

Mayor Grenke called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Aldermen Don Bormann, Jerry Hensley, Paul Million, Jessica Orsini, Jerry Parmeley and Catherine Simmons roll call.

Also present were City Administrator Lynn P. Behrns, City Attorney Merritt Beck, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, School Resource Officer Tom Fair, Steve Oberman, Linda Yager, Elizabeth Sullivan, LaQuita Blankenship, LeeAllen Smith, Guard Reporter James Smith and another reporter.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Grenke led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Grenke asked for approval of the Consent Agenda in its entirety or any items to be pulled for comment or correction.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of Prior Meeting
- B. Minutes of Public Works and Public Utilities Committee Meeting
- C. Minutes of General Government Committee Meeting
- D. Reports
 - 1. Treasurer's & Collector's Reports
 - 2. Activity Reports

Alderman Parmeley requested a correction on page 3 of the January 18th board minutes, 2nd paragraph should read "Officer Ladwig" instead of Alderman Ladwig. Motion was made by Alderman Parmeley to accept the consent agenda in its entirety with the correction to the January 18th minutes. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable over \$1250 were presented in the amount of \$397,860.51 as follows:

Air Compressor Engineering (Water Plant Compressor)	\$	3,749.02
Allstate Consultants LLC (Preliminary Engineering SRTS Grant)	\$	14,122.00
Ameren Services -MC 1037 (Transmission Charges February)	\$	15,115.00
Ameren Services -MC 1037 (Transmission Charges January)	\$	13,399.68
Ameren UE (Heating)	\$	4,845.47
Barnes, Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende, Inc (Substation Design \$120377.50)	\$	16,914.50
Boone Quarries (Manufactured sand 2421.23)	\$	4,272.05
Burns & McDonnell (Progress Payment Well # 3)	\$	4,655.38
Division of Employment Security (C Delong Un-employment)	\$	4,560.00
Fletcher/Reinhardt Co (Electric Dept Supplies)	\$	15,305.46
Herndon Welding (Rebuild Lime Sled Labor \$ 720.00)	\$	1,639.70
MISO	\$	3,472.43
T & R Electric (3-25 KVA Single Phase Pole Mount \$1095.00)	\$	1,841.00
Trabue, Hansen & Hinshaw (Engineering demolition for 105 N Allen)	\$	2,065.00
UMB Bank (Library Bond Payment)	\$	26,095.00
UMB Bank NA (MAMUOB Electric Substation)	\$	12,147.30
Veolia (roll off dumpster usage (2))	\$	2,049.50
Ameren Energy Marketing (Wholesale Electric)	\$	239,296.85
City of Columbia (January Landfill charges)	\$	5,226.37
MFA Oil (fuel)	\$	4,433.80
Trabue, Hansen & Hinshaw (Partial Payment for 105 N Allen Engineering)	\$	2,655.00

Alderman Orsini made the motion to approve the Accounts Payable over \$1250 in the amount of \$397,860.51. Alderman Simmons seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: No comments received.

PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled.

ACTION AGENDA:

Finance: None Scheduled.

Permits and Licenses - None scheduled.

Legal:

ORDINANCE: Amending City Code to Increase Rates for Water Utility Service Charges

Mr. Behrns stated this had been discussed during committee and would increase the average residential monthly bill about \$1.50 per month. The increase would take effect April 1st and residents would see the increase on their May billing.

Alderman Million presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2507 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 26-118 OF THE CENTRALIA CITY CODE TO INCREASE THE RATES CHARGED FOR WATER PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI." Alderman Million moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Orsini and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Million moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Orsini and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Million moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Simmons seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Bormann, Hensley, Million, Orsini, Parmeley, and Simmons. Voting AGAINST: None. The Mayor declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 2597.

Daryl Spauldin arrived for the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

ORDINANCE: Amending City Code to Increase Rates for Sewer Service Charges

Mr. Behrns stated this was also discussed during committee and would increase the average residential sewer bill about 44 cents per month. The increase would take effect April 1st and residents would see the increase on their May billing.

Alderman Orsini presented a bill marked and designated as bill no. 2508 to create an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 26-125 OF THE CENTRALIA CITY CODE TO INCREASE CHARGES FOR USERS OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF CENTRALIA, MISSOURI." Alderman Orsini moved that it be placed on its first reading by title only. Before the bill was introduced copies of the bill were made available for public inspection. Motion was seconded by Alderman Million and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read by title only. Alderman Orsini moved the bill be placed on its second reading. Motion was seconded by Alderman Million and motion carried unanimously. The bill was then read the second time by title only. The Mayor then called for discussion on the bill and after some discussion Alderman Orsini moved the final passage of the bill. Alderman Simmons seconded the motion. The Mayor called for a roll call vote and the ordinance passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Bormann, Hensley, Million, Orsini, Parmeley, and Simmons. Voting AGAINST: None. The Mayor declared the bill passed and thereupon signed the same as passed. The bill was approved by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor as approved and was returned to the City Clerk who attested to the signature of the Mayor, affixed the city seal and the Ordinance was designated as Ordinance 2598.

