

City of Wright City  
Board of Aldermen Meeting  
July 23, 2009 6:30 pm

**Signed in Attendance:** Tim Reynolds, Nancy Huster, James Toothman, Roland Niemann, John O'Connor, Tim Schmidt, Christina Lemons, Anthony Guthermuth, Tom Dixon, Tony Midiri, Mary Long, Angie Case, Richard Denkler, Teal Abercrombie, Gary Pallardy, Melissa Springmeyer, Kristina Aber and John Aber.

**Others present not signed in:** Police Officer Jeff Scanlon, Lt. John Malcolm, Joe Scott of Suburban Journals, and Keith Wilson.

**City Official attendance:** Mayor White, Alderman Schuchmann, Alderman Black, Alderman Abercrombie and Alderman Reynolds were present.

**Staff and Others:** Superintendent Larry Janish, Economic Developer Karen Gironde, Parks Director Curt Kehoe, Police Chief Henry Matthews, City Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers and City Clerk Christine Martin.

**Roll Call**

City Clerk Christine Martin called roll with Mayor White, Alderman Schuchmann, Black, Abercrombie and Reynolds present. The City Clerk reported the Mayor and four Board Members present.

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Meeting Minutes**

Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Alderman Meeting on July 9, 2009. Alderman Schuchmann seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Responses to previous comments/concerns** – Alderman Reynolds personally thanked Alderman Abercrombie for his efforts for doing most of the organizing on the tribute for Pvt. Bregg and expressed her appreciation.

**Open meeting to public comments** - Mr. Roland Niemann was present and stated he was concerned with how the Mayor handled the Military procession for Pvt Bregg. He said he understood the funeral home called and the Mayor's response was the family did not ask. Roland said the young man gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we may have freedom and he feels that is why we have a funeral director. Mr. Niemann said he has two Grandsons serving in the Military and if anything were to happen to them, he hoped they would get a better reception than Pvt Bregg. Mayor White said he found out about it on Sunday after it happened when a Jack Jackson called him. Mayor White said he talked to Chief Matthews the next day and the family or funeral home did not contact him or the Chief. Mayor White said he believes it is sad that it keeps being brought

up and we are not letting the family rest and grieve. Roland Niemann said the family is resting fine but the residents of Wright City are not resting fine. Mayor White brought up politics and Alderman Abercrombie asked what politics had to do with it. Mayor White said he was not brought into it until Monday. Mr. Niemann explained to Mayor White that he thinks Monday was not too late since the procession did not happen until Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and he asked the Mayor if he attended the funeral procession. Mayor White said he had a niece that passed away on Monday and he did not attend. Tom Dixon was present and spoke up about the history of this happening such as when previous Board Member Wil Heiliger passed away who had served 20 plus years on the Board and he had heard the Mayor was against naming the Park building after Wil. Mr. Dixon told Mayor White, as a public servant, he should have the wishes of the community and know what the community needs and wants. He said the City needs to be involved and he finds it as an insult. He addressed Mayor White and said what the people elected him for apparently doesn't mean anything. Mr. Dixon told Mayor White if he had a conscience at all he would resign and Mayor White said absolutely not, that resignation was not in his vocabulary. Nancy Huster told Mayor White he was a disgrace to the flag and to the City, which is the opinion of a lot of people. Mayor White said politics should stay out of it. Nancy Huster asked Mayor White if he served in the Military. He said he served ten years and two of it was overseas. Tony Midiri asked why the new police car was not in the procession. Chief said the car was not ready yet but he did use the other two available cars he had. Chief Matthews said he has 18 years Military service and the rumor that he did not want to participate was incorrect. He said it was an honor to be there. Mary Long thanked Chief Matthews for being there in support of the procession. Christina Lemons said she heard the Police Chief was told not to participate. She said the town is in an uproar that nothing was done by the Mayor. Ms. Lemons stated she has respect for and commended all four of the Aldermen there with the Warrenton and Wentzville Mayors. She said it was an embarrassment for the other mayors to be there and not have Wright City's Mayor present to support it. Mayor White said he talked to Chief Matthews on Monday and agreed they would do whatever the family or funeral home asked them to do. Mayor White said Chief Matthews did call the patriot guard to ask what the City can do and all the stories heard are a lot of rumor. Alderman Abercrombie spoke up in disagreement and said he called the Mayor on Wednesday to asked what the City was going to do and the Mayor said absolutely nothing until the family personally notifies him. He said he and Aldermen Schuchmann and Reynolds stood on the corner united even though they have had their differences in the past. He said it was not about a merit badge; it was about doing what was right. Christina Lemons said she did not understand the Mayor's actions because it was truly his time to shine as Mayor.

