

OCTOBER 05, 2021  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES  
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Sullivan called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 05, 2021 via zoom.

Mayor Sullivan gave the invocation.

Mayor Sullivan led in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Sullivan called the roll:

Ward One: Nathan Volkart-here, Jean Selby-here  
Ward Two: Melissa Old-here, Stephanie Bell-absent  
Ward Three: Rick Lewis-here, Dorise Slinker-here

Staff Present: Darla Sapp, City Clerk, Nathan Nickolaus, City Attorney, Dan Vandevoorde, Building Inspector, Lelande Rehard, Assistant City Administrator, City Administrator Tony St. Romaine, John Conway, Civil Engineer and Gabe Edwards, Police Chief.

Mayor Sullivan presented the minutes of the September 21, 2021 Board meeting for consideration. Alderman Slinker made motion to approve the minutes as presented. Alderman Lewis seconded the motion. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan presented the agenda for consideration. Alderwoman Old made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Selby to approve the agenda. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan stated there are no scheduled public comments. He reminded everyone that a written request must be received by the City Clerk by Wednesday before the meeting date. He stated there is a public speaking comment section after each agenda item.

Mayor Sullivan presented a resolution authorizing the change order for Sam Gaines Construction, Inc. for the Route M/Henry Clay Blvd. roundabout. Alderwoman Old made motion and seconded by Alderman Slinker to take up for consideration the resolution authorizing the change order for Sam Gaines Construction, Inc. for the Route M/Henry Clay Blvd. roundabout. Mayor Sullivan called for the staff report. Lelande Rehard, Assistant City Administrator informed the Board this is for the roundabout overruns and underruns and is the first change order in the amount of \$53,148.06. He stated this is a 50/50 split with MoDot but does not include overruns. He stated that is all on the City of Ashland per our agreement with MoDot. He stated there was base issues and was very soupy. He stated they figured it would settle overtime if we did not correct this at this stage. He stated they went back and forth with the contractor and MoDot on recommendations and they settled for shock rock and geo tech material. He highlighted some of the overruns of trenching and underruns of temporary pavement not being needed. He stated they are expecting to see base issues on the South side of the Henry Clay Blvd. and Broadway roundabout as well. He stated that River Region Credit Union is building a large and complex project at this corner as well. Mayor Sullivan highlighted some changes River Region project is going to build their own entrance. He stated they are also using gravel instead of pavement that makes the cost cheaper. Mayor Sullivan said as a side note is the conduit for the electric and meter going in the center or where. Lelande Rehard stated he was not sure where that would be but he would follow up on it. Mayor Sullivan called for comments from the public. Mayor Sullivan called for questions or comments from the Board. Alderman Volkart asked if this is authorizing a check payment right now in this amount. Lelande Rehard stated this is the invoice for this work. Alderman Volkart expressed concern of this being the low bid and at the end it being a lot larger. He expressed concern of the time it took to get half the roundabout constructed and figures the other half

