

Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee for Tuesday, November 12, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Orsini at about 7:45 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Hensley, Million, Bormann, and Parmeley. Also attending were Lynn Behrns, Fire Chief Marvin Rodgers, James Lee, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, James Smith, Steve Oberman, Darryl Spauldin, and Matt Hensley.

Orsini asked for a Moment of Silence for those killed last week at Fort Hood.

Economic Development

Ginny Zoellers presented a report of recent Chamber of Commerce and economic development activities. She distributed some notes from the last Economic Development Committee meeting. The next will be on November 24, also at 6:30 at the County's meeting room at the clinic.

The Chamber's recognition dinner was well attended, with many employees from Alliance Form Technologies present.

Work continues on planning of Christmas events, including two parades. After the tractor parade, the Young Farmers are staging a fund raising dance at the Recreation Center. These events will also be promoted in the Paris newspaper.

Orsini asked if the merchants could stay open longer hours, so those who worked out of town could shop after five o'clock. Zoellers said that they had tried in the past and found there was not enough business to cover the extra overhead. The plans were for some businesses to remaining open later on the day of the tractor parade. There will be several "living windows" that day and evening.

Jan Hollis has spoken to Zoellers, advocating that the new Economic Development Committee include GED options as part of its workforce development efforts.

Behrns explained the need for a public hearing at the regular Board meeting and for a mayoral proclamation on Fair Housing. These are part of the City's obligations as CDBG sponsor for Alliance Foam Technologies.

Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The Park Board will next meet on November 24.

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 next meeting was made available.

Finance

Financial statements for October had been previously distributed. Behrns report the City had (so far) managed to cut general fund expenses to match shortfalls in general fund revenues for the current budget year. Water fund revenues are up, as are those of the sewer fund. Revenues from electric sales are down because of the mild summer, but expenses are down to a greater degree.

The preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 was presented. Committee inquired about the bill from CUSI. Behrns said he thought it was the annual maintenance fee for the utility billing software. [This was confirmed after the meeting.]

Other General Government

None

Police Department

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

Dudgeon noted receipt of the paper work and check for the grant in the amount of \$9,103. This will pay for a radio repeater and improved base station. Procurement is already under way. The City will need to pay for a small building near the east water tower, to hold the repeater unit, and a plate and bracket will have to be welded to the top hatch on the tower. Behrns has located a small building being offered for sale that can be easily be placed on a concrete floor and adopted for our use. It could also be used for future water department automation and telemetry electronics. He should be able to purchase it on Wednesday for a price less than his \$1,250 limit.

Orsini asked Dudgeon to congratulate Officer Bellamy for his Army Commendation Medal citation (for service in Iraq).

City Prosecutor

No report to present.

Parmeley requested that April Wilson make another visit to talk to the Board by next spring.

Fire Department

Chief Rodgers presented a report of Fire Department activities in October. The firefighters have spent many hours on EMS training. One of Centralia's men is going through full Firefighter 1 and 2 and EMS classes with Boone County Fire Protection District recruits.

New BCFPD Chief Scott Olsen seems satisfied with the progress of Centralia cooperative efforts. He will be teaching training courses to the City's men, and the District is still participating in joint exercises. Response to medical call is still "all call". About 4-5 firefighters are actually able to answer daytime calls. More respond at night. Lee said the department hopes to soon the call outs to 4-man groups on a rotating schedule. He said that dispatch times have improved and all agencies are still working to streamline procedures.

Emergency Management

Behrns reported that Zim Schwartze has agreed by email to be Centralia's Emergency Management Director. He will be talking to her personally and thinks the Mayor can make the appointment on Monday. He will

recommend she come for a personal familiarization visit with our Police and Fire Departments. Dudgeon thought she already knew a lot about the City.

Protective Inspection

The City has received the second, revised schedule from Clifford de la Rosa on proposed repairs to the Narragansett Building. Committee members found it to be acceptable, if observed in a timely manner.

Behrns noted that, as soon as the engineer finishes the contracted studies of 105 N. Allen, his first efforts will be on the quick removal of the asbestos floor tiles.

Work pursuant to several dangerous structure notices is complete. The house on Sappington Street looks acceptable. That on the house on Singleton Street is compliant, but not aesthetic. He has nothing yet to report on the others.

The new owner of the Redwood Motel has started demolition work.

There will be an ad in next week's paper reaffirming the City's commitment to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Behrns show Committee a draft ADA Grievance Procedure. This is a federal requirement and formalizes a unified procedure for all aspects of City facilities and activities, except for personnel actions. Million asked if Behrns would be able to meet the 15 days response deadline. Behrns replied that he could unless there were a pile of complaints received at the same time. In that case, he would inform complainants if more time were needed. The City will need to replace the TDD units in the police department. Behrns also needs to identify a replacement for Culture Guides for translation, sign language and braille printing services. The firm has gone out of business.

As May Arise

Behrns reminded Committee members of the Sunshine Law seminar for December 7. They need to tell Kathy if they plan to attend.

Committee agreed that Behrns and Alderman Simmons would represent Centralia at a future meeting to discuss County revenue sharing of its transportation sales tax.

Behrns noted that the employee health insurance rates would be raising by more than 18% on January 1. He is discussing options with Jed Angell and with the affected employees.

Several aldermen noted that they have received requests for a ban of leaf burning.

The Committee then adjourned at about 9:05 p.m.