Teal Abercrombie spoke up and said if her husband and son died, she wouldn't be able to contact the City. She would have the funeral home contact us because she wouldn't be able to. Teal Abercrombie said she watched her husband call and try to get the Mayor to come and support the tribute to Pvt Bregg. She said her husband did not do this as an Alderman, but did it as a soldier. Mayor White ordered the public comment session to close. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to continue hearing the residents' comments. Alderman Reynolds seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Tom Dixon asked if they can be assured this would not happen again. Mayor White said it depends. Mr. Dixon talked about how the community works together and how it has always worked. He told the Mayor he had no idea what the town is all about nor does he care. There was some discussion on politics and ratings and was ended by saying this incident had nothing to do with politics but has to do with what is right and common decency. Roland Niemann asked the

Mayor how he can say it was politics. Christina Lemons said it has been said by the Mayor that Alderman Abercrombie did it as a political move because he was going to run for Mayor. Alderman Abercrombie confirmed the rumor to be completely false and said he would not be running for Mayor. Alderman Schuchmann commended the nearly 2000 people for showing up from all over and showing their patriotism and honor to Pvt. Bregg.

John O'Connor spoke up about an incident where his son was shot and he was in the emergency room at the Hospital. He said he was with some other people in the waiting room and they saw on TV about the procession through Wright City and made a statement "only in a small town" would that happen.

**Public Hearing** - None

**Ordinance/Resolutions**

Resolution #22-09 was presented to the Board. Bill #22-09 was read by title. A RESOLUTION WHEREAS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WRIGHT, MISSOURI, HAS DETERMINED THAT A TRUE AND VERY REAL NEED EXISTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A POLICE CRUISER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED IN THE BASE LEASE AND THE MUNICIPAL LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT PRESENTED TO THIS MEETING. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to approve Resolution #22-09. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried. Roll call was taken with the following vote:

Alderman Abercrombie	Yea	Alderman Schuchmann	Yea
Alderman Black	Yea	Alderman Reynolds	Yea

The Resolution having the affirmative vote of all members present was adopted. Said Resolution was thereupon presented to the Mayor and President of the Board for their signatures and approval. It was then duly signed and becomes Resolution #22-09 of the City of Wright City, Missouri.

**Old Business**

**Greater Missouri Builders – Review of Bill of Sale for Utilities for Spring Lakes** - Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to take this item off the Agenda until it is presented again by Greater Missouri Builders. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Mayor and Board of Aldermen Salary** - The Board said they will talk about it at Workshop and will then get back with City Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers if they decide to go with tolling the salaries.

**New Business**

**Sidewalk & Engineering Enhancement Grants** - Karen Girondo said for the Westwoods Road Enhancement Grant that change order finally was processed and went through the State, signed and Karenbrock has been notified that the City would like it done before School starts. It is in the

process. Karen said she is working on the paperwork now for the City workers to do the labor on the seeding and the planting. If everything is worked out during the meeting on Wednesday, they should be able to start on the overpasses. Alderman Schuchmann said he met with Alderman Abercrombie to review all the RFQ's for the Sidewalk/Lighting Enhancement Project and looked at three firms in the local area. They were Cochran Engineering, Stock and Associates, and Dave Mason & Associates. Alderman Schuchmann made a recommendation to select Cochran Engineering because of their proximity and familiarity with Wright City and their past track record with working with the City. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Policies – Capital Assets & Depreciation Policy** - Karen Girondo explained the policies requested and said this is the first of many policies they will see. She emailed it to Donna Wallace of KEB last week and made suggestions regarding computer software. She said computer software now has to be treated as a capital asset. Karen discussed the forms for capital assets and said it will take an ordinance or resolution. Leslie stated a resolution will be needed since it is internal. Alderman Schuchman made a motion to send it to the City Attorney for a resolution to be drafted for acceptance. Alderman Reynolds seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Sewer Back up – Kristina & Johnthor Aber, 72 Winchester Court** – Larry Janish explained they have been doing smoke testing and have been trying to find manholes that were buried. They found two six inch clean outs that were cut off by a brush hog and a four inch clean out by the apartments that they have already fixed. There was a manhole lid broken in half behind a house on Beretta Court that has also been fixed. Larry said the manhole he feels was causing the problem was another one that was found full of rock where the sewage could not get through downstream from the Aber's house. Signs have now been posted indicating where the sewer pipes are. Larry asked the Abers to not put anything in their basement until there is another good rain. Kristina Aber asked Larry if he could do anything about the water problem coming from the neighbor's yard. Larry said with the Board's permission he will send the owner of the property, Mr. Kreis, a letter asking permission to clean up the vacant lot and creek along with the trees and debris. Leslie said sending the owner a letter would be okay.

