Minutes of the meeting of the General Government and Public Safety Committee of the City of Centralia of Monday, March 9, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilkins at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Grenke, Aldermen Magley, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee; also attending were City Administrator Matt Harline, Gabe Martinez, Police Chief Dudgeon, Fire Chief Denny Rusch, Phyllis Brown, Ryan Russell, five members of the Centralia High School FFA (listed below) and James Smith of the Centralia Fireside Guard.

Those present participated in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION BY CENTRALIA FFA
Chief Larry Dudgeon introduced the students from the Centralia High School chapter of the FFA. Sarah Oliver, Brandon Haskell, Dominick Dunn, Kylee Chrisman and Daniel Nodler explained the presentation was a practice for upcoming competition. The presentation was a debate about the pros and cons of unmanned aviation vehicles, a.k.a. drones. The Committee thanked the students for their presentation and asked several questions of them.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS
None.

PUBLIC SAFETY
City Prosecutor
No report. Chief Dudgeon announced that Ms. April Wilson would be available to meet with the full Board next week.

Police Department
Activity Report
The report was reviewed by the Committee. Wilkins asked for comments.

Capital Projects and annual budget
Harline reported that there was money in the budget for one police car, at least three body cameras, a new crime scene camera, funds for a Taser, and a cell phone investigation tool. Chief Dudgeon reported that he had spoken with the Highway Patrol garage recently and there was a police car available for less than the amount budgeted. Dudgeon reported that it would come with the light bar and ancillary equipment already installed which was a major time saver. Dudgeon reported that Forrest Chevrolet had approached the Chief about options for purchasing a new vehicle but he felt that this was a better option. Dudgeon reported that car 839 would be sold. In answer to Mayor Grenke’s question Chairman Wilkins asked if the cell phone tool was the one described in the recent training that they had attended. Dudgeon replied in the affirmative.

Fire Department
Activity Report
Wilkins asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Capital Projects and annual budget
Harline reported that on page 103 of the draft budget there is $44,000 budgeted as an initial payment on a mini-pumper. After talking with Tom Nelson of Home Bank Harline said he felt that the City could own the truck outright in five years. Harline said that he was not crazy about doing a lease purchase agreement but it would be only a three-year lease. Chief Rusch reported that the truck in the budget has been sold. Rusch reported that the salesman he spoke with thought he could build one to suit that might be more affordable. Chief Rusch answered a question from Chief Dudgeon about how long it would take to build a vehicle by saying about six months. Rusch noted that he had asked about trading in our current trucks and they are so old that the truck dealers are not at all interested in them. Grenke asked about the possibility of buying used from Boone County Fire Protection District (BCFPD). Rusch reported that the BCFPD bought bigger trucks than we need. Wilkins and Bormann noted that by budgeting some funds we would be in a position to act if an opportunity would present itself.

Fireworks
Harline reported that a fireworks firm offering a substantially lower price had approached the City about bidding
on the annual fireworks display. Harline noted that during a discussion with the Fire Chief he learned that the current vendor has been very good to work with and typically adds a few additional items for early payment. Wilkins said when it comes to explosives he is going to defer to those setting them off. Chief Rusch reported that they have had no duds from J&M Display. The Committee indicated that they were not interested in pursuing bids this year.

**Other**
Harline reported that the Fire Chief, Scott Olsen from BCFPD had met with Chief Rusch and himself twice, once with Board Member Dave Griggs and once alone. Harline said that BCFPD is no longer providing primary response on any calls in Centralia. Harline said that this was because of the increased number of calls to fire station 10, especially EMS calls and because the BCFPD Board could no longer justify providing the service without reimbursement. Harline noted BCFPD had until recently been the primary responder to delta and echo level EMS calls only and that our staff was now prepared and trained to handle even these highest level trauma calls. Harline said in answer to a question from Mayor Grenke that the amount BCFPD was requesting was equal to the entire Centralia Fire Department budget, and they (BCFPD) knew this was not palatable to the City. Harline noted that the mutual aid arrangement would not change.

