

Board of Alderman Minutes
81 S. Orchard Blvd.
February 25, 2025
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Voorhis

OPEN MEETING

Roll Call taken by Mayor Stephen Short

Sherry Veach PRESENT, Mark Stewart PRESENT, Ben Lord ABSENT, Kelly Petty PRESENT,
Richard Icenhower PRESENT, Dennis Roe PRESENT

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

APPROVE AGENDA. Motion by Veach to approve agenda. Second Petty
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

PUBLIC FORUM (Agenda items only)

Unknown Male – Sir, this isn't an agenda item but I wanted to speak during the public forum on
an issue that I don't believe is on the agenda.

Voorhis – No, unfortunately sir. The next meeting is when our public forum is for that.

Unknown Male – Alright, thank you. I would like to leave copies of the 2017 Fair Grove...

Voorhis – I understand, sir.

Unknown Male – Can I just leave it with your clerk?

Davis – Yes.

Voorhis – Yes, you can.

Unknown male – Which is where?

Davis – Right here.

Unknown Male – I read all of the notes from the last 6 months, you do great work.

Davis – Thank you!

Unknown Male – I'll be back. Thank you.

Voorhis – Yes, sir. Thank you!

Old Business

New Business

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE SPECIAL SEWER RATES FOR NON-PROFIT HOUSING

Roe – We have an opinion from our attorney and she's given us some guidelines to follow. She did find where there's at least 4 municipalities in the state of Missouri, Madrid, Moberly, City of Independence and Metropolitan St. Louis that do offer special sewer rates. They were typically given to churches, schools and senior citizens. So with that in mind she's got some recommendations on how we can handle the non-profit senior housing through adding a new definition in our ordinance and the new definition would be titled Non-Profit Senior Housing. She said another option is that we could do non-profit housing. The committee has discussed that, Richard, Kelly and I, we want to move forward with the non-profit senior housing. That best describes what we have here in Fair Grove and she's got a definition that we can add in our ordinance for that, that's on page 5 and then for the sewer charges she's got a recommendation for the wording under Section 700.460 for collecting sewer charges and then the last page, the last section is a whole new section, Section 700 and she titled it Non-Profit Housing Application Review and Appeals, we would want to ask her to change that to Non-Profit Senior Housing, the other option she gave us and that would need to be repeated throughout these new changes she's saying we could implement. So with that said, we're in favor of moving forward with the amendment to our ordinance for Non-Profit Senior Housing and that would require a public hearing and it would have to be published for 30 days so we'd like to get going on this this week. With Board approval I would like to reach out to our attorney after the meeting to start that process. Any questions? You've had plenty of time to look this over on her opinion.

Stewart – In reviewing this, I think this is great. She did a good job.

Roe – I felt the same way after looking it over.

Stewart – I like the yearly renewal.

Roe – And they have to provide documentation of their 501C3 or C4 or equivalent non-profit, a copy of bylaws, mission statement. I thought it was very well documented.

Stewart – I would agree.

Roe – And it's based on what other cities are doing so I think that's very encouraging. We're not the only city trying to do this.

Petty – She put this together in a pretty quick turnaround. The sewer committee with Sara talked with her for close to an hour and she included everything that we asked for in this. Originally it was just the 501C3 but our Senior Housing is a 501C4 so she made sure to include what their specific institution is.

Stewart – I think it solves all of our problems.

Roe – I think so too.

Icenhower – Then we can finally put all of this to bed.

Petty – Do we have to have the rewording to include the senior housing, do we have to have that done before we post for public hearing.

Roe – I believe so.

Voorhis – Yes, we would need to...

Roe – That's what I'm going to ask her to try to do this week and get back to us before Friday so we can get it posted on Friday.

Voorhis – Well thank you guys for doing all of that work and working with the attorney on that.