**Wilson Waste Systems dba J. Hunt Hauling, Request to extend Contract** - Keith Wilson was present and explained they wished to have their contract extended for one (1) more year ending in March 2011 with the current rates that are being charged. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to extend the contract for one (1) more year. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Hire Part Time Police Officer to Full Time** - Police Chief Henry Matthews stated he would like to hire his part time officer Jordon Exum as full time. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to hire Jordon Exum as full time. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Hire Part Time Police Officer** - Police Chief Henry Matthews stated he would like to hire James E. Holifield to fill Officer Exum's part time position. He lives here in Wright City. Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to approve the hiring of James E. Holifield as a part time officer. Alderman Reynolds seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

## **Reports**

**Engineering – None**

**Park** - Curt Kehoe reported that the concert had a good turn out featuring the band “Delicious Fishes”. The next movie in the park is August 14<sup>th</sup> and they will be playing the movie “Star Wars” and they are asking everyone to dress in the Star Wars outfits. He said the Summer Ball League is almost done and there is an interest in Fall Leagues. There is a possibility they will be operating Fall Ball Leagues and will have the Jack and Jill leagues. Curt said he’s talked to Chamber and they have a committee that will work with Parks to bring back the Christmas Parade, now since the building is complete and they have the room for it. They will tie it in with the Parks Department doing Breakfast with Santa and Pizza with Santa. Tentatively, it will be the first week of December. Tony Midiri asked how long the Farmer’s Market will be going. Curt said as long as they have things that are growing they will continue. Jim Toothman asked if they would move to Tuesday since the Board meeting is on Thursday and they will no longer be doing Warrenton on Tuesdays. Curt said they have established Thursday as their day. Curt said tonight is the biggest night for Farmers Market yet.

**Public Works** - Superintendent Larry Janish reported they are working on installing the 24 inch pipe on Fourth and Elm Streets and have poured most of the concrete. He said they should be done on Friday. Larry said we just need to wait for a big rain to see it will take care of the problem.

Turkey Run Pipe Extension - Larry said he has talked to Alderman Black and Mayor White on this project. Larry provided the cost for this project and said the cost is estimated and said pipe prices change every week. He explained the current situation and asked if anyone wants to go out and look at it to let him know. Alderman Abercrombie said he will be off on Friday and will look at it.

Safety Equipment - Larry discussed different types of safety equipment and said the prices are included in the report. They are following OSHA regulations on a lot of this stuff even though they are not governed by OSHA. Larry said he will check with some other cities to see what they use and how the equipment is holding up. Alderman Abercrombie asked Larry if he knew Randy Smith in St. Peters and Larry said no but would be happy to talk to him.

Police Door - Larry said there was some confusion with meeting the contractor for looking at the door and hopes to have something for the next meeting.

Bell Road Lift Station - Larry said they had it surveyed to show what the City owns. The next thing will be to asphalt or concrete what the City owns and then put the fence on the edge of the paved surface. Alderman Abercrombie said he recommended using asphalt in case they ever have to make repairs.

Police Department Carpet - Larry said they cleaned the carpet last week in the front hallway and part of Kathy’s office and then sanitized it. He said they will put in new ceiling tiles the first part of next week.

