

City of Elsberry
Regular Session
September 12th, 2023
Elsberry City Hall

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Elsberry met on the evening of the above date at Elsberry City Hall, 6:30pm. Mayor Wilch presided over the meeting. Present were Alderman Harper, Alderman Hale, Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Davis, City Clerk Rachel Reed, City Collector Tashua Chiodini, City Treasurer Lisa Grumich and Police Chief Randy Davis. Also present were Luke Drullinger and Brian Pieper of Alliance Water Resources.

Mayor Wilch called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call deemed a quorum present.

Reading and acting are unapproved minutes from previous meetings

Alderman Harper made motion to approve the unapproved minutes.

Alderman Rockwell seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Reading of unpaid bills approval to pay report

Alderman Davis made a motion to pay unpaid bills.

Alderman Harper seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Alderman Rockwell asked to amend the agenda to include the ECGA's request to close S 4th and S 5th next to park for fall festival.

Alderman Meyer made a motion to amend the agenda.

Alderman Harper seconded the agenda.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Alderman Harper asked to amend the agenda to include discussion page branch park.
Alderman Rockwell made a motion to amend the agenda.
Alderman Davis seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis
NAYES-0
Motion Carried.

Project updates

Boonslick Regional Planning- nothing new to report

USDA- nothing new to report

Cochran-nothing to new to report

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS AND THE HEARING OF ANY PERSON OR GROUP DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, EACH OF WHOM HAVE FILED PRIOR REQUESTS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE 24.105

Michael Dixon-acquisition of the old calaboose and the land under and around the Robinson house museum.

Mr. Dixon stated that EHPS would like to acquire the property that the Robinson house sits on, the calaboose and the property it is on as well. They are trying to get grant money to fix the calaboose but they cannot because they don't own it.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to enter negotiations with EHPS for the transfer of the property.

Alderman Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis
NAYES-0
Motion Carried.

Joe Allen-Globe Life Insurance

Mr. Allen would like the boards permission to offer supplemental insurance such as life insurance to the employees. This would be at no cost to the City and would be paid for with payroll deductions.

Alderman Harper made a motion to set up at time with employees to go over benefits.

Alderman Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING A REQUIRED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE

No public hearings

ACTING ON UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Demolishing 314-316 Broadway

City Clerk Rachel Reed said she needs a date for bid opening. She suggested October 9th so the board can review and award at the October meeting.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to have bids due 10-9-23

Alderman Davis seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Proposal from Jayhawk to add online bill pay and email billing

City Clerk Rachel Reed said that there have been issues getting bills delivered through the mail. Jayhawk (current billing software company) has an option to purchase a module that will allow email billing, automatic payments, and credit card payments.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to accept the proposal from Jayhawk software.

Alderman Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Approval for City Clerk and City Collector to attend the MRWA Office Professional's conference for \$400 plus hotel.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to approve the City Clerk and City Collector to attend the MWRA Office Professional Conference.

Alderman Harper seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Approval for Court Clerk to attend the Court Clerks conference Oct 10-12 for \$200 plus hotel.

Alderman Harper made a motion to approve.

Alderman Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Making 3rd St between Broadway and Dubois a two-way Street

Mayor Wilch has had a few people ask him about 3rd street being a one-way street. He doesn't see any reason why it should remain one way. Rob Guinness will prepare an ordinance for next month's meeting.

Issues with Alliance

Alderman Harper said that she thinks Alliance is not doing the work that they should. She said that there was a valve leaking at 4th and Brownmill and it was leaking for several weeks before someone finally went and shut it off. She also said that the cemetery looks awful. Alliance said that communication needs to be better. He said that if they would know about the issues then they could address them. Alderman Harper said that nothing gets done unless the city brings it to their attention. They should be able to drive around and see the obvious problems around town. Mayor Wilch said that he is having a meeting with Alliance next week to go over some issues.

ECGA request to close S 4th and S 5th along to City park on Oct 7th for the fall festival

City Clerk said that Sam Byers has reached out and they will be having the fall festival on Oct 7th. They would like to close S 4th and S 5th along the park for this event.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to approve.

Alderman Harper seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis
NAYES-0
Motion Carried.

Mayor Wilch suggested we let the ECGA know that they need to let the fire department know about the closure.

Page Branch Park

Alderman Harper said that she spoke with a gentleman to was trying to get a hold of the mayor about cutting hay at page branch park. He told Alderman Harper that he had permission from the previous mayor and wanted to make sure it was still ok. She gave him permission, not realizing she should have spoken to the board first. She apologized for doing this. Rob Guinness asked he if was going to pay the City for allowing him to cut the hay. Alderman Harper doesn't think we should charge since nothing was in place before hand. The hay has already been cut and is in harrows. The grass the is cut will kill the gras underneath if is not picked up.

