

City of Wright City
Board of Aldermen Meeting
September 10, 2009 6:30 pm

Signed in Attendance: Tim Reynolds, Nancy Huster, Tony Midiri, and Christina Lemons

Others present not signed in: Police Officer Jeff Scanlon, Shayla Clark and Tim Schmidt

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

Staff and Others: Assistant Superintendent Harry Harper, Economic Developer Karen Gironde, Police Chief Henry Matthews, Parks Director Curt Kehoe, and City Clerk Christine Martin. City Attorney Leslie Tolliver-Rogers was absent.

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

Minutes from Board Meeting of July 23, 2009 - Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Alderman Meeting on July 23, 2009, as written. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Minutes from Board Meeting of August 27, 2009 - Alderman Reynolds a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Alderman Meeting on August 27, 2009.. Alderman Schuchmann seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Responses to previous comments/concerns – None.

Open meeting to public comments/concerns

Alderman Tom Black mentioned that he received a call this afternoon and then talked to Steve Willis. Mr. Willis had questions about the letter he received from Larry Janish asking him to pave his driveway when 50 to 60 percent of the short driveways and parking lots in town are gravel. He stated Mr. Willis could not afford concrete but said he will cut his grass as soon as he fixes his driveway. Alderman Black said the sign Mr. Willis has is mobile and so are some other signs around town. Alderman Abercrombie asked to see the letter. Alderman The Board talked about the sign on the trailer. Alderman Black said he thinks the City should work with Mr. Willis to for him to clean his place up. City Clerk Christine Martin said he received a Business License for the USA Guns and said he already had one for S&W Auto Sales. Alderman Reynolds explained that he put a new parking lot around the USA Guns and new parking lots have to be hard surfaced.

Alderman Black said there are other places like behind the Mexican Grocery that has gravel lots. Alderman Schuchmann asked for a copy of the letter and the list of the other businesses that are allowed to have gravel lots. Alderman Black said the City's water tower also does not have hard surface around it. Alderman Schuchmann said he would like the list of things sited and written down so that there is no assumption. Alderman Abercrombie said a church was just turned down for approval of a gravel lot not very long ago. He said it also depends on when the ordinance was written down and when the business went in on whether it is grandfathered. Mayor White asked for copies of the letters sent to Mr. Willis and a copy also for the Aldermen.

Christine Lemons asked if the City would like to have representation at the High School on Thursday at the Band Room Doors at 5:30 pm to showcase the band trailer that has been painted and decaled. She said most of the students did not know that they are getting a new band trailer with vinyl logo. They will be unveiling the trailer at that time and said area businesses contributed to it so it could happen. Christina Lemons said the van will also be unveiled at Strassenbash.

Public Hearing - None

Ordinance/Resolutions

Bill #27-09 was presented to the Board. Alderman Black made a motion to table this due to the City Attorney not being present. Alderman Schuchman seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Old Business

Betty Whitener, 310 S. Elm - Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to table this business. Alderman Black seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Investment Policy Approval – Karen said a final draft was given to the Board at the last Board meeting. Alderman Schuchmann said he was fine with the policy and the changes that were made to it. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to approve the Investment Policy. Alderman Reynolds seconded it. There were three (3) yea votes from Aldermen Schuchmann, Abercrombie and Reynolds and one (1) abstain vote from Alderman Black. The motion carried.

New Business

Water Meter Supplies - Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to approve the purchase of the water meter supplies. Alderman Black seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Review of Annual Memorial Society Contribution – City Clerk Christine Martin informed the Board she attended the Memorial Society Meeting on September 4th and was asked by the members to ask the Board again for their annual contribution. Karen said the Memorial Society is getting substantially less now from their investments due to a lower interest rate. Their endowment fund check went from close to \$1,000 down to about \$700. The Memorial Society financial report was discussed. Karen said there is about \$300,000.00 in the Endowment Fund and only the interest off of it can be spent. Alderman Schuchmann said they are asking the City to

make their annual contribution for grass cutting and as stated previously because of the economy and the tight budget of the City, he would like to give the money to the Memorial Society but feels we should hold off until the end of the year to see if we have the \$5,000 to give to them.

Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to table the request until the final meeting in December for review of the final budget report before making a decision. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Top Soil for Cemetery - City Clerk Christine Martin said that Lenora Schaper said she had some top soil she would donate to the Cemetery for finish work on the graves but the City would need to load and haul it and she lives a mile south of town. City Clerk Christine Martin stated she contacted Gary with Tri-County Insurance and it would be allowable for the City to take equipment outside of the City. Karen said the grave digger or maintenance worker usually uses it on top of graves to fill in and plant grass. Alderman Schuchmann said he would be okay with three to four loads of dirt hauled and said we should talk to her to see how much is there and what she expects the City to take. Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to allow up to six (6) truck loads of top soil for the Cemetery. Alderman Abercrombie seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Tree Removal at Cemetery - City Clerk Christine Martin explained that the members of the Memorial Society want to know why a tree removal company that is fully insured can't cut trees in the Wright City Cemetery. Karen explained that State Statute says that an individual that owns his own company does not have to provide Worker's Comp Insurance on himself, however if he works for the City under contract our Worker's Comp people will make the City pay for him if we don't provide a certificate for him. She said for Tree Trimmers the cost is very high. City Clerk Christine Martin said she explained to the members they have to have Worker's Compensation Insurance to cover if they or their worker gets hurt or killed as the Liability Insurance only covers property damages. Alderman Schuchmann said their comments were duly noted.

Utility Billing – Payment Arrangement Requests/Acct 100043001 - Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to approve the payment request. Alderman Schuchmann seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Utility Billing Adjustment Report for August - Alderman Schuchmann made a motion to accept the Utility Billing Adjustment Report. Alderman Black seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Purchase of Radar Units - Chief Matthews said they have four radar units and two of them are down and they have only one working. The units that are down are over ten years old and they are sharing a hand-held unit. Stalker has a program where they can rent/purchase a single unit for \$132.92 per unit per month for 12 months. Chief recommended they rent to buy the radar units. The price includes the batteries, mounting brackets, chargers, tuning forks and they can be used in or out of the car when unplugged. Mayor White asked if it was in his budget and he said he could swing the rental on them. He said they need two radar units per day at the school. Alderman Abercrombie made a motion to approve the purchase of two radar units for the amount of \$1,610.00 for each unit. Alderman Schuchmann seconded it and the motion unanimously carried.

Court Clerk Position – City Clerk Christine Martin stated she learned yesterday that the Court Clerk is leaving and expressed the need to fill the position of Court Clerk as soon as possible as September 17th is her last day. She said since we have no one at the City trained for the Court Clerk’s job, it was then was asked if the Board could approve of the job ad that she put in the packet to be advertised through September 25th. City Clerk Martin said she talked to Judge Wohler and he would be interested in interviewing applicants. Alderman Abercrombie asked what the procedure was. The City Clerk said she believed the City should run an ad for the position and the Board would decide who would interview the applicants. Karen said the interviews in the past have been done by the Mayor and Department Head and then taken to the Board for Appointment. Mayor White said he would like to sit down with the Judge and interview the applicants. He said 90 percent would be the Judges recommendation. The City Clerk said Tamie said she would come in for Court on September 23rd but is not sure about any Court date after that. Mayor White asked if we could speed it up and the City Clerk said the ad would come out next week on Wednesday, September 16th if we advertise. Alderman Schuchmann asked if we could check with Judge Wohler on a recommendation to hire someone on a temporary basis. The City Clerk said Judge Wohler actually gave her a name of someone he would recommend hiring. Mayor White recommended Tamie doing some evening or Saturday training. The part-time police clerk was brought up but Chief Matthews said she does not have any knowledge about Court. City Clerk Christine Martin brought up the statement that Tamie said it should be someone with experience as a Court Clerk or trained in Summit. It was also mentioned to talk to Warrenton about experienced Court Clerk applicants that had not been selected by them for their job opening. The Board briefly discussed the pay for the position and that the starting salary could be within \$1 or \$2 of what the current clerk is making, if the applicant has experience. Mayor White asked if an emergency meeting could be set up for interview so the job could be filled as soon as possible and said he would get with the City Clerk in the morning.

Reports

Engineering – None

Police Department - Police Chief Henry Matthews gave his report to the Board. He mentioned there was a car stopped on the interstate that had been involved in stealing out of vehicles in Montgomery and Warren Counties and were headed back to St. Louis. Officer Scanlon intercepted the vehicle and Officer Malcolm help to block them in. He said there was a lot of stolen items in the vehicle and it was all recovered. Chief Matthews said during Strassenbash he is going to have extra patrol in the parking areas.

Park - Curt Kehoe said they will have their 1st annual wiffle ball tournament and will have about ten teams play in it. Curt said he has not received an answer if the City’s bid was accepted on the truck from the Fire Department. Curt said they are getting ready for Strassenbash and getting the Park all cleaned up. He said the Strassenbash Queen contestants did a good job painting the Park Restrooms and are almost done. October 3rd will be the Flea Market. Curt said he is meeting with someone on the sign for the new Park Building tomorrow. Curt said he would like to have a Grand Opening at Strassenbash but there is not enough time to do the sign.