**Emergency Management**
Harline reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update working group was making the preliminary draft public this week (Wednesday, March 11) and then meeting again on Tuesday, March 17.

**Protective Inspection**
Harline announced that there were 38 houses available for sale at last count. Harline noted that he had spoken with Darren Adams and this is a very low inventory; 70 – 75 is more typical. Grenke noted that the deadline was approaching for submitting a CDBG grant for demolition. Harline noted that the budget noted that the proposed budget includes $7,500 to promote demolition ($1,500 grants) or demolition and rebuilding for $3,000.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT & FINANCE**

**Chamber of Commerce**
Ginny Zoellers, Chamber Director, reported that there were some new items as well as the regular items like Anchor Fest and the Anchor City BBQ Contest in the two-year plan of work. This year most of the entertainment is signed up for Anchor Fest except they are once again having a little issue with Sunday due to competition with a Christian Music awards show Zoellers noted. Zoellers reported that the Chamber purchased 20 Christmas decorations this year. Zoellers noted that they are posting more activity on Facebook including unique Facebook pages specifically for Anchor City BBQ, Anchor Fest and Purchase with a Purpose. Zoellers noted that a large portion of the City funds went to promotional items. Zoellers announced the ribbon cutting for the new 106 W Railroad building of Russ and Stephanie Green. Zoellers noted that the new Grinder’s bakery was hosting a Chamber after hours called the Brew Haha on March 26th and the annual banquet is on April 23rd where awards will be given out. Wilkins asked if there were any additional questions for Ms. Zoellers and there were none.

**Economic Development**
Gabe Martinez reported that he submitted a contract for review. Martinez noted that the CREDI Board hosted Stacey Button REDI President and Executive Secretary Bernie Andrews. Martinez stated that he gave the LIVE Centralia tour to the incoming Elementary School Principal and a young couple, while Harline gave Button and Andrews a tour of industrial sites as well. Martinez and Harline noted several occasions that REDI and CREDI have worked together in pursuit of potential new businesses in Boone County with the last few months including the building Darren Adams built on Singleton. Martinez noted that Ms. Button was on a listening tour and that during the meeting it became clear that there was a lot going on in Centralia. Tim noted that the speaker at the next CREDI meeting will be explaining how community foundations work.

**Park Board**
Wilkins noted that there is agenda and minutes from the March 10 meeting in the packet.

**Capital Projects and annual budget**
Harline reported that the budget contains the budgeted requests as sent to us by Parks and Recreation Director Erle Bennett and from Mike Kinkead and the Parks budget. There is no request for a transfer from the General Fund.

**Cemetery Report**
Harline noted that Cemetery Sexton, Phyllis Brown presented the results from the recent bid opening for mowing
the Cemetery. Brown noted that the Park Department did submit a bid, but it was the highest of the four bids. Brown further noted that the previous contractor Hardesty submitted bid as well. Grenke asked how long Hardesty has been mowing and Brown replied that it has been at least seven years. Brown noted that the Request For Bids specifically required that weed trimming would been done each time the cemetery was mowed. Brown noted that in the past the weed eating and cleaning of stones was not up to the standards she would like. Brown and the Cemetery Board unanimously recommended that the Committee accept the lowest bid from Central Missouri Lawn Care. Magley moved, Vollrath seconded a motion to approve Central Missouri Lawn Care as the best bid and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Tree Board Report
No report.

Library Board
Wilkins noted that the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting (Tuesday, March 17th) is in the packet.

February 2014 Financial Statements & Bills over $1,250
Wilkins asked for questions on the Financial Statements and bills over $1,250. There were none.

