

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Rhorer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 16, 2020 at 5275 W Red Tail Drive, Ashland, Mo.

Mayor Rhorer called the roll:

Ward One: Leslie Martin-here, Danny Clay-here
Ward Two: Jesse Bronson-here, Richard Sullivan-here
Ward Three: Rick Lewis-here, Jeff Sapp-here

Staff Present: Darla Sapp, City Clerk, Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator and James Creel, Public Works Director (via-zoom).

Mayor Rhorer presented the minutes of June 02, 2020 Board meeting for consideration. Alderman Clay made motion and seconded by Alderman Lewis to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Rhorer called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Rhorer presented the agenda of June 16, 2020 for approval and adjustment including consent agenda. Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderman Clay to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Rhorer called for the vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Rhorer presented a resolution declaring the results of the General Election held in the City of Ashland. Alderman Sapp made motion and seconded by Alderman Clay to consider the resolution declaring the results of the General Election. Mayor Rhorer called for the vote. Alderman Clay-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Sullivan-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Rhorer called for comments by outgoing Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Clay stated he has served the city for five years and he loves this town and it was a pleasure. He thanked the citizens for their support.

Mayor Rhorer thanked the city staff and Board. He stated they have made a lot of progress and it has not always been easy.

The City Clerk swore into office the following:

Richard Sullivan, Mayor, Bryan Bradford, Ward One, Melissa Old, Ward Two and Rick Lewis, Ward Three.

The Board took their seat at the table.

Mayor Sullivan presented Alderman Clay and Mayor Rhorer service awards and thanked them for their service to the City of Ashland.

Mayor Sullivan thanked the community for allowing him to serve the last two years and stated he plans to continue to move forward. He stated there would be some changes to the meeting process to hopefully make it flow better. He stated the public speaking will be at the end of the meeting but we would allow

public speaking prior to voting on each Council Bill and ordinances. He stated these changes would take place the next couple of meetings. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator stated the agenda change will require a written form to be submitted the Wednesday prior to a meeting if someone wishes to speak on an item not listed on the agenda. He stated they would allow the public to speak 3 minutes or 5 minutes for organizations on ordinances or council bills. He stated this change would take place the first meeting in July.

Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded Alderman Lewis to go into closed session pursuant to closed executive session pursuant to Chapter 610.021 (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderman Lewis to go back in open session. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Sapp thanked the citizens for being patient and continuing to wait while they were in closed session.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Derrick Schooler to the Broadway Beautification Task Force. He asked the Board to confirm the appointment of Derrick Schooler to the Broadway Beautification Task Force. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Chad Martin, Emergency Management. He asked the Board to confirm the appointment of Chad Martin to the Emergency Management Director. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator stated we need to formally approve Chad Martin as Ashland Emergency Management Director. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderwoman Martin-abstained.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Elisabeth Sobczak to the Parks and Recreation Board. He asked the Board to confirm the appointment of Elisabeth Sobczak. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye.

Mayor Sullivan welcomed the new members and thanked them for investing in our community.

Mayor Sullivan asked if anyone wished to appear before the Board to state their name and place of residence on any topic. He reported that Lyn Woolford has asked to speak tonight. He asked if any citizens present wanted to address the Board on other matters.

Travis Lasater of 605 Caspian Circle asked the Board to consider a leak adjustment of his mother's utility bill. He stated there was a leak under the house and her bill was \$3,500. He stated the water did not go through the sewer. Mayor Sullivan stated he talked with Mr. Lasater outside in the foyer prior to the meeting and our current ordinance does not allow for adjustments. Mayor Sullivan stated he would follow up on this.