PURCHASING:

Repairs to Well #4 Pump – Flynn Drilling

Mr. Behrns presented the quote from Flynn Drilling for repairs to Well #4 pump as follows:

Pull and inspect existing pumping equipment	\$ 5,250.00
New Gould Pump producing 700 gpm @ 425tdh	\$11,395.00
Setting material, airline and related miscellaneous	\$ 695.00
Estimate labor for clean, prep, reinstall and test (based on 40 hours @ \$250.00 / hour	\$10,750.00
Total	\$28,090.00

Mr. Behrns stated the well is used as a backup well and this is a proposal to troubleshoot and repair the pump. The overall cost could be somewhat less but will not exceed \$28,090.00. Alderman Bormann made the motion to approve the \$28,090.00 quote from Flynn Drilling for repairs to the pump on well #4. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor again asked for comments from citizens.

Linda Yager residing at 311 South Allen, manager of the Centralia Apartments, expressed her concern for her tenants' high utility bills. She stated most residents live on a fixed income and received huge utility bills this month.

**City of Centralia
Board Minutes – February 16, 2010**

Linda stated none of the residents' bills had been this high in the fifteen years she has been managing the apartments. She said one resident turned down her heat, sits in the dark with no tv and goes to bed about 5:30 p.m. at night but still had a higher bill. She said she keeps her own residence at 50 degrees but the city still received \$619.00 of her hard earned money for this month's utility bill.

Elizabeth Sullivan residing at 525 West Southgate Apt 5 stated she lives on a fixed income, has winterized her apartment and keeps her thermostat on a low setting. She received an outrageous bill, even though she was freezing in her apartment.

LaQuita Blankenship residing at 209 Sunset Lane said her bill was \$397.00 this month and she supplements her heat with wood heat. If the bills continue to increase she may be forced to choose between making her house payment, her car payment or buying groceries after she paid her utility bill. She expressed her concern about those residents on fixed incomes.

Jon Angell arrived for the meeting at 7:25 pm

Alderman Orsini responded the month of January saw some of the coldest weather this area had seen in a long time. She suggested the residents might want to consider budget billing to assist in budgeting their bills year round. Alderman Orsini also stated she has found electric heat to not be as efficient as gas heat.

Mr. Behrns mentioned the last summer was extra mild and this summer could see an increase in the bills as well since it may not be as mild. Questions were asked about the automated meter reading system and concerns the system may not be reading the meters correctly. Any electric meters that had been sent for performance testing were found to be reading correctly. This testing is done at cost to the city so would not recommend to test all meters but it has been done on a case by case basis with no problems found. Staff routinely sends personnel to read meters in person when readings have been questioned and the meter readings have been found to be accurate.

Mr. Oberman stated he had made the board aware last month of additional social services listing as well as other social service programs that should be listed on the city website. Only the CMCA listing had been added and he requested the city actively look for additional agencies to list on their website. He said the state website for social service is www.dss.mo.gov. Alderman Parmeley stated the city is not a social service agency. The CMCA website does list additional agencies available on their website. It was suggested this could be put in the city newsletter, if space permitted.

Linda Yager, LaQuita Blankenship and Elizabeth Sullivan left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor:

Appointments:

Mayor Grenke requested approval for the appointment of LeeAllen Smith to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2013. Alderman Orsini made the motion to approve the appointment of LeeAllen Smith to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2013. Alderman Simmons seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Grenke requested approval for the appointment of Drew Umstadd to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2015. Alderman Parmeley made the motion to approve the appointment of Drew Umstadd to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2015. Alderman Simmons seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Grenke requested approval for the appointment of Curt Kelley to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2015. Alderman Parmeley made the motion to approve the appointment of Curt Kelley to the Centralia Industrial Development Authority with a term ending in 2015. Alderman Orsini seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Grenke requested approval for the appointment of LeeAllen Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term ending in 2014. Alderman Orsini made the motion to approve the appointment of LeeAllen Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term ending in 2014. Alderman Bormann seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays, the motion passed unanimously.

Aldermen: None.

City Administrator:

Mr. Behrns had received a letter from Ms. Debbie Sullivan regarding the cold weather rule and other matters. Copies of the letter were provided prior to the meeting to all the board members as well as everyone present at the meeting. Ms. Sullivan had requested the letter be read during the meeting but the letter was quite lengthy. In her letter Ms. Sullivan referenced a constituent letter Alderman Million had read during the last committee meeting. She had questioned in her letter if the city was disseminating confidential information regarding residents' bills. Mr. Behrns clarified the letter in reference was from a former employee who was also a city resident. However, he further stated utility billing records are a matter of public record. He also stated the policy concerning accepting out of town checks was not a unique policy to the city and staff were always cautious in accepting out of town checks

**City of Centralia
Board Minutes – February 16, 2010**

unless they were a prior customer or known to the staff. Mr. Behrns stated staff would have recommendations at the next committee meeting concerning the cold weather suggestions.

The city does not currently offer credit or debit cards for payment due to fees the city would be charged for the charge card convenience. Mr. LeeAllen Smith explained how the credit card worked for his business. He can charge a fee for his services and discount his fee for those not using a charge card.