Alderman Harper made a motion to allow him to get his bailed up and off the grass.

Alderman Hale seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis
NAYES-0
Motion Carried.

READING OF BILLS REQUIRING ONLY A FINAL READING FOR PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION AND READING OF BILLS FOR PASSAGE

Bill 2023-009-001

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING MARIJUANA CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURING, TESTING, AND DISPENSARY FACILITIES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 41 OF ELSBERRY CITY CODE.

This ordinance needs to have a public hearing first. This will be moved to the October meeting.

RESOLUTIONS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION OF THE BOARD

REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS AND COMMITEES

Library- Alderman Rockwell would like to go out for bid for the roof on the library. Rob Guinness said that we can request proposals since there is not a scope of work for the roof.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to request proposals for the roof on the library.

Alderman Davis seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Cemetery/Parks- Alderman Davis asked about going out to bid on the brick wall at the cemetery. City Clerk Rachel Reed said that she got the scope of work back from Jay Herring and will be going out for bid in the next couple weeks.

Infrastructure- Alderman Hale spoke with Matt Hartley and Kevin Hunter about 5th street washing out and they haven't gotten back to him yet.

Emergency Services- nothing to report

Tree Board- nothing to report

REPORTS OF ALDERMAN AND MAYOR

Mayor Wilch- Mayor Wilch let everyone know that there is a town hall meeting September 14 at 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall. He asked that everyone be respectful and understand that they are trying to help us and we are asking them for a lot of money.

Alderman Harper- Alderman Harper would like to know about the dog situation in Hillcrest. Chief Davis said that he has been taken care of and there doesn't seem to be any problems at this time.

Alderman Hale- Alderman Hale said that the 300 block of Broadway needs some asphalt.

Alderman Rockwell- Alderman Rockwell asked about porta potties on David St. A resident asked her about them and how long they can be there. Rob is going to check on this.

Alderman Meyer-nothing to report

Alderman Davis- nothing to report

REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS

City Attorney Robert Guinness- Rob Guinness would like to get some bids for mowing for the properties that have administrative warrants issued. He would also like the board to approve printers for the police cars to make things easier and faster for the police department and himself as the prosecutor.

Alderman Rockwell made a motion to go out for bid on nuisance mowing.

Alderman Meyer seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis
NAYES-0
Motion Carried.

Alliance Manager Luke Drullinger- Luke went over his ops reports. He also said that they helped clean up some concrete that was spilled on Broadway in front of B&B Auction. The concrete is still on the highway because they couldn't get it all up. Alderman Harper asked what we can do about this. Rob Guinness said that we need to contact the highway patrol but we would need a police report from the owner of B&B Auction.

He also went over the budget as of June of 2023. Mayor Wilch asked about the budget being over by \$20155. He said that the chemicals are very expensive and that is what causing the budget to go over.

Police Chief Randy Davis- Chief Davis went over his reports and scheduling.

City Clerk Rachel Reed- Rachel said that is budget time and we need to start having budget meetings.

City Collector Tashua Chiodini- absent

City Treasurer Lisa Grumich-nothing to report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT BY ANY PERSON OR GROUP DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WHO HAS NOT FILED A PRIOR REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE 24.105

Sue Beck asked if anyone was going to discuss the letter that was sent out about the overcharge. Alderman Harper said she would like to know just in case someone asked her about it. City Clerk Rachel Reed asked if the board would like an explanation of what happened. The board said yes. City Clerk Rachel Reed said that when the change over from billing software happened the rate for commercial and out of town residential was put in wrong by the software company. When this was discovered, there was a discussion with the Mayor and the City attorney to decide what to do. It was decided to send a letter to the customers that were affected explaining what happened and telling them that they will get credit to their account for the amount that was overcharged.

Gina Tapley said that she thinks communication between the City and the residents is horrible and needs to be fixed. She doesn't think that late fees should be charged when the bills are not getting to the customer on time. She doesn't think that Alliance is doing their job. Alderman Harper asked if she could respond. She asked what should be done about the late fee. She thinks it should taken care of. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Harper made a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Rockwell seconded that motion.

AYES- Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Hale, Alderman Meyer, Alderman Harper, Alderman Davis

NAYES-0

Motion Carried.

Open session adjourned at 8:07 pm