

JANUARY 17, 2023
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Slinker called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 17, 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, James Creel, Public Works Director, Darin Ratermann, Community Development Director, Shelley Martin, Treasurer and Gabe Edwards, Police Chief.

Mayor Slinker presented the minutes of the January 03, 2023 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 Alderman Wilson to approve the agenda as presented. Kyle Michel, City Administrator noted the removal by staff of the TWM contract resolution. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Motion carried.

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. 2023-001, an ordinance of the City of Ashland, Missouri, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to impose a general sales tax within the City. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Kyle Michel, City Administrator stated the proposed ordinance and ballot language states one percent additional general sales tax. He stated to get this on the April Ballot we will have to do the first and second reading tonight. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the Board. Alderman Lewis stated we talked about coupling this with a property tax roll back. Kyle Michel, City Administrator state we set the property tax rate annually in the fall. Alderwoman Bell made motion to amend the sales tax rate to ½ cent. Alderwoman Bell stated we would have the highest tax rate in all of Mid-Mo. She stated she disagreed with the 1%. She stated the citizens have told us they don't want higher taxes. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. Mayor Slinker called for the vote Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderman Volkart-no, Alderwoman Old-no, Alderwoman Bell-aye Alderman Bradford-no, Alderman Lewis-aye. Mayor Slinker reported this is a tie vote and he votes no. Mayor Slinker reported the motion failed. Mayor Slinker stated we need to take action on the original 1% proposed. Alderwoman Bell made motion to amend the ordinance by adding a property tax roll back of 25 percent. Alderman Volkart seconded the motion. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis aye, Alderman Bradford-no, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson aye. Motion carried. The Board discussed if this should be included on the ballot language. Alderman Lewis stated he felt it would personally help sell the proposed sales tax. Kyle Michel reported we would need to include this in Section 3. Mayor Slinker called for a motion approving Council Bill No. 2023-001, an ordinance of the City of Ashland, Missouri for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to impose a general sales tax within the City and to include a 25 percent roll property tax roll back. Alderman Volkart made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Old to approve the motion with the amendment.

Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderwoman Bell-nay, Alderman Bradford-nay, Alderman Lewis-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Council Bill No. 2023-002, an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of funds to certain accounts within the fiscal year 2022/2023 Budget. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Shelley Martin, Treasurer reported there was some minor adjustments and the final budget amendments will be on the first of April to close out budget year. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the board. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Council Bill No. 2023-002, an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of funds to certain accounts within the fiscal year 2022/2023 Budget. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Council Bill No. 2023-003, an ordinance to change the zoning of a parcel of land from A-1 to single family residential (R-1) for Barbara Welch-Founders Ridge (Welch property). Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Darin Ratermann stated this is a rezoning for the property that was annexed in December. He stated the preliminary plat for a subdivision has not finalized yet. He stated that Mr. Welch is present to answer any questions. He stated it was important to note that the legal description on the rezoning is the same that was annexed minus the tree line. He stated the staff is supportive of this and the Planning and Zoning Commission approved this back in May. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Council Bill No. 2023-003, an ordinance to change the zoning of a parcel of land from A-1 to single family residential (R-1) for Barbara Welch-Founders Ridge (Welch property). Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderman Bradford-no, Alderman Lewis-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Ordinance No. 1423, an ordinance of the City of Ashland, Missouri, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to impose a general sales tax within the City. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Kyle Michel, City Administrator presented the amended ballot language to read “ if this sales tax is approved by voters, then the next occurring property tax levy for the City of Ashland will be reduced by 25% less than the property tax rate.” Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the Board. Alderman Lewis suggested when this is presented to the public they understand this is only the city portion of the property tax bill but not the school. Shelley Martin, Treasurer if this is approved and the property tax is rolled back in the fall would this have to go back to voter approval to get voter approval to increase it back. Kyle Michel, City Administrator reported that is correct. James Creel reported the property tax goes to general fund revenue. Alderwoman Bell stated we would maintain our funds. She stated if passed the sales tax will start prior to the property tax roll back. The Board discussed this. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Ordinance No. 1423, an ordinance of the City of Ashland, Missouri, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City a proposition to impose a general sales tax within the City. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Wilson-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderwoman Bell-nay, Alderman Bradford-no, Alderman Lewis-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Ordinance No. 1424 an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of funds to certain accounts within the fiscal year 2022/2023 Budget. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the board. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Old to approve Ordinance No. 1424, an ordinance authorizing the appropriation of funds to certain accounts within the fiscal year 2022/2023 Budget. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented Ordinance No. 1425, an ordinance to change the zoning of a parcel of land from A-1 to single family residential (R-1) for Barbara Welch-Founders Ridge (Welch property). Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve Ordinance No. 1425, an ordinance to change the zoning of a parcel of land from A-1 to single family residential (R-1) for Barbara Welch-Founders Ridge (Welch property). Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bradford-nay, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented a resolution accepting the proposal submitted by Central Bank of Boone County for the lease to own financing for a skid-loader and authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report James Creel stated the memo was in the in packet. He explained the skid-loader is being re-built and they are waiting on ejectors. He stated not having this piece of equipment caused problems to get projects completed. He stated they sent out request for proposals for the skid-loader as well as financing. He stated Central Bank of Boone County was the best financing option at 5.5 percent interest rates with annual payments coming from the Capital Street Fund. He stated the next five years the payments would be roughly 14,000 with a total cost of \$74,138.15. Alderman Lewis asked where the equipment was being repaired at and if it would be traded in. James Creel reported the new machine will come from Sydenstrickers and the old machine is being repaired at Martin Equipment. James Creel stated that it would be moved to the sewer division and those repair funds would come out of the sewer budget. Alderwoman Old questioned how old the skid-loader and how long do they last. James Creel reported it was 10 years but had low hours on it but he felt it was not properly maintained. He stated the engine was rebuilt, tracks and pump already being done and with the hydraulic system being fixed it would still be a good machine. Mayor Slinker questioned if this included any attachments. James Creel stated the attachments are interchangeable. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the Board. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Bradford made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the resolution accepting the proposal submitted by Central Bank of Boone County for the lease to own financing for a skid-loader and authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Slinker presented a resolution approving the purchase of police rifles. Mayor Slinker called for the staff report. Chief Edwards stated late last year they received quotes on rifles. He stated they want to issue one to each patrol car. He stated they currently have three and they are older. He stated he is unsure of the age and the use of them. He stated the cost is \$12,108.40 includes trade-in but does not reflect the magazines. He informed them the rifles had a lifetime warranty. Mayor Slinker called for questions or comments from the Board. Alderwoman Bell questioned where the current rifles were housed. Chief Edwards gave her an overview and explained some officers had their own rifle and some did not. Mayor Slinker called for the motion. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to approve the resolution approving the purchase of police rifles. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Braford-no, Alderwoman Bell-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Wilson-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Slinker reported he met twice last week with the Cub Scouts. He asked the status of the dog park feeding for dogs. James Creel reported the girl scouts looked at doing feeding tubes but the Park Board felt due to allergic reactions and other issues not to add this feature. Mayor Slinker asked if there was an update on the pothole on Broadway at Oak Street being repaired. James Creel stated it was reported but he felt this wouldn't be addressed until winter is over.

