

Board of Alderman Minutes
81 S. Orchard Blvd.
April 23, 2024
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OPEN MEETING

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

Call to order at: 6:30 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA. Motion by Veach to approve agenda. Second Roe
Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE, Danderson AYE, Roe AYE

ELECTION

Mayor Short reads certified election results.

Old Business

Dennis Roe – On behalf of the Board of Aldermen, we would like to thank Mayor Steve Short for his community service to the City of Fair Grove including his time served as Alderman in previous years. Steve, we wish you the best in the years to come. You can now ask for Adjournment of your last meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Roe to Adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Seconded by Veach
Beaty AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE, Danderson AYE, Roe AYE

OATH OF OFFICE MAYOR VOORHIS

OATH OF OFFICE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

OPEN MEETING

Roll Call taken by Mayor Thomas Voorhis
Richard Icenhower PRESENT, Dennis Roe PRESENT, Jeffrey Danderson PRESENT, Ben Lord
PRESENT, Sherry Veach PRESENT, Mark Stewart PRESENT

Call to order at 6:30 p.m.

Select Board President

Motion by Veach to select Dennis Roe as board president. Second Icenhower
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Select Board Secretary

Motion by Icenhower to select Sherry Veach as board secretary. Second Roe
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Select check signers for all city accounts.

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Motion by Danderson to assign Icenhower, Roe, Voorhis, and Lord as check signers and remove Stephen Short and Leon Beaty for all city accounts. Seconded by Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Select O'Bannon Bank online authorizers.

Motion by Danderson to assign Sara Davis, Chandra Noteware and Larry Brown and remove Stephen Short as O'Bannon Bank online authorizers. Second Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Select safety deposit box signers.

Motion by Danderson to assign Central Bank safety deposit box signers as Icenhower, Roe and Lord and remove Beaty. Second Veach
Stewart AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Icenhower AYE, Danderson AYE, Roe AYE

Board Committee's.

Voorhis after some discussion decided to keep the way it is remove Beaty and replace Stewart. Motion by Danderson to approve Board Committees as stated and attached to minutes. Second Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

PUBLIC FORUM (Agenda Items Only)

New Business

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PAYMENT OF LAFOLLETTE INVOICE

Roe found out about this through Sara. What happened was Total Highspeed, when they buried a cable, they cut through a sewer line. It has happened in the past and they have always paid the bill but aren't this time. They did the work and asks Board to authorize payment. We can collect the money from Total Highspeed later.

Motion by Icenhower to approve payment of LaFollette Invoice # 6700 in the amount of \$2,450. Second Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE BIDS FOR TAP SIDEWALK PROJECT

Danderson put this on the agenda. His understanding that from talking to the engineer they were considering rebidding project. Spent several phone calls with Andy. This originally was going to cost the city \$55,000 to have done in 2021. April 2022 we got the grant Over time, price increased about \$40,000. After talking to engineer, we will get same bidders and could be higher. We have money in capital improvements. Suggests board approve bid. Afraid if we don't start the Phase One, we won't do two or three. Board members aware of money. Worse case would be \$97,000 out of the cities pocket.

Roe represents Ward II. Gets requests every year for sidewalks to park. That is Phase II and Phase III and says Ward II definitely supports that. Icenhower, if we let the grant go, we lose them all. This bid came in higher. MoDot still putting same amount of money in.

Motion by Danderson to approve bid by Emerson Sapp in the amount of \$171,076.06. Second Icenhower
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Business Meeting

SEWER AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Hokanson - Time to get mower out. Got sand filter fixed. Had electricians out and got it up and going. Needs a motor and gear box for the other sand filter. Fluid Equipment helping to get the parts needed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Motion by Icenhower to approve the financial statement as submitted. Seconded by Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

PARK BOARD

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lord – General update on grant. Thanks Kris and Mark. He has asked a lot from them. They put some hours in, especially Mark. The grant right now is payroll only. It's a little over \$4,000. They have tried to submit all expenses and been asked to stop trying. Failed to submit quarter one, SEMA says we didn't, Kris says she submitted it. Not sure where the truth lies. Got \$0.00 for quarter one. For Quarter 2 Mark went as far back as we could, got half of October and the rest of Quarter 2. Got all for Quarter 3 and expects to get all of Quarter 4. He takes responsibility for this. Only submitting payroll.

