

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
MARCH 14, 2012; 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF LAURIE, MISSOURI**

Mayor Chuck Chorpening called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Prior to starting the agenda Mayor Chorpening asked those present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held in honor of our troops and our nation.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Chuck Chorpening, Alderman Greg Lux, Alderman Karen Dobbins, Alderman Valerie Ites, and Alderman Herb Keck.

Others present were City Clerk Olive Wood, Director of Public Works Ed Young, Police Chief Shane Edwards, City Attorney Steve Grantham, Janet Dabbs, Richard Skaar, Ken Zgiet, Clarence Hager, Dale Heiser, Dick Dobbins, Martha Moulder, Allen Kimberling, Dru and Rod Hayes, Amy Wilson, Jay Fisher, Gary and Kathleen Lutke.

Mayor's Communications: Mayor Chorpening reported that a couple of months ago the Board had given Chief Edwards the authority to hire a reserve officer and the State would reimburse the city for 90 days of full-time employment to provide experience for the reserve. He gladly reported the reserve officer has now accepted full-time employment with a neighboring community.

Citizens' Communication: John Clifford who designed the city's web site and provides computer support stated he had previously been a licensed veterinarian for 35 years and was here in support of purchasing a dog for the police department. As a veterinarian and with a military background he had seen wonderful things from service dogs at work in search and rescue and the public relations that come from a police dog. He expressed how police dogs support officers with safety checks, events, track suspects, deter crime, narcotics, criminal element fear, reduces risk of suspects running, facility searches, has 700 times the smell of a human, illegal drugs, helps public relations with community, citizens, and businesses.

Mr. Clifford had many letters of support from businesses and individuals, and over 30 e-mails. He mentioned the Local Council of Government had checked into a grant that could provide between \$3,000 and \$4,000 of monetary support. Clifford stated he was sure from the organizations and businesses he had spoken with that there was between \$5,000 to \$6000 already committed and encouraged the Board to vote in favor of purchasing a K-9.

Rod Hayes stated he was concerned that there would be officer overtime. Chief Edwards explained the dog would be used to assist with other agencies; but only for more serious situations such as a missing child or person.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lutke expressed their support and encouraged the board to support a police dog and stated a police dog does not have a salary. Paul (?) of Sunrise Beach stated he did not live in the city, but as a Sunrise Beach resident wanted to express his support for a police dog.

Approval of Minutes

February 8, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes: Alderman Dobbins made a motion to approve the February 8, 2012 regular meeting minutes. Alderman Lux seconded. The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	aye
Alderman Lux	aye

Pending Payments & Addition to Pending Payments: Alderman Lux asked Chief Edwards about the payment for uniforms. Edwards explained that officer uniforms needing replaced is usually ordered in January or February.

Alderman Lux made a motion to approve pending and additions to pending payments. Alderman Keck seconded: The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	aye
Alderman Lux	aye

Unfinished Business:

A. Request for a K-9: Attorney Steve Grantham asked if the police dog would be a drug or bite dog. The dog will be both. Attorney Grantham cautioned about a bite dog citing that cities sometimes have legal issues and strict policy and procedure guide lines should be considered.

The city's insurance company replied in an e-mail that the premium would not increase, but the dog must be certified through a licensed provider and policy and procedures guidelines must be adopted.

Officer Heiser reported his dog in Lake Ozark had 5 bites with no litigation, the dog was certified and there were strict procedures in place.

Other discussion included:

- How the city's budget would be affected by having a dog over the next 10 years.
- When employees did not receive raises, would a dog add to the budget shortfalls in the present economy.
- Benefits for community public relations by having a police dog.
- Police Department has already received over \$1300.00 in cash and checks.
- Donations will fully fund the purchase and up keep of the dog.
- Two dog food companies have offered food for the life of the dog.

- A veterinarian has offered free medical care for the life of the dog.
- Chief Edwards stated a dog will not be purchased until 100% of the funds are received.
- Vehicle; when another vehicle is added to the department, the oldest vehicle will not be sold, which could mean additional cost for repairs and maintenance of an additional vehicle.
- Questioned the cost of the dog over a 5 or 7 year period and if the city does not have funds to purchase a new police car. Then the car equipped with the cage can still be used as a patrol car.
- The cage has been factored into the total cost.
- Temperament of the dog. The board was assured the dog would be social, as it will be living with the trainer and his own children. It will be part of the family.
- The dog adds protection to officer safety.
- Dog is trained for only one handler.
- Pledge value, the Elks has a potential grant for \$10,000.
- The board recommended having secured or pledged funds of \$15,000 before any action is taken to purchase a dog.
- It was recommended a policy and procedure manual be started with City Attorney Steve Grantham.

