



Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Alderman Robert Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. ATTENDANCE

Minutes:

Present: Aldermen Terri Motley, Robert Hudson, Harold Deckerd, and Landon Magley answered roll call. Aldermen David Wilkins and Don Rodgers were absent.

Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, Mayor Chris Cox, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, Public Works & Utilities Director Matt Rusch, Water & Sewer Dept. Foreman Aaron Kroeger, Electric Dept. Foreman Matthew Fadler, Street & Sanitation Dept. Foreman Phil Hoffman, Chief of Police Harlan Hatton, Fire Chief Denny Rusch.

Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Linda Bormann, Don Bormann, Sandy Sanders, Jon Smith, Cody Smith.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

Alderman Robert Hudson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Minutes:

Alderman Hudson opened the floor for Comments from Citizens at 6:31pm.

Linda Bormann expressed concern about bolts on the railroad track near Hubbell coming loose and causing a safety hazard. Phil Hoffman advised that is the responsibility of the railroad and he had previously spoken to them about it.

Don Bormann stated he was concerned about the possibility the city would start to charge developers for the electric installation on new subdivision development. Mayor Cox and Public Works Director Matt Rusch discussed that the city currently pays for materials and labor, at a great expense to the city. Options will be further explored before any proposals are presented to the Board.

Sandy Sanders advised that the cats at large in her neighborhood continue to be a

problem. Chief Hatton said a letter was previously mailed to a homeowner where the cats primarily reside, but the outcome of the complaint letter is pending. Code enforcement will continue to monitor the situation. Alderman Hudson noted that the Central MO Humane Society will stop accepting healthy felines from the city in January 2023, so other avenues will need to be investigated. Hearing no further comments, Alderman Hudson closed the Comments from Citizens portion of the meeting at 6:40pm.

5. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Street Foreman Phil Hoffman reported the department has been using the paint sprayer to paint crosswalks around schools and downtown. They have also assisted with mowing mulch and drainage work for other departments. Several culverts have been installed, and a new road was built at the cemetery.

b. Streets

c. Sanitation

d. Storm Water

e. Other

6. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Water Foreman Aaron Kroeger reported the pumphouse was completed at the Benoit farm. Work has continued on the water main at NorthPoint Subdivision. 980 of the new water meters have been received and the crew has started to switch that system over. Problems continue with the slaker running at subpar speed.

Alderman Hudson requested clarification on the MO Primary Fee rate increase. City Administrator Tara Strain advised this is a Federal Regulation imposed by the State of MO, required by anyone with water connection within the city limits. The rate increase is mandatory to remain in compliance, and was last increased in 2006. An ordinance will be further discussed at the Board of Alderman meeting on September 19, 2022.

b. Water

c. Sewer

d. Other

7. ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

a. Activity Report

Minutes:

Electric Foreman Matthew Fadler reported they have continued digging the easement at Denton and Sunset Streets. They have experienced difficulties and delays due to the presence of privacy fences within the city's easements. Alderman Magley expressed concern that the city is allowing fences to remain in

the easements, in violation of city code, which impedes the work of our crews. Discussion was held regarding implementing a procedure to require any such fences removed. Alderman Hudson stated the city must be cognizant of prior approvals given by the city for the fence erections. Mayor Cox will request the city attorney to explore options.

Foreman Fadler advised they have repaired some pivot faults, and is concerned the fault locating equipment is becoming outdated. Alderman Hudson suggested Fadler add this item to the upcoming capital plans budget line.

b. Generation/Purchase

c. Distribution

Minutes:

City Administrator Tara Strain reported Ameren has not increased our wholesale rates since 2014. A rate revision has been proposed to become effective 02-01-23, and will equate to approximately \$5 per account monthly. An ordinance will be further discussed at the Board of Alderman meeting on 09-19-22. Mayor Cox clarified this increase is only the Ameren rate increase, and the city is not adding any additional surcharges.

d. Discussion on New Development Electric Infrastructure

Minutes:

Public Works Director Matt Rusch and Mayor Cox advised the city currently pays for materials and labor for installation of electrical infrastructure at new subdivisions, at a significant expense to the city. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of charging developers for a portion of these costs. Mayor Cox clarified that currently platted developments would likely be exempt from this procedural change but no details were determined at this time. Options will continue to be explored.

e. Other

8. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

a. Monthly Report

Minutes:

Director Matt Rusch reported progress on the new city basins. The lower basin floor has been completed, and both should start being filled in a few days.

Exterior grading remains to be done, and they are still waiting on the pit to be delivered.

Rusch complimented the water department on the work done on pump houses, at a significant cost savings.

Director Rusch stated the park department is interested in purchasing the vac trailer. He researched and found similar units were sold at auction in recent months for approximately \$25, 000 to \$38,000. The city recently purchased a vac truck for around \$180,000, but it had been budgeted for \$160,000. Rusch proposed the vac trailer be sold to the park department for \$20,000 to make up

the difference on the vac truck purchase. The city is also preparing to sell a sewer jetter through Purple Wave, which could help to offset the vac truck expense. Mayor Cox and Alderman Magley both favored selling the sewer jetter first, before determining a price the park department would need to pay for the vac trailer. Director Rusch will proceed with the sales accordingly.

b. Other

9. AS MAY ARISE

10. ADJOURN

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Motley made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Magley seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Contact: Tara Strain, City Administrator (tara@centraliamo.org (573) 682-2139) | Minutes published on 10/04/2022, adopted on 10/17/2022