BILL NO. 25-07 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE, COUNTY OF GREENE, STATE OF MISSOURI; ESTABLISHING THE SAME; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN, EXCEPT AS HEREIN EXPRESSLY PROVIDED; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; AND PROVIDING WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE. (Posted 2-4-2025)

Roe – Just as a reminder, this is updating our city codes to be in compliance with changes with the Missouri code, correct?

Voorhis – Yes.

Roe – That's what I understand.

Motion by Roe to have the first reading of Bill No. 25-07 by title only. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

MAYOR READ BILL NO. 25-07 BY TITLE ONLY

Motion by Roe to approve the first reading and have the second reading of Bill No. 25-07 by title only. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

MAYOR READ BILL NO. 25-07 BY TITLE ONLY

Motion by Reo to approve the second reading of Bill No. 25-07 by title only and assign it Ordinance No. 272. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

PARK BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Voorhis – We have a park board application. At their last park board meeting they did accept this person. You guys should have a copy of that in your packet. I would be my recommendation to approve Shawna Patrick to the Park Board for a term to expire 06/2028.

Motion by Stewart to accept the Mayor’s recommendation and appoint Shawna Patrick to the Park Board for a term to expire June 2028. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

Business Meeting

SEWER AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Hokanson – I don’t really have a whole lot.

Roe – You survived last week, right?

Hokanson – We made it through the blizzard.

Petty – You were sick, right?

Hokanson – Yeah, but I did it anyways.

Petty – Yes you did, thank you.

Voorhis – Thank you.

Hokanson – I appreciate it. It takes quite a bit to get that all coordinated and to get it to work out like it ought to.

Roe – Yeah, I’ve got some of that covered in the committee report.

Hokanson – Okay, good. Anybody got any questions?

Icenhower – Good job!

Davis – Thank you, Kennie.

Hokanson – You bet!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Icenhower – After our last audit report I was real tickled with our auditor report and our Treasurer.

Roe – I was too.

Icenhower – I thought they did a super job.

PARK BOARD

Tim Cooke – We have a pretty short park board report from last meeting. Basically what I can tell you is that our basketball program has been completed for the season. We are fixing to move into a short 3 week soccer tune up. Brittany and Keeley are covering for Craig right now on the grounds, the maintenance. Craig is out for surgery. His expected return date, we're not sure yet. We have not received any applications for seasonal workers to help Craig so we are in the process of getting mowing bids to assist him with the mowing when he gets back. We have submitted grants for the upgraded walking trails. We are waiting for them to be approved, to hear back from them. Current balance is roughly \$290,000.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Faulkner – I'm here representing Greg Porter, the Emergency Management Director. He sends his deepest apologies for not being able to be here tonight. Fordland Schools had their district basketball tournament and he had to work that tonight. The OEM office has moved officially to the fire station and it's working out very well. We have a few more boxes to go through but the office is pretty much put together and fully operational. We want to sincerely appreciate the Fair Grove Fire Board and the Fair Grove City Council for making the office space available to us. We received a payment on the first and second quarter of the EMPG grant which I believe is mainly reimbursable for salaries. I attended the Southwest Missouri Emergency Management Support Organization meeting in January. This is a quarterly meeting of state, local and private emergency management entities. It's over in Bolivar. They move it over different areas in Southwest Missouri. That's where it was last time. We talked about a lot of our training needs and things along those lines. It's great networking and a lot of great information there. Greg wanted to let you know that he's completed the FEMA ICS training which is a basic emergency management functions training which is required for the EMPG grant and due to the *inaudible* the sirens have not been tested, however there is a statewide test scheduled for March 5th at 11:00 a.m. Finally, he wanted to talk a little bit about the planning on the EM side. We are very pleased with the last winter storm we had, the results from that. It was great to see local leaders and residents come together to initiate a plan and prepare for the storm. We would like to recognize several individuals. Councilman Stewart for his work on helping to get together a transportation plan in the event that we needed to get people to the warming center, Tim Cooke and Tyler Kline for agreeing to help with the physical transportation and reducing the associated liability. If you think about getting people over to warming shelter and getting the city involved in that, there can be some liability issues involved in that so it's great to have some private folks step up. Superintendent Mike Bell and the maintenance staff were working to get the cots over to the fire station to use in the event we needed to open the warming center. Chief Randall Hoskins in offering the fire station up as a warming center which was just great and of course Kennie for all of his hard work preparing and plowing the streets and getting us back in operation very quickly. We're making plans during a slower time discuss where we can improve in the future some of the areas we saw that would help, just better planning overall. He also said thank Tom Faulkner, me, I don't know what that was about. He just said some great things in here and it will

