

**Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee for Monday, October 12, 2009.**

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Orsini at 7:05 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Hensley, Simmons, Million, Bormann, and Parmeley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Fire Chief Marvin Rodgers, James Lee, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, James Smith, many members of the Centralia Police Department and their families, and others.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Alliance.

Police Department

Chief Dudgeon recognized several of the officers in the Centralia Police Department for their successful arrests of persons involved with a meth lab in western Audrain County. He extended particular thanks to Officers Belamy and Helm, and part-time Officers Russell and DuVall. Certificates of recognition were presented to all of them. He also distributed letters of appreciation on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to Belamy and DuVall. The Committee gave the officers a round of applause, and Mayor Grenke reported on complimentary comments made by other law enforcement agencies about the accomplishments of the City's Police.

Chief Dudgeon presented a report of Police Department activities in September.

Behrns directed the Committee's attention to a memorandum from City Attorney Beck. At the end of August a new state law took effect which gives cities the authority to allow golf carts on municipal streets. Beck asks if the Board wants him to prepare an ordinance that would implement this, similar to the one passed last year which allows "low speed vehicles" to be drive—except on state highway or high-speed streets. If they want the ordinance, do they want extra restrictions placed on such driving? Hensley asked Dudgeon's opinion about such an ordinance. Dudgeon said he was concerned about the fairness to persons who had already purchased the special low speed vehicles at large expense. Several committee members said that the City would still be fair, in that using golf carts was not an option available to the City last year.

Committee instructed Behrns to ask Beck for an opinion as to whether the law permits a requirement for liability insurance, or is that precluded as part of vehicle licensing requirements. Dudgeon thought it could allowed since insurance was in a separate section of the statutes. Also, could the City expect the park or the library to use a golf cart and would they need insurance. Dudgeon said that there is no licensing requirement for governmental vehicles, which have general liability insurance in any case. Committee decided to table the matter for later consideration and also to wait for Beck's answer.

City Prosecutor

No report to present.

Fire Department

Chief Rodgers presented a report of Fire Department activities in September. All pump testing on the fire trucks has been completed and all pumps proved satisfactory. "Special training" on the reports accounts for 277 hours for joint training with the Boone County Fire Protection District on emergency response efforts. Lee noted that training will gradually diminish as firefighters reach necessary skill levels and the department settles into a revolving schedule for responders. They and Scott Olsen are still working out how to expedite a transfer/call-out procedure from Joint Dispatch to Centralia to notify the city firefighters. Joint dispatch needs to get Boone responders informed and on their way before turning to Centralia responders.

Rodgers told Committee that an actual helicopter was used in training event involving emergency aerial medical transports.

Rodgers told Bormann that the department would be hosting a Halloween evening event, with treats and safety advice. Plans are for Mirror Images to offer pictures of the costumed kids. Donations are welcome.

#### Emergency Management

No formal report. Behrns noted that Zim Schwartz is the new head of Joint Dispatch. He will be checking to see if she will also to be the new Director of Emergency Management for Columbia and Boone County.

#### Protective Inspection

The Redwood Motel sale has closed and the new owner, Don Rodgers, has mowed. He will demolish most of the existing buildings and repairing one for storage. Repair work has commenced on three houses cited as dangerous structures. Some work was also done on a building on Railroad Street. Behrns has not yet contacted Department of Agriculture about dust hazards at the Double D Seeds buildings, nor has he talked to the owners about disposition of the scales in Hickman Street.

Phil Hoffman got an estimate of \$3,000 to put a protective handrail on the edge of the raised sidewalk on the west side of the old Fireside Guard building. Behrns was asked to talk to the owner about sharing the cost of installation, if this becomes a project budgeted for next year.

Behrns repeated the news about denial of a grant to finish demolition of the building at 105 North Allen. He is awaiting a proposal from Trabue, Hansen, and Hinshaw for scaled-back engineering services. He asked that they drop the preparation of bidding documents for the time being. They would detail how to do the demolition and would advise about asbestos removal. There may be a contract for approval in October, but more likely it will be brought forward in November.

#### Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers presented a report of recent Chamber of Commerce and economic development activities. Aldermen received a schedule of upcoming events. The Chamber's Christmas efforts include new methods of publicity, such as fliers distributed at craft shows and conventions. Most events will be similar to last year. One new idea is for "living windows" at downtown merchants. Merchants will have an early Halloween celebration--since there are no standard hours of operation for Saturday, and schools will be out on Friday.

A fall date has been set for the Chamber Dinner. They hope that November 6 will have fewer conflicts. Nominations for several Chamber awards are still open.

"Kops for Kids" will become "Kommunity for Kids". Chief Dudgeon is okay with this, and his department will still be heavily involved.

Virgil Raines is working on some draft initial by-laws and organizational details for the economic development committee. It will meet on October 22 at the County offices at the Centralia Family Clinic.

A new Santa's workshop is still under construction. Zoellers said there is hope it will be ready for use after December 1.

#### Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The Park Board will next meet on October 20.

Cemetery Advisory Committee

There was no written report

Tree Board

There was no written report.

Library Board

No Library Board minutes have been distributed. An agenda for their new meeting was made available.

Finance

Financial statements for September were distributed on Friday. Behrns asked committee members to call if they had any comments or questions. He noted that sales tax receipts were much below projections in October and been bouncing up and down unpredictably for several months.

The preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 was presented. Committee had no questions.

Other General Government

The City is working on other ADA projects one at a time. Million suggested that the Centralia Accessibility Committee could use additional members. Four may not be enough to cover the gamut of disabilities and check on City efforts.

Committee discussed a draft of an agreement with the COLT Railroad to allow for construction of a sidewalk under the SRTS grant. The draft needs to have typos corrected. Behrns will seek clarification of what improvements are to be paid by the city on the Sims Street pedestrian crossing, what "written agreement" are needed to show the City will close Sims to motor vehicles, and what is the intent of a section allowing future removal of improvements at the discretion of the Railroad.

As May Arise

Mayor Grenke will be gone for the next two meetings in order to attend out-of-state training. Simmons will be absent from the committee meeting on November 2.

Orsini said she had received a letter from a citizen, complaining that she left a few minutes early at a recent meeting after viewing part of clip from a television interview on the topic of ADA efforts. She explained that she felt the reporting was biased against the City and incomplete, so she did not need to hear more. However after reflection, she said that the citizen was right, that her duty was to stay for the entirety of the meeting and be a full representative of her constituents. She said that, as suggested by the letter, she was apologizing to the citizen and to the residents of her ward for not attending the full meeting.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:45 p.m.