh, ACO: She had a very busy month. She tried one adoption event, but those events are not being as successful as she hoped. Due to the increase in vetting fees, more dogs will need to go to Joplin to be adopted out.

Sewer: Mayor Blankenship indicated there are more manholes with major water leaks. These will need to be fixed with epoxy; however, he is trying to get another quote on this. There are two (2) sections of sewer lines in town that need to be dug up and repaired. The sewer plant took seven (7) lightning strikes in one (1) night last week. Two motors were damaged, plus the bar screen

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motor were affected. Our engineers are looking into what can be done for a solution to this problem. Also, the well at the sewer plant has gone out twice and they discovered the backflow preventer is failing and needs repaired.

OLD BUSINESS

Correct a scrivener's error in the minutes of February 25, 2021: The motion was to approve the purchase of the SCBA Air Compressor and Cascade trailer for seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7500.00). This motion was seconded and approved. However, in typing the minutes, it was written the cost to purchase the air compressor and trailer was seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). Alderman Rapp made the motion to correct the February 25, 2021 minutes to read as they should. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Bettinger, Freeman, Herndon, Goodman, Rapp

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss possible "Exceptions" for Fence's—Section 510.020: Rick Woods stated the ordinances currently prohibit fences made out of hog panels, rabbit wire, etc. He has had some interest in this type of fence here in town. There are some older ones in town of this type. Rick suggested an "exception" clause could be added to allow these with certain requirements. After looking at pictures and discussing, Alderman Goodman made the motion to proceed with amending Section 510.020 of the city codes by adding "Exception: Welded wire fence of 14 gauge or heavier (i.e. Hog panels or Rabbit wire) that is attached to 4x4 or larger treated posts and a wooden 1x or greater treated top and bottom rail at a maximum height of 4 feet will be permitted as long all other requirements in section 510.020 are met." Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on rollcall vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Rapp, Bettinger, Freeman, Goodman, Herndon

Park Board Appointments: Mayor Blankenship stated he would like to reappoint Gary Bullock and Chris Freeman to the Park Board. Alderman Rapp made the motion to accept the Mayor's reappointment of Gary Bullock and Chris Freeman to the Park Board. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Rapp, Bettinger, Goodman, Herndon

ABSTAIN: 1- Freeman

Planning and Zoning Appointments: Mayor Blankenship appointed Chris Miller to the Planning and Zoning Board. Alderman Bettinger made the motion to accept the Mayor's appointment of Chris Miller to Planning and Zoning. Alderman Goodman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Freeman, Goodman, Bettinger, Herndon, Rapp

Lawn mowers-Street Department: The Public Works department has three old mowers. They are running at the moment; however, they are beginning to have issues. Tyrrel had quotes from S & H, Coast to Coast and Marionville Powersports that included trading in the three (3) mowers and purchasing two (2) new ones. It was noted we can trade-in the three (3) mowers and purchase two

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(2) newer ones; trade-in two (2); advertise for bids to sell the mowers, or do nothing at the moment. Alderman Rapp made the motion to advertise and take bids to sell these three mowers to be opened at the June meeting. Alderman Goodman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Herndon, Bettinger, Goodman, Rapp, Freeman

Health Insurance Renewal: Alderman Freeman made the motion to renew with the current health insurance plan. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Bettinger, Rapp, Freeman, Herndon, Goodman

Minimum amount to refund credit balances and deposit refund balances: Mayor Blankenship stated some of these balances can be as small as five cents and asked if the board wanted to set a minimum. Alderman Rapp made the motion to refund credit balances and deposit balances that are more than five dollars (\$5.00). Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Freeman, Goodman, Herndon, Rapp, Bettinger

Bill No. 2021-07/Ordinance07-2021 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 710.040 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MARIONVILLE, MISSOURI, REGARDING SEWER RATE STRUCTURE": Bill No. 2021-07 was read twice by title only. For averaging purposes, the city averages the water usage during January, February and March; however extreme inclement weather can cause an unusual high usage whether from broken pipes or measures taken to prevent freezing pipes. There were some averages resulting from the extreme weather that were above 20,000 gallons. If these circumstances would have occurred in any other months, it would not be an issue. The aldermen reviewed two (2) options. Option A, at the discretion of the City of Marionville, residential contributors who have had a water leak or other inordinate water usage that has affected the yearly average calculation may request their monthly bill be based on their actual usage until the next averaging period. This could result in some high amounts during the summer months. With option B, at the discretion of the City of Marionville, residential contributors who have had a water leak or other inordinate water usage that has affected the yearly average calculation may request their monthly bill be based on the median charge of all residential contributors. Both options were subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Clerk. Alderman Freeman suggested changing option B to read "the median charge of that contributor's usage two (2) months prior and two (2) months post high usage". Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve Bill No. 2021-07 option B with the change in wording mentioned above. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Rapp, Freeman, Herndon, Bettinger, Goodman

Special Assessment Lien: The Board received a letter from Christopher Maples stating he will be applying for a collectors deed on property described as "All of the South Half of Lot 91, Block 22, Neece's Addition of the City of Marionville, Lawrence County, Missouri, EXCEPT the South 50 feet thereof." The City has a lien on this property after we condemned the building and had it demolished and removed. After discussion, Alderman Freeman made a motion to notify Mr. Maples

the city will release the lien upon him receiving the collectors deed on the property described as "All of the South Half of Lot 91, Block 22, Neece's Addition of the City of Marionville, Lawrence County, Missouri, EXCEPT the South 50 feet thereof." Alderman Goodman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Herndon, Freeman, Goodman, Bettinger

ABSTAINED: 1-Rapp

Police Pay Scale: Mayor Blankenship stated he met with the Police Department and Aurora's City Manager to discuss issues with hiring and retaining officers. Plus our department is missing some equipment items like radar guns, car camera's etc. Chief Witthuhn indicated that camera's need to be considered because someday they will not be an option. Hopefully there we can a meeting with both city councils to discuss pay and other options. Every city is down officers, but we need to have something that will attract and keep them here. Chief Witthuhn also stated that at the beginning of this year, Aurora began paying a fifty-cent (.50) night differential pay for the hours between six p.m. and six a.m. Alderman Freeman made the motion to pay a fifty-cent (.50) night differential pay for the hours between six p.m. and six a.m. Alderman Bettinger seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 5- Freeman, Bettinger, Herndon, Goodman, Rapp

ALDERMEN COMMENTS

Doris Rapp: Indicated she has seen a lot of nuisance violations and vacant houses. It was noted that some letters were sent out this week. She also indicated they will need help with putting out flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day. She would like to set up a donation stand during the Memorial Day weekend. The cemetery boundary from the survey needs to be marked somehow.

Melissa Freeman: Asked what the next step is now that we have examples of administrative warrant applications. Mayor Blankenship stated he would contact the attorney about putting that in ordinance form to abate with administrative warrants. Alderman Freeman also noted that the judge is a mayor appointment to be done every two years.

MAYOR COMMENTS

(none)

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Rapp made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Herndon. All voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Dale Blankenship, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie Bateman, City Clerk

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