make a tear come to your eye if I put any of that in there. Anyway, just appreciate everyone for coming together. That was something that did come up on us fairly quickly and just being able to get everybody together. It's great to see the city leaders and the folks in the community come together and just help us put a plan together if anything did happen, power outages or anything like that, that our citizens were protected so just a big thank you to everyone.

Petty – I have a question.

Faulkner – Yes?

Petty – Did we have to mobilize any of that emergency planning for the warming center or transportation or anything?

Faulkner – We didn't have to but it was there. The cots were moved over from the school to the fire station, Greg and I had a plan together to have volunteers there so the firefighters could go sleep so we had everything worked out there. It was great the transportation aspect came into it and we had people there, it was just amazing.

Petty – That's best-case scenario to have the plans in place and not have to use them.

Roe – Yes. Plan for the worse and hope for the best and the snow fall is half of what they predicted.

Faulkner – It was very, very cold.

Roe – If you're from Northwest Illinois it's nothing.

Stewart – I wanted to tell you too, Ben and I were talking, you guys did a really good job on that. You guys handled it well. You guys thought outside the box and we were prepared for the worse. Thank you!

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Interim Chief Deckard – I'm just going to give our monthly staff update. We had about 98 calls for service for the past month. To highlight the top calls, we received were motor vehicle crashes, traffic stops, assaults, domestic services, we had a death investigation, check wellbeing's, a lot of alarm calls and some animal calls. Just to kind of hope in on our crazy weather that we had last week, the organization of it, just everybody coming together was fantastic. We enjoyed how everything was being organized. We made contact with our senior citizens that are over here, we talked to Jessica Parker. She offered, you know, they had a lot of bottled water over there so she got us access over there to be able to provide that and hand that out as well. She also provided some names of some individuals for us to check on. We went over to the senior citizen community home and went door to door and talked to all of them. Made sure that they had everything that they needed. A lot of them don't have the resources to find what it was that we were offering as a community so we just translated that information for them. Other than that, one thing that I would like to come and discuss for the police department side of it,

because this could be some alterations that we make to our side of it for the police department. Myself and the officers have talked about tinting the windows for the police department on our side of it. I haven't reached out and done any bids or anything like that but that's just something I want to discuss with you guys since this potentially could make some alterations to the building. The reasoning for that is a lot of it comes down to privacy as well as security. So privacy that way all of our offices, you know our computers and everything on our desks are real close to the windows so if we have important information laying on the desk, people are able to see it and be able to view that with what is there and there's a lot of stuff that we can't release to the public potentially that they could be able to view. Security, probably a harsh way to put it is when we're sitting in our offices, yes we do have our blinds that go down but you can see through those, especially at night time when we're sitting in our office, the blinds are down, everybody from outside can see us but we can't view out and see them so probably a harsh way to put it is we kind of feel like sitting ducks while we're inside of our office. Also, during the summer time it could help keep it a little bit cooler in the offices as well. So I just wanted to throw that out there and see what your thoughts were about it and see if it is something we could move forward and potentially get bids for.

Stewart – Do you guys have MULES access on those computers?

Deckard – We do.

Stewart – So it's actually a violation of MULES policy for the outside public to view it?

Deckard – Yes.

Stewart – So we have to come up with something. MULES is the online, Missouri's...

Deckard – Yeah, cause we have our MDT's and all of that's on there and we also have, I have a PC computer in my office. I could probably move it around but

Voorhis – Just for the officer safety standpoint, it does make a silhouette of you guys when you are in there at night time.

