Board of Aldermen - Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6:30 pm

CENTRALIA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

114 S. Rollins Street, Centralia, MO 65240

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   Minutes:
   Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

   Minutes:
   Aldermen Robert Hudson, David Wilkins, Harold Deckerd, and Don Rodgers answered roll call. Alderman Landon Magley was absent. Ward 3 Alderman seat remained vacant. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, City Attorney Cydney Mayfield, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, Police Chief Harlan Hatton. Citizens present: James Smith with the Centralia Fireside Guard, Linda Bormann, Amanda Shultz with Williams Keepers LLC, Nicole Hudson. Art Dollens arrived at 7:08pm.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

   Minutes:
   Mayor Cox led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED WARD 3 ALDERMAN**

   Minutes:
   Alderman Wilkins made a motion to accept the Mayoral appointment of Jessica Orsini to fill the remainder of Lonnie Cox's term as Ward 3 Alderman. Alderman Hudson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Wilkins, Deckerd, Rodgers; Voting AGAINST: none; Absent: Magley. Orsini's term will expire in April 2025. Vote results: Aye: 4; Nay: 0; Absent: 1; Vacancy: 1.

   a. **Swear in Jessica Orsini to Fill the Remainder of Lonnie Cox's Term as Ward 3 Alderman**

      Minutes:
      City Clerk Marilyn Dick administered the Oath of Office to Jessica Orsini. Orsini then joined the Board of Aldermen for the remainder of the meeting.

5. **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Minutes:
Mayor Cox opened the floor for Comments from Citizens at 6:33 pm. Alderman Deckerd stated he was notified by a citizen that the speed limit on Jefferson Street near the Middle School is inconsistent and confusing. Deckerd advised that the speed limit is 25 mph, then suddenly decreases to 20 mph, with a sign that says the speed limit is subject to change when the light is flashing. Police Chief Hatton replied that this issue had been discussed in the past, and could be due to the area being incorporated into the business district. Staff will research the issue further. Hearing no further comments Mayor Cox closed the section at 6:36 pm.

6. **AUDIT REPORT FROM WILLIAMS KEEPERS**

Minutes:
Amanda Schultz with auditing firm Williams Keepers LLC presented the Board with the FY24 annual final audit report. Reports reviewed included the summary report, single audit report, audited financial statements, auditors communication letter, and the management letter. Williams Keepers issued the city an unmodified, clean opinion on the financial statements. The annual report on the schedule of payroll reportable to Mirma was also prepared by Williams Keepers. Alderman Orsini noted there were several Interfund transfers dating back as far as 2014 that have never been reconciled. Orsini requested those be transferred to the proper funds. City Attorney Mayfield replied that some transactions fall under more stringent Constitutional guidelines and can be tricky; Mayfield will review these funds and provide further guidance to management.
Amanda Schultz left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved as a group unless separated by request of one or more Aldermen. (Motion)

Minutes:
Alderman Deckerd made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published. Alderman Rodgers seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay; 0; Absent: 1.

   a. **Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes**
   b. **Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes**
   c. **General Government & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**
   d. **Collector's Report**
   e. **Activity Reports**

8. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OVER $1,250**

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to approve the accounts payable over $1250, for a total of $1,422,463.05. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

ACTION AGENDA

9. **FINANCE**

   a. **Motion to Sell Surplus Equipment**

   (MOTION)

Minutes:

Alderman Hudson made a motion to sell the following items as surplus equipment: 2004-2007 Rovver 600 sewer camera and control unit (no vehicle included), 2018 Trencher backhoe attachment, 2001 Freightliner with Altec boom & bucket (no tools included), Velodyne Slaker 250 lbs/hr unit and control box (unit sold as is). Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

b. **Motion to Pay - CENTRALIA WTP REIMBURSEMENT FORM #15_w_att**

(MOTION)

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain presented the Board with DNR pay request #15, for $132.551.31. Strain advised this is a partial request for the Chemco Line Slaker; it is only a partial reimbursement, as this is the remaining balance in that account, and the balance for the Slaker will be paid out of city funds.

Alderman Deckerd made a motion to approve DNR pay request #15 in the amount of $132,551.31. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously.

Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

10. **LEGAL**

a. **Motion To Allow 4 Hour's Time for Benefited Employees to Obtain Health & Wellness Check**

(MOTION)

Minutes:

Alderman Orsini made a motion to grant 4 hours vacation PTO to eligible benefitted employees who participate in the annual Health and Wellness Screening provided by Mirma. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously.

Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

b. **Tree Removal - Braik's Tree Care Bid - Discussion to Raise Amount**

Minutes:

The City recently issued a RFP for tree removal and line clearance, and received one bid from Braik's Tree Care for $48,000. Alderman Hudson made a motion to accept the bid from Braik's Tree Care. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay; 0; Absent: 1.

