

Board of Alderman Minutes
81 S. Orchard Blvd.
July 23, 2024
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Voorhis

OPEN MEETING

Roll Call taken by Mayor Thomas Voorhis
Kelly Petty PRESENT, Dennis Roe PRESENT, Mark Stewart PRESENT, Sherry Veach
ABSENT, Richard Icenhower PRESENT, Ben Lord PRESENT

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

APPROVE AGENDA.

Motion by Roe to approve agenda. Second Petty
Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

PUBLIC FORUM – May speak on any item on the agenda.

Old Business

New Business

DISCUSS PROPERTY AT 617 SOUTH MAGEN STREET (Roe, Petty)

Roe – I'll address that. It's been researched by the city and we don't want to move forward on this agenda item.

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PARK BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mayor recommends Felecia Stewart to the Park Board term to expire June 2026
Motion by Roe to approve Mayor's recommendation to appoint Felecia Stewart to the Park Board for a term to expire 06/2026. Seconded by Icenhower
Stewart – Obviously I have to abstain on this.
Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart ABSTAINED, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Mayor Voorhis – Last week I was contacted by the fire chief, Randall Hoskins. Many people have associated this Christmas parade to be the Fire Departments parade. Mr. Hoskins has informed me that this is not the fire department's parade. That they can no longer assist in it being called the fire department's parade due to insurance reasons. He said it was the Chamber of Commerce. I talked to Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Lisa Ritter is the president of the Chamber of Commerce, she has informed me that this is not the Chamber of Commerce parade. They will not provide insurance for that as well. So the issue arises is who is going to take liability if we allow this parade to continue. The fire department and the Chamber of Commerce both want to see it continue but they do not want the liability so the liability would fall on the city. I came and I talked with Mrs. Davis, she was able to answer some questions insurance wise about it to the fact that if we allow it to happen, liability is on the city. But then it rose another question. We've had this parade for many years in our city and we haven't set any resolutions or ordinances to shut down roads. We've shut down roads in the past for this, it hasn't been brought up, we've never

done it. So the Chamber still wants to see it go on. They're still willing to donate items and do what the Chamber does and give out prizes for it. The fire department is willing to line people up. There's some ideas thrown around about getting them to sign waivers. Well, that would be something that the city would have to do. We would need to put that out there either some form of social media for them to come up and fill out waivers. It would be my recommendation that if the city is going to decide to take this task on, we need some sort of reassurance for these people to show up. I guess some of the biggest problems have been when the fire department did it, people would sign up to be in these parades and not show up due to weather.

So if we're going to collect the waivers and the city is going to go ahead and perform this task of putting the liability on the city, we could charge them a fee, \$10 to \$15 to fill out the waiver to get the entry. That also brings up another part who's going to coordinate this? My personal opinion, professional opinion, I would say most community events should be led by the park board. The park board reaches lots of people. So the question is, are we going to approve it, to allow it to continue and it's going to fall under the city's insurance and talking with the park board to see if we can get somebody to organize and proceed with this, of gathering information and waivers and posting it to social media.

Icenhower – I think you're going to overload the park board. They're shorthanded the way it is.

Lord – They got a new member. We approved her tonight.

Icenhower – Yeah, but they're still short. What was the insurance, Sara? How do we fall on the insurance?

Davis – Basically if someone gets hurt during the parade, they could file a claim against the city is my understanding.

Mayor Voorhis – We've kind of been operating in a gray area because nobody has ever carried insurance for this. The fire department wasn't aware...

Icenhower – Well it's been on the city all along. But as far as coordinating it, the Chamber is wanting to have it, and as far as I'm concerned, the Chamber is the one that needs to coordinate it. It's not the park board. That's my two cents. If the Chamber, if they're wanting to have it, I'd put the coordination and all of that on the Chamber, I wouldn't put it on the park board.

Mayor Voorhis – Is this something that you feel that they should purchase insurance if they are wanting to have it?

Icenhower – Well no. They can come under our insurance.

Mayor Voorhis – Okay. So we will operate as we've been operating and they can coordinate it.

Icenhower – As far as who's going to coordinate it and all of that. The city sure don't want to get in the middle of it. The Chamber is the one wanting to have it so put it on the Chamber. That's my opinion.

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Petty – How is the parade coordinated for the Heritage Reunion?

Icenhower – They line it up at the school just like the Heritage and they come down Main Street in front of and all the way straight up the hill. They don't go down and around and all of that. It's just straight through. In the past, they blocked off 125 and let the parade through.