City Administrator Report:

Kyle Michel stated the Park Board is moving forward with implementing a master plan for the park with Drury University. He stated that James and he would meet with the students on Friday. He stated the next several months this would be worked on with the goal to have completed in May. He informed the Board he just posted on Facebook a message about the utility billing transitioning to Tyler. He stated this is the last module to roll over. He stated the bills would look different. He also noted the Forte on-line payments would be changed from Forte to Open Edge payments in the next couple of days. He stated this program allows residents to pay with debit and credit card in the office. He stated they would forgo penalties during this transition period. He stated there would be a period of time we can handle payments but would enter those once the transition is completed.

City Attorney's Report:

Todd Smith, City Attorney was not in attendance.

Public Works Director Monthly report:

James Creel, stated the information on the TAP grant with TWM Engineering firm was removed from the agenda due to they could not come to an agreement. He stated the budgeted amount for the project was \$10,000 and their price came in a lot higher. He stated they would get back to the drawing board and hopefully have something for next meeting. He stated they are still waiting on easements to be signed for the Perry Avenue extension project. He stated they would be getting back to work on the Billy Joe Sapp storm water project since they will have the skid-loader. He informed the Board they are working on the Park Ball Field renovations and stated it would look like a brand new facility. He stated they are working on the plumbing for the restroom. He stated that Hallsville has also put in the pre-fab restroom.

Community Development monthly report:

Darin Ratermann asked if there was any questions from his report. Alderwoman Bell questioned if there has been traffic issues since everything is open. It was reported there has been no traffic issues.

Board of Alderperson's Reports:

Alderwoman Bell stated her phone number was not on the website and Alderwoman Old took a call that was intended for her.

Alderwoman Old stated the phone call was suggestions for the Police Department that she will share with Chief Edwards after the meeting.

Alderman Volkart reported some barriers have been torn down on Broadway and Eastside Drive. He stated they are rolling in the eastbound lane and could be a safety issue.

Alderman Volkart also reported trucks have destroyed the curb alongside Breaktime and Taco Bell. He stated this looks terrible. He stated he appreciated everyone's consideration on the sales tax and realized it is a heated topic. He stated what we are trying to do here is give the citizens what they deserve, better streets and law enforcement. He asked for a list of scheduled street repairs and expenditures we plan with the new sales tax and what difference it would make for the community.

Mayor Slinker asked for an update on the new signage for the recycling center. James Creel stated the new signage has been ordered.

Alderwoman Bell apologized for the issue her household had with the recycling center.

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

Mayor Slinker called for the vote to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Bradford made motion and seconded by Alderman Wilson to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Slinker called for the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Darla Sapp, City Clerk

Dorise Slinker, Mayor