Sirens – Bone out there for a few hours today. Everything was good. Was a siren on Delania stuck from wind and two others with insect problems. No expenses related to sirens right now but in the coming years, we will have. Battery will need to be replaced on one.

Storm – April 1st. Kris and Mark did an outstanding job. Mark worked with school to text everyone about FEMA building. Kris was all over social media. 300-400 people there. Good communication went well.

Training – Mark has completed 100%. Kris has two training courses left to complete by July. Heard Mark will have to step down as assistant. Lord asks attorney about Mark having to step down.

We are in compliance with the grant. On track. Just \$4000 this year and that's all we can get.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Howell – Conducted some interviews, about 5 in the last week. Only has one good candidate. Asks board to revisit the pay to get it passed tonight so we can get some qualified candidates. Icenhower says that they all had a chance to look at it. The reserve Sgt pay should be \$23.50. Icenhower asks if we are changing the Sgt pay too which will be \$25.50, and officers will be \$23. Pin Day, Up 2% every 2 years, \$0.50 shift differential. Voorhis asks what we are currently at. Chief says \$21 for officer and \$23.50 for Sgt is the current rate.

Motion by Icenhower to approve Chief's recommendation on police pay and incentives.
Seconded by Veach.
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Danderson isn't sure about the 2%. Is it something they will get above and beyond what the board gives them. Chief says that is longevity pay. Danderson has no problem with the pay raise and thinks the 2% should be a budget item.

Lord asks for Chief to read what the pay increase is. Danderson says they have been increased substantially since 2020. Danderson doesn't see this board not giving raises on a yearly basis. Guesses we raised it \$7 to \$8. Chief says a lot of departments have \$400 for insurance, we have \$900, We are trying to get people who have families.

Danderson says that this happened before. They had a pay scale and so much per year. When boards changed, that went away. At budget meetings they weren't adhering to their own scale and it was over. Unless you have the same people sitting here the whole time.

Lord says these officers will sign a compensation agreement.

Danderson says any board can get rid of whatever they want. Roe says that pay increase was taken away from them. Danderson has the most knowledge about our budget. Roe agrees with Danderson about another board undoing what they have done.

Icenhower says the 2% doesn't scare him. In June when the budget is set, instead of giving a large raise just give them a smaller raise and just expect 2%. Lord says it's an incentive to retain officers.

Stewart asks if everyone makes the same. Its step pay, it's longevity. If you decide to give a raise, it doesn't give more to the person who has been here the longest. This separates them and makes them want to stay. Chief appreciates Danderson's point of view. Chief says we have no one.

Stewart asks to see proposal. Chief explains it to him. Take home cars part of it. Pin day, bump in pay, shift differential (you miss a lot of stuff working nights)

Danderson asks if they will rotate. They will not. Will have day shift and night shift by seniority.

Stewart asks if it will help us recruit more people. Chief says that it will.

Icenhower says it will not be a problem this year. Danderson says there isn't much money in the general fund. Last he knew was \$59,000. All these figures you see on this form, that's what is the general fund. We can shift money from capital improvements but general has to pay it back. We aren't coming in loaded to this budget.

Chief says that that some of the issues of the cars. Someone blatantly removed SD cards out of the cars. They have video on them. No one should have had access to them. He found one in his office but has not been able to look at it. Someone yanked a cable out of the camera on the car. He is the only person to have access to the cameras. The proposal to fix our cameras and storage issues. No ability to store videos and separate police from city network. Rough estimates is \$16,000.

Danderson asks if they are different numbers. Chief says that he needs all three of those things approved.

Icenhower asks if he found the radio.

