

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MAY 10, 2016 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF LAURIE, MISSOURI**

Mayor Allen Kimberling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Allen Kimberling, Aldermen: Karen Dobbins, Carol Gill, Herb Keck, Jeff Chorpening
Others present were City Clerk Ron Clarke, City Attorney Steve Grantham, Chief of Police Mark Black, Dick Dobbins, Rod Hayes, Dru Hayes, Douglas Gill, Debbie Sizer, Kim Smith, Vicky Gustafson, Greg Gustafson, Jonathon Dugger, John Tamblyn, Paul Johnson, Colby Powell, Janet Dabbs

Citizens Communication:

None

Mayor's Communications

The Mayor reported on an Honor Flight for veterans he had recently taken. He described the event and suggested anyone who had the opportunity should do so also.

Approval of Minutes

Alderman Dobbins made a motion to approve the April 12th regular meeting minutes. Alderman Keck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Pending Payments & Addition to Pending Payments

Alderman Chorpening asked about a \$400 fee to Flynn Drilling for annual inspections. Dean Smith explained what was involved in the annual inspection. Alderman Chorpening asked about a mileage reimbursement and Chief Black explained it was for a trip to Jefferson City to acquire equipment for an event held by the police wherein the officer took his personal vehicle. Alderman Chorpening made a motion to approve payments and pending payments. Alderman Dobbins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

2015 Audit Review:

Lisa Officer, CPA, reported on the annual financial audit. She reported that the city was in an overall better position than last year. The General Fund restricted cash increased \$98k. The operating cash increased approx. \$123k. Sales tax decreased 3%. Overall the general/governmental fund showed a profit of \$235k versus a loss last year of \$14k. This is primarily due to decreased expenses and the retirement of the street bonds. The water & sewer business doubled the cash available from \$60k to \$120k. Restricted cash increased by \$93k. The water & sewer business had an operating income of \$12k versus a loss last year of \$56k. As with the general/governmental funds, sales tax income was down 3%. The business showed a net income of \$120k. Lisa Officer made the point that sales tax does not cover the debt service. Karen Dobbins asked for any suggestions and Lisa stated that the city obviously needs to look at raising the water and/or sewer rates.

Tree Ordinance Discussion

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the tree ordinance, which is one of the requirements to establish Laurie as a Tree City USA city, making the city eligible for grant funds dealing with city trees. Missouri Conservation Forester Paul Johnson spoke to the Board about the revised ordinance and the issues it addresses. One of the issues is the placement and species of trees adjacent to city easements. Alderman Chorpening took issue with the ordinance dictating to

citizens where he or she could plant a tree and what type. Forester Johnson responded that these restrictions are already in place due to utilities and traffic regulations. The Board decided to investigate more of the dimensions in question and Forester Johnson said he would go back and review the ordinance to try to tailor it more to the city of Laurie. Alderman Keck suggested we set a public hearing to get input from the citizens. No further action was taken.

Sidewalk Update

City Clerk Clarke reported on the progress of the Sidewalk Project. The federal obligation has been approved allowing the city to advertise for bids. Upon Board approval, the bid advertisement would go on the MODOT website immediately and in the Versailles Leader Statesman the week of May 16th with a date for bid opening of June 10th. This would make bid tabulation available for the June 14th Board of Aldermen meeting. Alderman Keck made a motion to approve the bid advertisement and move forward. Alderman Dobbins seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Street Repair Update

City Clerk Clarke reported that the street repairs were scheduled to begin the Thursday following the Board meeting. There was some discussion about temporary repairs near both the new and the old car wash.

Westside Sign Update

Alderman Keck reported that the concrete work was complete and the plan is to advertise for bid for the sign letters as soon as we reach \$20,000 in contributions. In order to expedite the project, Alderman Keck made a motion to allow City Clerk Clarke to advertise for bids upon reaching this goal of \$20,000. Alderman Dobbins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Alderman Dobbins asked if she could interrupt the agenda schedule to present the Beautification award as the meeting had taken more time than expected. The rest of the Board concurred. Alderman Dobbins presented the May Beautification Award to Ozark Bait & Tackle. The award was accepted on their behalf by Debbie Sizer.

Lake West Chamber's Beautification Cleanup Request: The Lake West Chamber of Commerce asked the City for \$400 to help pay for the cost of the dumpster for the Westside yearly cleanup. This is an annual request and the cost has been budgeted. Alderman Gill made a motion to approve the payment. Alderman Dobbins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Reports

