

July 10, 2017
St. James Municipal Center
City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Weatherly, Hockersmith, Huster, Anselm and Smith were present for the meeting. City Clerk Wheeler, City Administrator Selby, Public Works Director Thomas, Street Superintendent Scheel, Sanitation Superintendent Fraser, Police Chief Jones were also in attendance. Councilmembers Mitchell were absent.

Other attendees were Benji Daniel, Lyle Thomas, Ron Fraser, Clifton Parker - Chamber, Brandon Licklider – Chamber, Debbie Parton - Chamber, Merlyn Johnson – School Superintendent, Officer Jarrett, Officer Riggs, Ramona Rinehart – Golden Age Center, Maxine Palmer – Golden Age Center, Chris Daniels – St. James Press.

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor White led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Watkins led in a word of prayer.

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Approval

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES: June 12, 2017

Councilwoman Weatherly made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 12, 2017 regular meeting. Councilman Anselm seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the bills. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

Benji Daniel spoke with the council and let them know he had attend Boys State and had been voted a city council member. He also spoke to them about the intersection of Hwy B and that he had sat and done a study over the weekend concerning illegal traffic issues such as turns, running red lights, etc. He would like to come up with some ideas to help solve these issues.

AGENDA ITEM: Golden Age Center, School Coffee Shop and Chamber Leases

Maxine Palmer with the Golden Age Center read a statement (attached to minutes) concerning the utility charges proposed at the center by the council. Ramona Rhinehart also spoke on behalf of the Golden Age Center and told the council the utility bills are just too much for the Center to absorb. They are working on getting a new building combined with the Caring Center but until then they would have to close their doors if they are charged.

Dr. Johnson, School Superintendent stated that the School would propose cutting the grass at the small city cemetery in lieu of utility payments.

Cliffon Parker with the St. James Chamber asked if instead of waving the payment for the utilities if the city could make a donation to the organization and then the organization would turn around and use that to pay their utilities?

Mayor White started answering the questions by letting the members know that the City had received a legal opinion from the attorney and it was against state statute to give away free utilities.

Councilman Smith asked if it was legal that we charge them for utilities even if they have not signed a new agreement. He also stated that we need a service agreement along with a new lease from every organization.

Councilman Hockersmith stated that we needed to give them an opportunity to sign the new agreement before charging them.

Councilman Anselm stated that he believes since we did not come to an agreement by the end of the contract we should grant an extension to give them more time.

City Administrator, Harold Selby stated that the utility board oversees the utilities and they are requesting that the bills be paid. If the council does not want the organizations to pay their selves, then the city needs to find a department budget that can pay from somewhere so that the utilities are paid as requested.

Councilman Anselm made a motion to give the opportunity to each organization to extend the old contract for 60 days. At the end of 60 days (September Council Meeting) each organization must have a new contract and service agreement brought to the council and agreed upon or the city will begin charging utilities. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Councilman Huster and Watkins voted “no”, Councilman Anselm, Sachs, Smith, Weatherly and Hockersmith voted “aye”. The motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1096

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 17-1096 for the second and final reading. This ordinance would allow for No Parking on East Springfield.

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the bill as read. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, all councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1097

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 17-1097 for the second and final reading. This ordinance would allow for changes in water meter testing.

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the bill as read. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. Upon roll call, all councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1098

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 17-1098 for the second and final reading. This ordinance would allow for no parking on South Jefferson Street.

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the bill as read. Councilman Anselm seconded the motion. Upon roll call, all councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1099

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 17-1099 for the first reading. This bill would change the offenses section of the code book completely to follow state statutes.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilwoman Weatherly seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1100

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 17-1100 aloud for the first reading. This ordinance would allow the city to move forward on the Treese Property if needed.

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1101

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 17-1101 aloud for the first reading. This bill allows for a joint agreement with MGCM.

Councilman Huster made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1102

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 17-1102 aloud for the first reading. This bill allows for a sales agreement with MGCM.

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 17-1103

Clerk Wheeler read Bill No. 17-1103 aloud for the first reading. Conflict of Interest ordinance.

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 17-260

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 17-260 aloud for the first and only reading. The resolution approves financing for the Street Sweeper.

Councilwoman Weatherly made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Casey’s Plat

Public Works Director, Lyle Thomas told the council the Planning & Zoning Board approved the replat of Lots 13-16 and the vacated portion of the alley to now be Lot 1. The information was published in the newspaper and Casey’s did close on their property back in June.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the replat of Lots 13-16 and the vacated portion of the alley into Lot 1. Councilman Anselm seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Humane Society: Harold reported that he was still waiting to receive their financials as requested several months back.

Schools: Dr. Johnson, Superintendent reported that they are starting to get ready for the upcoming school year which will start August 15th, working on different contracts, and that the SRO has been working out very well and they look forward to having him again next year.

Police: Councilman Sachs reported that a new female officer had been hired and is working out well with the department, the police are working great with the schools and that the new police car should be in soon.

Public Works Director: Lyle discussed the AMR gas meters. He let the council know that approximately 167 residential and 5 commercial meters have been installed. He also let the council know MODOT was scheduled to be done with the sidewalk portion of their project by August 3rd and will start on the paving portion August 4th.

Street: Danny Scheel reported that the street department has done 45 tons of asphalt patch work. He also proposed to the council setting a date of the first three days of each month only for picking up yard waste.

IDA: No meeting.

Parks: No report.

Chamber – Debbie Parton and Brandon Licklider reported that the 4th of July events went off well, they served approximately 200 people water, popcorn and hotdogs. Debbie raised \$3,100 of her \$3,500 goal for the fireworks display which she was very pleased with. The Chamber has cancelled the rodeo for this year. The Tourist Center has been very busy. Finally, the Chamber will hold their monthly meeting tomorrow night.

Sanitation – David Watkins reported that the department had received some very nice compliments on their hard work. Also, that the new truck was down for 2 weeks, however, everything was covered under the warranty.

City Administrator: Administrator Selby reported the Tourism Committee had been working on their website and encourage the Council to check it out. The City had received the grant check for the new recycle truck, and finally that the Sanitation had been working lots of overtime to help other departments keep up on the grass mowing.

Mayor: The Mayor had no new information to report.

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor's Appointments

Mayor White asked the council for approval reappointing all current board members whose terms were expired for another term (see appointments attached to minutes). Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the mayor's appointments. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

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

Jim W. White, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date