

JANUARY 03, 2023  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES  
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Slinker called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 03, 2023 at 101 West Broadway.

Mayor Slinker led in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Slinker called the roll:

Ward One: Nathan Volkart-here, Bryan Bradford-here  
Ward Two: Melissa Old-here, Stephanie Bell-here  
Ward Three: Rick Lewis-here, David Wilson -here

Staff Present: Darla Sapp, City Clerk, Kyle Michel, City Administrator, Todd Smith, City Attorney, James Creel, Public Works Director, Shelley Martin, Treasurer and Gabe Edwards, Police Chief.

Mayor Slinker presented the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting for consideration. Alderman Bradford made motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Wilson seconded the motion. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented the agenda for approval or adjustment. Alderman Bradford made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Bell to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Gene Rhorer to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Alderman Bradford made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to appoint Gene Rhorer to the Board of Adjustment. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker stated under scheduled public comment is Andrew Worrall, Police Department concerning staffing issues. Andrew Worrall spoke as an employee of the Police Department and expressed his concern of the Police Department struggles and feels it is at a critical point. He stated several weeks ago work became a disruption to his family and his wife suggested he look for other employment. He stated it is nearly impossible to recruit an inexperienced officer out of an academy. He stated the Police Department could not pay for the academy, offer the variety and number of calls for services as other agencies, specialty opportunities or pay like other agencies. He stated it is difficult to recruit the kind of officers they want. He stated Kyle and Gabe are working diligently to address this. Andrew Worrall stated the culture that has been established is threatened by their inability to fund the department's basic needs. He stated he personally spent thousands of his own money on things the department hasn't been able to afford such as uniform pants, flashlights, and scheduling software. He stated he is wearing an expired vest personally owned vest because he knows another officer will need a new one. He asked the Board to consider the kind of person it takes to continue this mission and what we are able to offer to get them on our team. He stated he wanted to emphasize that he doesn't want to leave the Ashland Police Department and hopes a solution to move us forward is found.

Mayor Slinker reminded everyone a written request must be made to the City Clerk the Wednesday prior to the meeting date to be placed under public comment.

Mayor Slinker presented Council Bill No. 2022-033, an ordinance imposing a street impact fee on all construction in the City (tabled December 6, 2022). Mayor Slinker called for a staff report. Mayor Slinker

called for questions or comments from the Board. Mayor Slinker called for a motion. Alderwoman Bell made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Old to table indefinitely Council Bill No. 2022-033, an ordinance imposing a street impact fee on all construction in the City. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Council Bill No. 2023-001, an ordinance of the City of Ashland, Missouri imposing a local sales tax for General Revenue Purposes at the rate of one percent (1%) pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 94, Section 510 of the Revised Statute of Missouri, and providing for submission of the proposal to the qualified voters of the City for approval at an election to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023. (General Purpose sales tax) Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Kyle Michel, City Administrator stated at the workshop after discussion there was progress made. He stated they would make the necessary changes to the proposed Council Bill and it would need two readings at the next meeting in order to have it on the April ballot. He stated no action is required tonight. Todd Smith, City Attorney stated we could set the amount at ½ or 1 cent and can add the limitations that it be split between the police department and streets department. He stated these items would need to be ironed out. Kyle Michel stated setting the rate is the most important. Todd Smith, City Attorney stated this is a political judgement but the most the general sales tax can be is 2 cents. Alderwoman Bell stated she would not be in favor of anything over ½ cent. She suggested rather write a 50/50 split between the two funds to state no less than 40 percent of the revenue on either streets or police. Todd Smith, City Attorney stated there is no legal reason to have this split and dedicated out. Alderman Volkart stated he would not feel like they were doing our job if we did less than 1 percent. Alderwoman Bell questioned the revenue from local sales tax. The rate and dedication was debated at length. Alderwoman Bell asked to consider that property tax be rolled back. Kyle Michel stated he would have a staff meeting tomorrow to articulate the staff's needs. Alderwoman Old expressed concern that being too specific because needs change and once voted it has to stay that way. Todd Smith stated he would prepare two versions of the Council Bill. Alderman Lewis questioned if the word increasing in the language. Todd Smith stated he would correct this. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the Board. Mayor Slinker called for comments from the public. Zach Lauf of 104 East Liberty Lane thanked the Board for running a good city. He stated he felt we had a branding issue. He suggested we keep it simple, start with price and end with value. He stated it might take time but felt they should work on salary and weapons. He suggested taking a negative and turn it into something positive.