Mayor Voorhis – So Debbie Clopton, she's a member of the Heritage Society she's real involved in that. She used to be the secretary at Fair Grove Fire. She kind of coordinated everything with that.

Icenhower – Who really put it together was Mary Terry. She's the one that lined it up and took care of everything.

Mayor Voorhis – For Heritage Society?

Icenhower – Yeah.

Mayor Voorhis – Debbie would have been the one to do the Christmas parade. She's no longer with the fire department which is why this issue was brought up.

Icenhower – I've voiced my opinion, everybody else needs to speak up.

Roe – I think what Richard said makes sense. If the Chamber of Commerce is wanting to do this, then they need to step up and help with the organization and the waivers.

Petty – Have they said anything about the organization piece of it?

Mayor Voorhis – Yes. Ms. Lisa, when I spoke with her, she said they would be willing to help out, they just didn't want the liability. I can ask them if they're willing to coordinate it and if we're going to allow them to fill out the waivers and do what they've been doing, we just have to have waivers.

Icenhower – Why do we have to have waivers?

Davis – Per our insurance company.

Petty – All participants of the parade?

Davis – Yes.

Roe – If they're driving a moving vehicle and they run over someone's foot the person driving the moving vehicle is responsible, not the city. That's the way that I understand it.

Davis – Yes.

Mayor Voorhis – So we can do that. I'm sure Lisa and Randall Hoskins would be willing to take, well I can tell you that they said they are willing to collect waivers. I don't know about the coordination portion of it. I would have to check with them but Randall Hoskins did inform me that he would go down there and line them up like they've always done in the past and do all of that. Make sure they've got their waivers, they just weren't going to coordinate it. Ms. Lisa basically just informed me that the Chamber wasn't going to provide insurance for it but they still want it to continue. So if I speak with her again, you know, they'll just have to have them fill out waivers and they can coordinate it. I'm sure they will. I can't say that for certainty. She's out of pocket for a couple of days, so I won't be able to get in touch with her but they want it to go on, especially with the festivities happening downtown that they are going to do.

Icenhower – Now, Sara, you did check with the insurance company and all of that, right?

Davis – I did.

Icenhower – So we are covered?

Davis – We are.

Petty – So will we hold on this resolution until we have confirmation that they are willing to coordinate everything?

Mayor Voorhis – That is a completely separate resolution. Any more discussion about that or are we all in agreement that as long as the Chamber is willing to coordinate it and collect the waivers, we don't want to associate any fees for the waivers for the city or anything like that. Just have them fill out the waivers and as long as they're willing to coordinate it.

Icenhower – Do you need that in a motion?

Mayor Voorhis – I don't believe that we would need that in a motion, just a consensus.

Roe – Okay, I agree.

Mayor Voorhis – Well I will get in contact with Ms. Lisa and I'll attached you to that email, Sara, when I send it.

Icenhower – We haven't heard anything from that side of the room over there.

Mayor Voorhis – We're going to move on.

**RESOLUTION 24-02 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FAIR GROVE, MISSOURI
DECLARING THAT THE MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WILL BE
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2024, AND THAT MAIN STREET FROM EAST WALNUT
TO WEST OLD MILL ROAD SHALL BE CLOSED FOR SAID CELEBRATION**

Roe – So we need a motion to approve that Resolution?

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Mayor Voorhis – Yeah.

Motion by Roe to approve Resolution 24-02. Seconded by Stewart
Icenhower – Where does it say from 7 to 8?

Roe – It's on the new one she handed out.

Mayor Voorhis – You were given an updated one.

Icenhower – Oh.

Roe – Sara had them out when we got here.

Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

DISCUSS TREE REMOVAL BILL FOR KT TREE SERVICES

Roe – On June 26th, early morning, we had very very strong winds and it took a tree down along East Cherry Street and blocked the street so Kenny was able to get someone out here right away and it's \$1,200 which is a very good price.

Motion by Roe to approve the \$1,200 bill from KT Farm Services. Seconded by Icenhower
Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE AUDITOR FOR 2024 AUDIT

Roe – There's a big price difference from Decker and DeGood, they quoted \$6,500 and then KPM quoted \$17,000 and if I read this correctly, for the same service. Do we know why KPM is so high, Sara? Any idea?

Davis – I don't know why.

Motion by Roe to approve the quote from Decker and DeGood perform the audit for 2024.
Second Petty

Icenhower – I think you pay for what you get but I think \$17,000 is pretty high too.

Roe – That's where I was coming from. That's more than twice.

Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE BACKGROUND CHECKS

Chief Howell – Good evening. I know this is a discuss that won't go lightly. We've had this discussion many times. I'm here to discuss it again. I'm asking that this department be allowed to do it's own background investigations on personnel for hire. There's no reason why we cannot do our own background investigations. We have two very qualified individuals, myself and Sgt. Deckard who comes from Willard with experience of being on their hiring and background unit. I, myself, have that same experience of doing background investigations which had 157 employees. You don't think I can provide a service to a city that has 10 staff that has a town of 1,500 people and I did it for 60,000 people and do it legitimately and honestly for you guys. It's a trust issue. You guys hired me to run this department and find qualified applicants to come to this department. I've brought very qualified applicants here so far. What I will tell you is a lot of people I ask to come here that I go out and try to recruit to come here consider this a suicide by career move because of this stuff right here. Let your chief run the department.

I'm asking for you guys to let me run the department with the help of Sgt. Deckard. She or I will do one background and the other one will visually inspect it. After that, we will sit down and go through the candidates information and decide whether or not to move forward. What you guys don't understand is that I've had 73 applicants from Indeed. Am I fairly close?

Davis – Probably, yeah.

Chief Howell – Out of those 73 applicants maybe 5 have gone through a background. They haven't made it pass me. That should tell you something. Now if you're telling me that you don't trust me enough to do a background and bring qualified candidates to this town then that's a problem. I'd like for you guys to sit down and vote or at least discuss it. I've had a discussion with an Alderman before who said I am the face of this department, you wanna hire them, you hire them. It's up to you. Well Roy, if you want them, you get them, you have to deal with them but you're not allowing that. You're saying it, but you're not allowing it. Let me lead the department That's what you hired me to do. Any questions? Thomas?

Mayor Voorhis – I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Roy about this. There's a couple of people here who know my feelings about how they're doing background checks. It was made very clear to me when I became Mayor that I needed to let Mr. Roy Howell run Fair Grove Police Department. It's his face on it. We still have the opportunity to say no when he brings them to us. Greene County doesn't provide a better background check then I believe Mr. Roy Howell could do. On my stance as the Mayor, it would be my recommendation that we follow Chief Roy Howell as we move forward with this. For the background checks to be done in house by him. That still gives the opportunity for the police committee, I believe working in conjunction with the police chief, to look over those. Our police committee is very involved and can find out information just as easy as anybody else here. To say that we have to put it on Greene County I don't believe that we need to move forward with that. I believe that the chief is asking for something. This is an operations deal, he directly supervises these people. We need to put the faith and the trust in Roy Howell until we find a reason not to. Since I've been Mayor, I haven't seen there to be a reason why he hasn't done what he said he was going to do and bring us qualified applicants.

Petty – What does the police committee think?

Lord – I've talked to Roy about this, we don't agree. I think you're doing a great job, Roy. I agree with what the Mayor says. You said you brought qualified candidates to us and I agree. You said it's a trust issue, it's not with me, I trust you. I think you're doing a great job. I think everyone does to. Let you run the department? We are. You said you're going to have a problem with it if we don't. I can't control that. I think you can do background checks. I would trust you to do them. This isn't personal. We've had this exact conversation three or four times. We made this decision when we got in a tight spot. I'm not ready to back out on it now. The police committee's recommendation on this is to leave it alone and simply move to the next item on the agenda, address this at a later time. I'm not saying that this is never going to happen, but for me, right now, it's absolutely not.

Chief Howell – So what you're saying is we trust you, but we don't.

Lord – We made that decision before we knew you, Roy. It was before we hired you. It's not you, I promise. I think you're doing a great job, I do. You can pick and choose who you want, hire who you want but they're going to pass a Greene County background check right now. That's the police committee's recommendation.

Icenhower – I think some of us on this Board have been down this road and we got burnt. We had to sit up here and take some severe butt chewings and couldn't say nothing and I'm just not ready to go down that road again. It's nothing personal hereabout you, Roy, but it's just a lot of us got a bad taste in our mouths from the previous chief.

Chief Howell – I get that, but you can't live in the past.

Lord – No, but we can learn from our mistakes.

Chief Howell – Yes. But when are you going to learn to move forward?

Lord – I'm not saying that I'm not open to revisiting this, I'm not. I am, but not right now. Greene County background checks. If they pass them, you can hire whoever you want.

Roe – Roy, I agree with Ben on this. I'm not going to repeat what I've said in the past because there's no value to that but at the current time, I am committed to staying with a Greene County background check.