Other General Government
Animals at City Festivals
Wilkins noted that a draft ordinance was included in the packet for discussion. Wilkins noted there could be some problems with the ordinance proposed and that one issue might be defining from what area animals will be prohibited. Magley noted that the Anchor Fest used the whole downtown area. Harline noted that a policy for closing streets exists. Chief Dudgeon stated that he thought that this was a problem and it needed a solution but drafting the proper language was tricky. Zoellers replied to a question from Bormann that a few vendors brought animals but they kept them in there booth area. Dudgeon asked what prompted the discussion. Harline asked Bormann what he specifically wanted to fix. Bormann noted that a few dogs made people nervous, one man brought a python and that there was the problem of owners not cleaning up after their dog in an area where food was being served. Chief Dudgeon and Bormann discussed Harline noted that the proposed ordinance could specify that the police can enforce the boundaries defined by the application to close the streets described in the existing policy #13. Alter the draft ordinance to specifically mention the existing Policy #13 (Resolution R-91-5) that allows for specific conditions to be set for each Festival. There was additional discussion about how to define the area where animals were prohibited. Lee noted that getting the word out and signage would be critical. Bormann noted that the area defined could be posted on the City web site. Lee noted people were upset and left the re-enactment over not being allowed to bring in pets and that was a requirement of the re-enactors. Dudgeon thought using the current policy might be enough. Grenke asked if we could just amend the current policy. Dudgeon said he needs an ordinance to enforce. Dudgeon asked if the ordinance could just say Anchor Fest? Magley said he thought we were fighting a losing battle. Harline noted that it is tricky but a system had been ironed out in Fulton and he would bring the Committee back information on how that worked.

OTHER
Further Preliminary Budget Discussions
Harline said that the utility budget was workable and contained a few equipment items like the valve insertion tool that Mike Forsee might get a chance to see a demo unit next week. The General Funds in NOT ready adopt. Harline requested some guidance from the Board. Harline reported that as it stands, the General Fund is $64,000 in the hole and that is not legal, although that includes budgeting over $500,000 for escrowed and unencumbered fund balance as expenditures. Harline stated that there is $66,000 to line both the Gano Chance and Jefferson Street culverts. Harline stated that there is $112,000 for a front loader and that may not be enough because he may have overestimated the trade-in value of the old model which was having mechanical issues. Harline noted that there is a $80,000 transfer from the Electric Department and no dump truck. To get both important items he might have to lease purchase a new front loader as well. Magley asked what specifically was wrong with the front loader. Harline said he through it was hydraulic. Harline noted the current loader had over 7500 ours on it. Harline noted that to buy a new fire truck would take six months. The Committee discussed the
need for a truck and its effect on the City’s ISO rating. Magley said he would rather put off buying the loader to buy a fire truck. Magley added that maybe we could get by with a smaller loader. Harline said he would bring back new information for next Monday. Bormann noted that we can cascade this problem by putting setting things off.

**Boone County Community Health Fund**
Harline noted that Boone Hospital is required in its lease to give $500,000 each year to the County to improve the community’s health. Harline noted that this fund would by offer $1,000,000 in grant funds for improving the health of the residents of the County and an on-line application is being developed. Harline reported that the funds can go for anything from walking/biking trails to mental health services. Harline noted that Centralia's number one need is to get a physician to establish a practice in Centralia.

**Legislation affecting Centralia city government**
Harline asked if the Committee wanted to draft any resolutions in support or to voice opposition to any proposed legislation. The Committee indicated that they were more comfortable with individual emails.

**CLOSED SESSION**
Bormann made a motion that was seconded by Magley that the Committee go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of as provided for under Section 610.021 (1) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, and as provided for under Section 610.021(3) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body.

Voting Yes: Grenke, Magley, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee. Voting No: None.

The Committee then met in closed session to discuss legal action against the City in an insurance claim and what salary should be offered to the Police Chief, the City Attorney and part-time salary employees. The Committee directed Harline to budget 2.5% salary increase for the City Attorney and Police Chief. Voting Yes: Grenke, Magley, Vollrath, Wilkins, Bormann, and Lee. Voting No: None.

**Return to Open Session**
Wilkins asked for a motion to return to open session which Vollrath made and Magley seconded. It was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**AS MAY ARISE**
Wilkins asked for “As May Arise” items and there were none.

**ADJOURN**
Vollrath Magley made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Ward and approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.