

February 9, 2015
St. James Municipal Center
Regular City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order. The following councilmembers were present: Councilman Sachs, Councilman Garver, Councilwoman Weatherly, Councilman Huster, Councilman White, Councilman Tonding, Councilman White and Councilman Watkins. City Administrator Jeff Davis and City Clerk Sarah Wheeler were also in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Wilson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

Discussion: Electric Rates

Bonnie Armstrong asked to speak with the Council. She read a short speech stating that electric rates were supposed to be kept down when we purchased the substation, she believed there was something wrong with our books, and asked where the money is coming from to pay the city administrator. Mayor Wilson explained the substation and why we purchased it but also why there is still a need to raise the electric rates.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2015 regular meeting and the January 15, 2015 workshop. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Councilman Huster made a motion to approve the bills to be paid for February. Councilwoman Weatherly seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 15-1064

Discussion: Ordinance No. 15-1064 Electric Rates

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 15-1064 aloud for the first reading to raise the electric rates by 8%. Jeff explained the decision from the Utility Board to raise the rates by this amount and how it is needed to help pay the debt service, he also mentioned the MOPEP rates raising.

Some of the discussion over raising the electric rates were as follows:

Councilman Watkins recommended a minimal increase and relooking at the rates again in 6 months. He also stated that he would not support the increase without further looking at the PILOT and lowering that rate.

Councilman White said he would like to see a 6% increase and review again in 90 days. Also, in the meantime he would like to see us lean heavily on politicians, revised rates on deposits to cover losses and to review all commercial rates with our commercial companies.

Councilman Huster mentioned he would like to see where the MOPEP rates are going before we raise city rates. Councilman Moore stated he would like to discuss a lesser increase and come back at a later time and see if it needs to be raised more.

Vote or To Do: Ordinance No. 15-1064 Electric Rates

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 15-1064 aloud for the second and final reading.

Councilman White made a motion to revise the ordinance to a 6% increase on the electric rates, also in July 2015 to revisit the rates for further increase and revisit the PILOT to see if anything further needs to be adjusted on it and finally to revisit the utility deposit rate on next month's agenda.

Councilman Moore seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Weatherly "aye"; Councilman White "aye"; Councilman Tonding "aye"; Councilman Moore "aye"; Councilman Garver "aye"; Councilman Huster "no"; Councilman Watkins "no"; Councilman Sachs "no". Ordinance No. 15-1064 was passed.

AGENDA ITEM: Administrator Comments

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Jeff mentioned that he will be setting up budget workshops in March between the council and each of the department heads to review and finalize the budget. Jeff will send out an email with the dates when he has them set up.

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor Comments

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Mayor Wilson mentioned the following items:

- Corky Stack helping with the layout plans of the new section of the cemetery.
- Library installing handicap restrooms.
- Friends of Library will be providing fireplace insert to the library.
- Public House grand opening last week went well.
- March 1st trout opening.
- High School district basketball hosted by St. James this year.
- Monday, March 2nd @ 5:00 pm a listening post will be held at Ft. Leonardwood.
- Cardetti building renovation.

AGENDA ITEM: Misc

Councilman Moore asked about the lot on Washington and if there had been an update? Jeff stated nothing new had come of it yet.

Councilman Watkins asked about the Pevely Building. Jeff stated that the county had recorded it incorrectly but it had now been cleared up. It would now need a new appraisal before it could be put up for sale. Ready Mix interested in the lot and another individual is interested in a small piece of the lot.

Councilman White wanted to make sure we began setting up meetings with high usage customers and find out the impact of the electric increase.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Moore made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "aye".

Dennis I. Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date