will take just as long. He asked about the cost ramification. Lelande Rehard stated they are working four 10 hour shifts. Alderman Volkart questioned why there was not two crews on this size of project. Lelande Rehard stated not meeting the deadline has nothing to do with the overrun it was utility companies not getting utilities moved and weather related issues. Alderman Volkart stated they should have started in May not June 4<sup>th</sup>. Lelande Rehard stated this is cost split program with all overruns on the City of Ashland per the agreement. Mayor Sullivan stated he would like a response from the contractor on where they think they are and what the financial penalty would be. Lelande Rehard stated they are trying to avoid the penalty. Mayor Sullivan stated there was some conversation on the Collins retaining wall and they needed the answer right a way. Nathan Nickolaus, City Attorney explained the Payment Act stated all invoices have to be paid within 30 days. He stated that normally 5 or 10 percent holdings usually happens and the liquated damages is a per day fee. Alderman Slinker questioned if we are paying for the Collins concrete retaining wall. Lelande Rehard, Assistant City Administrator stated part will be on us and the design engineer firm for the stairs being missed and should have been in original design. Alderman Slinker stated if it took 4 months to do half why they did they not close round about area completely and get it done quicker. Lelande Rehard stated this is a MoDot road and they wanted to keep Route M open both ways. Mayor Sullivan stated this is a MoDot highway and they have the say on the traffic and how they want to keep the roadway open. Lelande Rehard stated the project is managed and inspected by MoDot. Nathan Nickolaus, City Attorney stated this is to not exceed change order. The Board continued to discuss the overruns, retainage and penalty on this project. Lelande Rehard stated we do get bills from MoDot on this monthly. He stated a 10 percent retainage is taken out. It was reported that the overruns are approved by the City Administrator. He stated we do not make direct payments to Sam Gaines, LLC just to MoDot. Lelande Rehard stated this amount will be tacked on to an invoice. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderwoman Selby-aye, Alderman Slinker-aye, Alderwoman Bell-absent. Motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan presented a resolution dissolving the Broadway Beautification Task Force. Alderman Slinker made motion and seconded by Alderman Lewis to take up for consideration the resolution dissolving the Broadway Beautification Task Force. Mayor Sullivan called for the staff report. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator stated the Broadway Beautification Task Force was established about two years ago and was basically to recommend a strategy for improvements to the downtown area of Ashland. He stated the first year they talked about boundaries and what it means it to the downtown development. He stated with the recent formation of the Downtown Ashland Betterment Coalition (nonprofit corporation) this Task Force is no longer needed. He stated we are in the process of the initial slate of Board members to serve on this new non-profit is almost complete and initial Board member training has been completed. He stated the Missouri Main Street is a grant program that asset small towns and helps them revitalize downtowns. He stated we received a \$30,000.00 grant with a 60/40 cost share. He stated he has been working under the leadership of Ben White and the next steps is where we go to make improvements, recommendation nonprofit organization- and hire a part time director. He stated they are working on the policy and procedure manual and electing officers soon. He stated at the next Board meeting he would present the members. He stated the Broadway Task Force is not needed right now and he recommended we dissolve this Board. He thanked the members for all the hours they have put in. Mayor Sullivan called for comments from the public. Mayor Sullivan called for questions or comments from the Board. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Slinker-aye, Alderwoman Selby-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Volkart-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderwoman Bell-absent. Motion carried.

#### Mayors Report:

Mayor Sullivan stated there is grass exceeding the height on Broadway businesses. He asked if we were working on the ordinance relating to the chicken coop and yard size that Alderwoman Old brought up. Lelande Rehard stated they are reviewing backyard chicken ordinances from other cities and trying to see what would work best for Ashland. Mayor Sullivan asked the Board if they wished to change the code and asked for direction. Alderwoman Old stated she would like to see them lessen the rules in the code. It was

discussed the newer homes have smaller yards making it difficult to abide by our code. Alderman Volkart stated he would prefer we change the code not just by neighborhood. Mayor Sullivan stated five chickens does not require a large coop. Dan Vandevoorde, Building Inspector stated there is nothing in the code about the size of the coop only the distance from the neighbor. He suggested reducing the distance from the neighbor dwelling or so many feet off the property line. Alderman Volkart questioned the aesthetics of the coop. He stated there are homeowner association and covenants in some neighborhoods. The Board discussed this and asked Lelande Rehard, Assistant City Administrator and Dan Vandevoorde to present a code revision to the Board.

#### City Administrator's Report:

Lelande Rehard, Assistant City Administrator reported the new City Hall renovation is moving forward and they are ready to install the sheet rock. He stated we will be moving forward with the new software this winter in the utility billing, accounting and building permits. He stated the mill and overlay has been bid out and the work should begin in October. He reported the Public Works Department is attending a conference this week. He stated we have selected the engineering firm on the water main replacement. He stated this is the last large water improvement and hopes to get that moved forward in the spring of 2022. He stated that will help take care of the dead-end water lines. He gave an update on the Inflow and Infiltration Study. He stated they are going to focus on the northwest regional sewer study and work on cost sharing with developers. He stated he hopes this will help guide us in future growth.

