

## **Minutes of the General Government and Public Safety Committee meeting of February 8, 2010**

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

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Emergency Management

There was no written report.

### City Prosecutor

There was no written report

### Police Department

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

Dudgeon told the Committee that he had received \$655 from the family of Ray Cooper to be used to acquire a bench as a memorial. He suggested that the Centralia Battlefield was an appropriate site. He believes he can actually get two benches. If need be, he can get enough additional funds to insure this. Dudgeon will arrange for construction, permissions, and site locations. Mayor Grenke suggested that the bench memorial plaques display Cooper's badge number.

Dudgeon arranged for repair of Cooper's old patrol car by a local young man who is also becoming a Fulton police officer. Parts and labor were cheaper than the garages contacted. The car has been put back into service.

The radio repeater for the police is on track to meet grant deadlines. Work should be done by end of the month. The installation is specifying narrow band for P-25 compliance. Also, two City radios are simultaneously being replaced.

Dudgeon described a trade-up of current Police Department weapons. Eleven guns, plus \$500 and all weapons held by the department and declared "forfeit" by the courts, will be exchanged for twelve "fourth generation" Glock firearms. These have ammunition magazines which are interchangeable with those of several nearby police agencies. Mayor Grenke moved and Parmeley seconded a motion that the trade be approved. All present voted aye and the motion passed.

Five patrol officers are receiving or renewing EMT training and certification.

Committee discussed drafting an ordinance for groups to be granted permits to soliciting moneys at street intersections. Members settled on most of the requirements for such permits, but needed more information about the liability implications of allowing minors to participate. Also to be addressed is a delegation of permitting authority to the City Administrator. Spaulding suggested that no permits be granted during Anchor Festival. Committee tabled further discussion until the City Attorney can provide the additional information.

### Fire Department

Chief Rodgers presented a report of Fire Department activities in January.

Joint Dispatch is still fine-tuning how to separate call outs, so that the Centralia Fire Department can be used for most EMS calls not requiring urgent medical attention.

The Department has ordered four sets of replacement bunker gear, and replacement radios (in lieu of older pagers). The orders are well under budget.

#### Protective Inspection

The central building at the old Redwood Motel is under repair. Don Rodger's plans may change for the remaining living units; some be remodeled for use as storage or retail space, instead of being torn down.

Behrns has not followed up on the building on Railroad Street since owner Bill Meador is reported to be in a nursing home.

Behrns has received an application for one new housing permit—the first of the year.

#### Economic Development

Behrns relayed activity report from Ginny Zoellers concerning economic development and Chamber of Commerce activities and those of the Industrial Development Committee. Minutes have been previously distributed. Behrns noted the rescheduling of a meeting concerning the addition of extra room for rides and booths on N. Rollins.

The Industrial Development Committee has put together a Job Fair for April 24 at the Intermediate School. Employers and educators from the north Boone County area are expected to participate.

Mayor Grenke said that Kalei Holder and the Boone County Community Partnership have agreed to help the Economic Development Committee in its efforts.

Behrns said he believes that he has identified three potential members for the Industrial Development Authority, who could be appointed by Mayor Grenke at the regular board meeting.

Behrns reported that he and members from REDI and the Columbia Area Jobs Foundation (CAJF) met with Francis Garland Russell, Jr. Russell indicated that he was open an option and set price for sale of a forty-eight-acre property north of Route CC, next to the railroad track and March Road. Some consideration would be expected. In lieu of money, Behrns may suggest agreement to annex and zone as industrial, securing water territory from Public Water Supply District 10, acquisition of a sewer easement, and preparation of the plans for sewer and water mains extensions. The latter could be reviewed by DNR, which would greatly speedup delivery of construction permits. All committee members were supportive, pending firmer details. The consensus was "Go for it."

#### Park Department

Minutes of the previous meeting of the Park Board have been distributed. The Park Board will next meet on February 16th.

#### Cemetery Advisory Committee

There was no written report

Tree Board

There was no written report.

Library Board

Library Board minutes from their last meeting have been distributed. An agenda for their next meeting was made available.

Accessibility Committee

Oberman said that he had worked with Gary Woolfolk, securing use of three plots at the proposed community garden by disabled or elderly persons. Angell asked if interested gardeners had been identified. Oberman said "not yet". He believes that the plots should be raised and that acquiring boards and constructing walls will require enough preparation that these plots should not be available until next year. Lee listed some problems with this which could limit the project's value. Oberman will research this. The Park Board has agreed to clear and improve access from the plots to nearby parking. Oberman has also talked to the Park Board about a ramp for the gazebo. He noted that the Recreation Center was in use by elderly/handicapped persons when he visited.

Oberman noted a meeting of People Advocating for Voice of Equality (PAVE) to be open to people concerned about matters of disabled access. It will be held at Bristol Manor on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Centralia Accessibility Committee is organizing as a not-for-profit. They are still in need of legal advice on this.

Oberman said that CAC has a new Face Book page, specifically for CAC's use. The page presently also has additional information concerning COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.)

Finance

Financial statements for January had been previously distributed. Behrns said there was nothing new of significance to report.

The preliminary list of bills over \$1,250 was presented. Orsini reported that numbers on two vouchers didn't seem to add up. Behrns will take them back to the Assistant City Clerk for clarification. The Committee had no other questions.

Other General Government

Behrns distributed a memo from Line Foreman Mark Mustain, stating that Arkansas Electric was unable to deliver on their bid for conduit for the new substation which had previously been approved. Bormann moved to instead purchase the 5" ridged pipe from HD Supply for \$2,968.00. Hensley seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the motion carried.

City Attorney Beck intends to send a packet to Sullivan Publications this week. It will contain recent ordinances to be codified. While they are working on these, Beck anticipates passage of a couple of extra ordinances to update the Code to track new State statutes. To that end, Behrns will schedule the water and sewer rate increase ordinances for the February Board meeting, since they will be in the Code. This will also give customers an advanced notice of the rates, which would be effective April 1, for the May bills.

Mayor noted that two Census meetings have been postponed, but he has identified a core group of interested citizens to help bring the census to public notice.

Behrns wished to place an ad in the paper giving notice of available jobs for census takers. Committee members said they were okay with this.

#### Other

After discussion, it did not appear that the City would be able to pursue the acquisition of a used "Bailey bridge" on the SRTS project. Spaulding requested that, if a bridge were used, the project be split for bidding. Bormann asked to talk to Behrns later about a concern from the preliminary plans.

Behrns told Oberman that a PA system was still in the draft budget, and some budget categories had flexibility for inclusion of ADA repairs and improvements. He asked for priority lists so that such work can be integrated where possible with our work schedules.

The draft budget seems almost ready to lock down. Behrns needs to integrate fire equipment requests and updated payroll and revenue numbers. All funds will be balanced as required. Reserves should be preserved.

#### As May Arise

Simmons moved and Grenke seconded a motion that the General Government Committee go into a closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purposes of such closed session and closed vote shall be (1) hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, as provided for under Section 610.021 (2) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri; and (2) preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups, as provided for under Section 610.021 (9) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. On a roll call vote all members voted in favor of the motion and it carried. The Committee went into closed session.

The Committee discussed the agreement with the employee union and potential salaries of individual employees. No votes were taken.

Parmeley then moved to return to open session. Grenke seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor and the motion carried. The Committee returned to open session.

The Committee then adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.