Danderson asks if this is our computer company. Previous officers was storing evidence files on their laptops. That cannot be done and should never be done. He has found some things that should have never been done. Some people should have had some severe consequences. The mapping system on the MDT's were removed. The MDTs get CAD by Greene County. It's what they look at for their calls. The mapping system is also installed. It shows where your calls are. The computers were left open and everyone had access to it. Every single MDT except the Chief's had the mapping systems removed. He can look at that mapping system and see where the officers made stops at. With that deleted, you can't even see that there was a stop. We have Child Advocacy items on the MDT's. That is evidence, and anyone can access them at this point. Not in a special file. He has found a lot of things around here. Was one gun short and by afternoon he was one gun long. Found the lost gun and it will be returned. The last inventory for the department was done in 2020 2021. Everyday it's an easter egg hunt about what he will find out today.

Ault asks if it's a normal gun or a different gun. When she was on the board, something similar happened. No accountability for guns since county came in before. Still working on the weapons. Had one missing out of evidence at one point and has not accounted for it yet. Will do his best to find it. People who were in place here and the things that have happened. Would like to fix the problems in our cars.

There are mounts for Ford's and they need special mounts for the system to work. Will give us 8TB of storage. 100,000 books = 1TB. Will give time to review and delete what we can in a state statute compliance manner. Locking computer up. The computer was stored in the officers room. Anyone could get on it and manipulate those files and delete anything. Hopes that no one would do anything nefarious. Icenhower says that we had one deleted that they know of.

Danderson asks if it's a proprietary bid. Chief says yes. You can't get this done anywhere else.

Chief says that Provision has the equipment and NRoute will help Altec out.

Lord says that we know there are problems and the Chief is trying to fix these problems. You have interviews with kids and body cam that anyone has access to. The SD cards allow them to record traffic stops. We are behind the times and we are playing catch up and it's expensive. Knows PD is spending money on vehicles and equipment and salaries. We aren't looking for a blank check.

Danderson wants to make it clear that this is not the first time that the board has seen this bid.

Motion by Danderson to approve patrol car upgrade, camera bids, to Altec in the amount of \$15,573.99 Seconded by Icenhower

Icenhower AYE, Roe, AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Still looking at some grants. Chief hands out papers to board. Other company did not get the quote. Hoped to have it today. We have a solar radar unit in the city off of Orchard and Main at the school. We had two, a battery operated one and solar one. The solar one outlasted the battery one. We get complaints on certain places in the city. We have put poles up for the portal one. Cottonwood, Willow, Main are our three major complaint areas, Maple is in there and has a different way to handle that. Getting these signs will keep honest people honest. Has a quote from the company that we have one from. Constantly having to change the batteries. Was hoping to have three quotes.

\$11,000
\$9,000

Bids. Hopes to get a grant before they make a decision. Will help reduce speed.

Streets are very narrow, most are 25mph, can't get a cop car turned in someone's driveway to help slow people down. Had handheld radar. No longer functioning. Lasted maybe 12 years. If he can't get a grant, he would like it in the budget.

Yield sign at Main and Orchard would like for it to be a stop sign. People don't stop or yield. Seen a lot of close calls. Danderson says you will have to get with Sara or Chan to get an Ordinance done.

CITY CLERK

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sewer committee report attached.

APPROVE BOARD OF ALDERMAN MINUTES

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Motion by Danderson to approve Board of Alderman Minutes for March 26, 2024, and April 9, 2024. Second Icenhower
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Icenhower to go into Closed Session 610.021 (3) hiring, firing discipling, or promoting particular employees at 7:39 p.m. Second Veach
Icenhower, Roe, Danderson, Lord, Veach, Stewart
ALL AYES

Motion by Danderson to go back to open session at 8:12 p.m. Second Roe
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE

Mayor Report

Alderman and Woman

I come before you today not just as the Mayor of Fair Grove, but as a member of this community just like you, who shares the same hopes and dreams for our town as each one of you. As we gather here today, I am reminded of the challenges we have faced in the past, the disagreements that have divided us, and the missed opportunities to truly unite and move forward together for the Fair Grove Community.