Lyn Woolford stated he was here before the Board to say his piece before the appointments or reappointments are made tonight. He stated he has been a police officer for 40 years. He stated he has been the Police Chief since 2013 and he had built a competent police department that protects and serves and

has the confidence of the community. He stated he did not want to file suit, but, he loves his job and is willing to fight for his job and his reputation. He stated in February he was verbally placed on administrative leave. He stated he was accused of mishandling paperwork related to a police internal affairs investigation. He stated the acquisitions made again him are untrue. He stated he has covered up nothing. He stated he provided city custodian of personnel records the appropriate documents per the Board approved Police Department and City Personnel Policy manual. He stated it has been the long standing policy here in Ashland to keep police disciplinary investigation files separate from the city employment files. He stated that is the practice in Jefferson City, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, Moberly Police and every other government entity he is aware of. He stated there was no cover up. Lyn Woolford stated he wanted to continue to be the City's Police Chief and hoped they would reappoint him.

Mayor Sullivan presented Ordinance No. 1303 for consideration. Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderman Lewis to amend Chapter 20, Traffic Code, Section 20.040, City Traffic Engineer of the City of Ashland. Mayor Sullivan called for questions or comments. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator explained the change in front of them tonight was to appoint the Chief of Police or other City Official designated by the City Administrator to serve as City Traffic Engineer. He stated signs would be posted creating a no parking zone adjacent on each side of the existing speed bump on Red Tail Drive. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Sapp suggested they look at the zoom and make sure no else was wishing to speak that might of gotten overlooked initially.

Mayor Sullivan stated that Jeff Kays, City Attorney would read the ordinance relating to each appointment. He stated he would ask for confirmation then a vote pertaining to the appointments.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Leslie Martin as Mayor Pro-tem with the confirmation of the Board. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Melissa Old as Alderman Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board with the confirmation from the Board. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-nay, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Jeff Sapp as Alderman Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Jeff Kays, City Attorney read section 2.300, relating to the appointment of City Attorney.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Jeff Kays as City Attorney and called for confirmation. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye Alderwoman Martin-aye.

Jeff Kays, City Attorney read section 2.305, relating to the appointment of City Prosecutor.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Jeff Kays as City Prosecutor and called for confirmation. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Jeff Kays, City Attorney read section 2.315, relating to the appointment of City Clerk.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Darla Sapp as City Clerk and called for confirmation. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Jeff Kays, City Attorney read section 2.320, relating to the appointment of Deputy City Clerk & 2.325 City Treasurer.

Mayor Sullivan presented the appointment of Jon Sanders as Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer and called for confirmation. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye.

Jeff Kays, City Attorney read section 2.310, relating to the appointment of Police Chief.

Mayor Sullivan recommended Gabe Edwards to serve as Police Chief. Mayor Sullivan stated this is a 10-month appointment since this is the first business meeting following the election. He stated there is one condition that if Gabe Edwards is not reappointed then he goes back to Sgt. at the current rate of pay. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye.

Mayor Sullivan presented a Resolution authorizing the City Administrator to issue a purchase order as the official contract for installation of fencing at the new recycling lot to Robinson Fence Company. Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderman Sapp to approve the resolution. Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator reported they put the fencing out for bid and we received one bid and he asked for authorization to proceed. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderwoman Martin-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bradford-aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Sullivan presented a Resolution accepting the contract between the City of Ashland and Robert Blake Hurdle for Lots 23 & 24 of Eagle Lakes Plat One (1). Alderman Bronson made motion and seconded by Alderwoman Martin to approve the resolution. Tony St. Romaine reported we have four lots listed with South County Realty and have received interest in the two lots on Falcon Court and he has been negotiating three different counter offers. He stated the issue is one lot is unbuildable due to a storm water easement that goes between the two lots. He stated this is contingent upon a qualified engineering firm-one house on that lot-enter into contract with contingency on the sale include a stormwater easement being relocated and replat to show a combined building lot. These expenses will be borne by the development. Alderman Sapp questioned if the engineering fees to see if the sewer easement could be relocated are being paid by the buyer. Tony St. Romaine stated they would be. Mayor Sullivan stated this should be looked at closely as he believes it is connected to Renee Drive. Mayor Sullivan called for the vote. Alderman Bradford-aye, Alderwoman Old-aye, Alderman Bronson-aye, Alderman Lewis-aye, Alderman Sapp-aye, Alderwoman Martin-aye. Motion carried.