Deckard – Yes.

Petty – I know you said you didn't get bids but are we talking hundreds or thousands of dollars?

Voorhis – I mean, it's window tinting, so.

Veach – You've got one window in your office and there's the whole west and southside of the chief's office.

Deckard – Yes and the patrol room, there's also a window in there.

Veach – They do have one there, don't they?

Deckard – And of course there's some very umm, you know we have our lockers in there, you can view in and see where we keep everything at.

Veach – I would say go ahead and get a bid on it and see what the cost is going to be. Get two or three bids from different places.

Roe – Our church that I'm a member of, we had 7 windows tinted last year. We had new windows put in in an older part of the building and we had 7 of them tinted and the rest were blinds. I can give you the name of the company that we used. And it's actually, American Glass, they did the new windows for City Hall so we used them for our church and they recommended this one window tinting company. I don't remember the name but I'll get it to you.

Icenhower – Are you talking about tinting or blinds?

Roe – Tinting. They have blinds similar to these.

Veach – And if you turn around and look, you can see through them.

Roe – The beauty of the tinting is you can get basically a one way mirror. You can see out but they can't see in.

Deckard – I think that's mostly what we were trying to look at.

Roe – We did that on some closets with windows in our church. It's basically so dark, it's a one way mirror. It works really good.

Voorhis – Then go ahead and move forward and get some bids and we will get it looked at.

Deckard – Other than that, I don't think I have anything else to report. Any questions or anything?

Voorhis – Thank you. Keep up the hard work!

CITY CLERK

Davis – March 20th I'm going to be attending a Grantwell webinar. It's to teach you how to write grants and all of that fun stuff so I'm excited about that. Also, I know that you were concerned about the ordinances. I did send those to the attorney on February 3rd, we chatted back and forth a little bit that week, she said she would call me and I still have not heard from her.

Stewart – Thank you.

Davis – You're welcome. That's it.

Voorhis – Alright, well thank you.

Davis – You're welcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Roe – I'm going to stand up and read this because a comment came to our clerk that sometimes you folks can't hear us up here so if I stand up and talk I think you'll hear me better.
Public Works report attached.

Adding onto the sewer portion of the report:

Roe – I'm going to let Kelly add some more details because more has happened since I put this together.

Petty – After we presented, I've had several communication with Cayce. We did have a student come up to City Hall and ask for some voter information. Sara actually got our complete voter registry from the Greene County Clerk's office, which was kind of a mess, but we were able to work through it and narrow it down and get Cayce a breakdown by age group, what wards they're in and their voting history and participation in the last 4 years in voting so we provided those. She asked if in their presentations if they wanted to give us the idea for a mailer, how many mailers would we have to fund to be able to pay for, so we were able to narrow it down even further by household and I sent that to her today. The way that she's talking, she's hoping they can present back to us their ideas next Friday. Hopefully the sewer committee, Sara, Tommy, if you're able to go and listen to their presentations. She said that overall they are super excited to present to us with this. She's also going to try to time a press release with the news stations to help generate that engagement with the community for a positive relationship between the city and the school on top of giving the public the information and the education to be able to make that decision at the ballot box. It's just a really fun project and I'm really grateful that the city and other board members have supported this. Thank you, guys.

Roe – It's been a pleasure. I was really happy to see the excitement in the students faces to have an actual project that could help the community that they live in.

Icenhower – They asked several good questions. I want to pat Kelly on the back. She did a magnificent job presenting. She had slides and everything.

Voorhis – Is that going to be the 28th or is that going to be March 7th?

Petty – March 7th.

Roe – Yeah, a week from this Friday, possibly.

Davis – What time?

Petty – I don't know yet.

Roe – If they're ready.

Davis – He might have a conflict.

Voorhis – I think a couple of us will have some conflicts.

Roe – Well that's if they're ready. Of course Monday they don't have school.

Petty – We can confirm once she lets me know.

Adding onto the street portion of the report:

Davis – I forgot to tell you that we got that money.