**Building Official** - Larry Janish stated there was 1 Mobile Home Permit, 3 Fence Permits and 2 Deck Permits.

Alderman Abercrombie asked about the mats at the Treatment Facility. Larry said when you walk out on the mats to try to do maintenance you fall through. We have sent the company a letter and Karen said she would make the Board a copy of it. Larry said the ammonia level before it enters the matting, which should control the ammonia more, is less than after it passes through and it shouldn't be. Larry said we are in good shape and is way down on compliance. The level for the summer can be .5 and we are lower than that.

**Police Department** - Police Chief Henry Matthews gave his report and said there have been 200 calls for service in the last 13 days. The MODOOT Grant was approved for \$3,480 for the "Danger Reduction Program" on the state roads in our venue and is for overtime pay. Liberty Christian Academy contacted him for doing their DARE Program this year and next year and will meet with them next week for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. It will only be for about 10 students. Alderman Abercrombie told Chief Matthews the Police Department did do a good job on the tribute for Pvt. Bregg for such short notification.

**City Hall** – City Clerk Christine Martin gave a report to the Board. She said on the City Hall A/C we thought that the lines would need to be replaced from our furnace out to the outside unit. Brown's Heating & Cooling replaced the service valves and he believes that was the problem. He will give it a month and if we have other problems he will come back and replace the line. It was not as costly to replace the service valves. The other item to discuss is should we have a 'no shut off due to medical problems'. There was an incident where we were doing shut offs where a resident was to come to City Hall by 1:00 pm and never showed. When the Public Works went back to shut the water off, there was a gentleman there and he said he had a medical condition and was on Chemo Therapy and required a lot of water. He also indicated he had a paper from Ameren stating proof of emergency. City Clerk Christine Martin stated she advised Robin not to shut off the water because the resident could be looking for money to pay the bill. City Clerk Christine Martin stated we never heard from her and wanted the Board's idea of how to handle this situation and any future situation. City Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers asked if the City had a policy on how to handle medical emergencies and the City Clerk answered no. Alderman Schuchmann asked the City Attorney if there is any law pertaining to this situation and City Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers just stated she only knows of the cool weather law where gas can not be shut off. The Board asked the City Attorney to do research on medical emergencies with regards to utility shut offs.

**Treasurer Report** – Karen Girondo gave report to the Board and explained financials and revenues. Karen Girondo said the six month financial statement as required by State Statute was published in the Warren County Record today. She said in general fund taxes are down from last year, license and permits are down, but Court and Trash collections are up, however, the City still has a negative in the amount of revenue collected from this year to last year. She said the good news is the City's expenditures are also down from last year. Karen said she estimated the City is down about \$15,000 in revenue in general fund but we have spent \$70,000 less this year than last year. Water and Sewer collections are up a bit but the permits are way down. Karen said she hopes to see a jump in sales tax in the next couple of months. She said there is an Investment Policy on their desk for review. It is recommended by the Missouri State Treasurer's office and some of it may not apply to us now, but we can maybe use it down the road. There are some attachments such as the safe keeping and wire transfer agreements not in there. Karen said she has emailed Donna Wallace with KEB and asked what to do on those. The Accounting Policy and Procedure is much more detailed. She has started on a Purchasing Policy that will need to be

looked at to be workable, because we will be hit with a deficiency in our Audit next year if we are not following them. Karen said we want to make sure all the policies are workable. The 2009 Assessed Valuation and both Real Estate and Personal Property is up. We increased 1.5 million dollars. The estimated tax rate will probably go down about .03 cents for this year.

**Economic Development** – Karen Girondo said the Economic Development Committee met to plan the Retail Roundable for Wednesday, August 5, 2009. We came up with a program that will be presented to the Chamber to sponsor to help our current retailers. An event will probably be held in October. Henry had good news on getting his Grant. Karen said we received notice that the City was not awarded the CDBG-R funding for the southern water line project. The State received \$6,433,629 in Recovery Money and they received 115 proposals totaling over \$72,000,000. They awarded 8 projects and the priorities were job creation and/or retention and economic benefit. Karen said she talked to Holly and MEC met with DNR to see what kind of study will be needed the Peruque Creek Water Shed. DNR approved them doing a less intense study. We should get a Notice to Proceed letter in the next week.

**Review/Approval of Bills**

Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to approve the Bills. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

**Final Questions - None**

**Adjournment**

Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Black seconded it and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Attested \_\_\_\_\_