

# City of Center

## Minutes of the Council Meeting

### January 8, 2020

The Center City Council met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Center, Missouri for their regular monthly meeting. Attending were: Mayor Dennis McMillen, Alderman Shawn Couch, Alderman Cristy Browning, Alderman Tom Bramblett, Attorney Joe Brannon, and Acting City Clerk Jeanne Franke. Alderman Steven Reynolds was absent. There were several residents in attendance.

Mayor McMillen called the meeting to order and attendance was taken. The agenda was reviewed and a few items were added to the agenda. No one signed the public forum sheet.

**Approval of December 4, 2019 minutes:** – Alderman Shawn Couch made a motion to approve December 4, 2019 minutes. Alderman Tom Bramblett seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

#### **Old Business:**

**Ralls County to Collect City Taxes 2020:** Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to have Ralls County Collector collect the city portion of Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes beginning with the 2020 Taxes due on December 31, 2020. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Since the county would not collect for the city stickers, it was further decided that the city would bill for the city stickers on a separate invoice and include along with the sewer invoice toward the end of the year.

#### **New Business:**

**Sewer Rates 2020 for new business, Liter's VP:** Mayor McMillen asked for input regarding setting rates for Liter's VP since there is no water usage data on the new business. It was decided to use the Yesway Gas and Convenience Store rates as a guide for now since that is the only comparable business in our city. Then the 2021 rates would be set using the Liter's water usage as with everyone else.

**Sewer – Camera? – Jetting Schedule:** Mayor McMillen stated he thought the city could use a camera for the sewer lines. There have been many instances in the last year that it would have been crucial in determining the exact location and problem in the lines. Alderman Tom Bramblett will chair a committee to research purchasing a camera and to see if it could be covered by grants. Alderman Cristy Browning will also serve on the committee. Mayor McMillen also suggested a schedule be set up to jet the all lines on a routine basis and to use the root cutter attachment. The jetter will need to be serviced to be sure there is enough water pressure. Mayor McMillen also suggested we may need to hire a general maintenance type person part-time and on-call. An ad will be placed in paper.

**Old Sewer Bills:** Mayor McMillen advised that a letter will be sent to all residents who have old sewer balances prior to 2019. This was discussed before with all aldermen agreeing to wipe out the old sewer balances to \$0.00 before 2019. All amounts beginning in 2019 are due to be paid.

**Annual Compensation for Mayor and Aldermen:** The State Auditor's office advised that there is nothing in the city ordinances or in the minutes on how much the compensation to the Mayor and Aldermen are paid. In the past the Mayor was paid \$360 and Aldermen \$240.00 per year. Attorney Joe Brannon will draft an ordinance to that effect.

**Battery for Police Truck:** The police truck needs to be moved for Steve Grossman to get into garage to do the brick repairs on outer wall. Since the battery is dead and won't hold a charge very long, a new

battery is needed. Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to have Lake's Automotive replace the battery in the police truck with a new battery. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 3-0. It was also recommended to start truck periodically to prevent draining in the future.

**City Hall Front Door Repairs:** Acting City Clerk, Jeanne Franke advised that the front door to City Hall has had issues for some time not shutting when people leave and very hard to open from the outside. A lady actually fell trying to get in the door. Jeanne was advised to have a carpenter look at it.

**Apply for Sewer Grant Progress:** Mayor McMillen has a letter from A Civil Group for an estimate of \$2250 for them to assist with the completion of the Sewer Grant application. Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to approve paying A Civil Group \$2250 to proceed with the completion of the Sewer Grant. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Police Grant Documentation Required:** Alderman Tom Bramblett advised the Dept. of Transportation is requesting documentation showing specific dates and hours worked by Police Chief David Ray during 2018. The grant paid out \$1700 for David's hours. The Auditors have all of David's time sheets we could find and will send the copies back. And Mayor McMillen advised later that he could obtain the same information from 911.

Alderman Shawn Couch made a motion to pay the January bills. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Closed Session:** Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to go into closed session. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Attorney Joe Brannon read a letter from the attorney representing David Ray with a proposal regarding the lien on the proceeds of the Ray's home sale by releasing \$18,000 to David Ray from the escrow account. Alderman Tom Bramblett made a motion to reject the request to release \$18,000 to David Ray from the escrow account on Ray's property. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Alderman Tom Bramblett made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The next council meeting will be February 5, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Franke  
Acting City Clerk