Roe – It's here?

Davis – Yep. It's in the capital improvements fund waiting for you to spend it.

Roe – Alright, we got it. I'm glad to hear that.

After report:

Davis – Thank you, Kennie.

Veach – I would like to add that Kennie, EVERY year puts in long hours to clean these streets and you do a fantastic job.

Hokanson – Thank you.

Icenhower – On the sidewalk deal, there's been some statements made about the bond issue that some of this money is going to be used for the sidewalk and that is totally false. If this passes, this money is earmarked and it has to be used specifically for what items we list on that bond and sidewalks is not part of it. It's for sewer and stormwater and that's it.

Roe – And that's part of the help we will receive from the high school class to help educate the community to put some of this incorrect information to bed. We don't want people voting on incorrect information.

Personnel Committee:

Stewart – I was looking over our benefit package we offer to our employees currently, I think there are some things we might be able to improve upon. Particularly our LAGERS program. What would the Board prefer? Would you prefer me to get some programs that LAGERS can offer us and present it or there's apparently a LAGERS person that can come present to us as a Board to give us all of the different options?

Icenhower – I would like for them to come here.

Roe – It's very timely because that will all be reviewed come end of May, June.

Davis – We don't review LAGERS.

Roe – That’s true, that portion we don’t review. It’s the healthcare that we review.

Davis – Yes.

Roe – It would be good to time it that way.

Stewart – Just looking it over, whenever I was looking over the police stuff, maybe it needs a little bit of revamping.

Roe – I think it’s a great idea. Some day you young-uns are going to retire.

Davis – We hope to.

Voorhis – Anymore committee reports?

APPROVE BOARD OF ALDERMAN MINUTES

Motion by Veach to approve Board of Alderman Minutes for December 10, 2024, January 14, 2025, January 23, 2025, January 28, 2025 and February 11, 2025. Seconded by Roe
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE

Mayor Report

Mayor Voorhis – We are moving forward with the police chief stuff. We’ve had many applicants put in for it. The police committee, personnel committee and myself were able to review that this past Friday. We’re going to continue to look for the best fit for Fair Grove and provide updates as we continue throughout this journey. The next thing I want to bring up, on that Friday I had to leave early, right now the police department doesn’t have a key to the front door besides the chief keys. If there’s no disagreement about it, I’d like to put the city front door key, I’ve talked to Mr. Roe about it, for the police officers to have access to lock this front door when we’re gone. We left, I left and the committee left, the front door remained open. I got a phone call from one of the officers, I was out of town, I had some things I had to take care of. I told them not to call Sara as it was 7:00 at night, I just came up here and locked the door when I got back in town. The police department doesn’t have a key to this front door. We do have a lockbox in the patrol room. The key only gets them into the front lobby. The offices right there are guarded by security alarm so if people try to access it the alarm will go off, I don’t see that being a problem. So unless you guys are opposed to that.

Stewart – The lockbox is inside of a secured area inside the police department?

Voorhis – Yeah, it’s in the patrol room.

Stewart – So the only people who have access to it will be the officers?

Voorhis – Yeah.

Roe – Mark, I think there was one time, I think you were here at a park board meeting and everyone left and we had no key to lock the door. There was another time I had a special meeting here, I actually had to borrow a key from Sara and give it back to her the next day. If we could work out some type of secure way where someone, and the police is probably the best, could have access to it.

Voorhis – We have a lockbox and we usually have a police officer here on duty at all times.

Stewart – When I first heard about this I thought you were talking about out there but I think inside of a secured area, as long as the officers are the only ones who have access to it. If you can't trust them, who can you trust.

Icenhower – It's just a key to the lobby.

Voorhis – Well I told Sgt. Deckard to get a key for that.

Petty – Any concerns from either the city staff or the police officers on this?

Davis – I don't have a concern.

Petty – Are you guys good with getting a call saying *can you please come lock city hall?*

Deckard – The only thing I could see a type of conflict there, cause right now we just have us 3 officers and let's say that there's something happening and nobody happens to be on duty, then what are our options there?