Alderman Keck made a motion to give Chief Edwards authority to secure \$15,000 in funds and work with Attorney Steve Grantham to establish a policy and procedures manual. Alderman Lux seconded. The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	nay
Alderman Lux	aye

B. Lexsar Update: Alderman Lux stated he thought an agreement had been reached with Lexsar on Monday evening; with the city contributing \$2,000 toward the AT&T T-1 lines; but later today, a call came that there may be additional charges for the cancellation of the T-1's. It will be placed on the April agenda.

C. Attorney Fee: Mayor Chorpening reported Public Works Director Ed Young had provided a letter to the Board regarding the splitting of funds to pay the City Attorney. Mayor stated that they had negotiated with him to pay 1/3 of the monthly cost from the water and sewer fund as they did not want to see an increase in the rates.

Alderman Keck made a motion to pay 1/3 of the attorney fees from water and sewer; 1/3 from the police and court; and 1/3 from administration. Alderman Dobbins seconded. City clerk Olive Wood advised that this would be 2/3 from the general fund with 1/3 from the water and sewer fund. The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	aye
Alderman Lux	nay

New Business

A. Lake West Chamber's Beautification Cleanup Request: A request from the Lake West Chamber of Commerce asking for the annual \$400 to pay the cost of the dumpster for the westside yearly cleanup. City Clerk Olive Wood stated that funds had been budgeted for the cleanup.

Alderman Lux made a motion to provide \$400 for the yearly cleanup. Alderman Ites seconded. The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	aye
Alderman Lux	aye

B. Water Bill Adjustment Request, Ruth Stevens: A letter from Ruth Stevens, 202 Eagle Ave. was received on February 23, 2012 requesting a re-valuation of her water bill. Due to a water pressure drop on Friday, February 3rd, she thought the lines were being flushed, therefore, did not call city hall. However, the pressure drop continued over the weekend and when she called city hall her call was forwarded to Morgan County. Morgan County dispatch did not know how to handle the call. Finally, on Sunday, February 5th she again talked with Morgan County and they did reach the city where it was found she had a water leak between the meter and the house. The meter was shut off.

Alderman Lux made a motion to forgive 50% above the normal usage of Ms. Stevens's normal water bill due to the difficulty in reaching the city. Alderman Ites seconded. The following vote was recorded:

Alderman Keck	aye
Alderman Dobbins	aye
Alderman Ites	aye
Alderman Lux	aye

Mayor Chorpening noted that business owner Sherry Nielsen was in the audience and asked if she needed to address the board.

Ms. Nielsen stated she was here because she thought the Board would address an issue allowing a church in the city's commercial district. It was explained the City's Planning & Zoning met on Monday, March 12th and will hold a public hearing on April 2nd and the Planning and Zoning will make a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to be voted on by ordinance at the April 11th meeting. The city was not aware that the federal government had made a law allowing churches in commercial districts; however, the city does provide protection such as allowing churches in residential areas.

Department Head Reports

A. Ed Young, Public Works Director

- No report

B. Shane Edwards, Police Chief

- **Incident Report:** The Chief reported there were 115 total incidents in February; 85 calls for service and 30 self-initiated. Out of the 30 self-initiated there were 27 traffic stops, 3 open doors, 22 warnings, 2 of the stops resulted in citations, 2 investigative stops and 1 DWI.

Chief Edwards commended Officer Heiser for an outstanding job on a recent incident.

C. Olive Wood, City Clerk

- **Review Financial Report:** The total of all funds on February 29, 2012 was \$2,207,117.68; General Fund revenues - \$85,065.66; expenses - \$104,420.54: Event revenues - \$1,900.67; expenses - \$6,863.56: Water and Sewer revenues - \$94,538.87 expenses - \$136,629.99.

City Clerk Olive Wood reported Auditor Lisa Officer has completed the 2011 audit. The audit report will be given to the mayor and board for review.

D. Steve Grantham, City Attorney: None

Board Reports - None

Mayor's Report

- March sales tax showed an increase and it was compared to previous years. He expressed his thanks and praised the board for going through the 2012 budget process.

ADJOURN: Alderman Dobbins made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Olive Wood
City Clerk