Public Works Department

Water: Dean Smith asked the Board for permission to investigate trading the backhoe for a mini-excavator. The mini-ex would be much more versatile and would do less damage to yards and easements. We would be seeking a used piece of equipment with a comparable value and minimize the actual cost to the city. The Board agreed to the idea and instructed Dean to proceed. Indian Hills Management Meter Proposal: Dean Smith introduced John Tamblin who presented a proposal to add individual meters on all the residences at O Road Park Place. The idea is to push the responsibility for water management/conservation down to the individual homeowner. The proposal is for Indian Hills Management to absorb all of the cost of installation, leaving the only cost to the City being the cost of 20 or so additional bills printed each month. After much discussion and questions from City Attorney Steve Grantham, the issues were narrowed down to the cost of deposits and how to subtract the usage through the new meters from that of the master meter currently in use. City Attorney Grantham said he would begin writing an agreement if the Board so desired. The Board directed Attorney Grantham to do so.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Steve Hollaway gave a report on the progress of the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) project he initiated soon after his arrival. The project is designed to

prevent rain water from entering the waste water system causing undue stress on the equipment. The current phase of the project consisted of identifying lift stations that were located in areas of high levels of rain water runoff. Three critical lift stations were identified and diversion walls were built around each one. Mr. Hollaway presented pictures of each of the new walls so the Board could see the work progress. This simple solution has already resulted in a reduction of excess flow through the system of 22,000 gallons of rain water.

Events: Members of the Hillbilly Fair Committee Vicki Gustafson and Kim Smith presented a report on the many new ideas and activities planned for this year's fair. They reported on new advertising plans, a better carnival than years past, and a circus act booked for this year. They discussed a rat-rod car show planned for the little beer garden area. They informed the Board of the intention to host a golf tournament to help offset the costs of the new entertainment. The Board expressed appreciation for the work and progress the committee was making.

Dru Hayes reported on a plan to hold this years' Relay for Life event at the Fairgrounds. The event is scheduled for June 18th from 4:00 pm to midnight. She requested that the Board wave the usual fee for usage of the fairgrounds as this was a charity event. Alderman Dobbins made a motion to wave the fee. Alderman Keck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Black, Police Chief

Monthly Statistics: Chief Black presented the following monthly statistics for April 2016: Traffic Stops 46; Warnings 39; Summons 9; Assist Other Agencies 19; Criminal Activities 17; Calls for Service 456, Arrests 7.

City Clerk

Ron Clarke reviewed the financial report for April 2016. April total of all funds \$2,141,126. General Fund Revenues - \$203,146; General Fund Expenses - \$170,664; Event Fund Revenues - \$4,592; Event Fund Expenses - \$18,604; Water and Sewer Fund Revenues - \$211,655; and Water and Sewer Fund Expenses – \$304,603. Mr. Clarke pointed out that the fund appeared out of balance due to the fact that many of the bond payments come due at the first of the year (approx. \$140,000).

Sales Tax Review: April City Sales Tax was \$10,077; Year to date: \$84,854. This is an increase of \$3,000 for the same period in 2015. April Street Sales Tax was \$5,038, YTD \$42,426. This is an increase of \$1,500 for the same period last year. April Sewer Sales Tax was \$4,949, YTD \$41,224. This is an increase of \$1,316 for the same period last year.

Steve Grantham, City Attorney

No report

Board Reports

Alderman Chorpening stated he ran for office not to just approve minutes and payments, but to make a difference. He wants to discuss issues. For instance he wanted to know what the city could do about blighted property such as the old car wash. He wants to promote businesses in Laurie to improve our financial standing, He understands the intent behind the Beautification Awards, but it doesn't help enough when there are properties such as this. A discussion ensued regarding what the city's options were regarding ordinances and action. The Board requested Steve Grantham look into an ordinance allowing the city to take action against property owners who allow their property to fall into disarray.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Kimberling proposed the following appointments:

For Board of Adjustment – Phil Keeney and Chris Jackson

For Planning & Zoning – Troy Glynn, Randy Brooks, and Rick Purdon (re-appointment).

For the Enhancement Committee – Stan Field, Kathryn Casteel, and Val Ites.

Alderman Chorpening made a motion to approve the proposed appointments. Alderman Gill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Meeting

Alderman Dobbins made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into closed session pursuant to Missouri Revised Statutes Section 610.021(3) to consider hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting an employee. Alderman Keck seconded. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Alderman Chorpening	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Gill	aye
Alderman Keck	aye

Closed meeting attendance: Mayor Allen Kimberling, Aldermen: Karen Dobbins, Jeff Chorpening, Herb Keck, and Carol Gill. Others present were City Clerk Ron Clarke and City Attorney Steve Grantham, and Police Chief Mark Black

Alderman Dobbins made a motion to adjourn the closed session and return to open session. Alderman Gill seconded. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Alderman Chorpening	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Gill	aye
Alderman Keck	aye

Closed meeting adjourned and returned to regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Kimberling called the regular meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. City Clerk Clarke reported no action was taken in closed session.

Police Chief Mark Black reported he had an opportunity to pursue a grant that would pay 75% of the salary of a new officer for three years. The city would need to commit to paying the full salary the fourth year. The timeline would be to get the grant processed and get someone hired early in October. This would have a minimal impact on the current budget. City Clerk Clarke reported that including salary and benefits, the cost to the city would be around \$7,500/year for the three years, then approximately \$30,000 (salary & benefits) for the fourth. Alderman Chorpening made a motion to approve applying for the grant. Alderman Gill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Gill made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Keck seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Allen Kimberling, Mayor

Attest:

Ron Clarke, City Clerk