#### Tony St. Romaine

He reported a meeting with NextSite will be held on October 14, 2021. He stated on October 26 the MU extension is hosting a small conference on Ranken and Governor Parson will be in attendance. He stated the City will share the things they have done on this project with other communities. He stated this is really cool for Ashland.

#### City Attorney's Report:

Nathan Nickolaus, City Attorney had no report.

#### Police Chief's Monthly Report

Chief Edwards stated they have sold another car and if they sell anymore they have to get a dealer's license. He stated they have been able to accomplish some traffic studies with the new traffic counter the Board approved last month. Alderman Slinker questioned the speeding on Martha Crump Drive. Chief Edwards stated there is a list where they are going to do the traffic studies but are starting in the heavy traveled roads. He stated each traffic study takes about seven days. Alderman Volkart asked if there was any further communication on the traffic barrier for the right turn out of BreakTime. Chief Edwards stated he has not talked with Tony or Lelande on who was going to send the letter requesting this. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator stated he would send the letter. Alderman Volkart reported a near miss at this intersection and something serious is going to happen with the illegal turns. Chief Edwards reported some of the traffic studies are not showing the speeding as citizens are saying that is happening. Chief Edwards stated he will start sending the traffic studies to the Aldermen in that Ward.

#### Board of Aldermen's Reports:

Alderman Slinker stated he was following up on the speed limit sign on Jameson Drive. He stated he did not know why there were no signs in Sunset Meadows. He questioned the speed limit on West Broadway from 35 to 55 and Liberty Lane coming into Ashland is 45. It was reported Broadway is a MoDot road and they decide. Lelande Rehard stated we could change Liberty Lane since it will be a City maintained roadway.

Alderman Slinker asked for the Board and Police Department join them in the Halloween “Spooktacular” Event at the Optimist Club. He reminded the Board of the Donkey races on October 16, 2021. He stated the “spooktacular event” will be held outside depending on the weather.

Alderwoman Selby stated she has heard a couple of comments on the Police Department sitting on the highway early in the morning. She asked why the city streets versus the Highway gets the radar. Chief Edwards discussed this.

Alderman Lewis questioned if the sale of the Police Station is on track. Mayor Sullivan stated he felt that everything was on track.

Alderman Volkart had nothing to report.

Alderwoman Old reported she and Alderwoman Bell attended a MML conference and she wanted to highlight a couple of things she learned. She stated one session was user center zoning. She stated she has a lot to learn in this area. She stated the City of Warsaw has a very user friendly spread sheets and cross referencing. She stated they are going to send her a sample of theirs. She stated this makes it easier to look up codes. She stated they had a session on electric vehicles and the effect it has on the grid. She stated when she has time she will share her notes. She stated that Stephanie Bell has offered to host a regional meeting in Ashland sometime in January and she will work on the details with the Board on this.

Mayor Sullivan called for additional comments from the public, board or staff.

Mike Frese stated he drives all over mid Missouri on Highway 54 and Highway 63 and Ashland Police Department is the only local police department that patrols Highway 63. He stated people do not drive any slower or faster in these areas that is currently being done on Highway 63. He stated he would like to see the Officers driving up and down on our city streets instead of the Highway. He stated Liberty Lane by the school traffic is horrible and speed limit needs to be reduced there.

Mayor Sullivan questioned where Highway 63 meets Martin Lane by the Baptist Home and the New Salem cemetery if that is City or what. Tony St Romaine, City Administrator stated that MoDot is doing the renovation and per the agreement it will revert back to the City of Ashland once completed.

Alderwoman Old stated she was approached by some people at the MML Conference that knew what the franchise was going into the Police Station lot. She asked why we don’t announce this.

Mayor Sullivan stated they have been very transparent. Everyone is encouraged to attend meeting via zoom or in person when we have that available. He stated previous minutes and information is the packet. He stated they have been very open. He stated the MoDot roundabout project agreement was in a Board packet and states all this information for the public. (response from Facebook comments and questions)

Mayor Sullivan called for the vote to adjourn. Alderman Lewis made motion and seconded by Alderman Volkart to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Motion carried.

Darla Sapp, City Clerk

Richard Sullivan, Mayor