

## SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

The City Council met in Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2016, in the Council Chamber of the City Office Building, 214 N. Lafayette, Marshall, Missouri, with the following members of the City Council present: Mayor Mark T. Gooden; Council Members Barbara Utlaut, Kirk Arends, Ron Ott, Charles Guthrey, Rudy Reyes, Dan Brandt and Tom Hagedorn; City Counselor Josh Taylor and City Clerk Julie Lewis.

Mayor Gooden told the Council that Marshall Saline County Emergency Management Director Emmit Williams passed away Monday, September 5, 2016 as the result of a motorcycle accident. He was a pioneer of Emergency Management in Saline County and will be greatly missed. He asked all in attendance to honor Mr. Williams with a moment of silence.

On motion of Utlaut, seconded by Hagedorn, the Agenda was adopted.

On motion of Hagedorn, seconded by Reyes, the minutes of Public Hearing (Tax Levy) of August 15, 2016; Public Hearing (Planning and Zoning Request) of August 15, 2016; Regular Council Meeting of August 15, 2016 and Work Session of August 29, 2016 were approved as written.

### BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Larry Askins told the Council he lives on Redman Street and Sunday night he didn't get much sleep between midnight and 2 a.m. due to a loud party across the street at 867 S. Redman. If there had been any Patrol in the area they would have noticed. The house is a rental house and he has spoken to the landlord. The landlord has told him to call the Police. Mr. Askins said he personally doesn't want to be woke up in the middle of the night to have to call the Police. He feels the Council needs to address the issue and have positive consequences. According to his research, the place to look is Section 18-81(1) of Peace Disturbances - of the Code of Ordinances.

Mayor Gooden thanked Mr. Askins and told him we will turn this over to the Police to handle.

Mr. John Swisher, here on behalf of his mother Marie (Betty) Swisher, told the Council his mother had been trying to sell property located at 365 W. Porter for quite some time. The property has been used as a rental property for many years and a new buyer would like to use it as a rental property as well. The area has been zoned Light Industrial and in order to continue to use the property as a rental they will need to get a variance. They were told by Mr. Morgan it would be a simple matter to get a variance, however, a new buyer doesn't want that hassle or they find out after they come here that it is a hassle and they back out. We have had the property sold at least once but because of a buyer's remorse clause in the contract we had to let the new owner out of the contract and reassume the property as ours. Mr. Swisher said he would like to find out what can be done because it seems that working with our realtor and discussions with City representatives, they are getting the runaround.

Mayor Gooden told Mr. Swisher we will speak with Planning and Zoning Commission regarding this issue and get back with him.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Council Member Brandt reported bids had been opened for reinforced steel for concrete. We bid this out every year and we received three bids, two from the same company. The bids are as follows:

Sedalia Steel Supply  
\$3,183.00

Viebrock Sales and Service  
\$4,120.00

Viebrock Sales and Service  
\$4,040.00

On motion of Brandt, seconded by Hagedorn, the bid from Sedalia Steel Supply in the amount of \$3,183.00 was accepted.

Council Member Reyes asked if any local companies bid.

Mr. Brandt said they were all invited to bid but these were the only bids received.

Council Member Brandt reported airport aircraft activity for the month of August dropped down, which is typical for this time of year. We had a total of 722 aircraft in August compared to last month at 1447 total aircraft. Jet traffic during June, July and August was very good compared to other months.

Mr. Brandt reported a big month for solid waste with a total of 818 tons, just above last months total of 692 tons.

Council Member Brandt said he wanted to remind the community that residential trash pick up will be postponed one day this week due to the holiday.

### **PROPERTY, FINANCE, BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Council Member Ott reported they have been working with the finance department for the last eight weeks establishing a budget for the coming fiscal year. He would like to thank Committee members Kirk Arends and Mayor Gooden as well as Melissa Schure and Debbie Trimble of the Finance Department. We have had a deficit for the past three years and we had to turn that around and get headed in the right direction. We have to live within our means and get a good foundation so that we will have resources to improve the streets, tear down old buildings and clean up the City.

Mr. Ott said the committee approved a raise for the employees and approved body cameras for all police officers. There were several items that had to be cut in order to come in with a

balanced budget, including capital equipment. We started off with about \$900,000 in capital requests and had to narrow that down to under \$300,000.

The health insurance premiums paid by city employees has not been increased since 1993. During that time our premiums have increased by 300% ó 400%. We will pass along a modest increase to the employees for single and family coverage, but the amount will still be relatively low compared to other companies in the area.

A line item will be provided for revitalization and demolition of old houses. The amount is \$18,000 and we know that is not nearly enough but it is a start and we hope to build on that in the future. As we look forward, if we take the right steps now, the future will look more positive.

