

# City of Center

## Minutes of the Council Meeting

### March 4, 2020

The Center City Council met on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Center, Missouri for their regular monthly meeting. Attending were: Mayor Dennis McMillen, Alderman Steven Reynolds, Alderman Cristy Browning, Alderman Tom Bramblett, Alderman Shawn Couch, Attorney Joe Brannon, and Acting City Clerk Jeanne Franke. 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. Mary Lucia and Park Board were on the Public Forum.

**Approval of February 5, 2020 minutes:** Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to approve the February 5, 2020 minutes. Alderman Steven Reynolds seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **Public Forum:**

**Mary Lucia:** Addressed council stating she wanted to refute a lie from Center residents and went on to explain in detail about certain people and situations. Mayor McMillen asked Mary if she had a question for the council, if not they would move on as the 3-minute time limit has passed.

**Cristy Browning for Park Board:** Request approval for Park Board to install new playground equipment and to lay new drain tiles and run the tiles down to the ditch. They will call dig-rite before doing so. Also, would like to use the city shed bay that had been used by Clean-Ox to store all park equipment and supplies so all park items are in one place. All Aldermen discussed and all agreed for the installation of park equipment and laying new drain tiles and for the use of city shed bay.

#### **Audit Update:**

Mayor McMillen advised the State Auditors hope to be finished by mid-April with their report which in turn is turned over to their supervisors for final approval. The auditors will then have an exit meeting with the Aldermen and then turn their results over to the Attorney General to determine further action.

#### **Old Business:**

**Center Old Depot:** Alderman Shawn Couch will have someone look at Old Depot and provide the city with an appraisal and a quote as to what is needed for repairs. Also, he will contact Ronnie Leake and suggest organizing a volunteer group to do the work.

**Resolution for Sewer Grant/Loan Application:** Alderman Cristy Browning approved to pass the resolution for the Sewer Grant/Loan application to Missouri Dept of Natural Resources. Alderman Tom Bramblett Seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **New Business:**

**Cannon Water Agreement:** Attorney Joe Brannon stated Section 393.016 of the Statutes of the State of Missouri provide a procedure for such an agreement. We would need to notify Cannon Water of our intent to enter into such an agreement. And if it cannot be entered into within six months, an action can be filed in court to have the agreement drafted by neutral commissioners. The consensus of all aldermen is to proceed with the agreement process between Center and Cannon Water Company.

**Police for Civil Matters:** Since there have been several civil issues come up without a Center policeman, all Aldermen agree this would be a good time to look for a part-time policeman possibly from

Perry, New London, or Ralls County Sheriff 's office. How many hours and how much pay would be discussed at the next council meeting.

**Mowers:** Lori Meranda has requested to have tune-up on the X-Mark mower and push mower and look at old Kubota mower to see if can reasonably be fixed or better to sell? Alderman Steven Reynolds made a motion to have both mowers taken to The Repair Shop, our local shop, for tune-up maintenance on the X-Mark and an evaluation of older mowers. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Sewer Fee Rental Property Guidance:** We have at least 15 Owners of rental or more than one property. Have trouble keeping up with who pays, who is renting, when did it start, etc. We now have a form for owners to fill out. From now on, after missing two payments, the owner of property will be notified. All Aldermen agreed with this procedure.

**On-Line Banking:** Add on-line banking to our Saints Avenue Bank services. Approve the Mayor and City Clerk to monitor the On-Line Banking with authorization for passwords. Our account should be checked twice daily to spot any unauthorized transactions. Alderman Cristy Browning made a motion to approve having On-Line banking service at Saints Avenue Bank and to approve the Mayor and City Clerk to have access to passwords for the On-Line banking service. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Alderman Shawn Couch made a motion to pay the March 2020 bills. Alderman Steven Reynolds seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Informational Items:** Aaron Jackson requested update on Ray's court case holding house sale funds in escrow. Attorney Brannon stated that Ray's attorney's request to have funds released was denied. Funds are still in escrow and the case is still pending.

Alderman Steven Reynolds made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel issue. Alderman Shawn Couch seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Three applicants for the City of Center part-time General Maintenance/Sewer/Street worker position. After discussion, all Aldermen decided to offer the part-time, as needed, position to Curt Hummel for \$12.00 per hour. No other matter was discussed.

Alderman Steven Reynolds made a motion to end the closed session. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Alderman Steven Reynolds made a motion to adjourn the City Council meeting. Alderman Cristy Browning seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Next Council meeting will be April 15, 2020 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Franke  
Acting City Clerk