Davis – I've been called many times, I came and sat up here for a PCAC meeting one night when Roy couldn't be here. I'm 10 minutes away and I can always come up and lock the door.

Voorhis – Those occasions are few and far between but just in case. Usually I'm in town or somebody is around to lock it normally.

Petty – Who all has a key?

Davis – I have a key, the Mayor has a key, Chief of Police has a key, someone from the Park Board has a key, and then the library and Chan of course.

Icenhower – Well that's only 5 keys.

Roe – You do have a key to the front door?

Voorhis – I do.

Icenhower – And you said the Sgt. did.

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Davis – Yes. She’s got the chief keys which has keys to the whole building I believe.

Icenhower – I don’t have a problem with it.

Roe – We still have incidents happen, so...

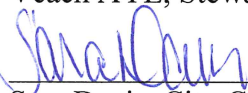
Voorhis – It’s in a secured area.

Roe – Yeah, I’m okay with it.

Voorhis – That will complete my report.

Adjournment

Motion by Icenhower to Adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Seconded by Veach
Veach AYE, Stewart AYE, Petty AYE, Icenhower AYE, Roe AYE



Sara Davis, City Clerk

DRAFT

Sewer & Street Committee Report December 11-February 25, 2025

Sewer

A major project at the WWTP was completed on Dec. 20, 2024. The work included replacing the electric motor/belt drive/gearbox for 2 separate rotors in the oxidation ditch. This old drive system was very high maintenance. The new drive includes an electric motor/direct drive gearbox system with flexible couplers to the rotor shafts. The work was done by Copperstate Machine and Industrial Service, LLC. They did similar work for the City of Mt Vernon. They also installed a new ball bearing on the top shaft of the clarifier. This work was completed in 5 days.

In early February Kelly & Richard met with the administration of the FH High School. The purpose of this meeting was to see if there was interest from a HS Marketing class to work with the City for help in educating the community of the details of a Bond that will be on the April 8 City ballot. This resulted in a meeting on Feb. 14 with the FG HS Marketing Class taught by Cayse Overstreet. Kelly presented a PowerPoint Presentation to the class with details of what the money generated by the bond would be used for and how the bond would be paid back. In attendance was the rest of the Sewer Committee-Richard and myself to help with questions. Our city clerk Sara was also there. The students did an amazing job asking questions! The class will be moving forward with helping the city provide education information to the community. Richard and I would like to thank Kelly and Cayse for this amazing opportunity to partner with the High School Class!

On Feb. 23, Kenny met with Brad Lafollette and one of his employees. This was to make plans for starting some Sewer I and I repairs based on the list of projects that were identified by camera work done on 1/3 of the City Sewer lines. Repairs will be paid for from the remaining funds (\$65,222.00) from a grant that the City received from Greene County ARPA funds.

Street-Sidewalk Project

On Feb. 10 there was a meeting at City Hall with Morgan from OWN Engineering, Josh from MODOT and Cory-Project Manager and Greg Hicks-Concrete Manager both from Emery Sapp & Sons and myself. The meeting was for a final review of the current sidewalk project. We did a walk-through of the new sidewalk and a few small changes were requested by Josh from MODOT that Emery Sapp & Sons will address before the final payment is made.

The City has a new "Invitation to Bid" for extending the new sidewalk along S. Orchard. This would extend the sidewalk from the gravel service park road to across from the City Hall/Library driveway with a crosswalk landing pad next to the City Hall/Library driveway. This "Invitation to Bid" Closes Feb. 28. This would be paid with the Municipal Partnership Project funds of about \$30,000 that the city expects to receive in March.

Many thanks to Richard, Kenny and Brad Lafollette for getting a road grader delivered to the City for the past snow removal street work! Long hours were put in by Brad and Kenny to clear the streets from the 6-7" snow fall last week. Their extra efforts were visible and greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Roe, Richard Icenhower, Kelly Petty