Following the vote City Administrator Strain opened discussion regarding increasing the budgeted amount for tree removal and trimming. Alderman Deckerd asked how many trees could potentially be removed for the $48,000; Strain replied that small to medium sized trees will be around $800 each, with larger trees costing approximately $2000 each. Alderman Deckerd recommended the Board budget at least $200,000 annually for tree services. Alderman Orsini requested City Administrator Strain pursue any grant opportunities. Alderman Orsini asked if the City could rent equipment and hire city crews to remove the trees. City Attorney Mayfield replied that due to issues of liability , increased insurance requirements, and Sovereign Immunity issues, this would not be a feasible option. It was ultimately decided that Strain will review the general revenue and electric funds to determine how to increase the tree service limit, and will provide a recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.

11. **PURCHASING**
    a. **Motion to Accept Bid from Luby for Dingo**
    (MOTION)

Minutes:
Alderman Hudson made a motion to accept the bid from Luby Equipment for the purchase of a 2024 Toro Narrow Track Dingo, for $50,795. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

12. **MAYOR**
    a. **Appointments - Appoint Todd Alden to Planning & Zoning Commission to Fill Vacancy from Dale Hughes**

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to accept the Mayoral appointment of Todd Alden to the Planning & Zoning Commission to fill the vacancy created by Dale Hughes. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

    b. **Appointments - Appoint Dan Hamilton & Michael Rodgers to Board of Commissioners Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) for a 5 year Term**

Minutes:
Alderman Orsini made a motion to accept the Mayoral appointment of Dan Hamilton and Michael Rodgers to the Board of Commissioners Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) for a 5 year term. Alderman Deckerd seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion carried unanimously. Vote results: Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.

13. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR**
    a. **Monthly Report**

Minutes:
City Administrator Strain reported that she recently attended a two day seminar on grant writing, and found it to be very informative. The Boone County Government committee has requested that City of Centralia host their annual municipal dinner for area government leaders; the date will be set for Mid-November.

14. **CITY ATTORNEY**

Minutes:
City Attorney Mayfield advised that the Missouri legislative session is already gearing up to be an active one. She will keep the Board informed of any pertinent topics.

15. **CITY CLERK**

Minutes:
City Clerk Marilyn Dick reported that staff is assisting with preparing consumer notification letters for the next stage of DNR mandated Lead Service Line inventory. Approximately 1800 letters will soon be mailed to applicable residents.
The MML Regional meeting will be held in Ashland on October 16, for any Board members that would like to attend.

CLOSED SESSION*

*During the meeting, the Board of Aldermen may elect to go into closed session and hold a closed vote, and the purpose of such closed session and closed vote shall be:
1. 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;
9. Preparation, including any discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or its representatives for negotiations with employee groups;

16. **CLOSED SESSION**

(MOTION)

Minutes:
Alderman Hudson moved the Board of Aldermen of the City of Centralia, Missouri hold a closed meeting and a closed vote, and the specific reason for closing the meeting and having a closed vote was: 1. 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. 9. Preparation, including an discussions or work product, on behalf of a public governmental body or it representatives for negotiations with employee groups; Alderman Hudson asked that this motion be adopted by roll call vote. The motion was seconded by Alderman Wilkins. The motion passed with the following vote. Aldermen voting FOR: Hudson, Orsini, Wilkins, Deckerd, and Rodgers. Voting AGAINST: None. Absent: Magley. The meeting went into closed session at 7:34 p.m. During closed session only legal and employee group discussions were held. A motion was made and seconded on a legal matter, and passed with a roll call vote. Upon advice of council, the motion will be published following release of the legal matter. Closed session minutes are revised effective 10-15-24, following release of the legal documents. During closed session on 09-23-24 Alderman Orsini made a motion to allow the City Administrator to file an ethical complaint against Don Bormann with the applicable governing Board For Architects and Professional Surveyors. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Aldermen voting FOR: Orsini, Hudson, Wilkins, Deckerd, and Rodgers. Voting AGAINST: none. Absent: Magley.

17. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

(MOTION)

Minutes:

During closed session only legal and employee group discussions were held. A motion was made and seconded on a legal matter, and passed with a roll call vote. Upon advice of council, the motion will be published following release of the legal matter.

Alderman Wilkins made a motion to return to open session. Alderman Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Aldermen voting for: Orsini, Hudson, Wilkins, Deckerd, and Rodgers; Aldermen voting against: none; Absent: Magley. The meeting returned to open session at 8:01 pm.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION

18. **AS MAY ARISE**

19. **ADJOURN**

Minutes:

There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Rodgers made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Wilkins seconded the motion. On a call by the Mayor for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8: 03pm. Vote results; Aye: 5; Nay: 0; Absent: 1.