But today, I come before you with a renewed sense of purpose and a humble heart. I believe that as time has passed, we have all grown and learned from our past mistakes. We are now at a crucial juncture where we must set aside our differences and work together for the Fair Grove community.

I acknowledge that I am not a perfect person and have been wrong in the past, and I am willing to accept that. But I also know that true progress and positive change can only come when we, as a board, collectively embrace the idea of working together, setting aside our individual grievances, and focusing on the common good of our community.

The past is behind us, and it is time for us to look towards a brighter future. We have a responsibility to our children, to the families who call Fair Grove home, and to the community we serve to address the issues that have held us back and to strive for a better tomorrow.

As Mayor, I am committed to working collaboratively with each and every one of you. I urge you to join me, to be willing to set aside any personal differences or past disagreement, and to come together for the betterment of Fair Grove.

Let us take this opportunity to move forward, to build a stronger community and to leave a lasting legacy of progress. Together we can make a difference for the community of Fair Grove.

Thank you.

Adjournment

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Motion by Danderson to Adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Veach
Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE, Danderson AYE, Lord AYE, Veach AYE, Stewart AYE



Sara Davis, City Clerk

Sewer Committee Report, April 23, 2024 (Updated)

A by-pass diesel powered pump was rented from March 19 to March 28 for the sludge return station at the WWTP. This was rented from Cogent who we had rented from before. This was done as an emergency decision at a cost of \$2,395.00. A rebuilt Pump from Independent Electric was delivered on March 25 to the WWTP Sludge Return Station and installed on March 28.

Also on March 28 we had 2 people from Fluid Equipment do service work on the Control Panel at Hwy CC lift station and one pump was pulled from the wet well and inspected. The impellor was found worn and the pump was taken back to their KC shop for inspection. They also picked up a second pump from the WWTP which had been pulled out of the Sludge Return Station due to a possible bearing noise. This pump will be torn down for inspection also. Lastly on March 28 Independent Electric picked up the backflow valve from the WWTP Influent Lift Station that had a broken spring to be replaced.

On April 5 a review meeting was held with Jason Roberts from Fluid Equipment, Kenny, Richard and myself. The Homa pump inspected from the Hwy CC wet well had wear on the impellor-believed to be from the heavy grease found in the bottom of the wet well. This pump will be inspected further at the Fluid Equipment KC shop. Jason recommended that we consider using a Fogrod (~\$1200) to replace the transducer that's anchored to the bottom of the wet well. The Fogrod monitor's the waste water level for turning pumps on/off and does a better job than the transducer anchored to the bottom. The Fogrod has to be cleaned weekly-easy to do. City of Nixa uses these in their lift stations. Also Jason recommended adding a flushing valve attached to the bottom of the pumps for Hwy CC Lift Station wet well. When the pump kicks on the flushing valve opens for 20-50 seconds to mix the grease in the wet well before pumping the waste water (~\$2000). We also discussed the failure of the first Homa pump removed from the WWTP-Sludge Return Station, it is likely that some solids were getting over the screens in the Sludge Return Station pit and into the impellor of the pump causing damage. The bearing failure led to the pump electric motor failing by allowing the rotor to come into contact with the windings and shorting the motor out. This pump cannot be repaired. We are still negotiating on how to move forward with this pump replacement.

On April 10, Reeds Plumbing from Springfield brought in a pump truck to the Highway CC lift station and pumped out the overflow tank and cleaned it. Reeds Plumbing is our City plumbing contractor this fiscal year. This invoice was \$2100.00

A meeting was held recently with Representatives from Copperstate Machine and Industrial from Queen Creek, Arizona to review issues that we are having with the bearings/gearbox/electric motor belt drive system on the 2 Rotor shafts in the Oxidation ditch. They also do repair work on Clarifiers. We need to get a bearing replaced on the vertical shaft of one of our Clarifiers. They have done all this type of work for the WWTP in Mt Vernon, MO. We are planning to reach out to some other suppliers next.

Lastly, one of the sand filters at the WWTP has been repaired and is working again.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Roe, Richard Icenhower, Jeff Danderson