Tony St. Romaine reported the new change on the Council Bills would not require any action taken. He stated this is the introduction to make the Board and citizens aware of it. He stated the City Clerk would read both.

The City Clerk read Council Bill No. 2020-024 n ordinance approving the final plat for Turner Valley Estates Plat 2. First Reading by title only.

The City Clerk read Council Bill No. 2020-025, an ordinance approving the final plat for Middleton Crossing Plat 5. First reading by title only.

Mayor Sullivan asked for questions or comments. Alderman Lewis discussed flooding issues in the Middleton Crossing area and felt this needed to be looked at since there are issues.

Alderman Sapp reported at the Planning and Zoning Commission a turn around at the end of Norma Lane would be needed. He stated this was recommended for approval with a condition a variance waiver from the Board of Adjustment is granted and waiting fire department approval.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Sullivan stated he looks forward to serving for the next 22 months and working with the Boards and staff. He stated in the next weeks he would be working with the Optimist Club on the swimming pool. He stated they are looking at a \$10,000 shortfall in expenses due to the Covid-19. He stated we have a working history that the City helps offset of expenses. He stated he would be appointing a committee that will consist of the representative from the Park Board, Optimist Club and community members to work together and present a report on the community needs, longevity of the current pool and the future reference the swimming pool.

City Administrator's Report:

Tony St. Romaine, City Administrator, gave an overview of his report and explained how to read it. He updated the Board on the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing on the comprehensive plan being scheduled for July 8th. He stated the covid pandemic has slowed this process down. He stated a final draft would be sent out. He updated the Board on the Broadway Beautification Committee and the submission of the grant application with Missouri Main Street. He stated we are waiting on approval to apply. He informed them the East Ashland Plaza round a bout was started and all but three lots have been sold. He stated they should start to see site plans once the round a bout is completed. He stated they are working with the optimist pool on the existing contract we have with them. Tony St. Romaine reported we have Plan review/building inspector in this fiscal year budget and Assistant City Administrator and we would be seeking applications. He informed the Board the sales tax has not been impacted. He stated they are working on the request for qualifications on the engineering assistance grant for stormwater. Tony St. Romaine gave an overview of the waste water treatment plant and doing a ribbon cutting in July. He stated the website is moving forward. He informed the Board the Request for proposals for code revisions for Chapter 9, 10, 11 and 12 would be sent out soon. He stated these chapters our outdated and conflicting. The pocket park we did the first reading on the replat tonight. He stated we would be implementing a new board agenda by next meeting.

City Attorney's Report:

Jeff Kays thanks for appointment look forward to working with Bryan Bradford and Melissa Old.

Public Works Director's Monthly report

James Creel stated they are currently steadily working on street repairs. He gave an overview of the roads they have scheduled. Informed the Board he is working with capital paving since they have cooperative agreement with Boone County. He stated they are continuing routine maintenance at the park. Stated he is looking at grant through DNR for rubber mulching. He stated they are still working on the tennis court grant and need to offer tennis clinic and the YMCA has expressed interest in doing this. He stated the little league baseball has been cancelled for this year but they are still trying to maintain the ballfield. He stated they compacted concrete millings and placed in the dug outs. He stated the recycling lot has the dirt work and concrete work and they are waiting on the fence installation and cameras to be installed. He stated this should be completed within 36 days. He stated the new recycling lot should be completed by late July.

He gave an overview of the Sarah Drive bridge replacement project. He stated South Main Street would be closed due to an electric bore for a couple of days.

Board of Aldermen's Reports:

Alderwoman Martin stated she abstained from the vote on Chad Martin since he is her brother in law and it would be a conflict of interest.

Alderwoman Old stated that she is happy to work with all of Board.

Alderman Bradford thanked everyone for voting and he stated he looks forward to serving.

Alderman Bronson stated he reported he would resign the meeting after the election. He stated they have grown a lot and have gotten a lot accomplished.

Mayor Sullivan presented Alderman Bronson a service award.

Mayor Sullivan thanked the public for coming out and apologized for the long meeting.

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

Darla Sapp, City Clerk

Richard Sullivan, Mayor