Mr. Behrns also mentioned 45 fluorescent light fixtures had been changed out at city hall for the more efficient fluorescent lighting that is being mandated. The old fixtures will be obsolete in a few years. There are still eight fixtures in the community room to be changed out. The electric department has suggested placing an ad for the sale of the old fixtures as they may be of use to someone. The other option would be scrapping the fixtures. The board concurred with placing an ad to receive bids on the old fixtures.

City Attorney:

Mr. Beck asked if the board had any comments or questions concerning solicitation of charitable contributions. He believes the state statute gives the city authority for organizations to complete an application to conduct the charitable solicitation. The application could be submitted to the city administrator or the city clerk, whomever the board would designate. A waiver could be set regarding the insurance requirement. A minimum age for solicitors could also be set. A release form for liability could also be prepared. Alderman Million said he felt the permit should include an age limit, time limit and waiver of liability. Alderman Simmons suggested the location for solicitation also be considered as she had witnessed solicitors this past week on the service road to the Conley Road Walmart in Columbia. The solicitors were walking out into traffic to conduct their solicitations. Alderman Orsini abstained from comment as she is a member of the American Legion organization that made the request for soliciting. It was decided Mr. Beck would prepare a draft ordinance for the next committee meeting for the board to consider.

The other reporter left the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

CityClerk

As May Arise:

Mayor Grenke stated he had attended the school board meeting the night before where Tom Fair made a grant proposal presentation. School Resource Office Tom Fair then presented his Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools grant proposal to the city board. This grant is a 100% funded grant and requires no action by the city other than the Mayor's and the Police Chief's signature. It is a partner agreement with the local law enforcement, local emergency management agency, the public health agency, the mental health agency and the Mayor of Centralia. The grant would be used for 1)SERT – School Emergency Response Team, 2) Enhance the communication within the district school buses, 3) Risk assessments of the district/tabletop simulation exercises and 4) Go kits/SERT bags. Mr. Fair stated a third of the population of the city is housed during the day at the schools. The proposed grant would included working with the Boone County Fire Department and as well as the Centralia Fire Department.

Mayor Grenke reported he had received an email from Mr. Oberman with a link to a very user friendly ADA web page. It gives hints and suggestions for new construction.

Mr. Oberman mentioned he would be attending the PAVE meeting being held at Bristol Manor at 1 p.m. Thursday and invited everyone to attend.

Alderman Bormann stated over the last week and during the past year there had been a lot of information about rumors, newspaper articles and items on the radio involving our former mayor. Alderman Borman would like to get it on the record some of the things that happened. He then asked City Clerk Colvin if the former mayor cleaned out her office and files the day after the municipal election last April. Colvin said yes. He also asked Colvin if computer files were also found to be deleted. Colvin said yes. He then asked City Attorney Beck if this was a criminal violation. Mr. Beck stated there were laws concerning tampering with public property and it could be considered a criminal liability for tampering with computer electronic files. Alderman Bormann then asked if there was a possibility for prosecution for these violations. Mr. Beck stated the prosecutor would be the one to decide to file criminal charges. Alderman Bormann asked if there was a time limit for filing these charges. Mr. Beck stated there were statutes of limitations of one year to file misdemeanor charges and some consideration could be given in certain circumstances to extend the limitation beyond one year. Alderman Bormann also noted the former mayor did not attend any meetings after the municipal election. Alderman Bormann had been informed that prior to the last municipal election in April 2009, the library board director was told to fire Mr. Bormann from the Library Board prior to the city election and the former Mayor had plans to appoint a replacement once she would have been elected. With misinformation by the former mayor on the radio as well as on facebook and twitter, Alderman Bormann stated he felt it was time to reveal some of the things the former mayor had done.

Alderman Orsini stated it does appear the former mayor appeared to be holding a grudge and wielding it as a weapon as of late. Alderman Orsini also felt it was time to make the public aware of the former mayor's actions. Alderman Orsini asked why there were no charges filed at the time the files were deleted. City Clerk Colvin stated the deleted files and emails had been recovered.

Alderman Simmons stated she understood the concerns about the former mayor as she has witnessed some of these interactions, but wondered what the repercussions would be if criminal charges were filed now when they were not

City of Centralia
Board Minutes – February 16, 2010

filed initially. Alderman Bormann stated he was not proposing criminal charges be filed but just wanted it to be public knowledge. He stated the files were recovered so no lasting damage was done but it did show vindictiveness on the part of the former mayor.

Alderman Parmeley wondered how to clear the air without causing more problems. He stated it boils down to journalism ethics. The former mayor has a radio voice and has used her media to get her word out and the city is limited.

Alderman Million has witnessed other cities with their problems and stated this board needs to rise above the fray. Alderman Orsini stated the information did need to become public to kill the rumors.

Tom Fair left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Mayor Grenke thanked Alderman Bormann and the entire board for the job they do. The citizens elected the board members to take the city forward. This is being accomplished by actively working with ADA requirements, striving for shovel ready sights and making our city a better place. The police department has given a stellar performance and he extended his appreciation to the city and the entire city staff.

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Orsini made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Parmeley seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Kathy Colvin, City Clerk