Tom Whitener president of the Ashland Police Officer's Association stated they have over 100 years of experience between them. He stated everyone has an opinion where the money would go but he felt salary was important, officer safety and equipment. He stated when a new officer is hired they have to outfit that officer. He stated these were the overwhelming concerns brought by the police department.

Mayor Slinker called for a motion. Alderwoman Bell made motion to table Council Bill No. 2023-001 until next meeting. Alderwoman Old seconded the motion. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye. Motion carried.

#### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Slinker reported the ABC meeting has been switched to nights and the meeting went well. He reported a pothole in front of Oak Street on Broadway that needs MoDot attention. James Creel, Public Works Supervisor stated he has reported this.

#### City Administrator Report:

Kyle Michel discussed the recycling center and issues with trash being placed in the containers as well as boxes, etc. being left around the containers. He discussed issuing citations, improving signage and

educating the citizens. He also stated they would be doing a survey for recycling and yard waste program. He stated he hopes this will help determine if these programs are worth continuing. Alderwoman Bell asked if we had the names of people that misuse the recycling center. Kyle Michel stated he did and would be notifying the offenders. Alderwoman Bell asked for a cost estimate on curb-side recycling.

#### City Attorney's Report:

Todd Smith, City Attorney, stated the General Assembly is back in session and his firm keeps track of the Legislative Bills and will keep the Board posted.

#### Police Chief's Monthly report:

Chief Edwards, stated he e-mailed the stats that were not in report. He stated the report is in the packet and he gave an overview of the police department staffing crisis and schedule change of 7 days a week 12 hours shifts with on-call night shifts. He discussed additional staffing needs, higher pay, equipment needs, and professional training and patrol vehicles. He discussed the patrol rifles that were budgeted but not purchased due to budget constraints. Chief Edwards stated they are not asking for the world but basic needs of the department.

Alderwoman Old questioned why the rifles were not purchased if they were in the budget. Gabe Edwards, Police Chief stated there was unexpected expenses and the money had to be reallocated. Kyle Michel stated they had some unexpected cost due to vacancies and equipment purchases that rolled into the new budget year. He stated they are reviewing the current budget and will be doing adjustments at the next meeting. Alderman Wilson recommended a replacement schedule for equipment needs and vehicles. He suggested a reserve fund be in place.

Alderwoman Bell asked that the Police Department concerns be in this forum rather than social media.

#### Board of Alderperson's Reports:

Alderman Volkart questioned the Aldermen e-mails they receive and who should respond to those. He asked that a protocol be in place.

Alderman Bradford stated he was glad to see Scooters open. He stated the Taco Bell ordering lines have also been busy. He commented on the police department video. He stated he backed the police department. He suggested people shop local. He stated the city really needs to think about the sales tax and how bad they want police department to run efficiently.

Mayor Slinker called for comments from the public, Aldermen and staff.

Alderwoman Bell asked if the curbside recycling would help with the issue at the recycling center. Kyle Michel, City Administrator stated some of the issues at the recycling is from County residents. Alderwoman Old stated the county has been discussing shutting down the recycling container. Alderman Bradford asked if residents that have a shared dumpster would have to pay for the recycling service. Kyle Michel, City Administrator stated we do not have information on this yet.

Mayor Slinker called for the vote to adjourn the meeting. Alderwoman Bell made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Darla Sapp, City Clerk

Dorise Slinker, Mayor