Public Works - Assistant Superintendent Harry Harper gave report to the Board. He said the Turkey Run Pipe Project is about 100 feet from being complete. He said they are experiencing some grade problems because of the ammonia line. It is 36 inches deep and they have to dig either 15 inches over or 15 inches under it. The ammonia pipeline people won’t be here until Monday

and Public Works can then proceed after they locate it. Harry apologized for all the dust from the water line construction. He said the bacteria samples taken at the main on the new water line project is okay, open for fire protection, and said they can start seeding and strawing. Public Works can now start all of their patching. The contractor has started connecting services to the new main and should be completed by October 1, 2009. On the WWTP, EDI has been down there working with them and brought in some new equipment. We will have planks that will go all the way out to the clarifiers to get out there to clean up all the solids along with the floats. He said EMI is eating a lot of money but said they want it to be right because it will be a model for them. In regards to the mat where the grass is growing on it, they had a person come in from Georgia that supplied them. They cut some patches out and it is being sent to Canada for analysis, where they were built. The Rep from Georgia is pretty sure if the results come back as he suspects, the mat is going to be completely replaced at no cost to the City. They said the grass growing on the mat is completely normal. Harry said there was also a 60 horsepower blower that started making noise and they suspected it was going down. He said they were trying to get all this completed because the one (1) year warranty is up in October. The City may be able to get an extension on the warranty for the new work that is being done.

Building Official - Harry Harper stated there were three (3) fence permits, two (2) deck permits, one (1) Sign and four (4) new home permits issued since the last meeting. Two (2) home permits were for Timber Trails for Budget Homes and two (2) were for Hickory Trails Phase 2 for Ivie League Homes. He said we are up to about 17 new home permits now. Harry said they have also sent out numerous letters for weeds, property clean up on Highway J, and a new parking lot that needs to be hard surface. Alderman Abercrombie asked Harry if he knew anything about the violation letters Larry sent out about trailers and Harry said no.

City Hall – City Clerk Christine Martin said she did not have any more of a report than she gave but has status on the Annexation process. She said we received a letter from Warren County Commissioners giving the City the okay to go forward with it and they have no objection. We received the same letter from the City of Truesdale and we will have a letter from Innsbrook after their first meeting in October. There was one resident that came in and they don't have any objection. The add should be out there for a couple of weeks before we can report on what response we've had.

Treasurer Report – Karen Girondo gave report to the Board and said August financial reports are on the table. Karen explained with the Southern Waterline Phase 2 and payment of the first invoice, the water fund only has \$3,000 in checking. She asked for permission to transfer \$100,000 from a CD that has \$237,373 in it to checking when the thirty day CD comes due on October 3rd. Karen said she has enclosed a 2010 Budget Preparation timeline and a copy of the letter that will go out to the Department heads in October. Karen said she will have Budget on the next Agenda and said we will go over policies next week on September 17th. She said everyone has the Personnel Policy from Christine and she has provided the Purchasing Policy with changes and the Fraud Risk and Assessment Policy.

Economic Development – Karen Girondo said there have been some prospects but we did not meet the criteria. She explained the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an event on Saturday, October 17th called the Wright City Business Game Run. Between 9 am and 1 pm citizens can pick up a game board at the Chamber's Office and then go to each business on the board to get it stamped. Then at 1:30 pm everyone with a fully completed game board will bring them back to the Chamber office for their name to be entered into a drawing. The Chamber is putting up \$2000 in prizes. She said hopefully it will help our businesses. Strassenbash is next week but the vehicles

for the Board will not be available so everyone will need to drive their own car. The Dealership could not come up with a vehicle this year as they have in the past.

Review/Approval of Bills

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

Final Questions - Nancy Huster asked Mayor White why at the last meeting he insisted on a roll call after every motion and now he dismissed it. Mayor White said he has that privilege and it will be at his discretion. Mayor White said if everyone votes for everything like it happened this evening then he will not call for a roll call vote. Alderman Abercrombie said he also wondered why the change.

Alderman Reynolds asked Mayor White if they would be notified about the executive session. Mayor White said he would talk to Christine in the morning after she calls Judge Wohler and we will see what happens.

Adjournment - Alderman Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Alderman Reynolds seconded it and the motion unanimously carried

Approved _____

Attested _____