

Board of Alderman Minutes
81 S. Orchard Blvd.
February 13, 2024
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OPEN MEETING

Sheriff Arnott welcomes everyone. Goes over a few rules, while in session, no talking or outburst. If there is you will be escorted out, if you refuse then you will be arrested. If more people want to come in. Please allow them to sit.

Roll Call taken by Mayor Stephen Short
Sherry Veach PRESENT, Leon Beaty PRESENT, Ben Lord PRESENT, Jeffrey Danderson PRESENT, Richard Icenhower PRESENT, Dennis Roe PRESENT

Call to order at: 6:31 p.m.

Approve Agenda. Motion by Veach to approve agenda. Seconded by Roe
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

Public Forum

Mayor explains that each person has 3 minutes. Asks when they come to the podium to give name and address.

Ben McMains 322 E. Caddo I want to know where we are with the police department. Arnott was brought in to fix this police department and has done nothing but decimate this police department. There is no one here anymore so why do we have him here? I have heard that there are candidates for the police department and chief. I have seen an ungodly amount of county deputies out here which I appreciate but would like to see city officers here instead. The city is broken. What are your plans to fix the damaged city. I want those questions answered. Those are my concerns as a citizen of Fair Grove. Any feedback? Are we here to talk for 3 minutes and get no response? We can ask questions but get no answers.

Mayor reads statement from former Chief Enderle. (Statement attached)

Brady Dickes 27 W. Draper Not buying into rumors or small-town politics. Actual facts we lost 3 police chiefs since 2020. That's not normal. Under this administration, this is the result we have. Under you, Mayor Short, this is on you. We can't go into personnel matters, and I don't understand why. I would like to give you the opportunity to express that tonight.

Bob Jeffrey 4412 E. Shelby Road. Works for a multi-billion-dollar company and has for 30 years. I have learned perception. I get rumors. I got these records from Sara and there have been 26 closed sessions since 2020. Maybe Ben did something wrong or maybe she did something wrong. I don't know. We see tidbits that pertain to closed sessions. A lot of these are redacted. You don't have to redact the whole thing, redact the names. It is disheartening to see this nonsense going on and only have part of the story. Anyone sitting here is part of the nonsense going on. They have the right to vote, and I encourage that. I served for that right. It's time to tell the truth. Perception plays a lot in this and tonight I found that out.

Ted Wolf – 70 W. Draper Went back through meeting minutes, for the last 8 months. I don't remember which month, but there was discussion about how and where the police should patrol.

That seems like it should be for the police chief to decide. Twice the police department has walked out. You're either trying to micromanage and they're leaving because of it, or you're not hiring good people. Either way, it's your fault. You people are failing. FIX IT.

Tim Cooke 209 S. Meadowlark St. – My family has lived in Fair Grove for 8 years. As a family that has called Fair Grove home for decades, it is important to be a part of the community. Your community is hurting right now, and the community feels that the board has done Ben wrong. You have stripped one of our beloved members of his job and brought about psychological damage onto our children as well. I not only blame the aldermen, but I believe that Arnott owes us an apology as well. Share with your community how you plan to restore faith. Why citizens should be able to sleep easy tonight. All of you were voted to sit at this table by these people, they didn't just vote for you, they hired you. Start working for them, please.

Becki Carr 325 E Willow By state statute and city ordinance, you are required to keep minutes only if you keep the voting record. The Mayor just told someone you don't keep minutes of closed session meetings and why are you not keeping minutes in a closed-door session. My next statement is, since questions aren't being answered. In the course of 10 days 458 people that voted for you have signed a petition to get this man back to work. 200 students walked out. Everyone has selfishly sat up here and did what they wanted, NOT what their community wanted.

Thomas Voorhis 28 E. Overbrook Ct. I have been here for 8 years and lived in the city for 5. Haven't been up here as often as I should. My kids are wondering where the officers are since Arnott has taken over. The Officers come by my neighborhood. Doesn't have any officers coming through but have only had 2. Eddie Castleberry being one that leaves at 5:00. We can't even keep a police force on duty to work here. We are showing the kids that nobody cares about the police department. 2 years, 2 police departments. Jim Arnott took the liberty of pointing out that I didn't work out at Greene County on Facebook. We need to reinstate Ben back to the school. The kids want him back. The county is busy. Jim, thank you for your 38 years of service, but Greene County is too busy to handle Fair Grove. You need to take the time and put our law enforcement back together. The money that we are wasting training individuals is wasteful. Three police chiefs in 4 years is uncalled for. We need to make better decisions. I voted for everyone up here. High School students walked out today. How does that look as a community. I don't care if it was at lunch. They need to be up there learning and not walking out because you failed them.

Old Business

New Business

BILL NO. 24-02 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE, MISSOURI TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE AND THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS THROUGH TAP FUNDS FOR THE AWARD YEAR 2024. (Posted 2-2-24)

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Motion by Danderson to have the first reading of Bill No. 24-02 by title only. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

MAYOR READ BILL 24-01 BY TITLE ONLY.

Motion by Danderson to approve the first reading of Bill No. 24-02. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

ACCEPT TONIA VICKERY'S RESIGNATION FROM PARK BOARD

Motion by Roe to accept Tonia Vickery's resignation from the Park Board. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

ACCEPT STACEY MCCORMICK'S RESIGNATION FROM PARK BOARD

Motion by Roe to accept Stacey McCormick's resignation from the Park Board. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PARK BOARD APPOINTMENT

MAYOR RECOMMENDS JESSICA CRIM TO PARK BOARD FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06/2026

Motion by Beaty to approve Mayor's recommendation to appoint Jessica Crim to the Park Board for a term to expire 06/2026. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

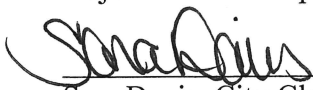
Mayor Report

Icenhower says that Mayor might tell audience what those sidewalks are about. Roe says that Phase I is putting a sidewalk along Old Mill Road, which that is out for bids in the Buffalo Reflex. Phase II is putting a sidewalk on South Main from Maple Street to Saddle Club and that is to get it closer to the Meadow Woods subdivision. We have a Phase III that is coming that will take it all the way to Meadow Woods and Waterfield subdivision. Also on this TAP grant that is included in Phase II includes a sidewalk on Orchard from City Hall to the Senior Center and Phase I has a sidewalk from Old Mill to Kum and Go. So you will see a lot a sidewalk projects in the next two years.

Adjournment

Motion by Danderson to Adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Second Veach
Veach AYE, Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Danderson AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Sara Davis, City Clerk