Council Member Arends explained it is important to the Council to have a balanced budget, with the previous two years being \$600,000 in deficit and \$300,000 in deficit. With the coming year's budget we will have a modest surplus and that's the direction we want to head. We, as a city, have to live within our means just as the citizens do. The budget process has been one of the toughest so far.

Mr. Arends explained the importance of giving the employees a raise. This raise will be on top of the raise given to Municipal Services employees several months ago.

Mr. Arends also explained the line item for revitalization and demolitions. Even though it is a small number it is a step in the right direction and this will ensure that it will not be used for other things throughout the year.

Mr. Arends said he would like for the public to know that the purchase of the body cameras for the Police Department is not a reactionary decision. The body cameras have been requested in previous years but were never approved. We, the Council, felt it was important to approve the body cameras especially in this day and age since everybody has video cameras and cell phones. We want to make sure we are keeping the citizens safe as well as the Police Officers.

Mr. Arends said it is tough to determine the last time the insurance rates were raised since there is not a lot of documentation but we do know it hasn't happened in the last twenty years. In previous years employees paid \$125 per month for family coverage and \$25 per month for single coverage. The amounts we are proposing will be \$175 per month for family coverage and \$50 per month for single coverage. When we looked at the line items on the expenditures the amount for health insurance was the number one expense across the board. We wish previous administrations would have raised those amounts incrementally every year, it would have been less of a hit but we are at the point we can no longer continue to let it slide. We hope the increase will not break anybody but at the same time we must live within our means.

The last item Mr. Arends said he would like to discuss is the hiring freeze. The hiring freeze is across the board for all departments with the exception of hiring a City Administrator. We need to get professional management in place that has experience and can help guide our vision of

where we want to see Marshall, not in 2016, but in 2026 and beyond. Depending on revenues and expenditures, the hiring freeze may be in place three to six months or longer.

Mr. Arends said he is excited about Marshall and feels the rest of the Council is excited too. This is the first step in a multi step plan of first getting a balanced budget, second getting a qualified, experienced, fantastic City Administrator and making sure all departments within the City are working towards the same goal. If we can all work towards the same goal we can do a lot of great things instead of continuing on the path we have in the past. The budget process was not easy, but the help provided by Council Member Ott and Mayor Gooden was appreciated.

Mayor Gooden thanked Council Members Ott and Arends for the hours they spent diligently working on the budget.

**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND CODE  
COMMITTEE**

Council Member Guthrey reported we are still in the middle of roof repair season. A total of 139 permits were issued with a construction value of \$1,318,765 and 79% of that being roof remodels and repairs. Permit fees collected totaled \$8,980.

**PUBLIC  
RELATIONS  
AND PUBLIC  
SAFETY  
COMMITTEE**

No Report by Council Member Utlaut

**MAYOR'S  
REPORT**

Mayor Gooden reported the Recruitment Committee has been searching for a City Administrator and he would like for Mr. Ott to give an update on that process.

Council Member Ott reported that forty one applications were received for the position of City Administrator. He explained the process the committee used to narrow down the applicants to three finalists. The three finalists will be interviewed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. We hope to make an offer of employment shortly after the interviews. We are very excited to have three finalists who have the proper education and solid, proven experience as City Administrators. We hope to announce the name of that individual at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Gooden said it has been a long process and we appreciate all the time spent with this and the budget.

**LAGERS ANNUAL MEETING  
ELECT EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVE**

Mayor Gooden explained it is time for the Council to elect our Employer Representative for the Annual LAGERS Meeting. The Employees will elect an Employee representative to attend the

meeting also. Ballots went out today for the employees and must be returned to the City Clerk's Office by September 16, 2016.

The LAGERS Annual Meeting will be October 20 ó 21, 2016 at the University Plaza in Springfield, MO.

On motion of Ott, seconded by Utlaut, the Council elected Dan Brandt as the City's Employer Representative.

## **ORDINANCES**

**APPROPRIATION** Ordinance No. 8314 entitled "AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS OUT OF THE DIFFERENT CITY FUNDS" was read two times by title only and put to its final ayes and nays as follows: Reyes, Ott, Utlaut, Arends, Guthrey, Brandt and Hagedorn voting aye; the ordinance is thereupon declared passed and so endorsed by the President of the Council and approved by the Mayor.

Mayor Gooden asked if there was any other Council business, if not, he would entertain a motion to adjourn to Executive Session concerning legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body; hiring, firing, discipline or promotion of personnel. RSMo. 610.021 (1,2,3)

Motion was made by Hagedorn, seconded by Brandt, to adjourn to Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken with Brandt, Hagedorn, Reyes, Ott, Utlaut, Arends and Guthrey voting aye.

Motion carried and the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

Julie Lewis  
City Clerk