Mayor Voorhis – We're going to go ahead and move on.

Business Meeting

SEWER AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Hokanson – I don't really have a whole lot. You got something you want to say Dennis about what happened today?

Roe – Yeah. You can add to it.

Hokanson – Well, we're going to have to put chains on a couple of those pumps because they couldn't get them out because they were stuck and they were afraid they would break that cable bolt. They are going to come back down, I think he said in two weeks and we're going to go down in there and put chains so they can get them up out of there. They did the ones on E and then went to the plant and checked them out.

Mayor Voorhis – Kenny, if you don't mind, chains? What...

Hokanson – It's to pull the pump out. Wrap chains around so they can pull the pumps out.

Roe – It currently has a cable and they feel like the cable is ...

Hokanson – Well he's got a meter on his wench and that one pump they put 400lbs of pressure on it and it would budge yet and they were afraid of breaking that cable. So he wants to go with

the chain because he said the strength is higher on a chain then the cable. He's also going to go down in there and see if he can nudge it a bit and get it to break loose.

Icenhower – And that's like what, a 3 to 6 inch cable?

Hokanson – Yeah.

Mayor Voorhis – And we are pulling the pumps for maintenance?

Icenhower – That maintenance contract we signed with Fluid Equipment back in June, they're down here, that's what they're doing.

Hokanson – It looked like they were gonna have our other pump to go back to CC in two weeks.

Roe – That's a good turn around.

Hokanson – What about you Ben? Nothing?

Lord – I'd like to remind the Board who helped you with your last sump pump.

Hokanson – You are the man. Fishing in the dark.

Lord – If you have trouble with that one, give me a call.

Hokanson – Anybody got any questions?

Icenhower – I seen we started mowing the streets. We got that Johnson grass that grows a foot a day.

Hokanson – And that tractor we have keeps up really nice. Thank you!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Motion by Icenhower to approve financial statement as submitted. Second Roe Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

PARK BOARD

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Porter – Hopefully I'm not repeating any of the stuff that you guys have been told. Just to confirm, the 2023 grant has been fully submitted other than the ones that couldn't be. Quarter 4 has been submitted along with the status report and it's already been approved by the state so we're just waiting for a check to be cut by state to cover Quarter 4. 2024 was submitted by councilman Stewart and we are just waiting for the state to give final approval They are working to finalize the budget so hopefully by next month we will have final word on what we're getting for 2024. Tom was able to work with our previous director and was able to retrieve all of the

equipment other than the Verizon MiFi pack that is out in limbo. We've been able to contact Verizon and it's been shut off and replaced. It hadn't been being used. Have no idea where it's at but we've got that replaced. I talked to Crews Newbury from Table Rock who does the maintenance on our sirens. He is hoping next week to get a battery replacement for Northview Circle. This is something that you guys had done before. He did relay to me that the siren on Delaina to show signs of some major wear and tear. It's still fully functional and operational but to put it on the radar and in the future that it might be something we want to look at replacing. The whole siren. They are saying that will be in the ballpark of \$26,000 to \$30,000. I do have a meeting tomorrow with Greene County to start going over our mitigation plan for the 2025 to 2030 area. That is going to be something that we will write into the hazard mitigation plan which would potentially open this up to get some grant money. We usually get a 75/25 split. If any of that becomes available, we will definitely try to get it to get something like that in place. We are way behind the eight ball on the hazard mitigation plan. It started back in April and it ends in October so, I'm starting from scratch starting tomorrow the end of July starting August. We've got some work to do to try and get that caught up and put in but with that being said, hopefully we can get all of that situated and look for some grants to become available in the next few years.

We've gotten set up now for the Region D Web E.O.C., which is very helpful in the event of a disaster but statewide, Web E.O.C. is one of the requirements for the grant and I'm in the process of getting that set up. As far as our training goes, I would like to let you know that Tom and I both are up to date on all of the training that's required other than the two that has been added in the last couple of years, the I.S. 2200 and 2300 which we've got 24 months to try and get that in but all of the stuff with FEMA, we are up to date on so we are good for 24 months.

I've been working with Mr. Bell to try and get, he has given me approval, we just haven't got it set up yet, to open the access to the FEMA building remotely from our phone so in the event of a tornado or anything of that nature I'll be able to have access to and not have to make a phone call at 2:00 in the morning to contact someone at the school to have them do it. Other than that, it's been a good first few weeks of being back.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Howell – On a lighter note, I've got a lot to cover here real quick. Report costs, I was talking with the city attorney she says what we're asking for can be granted, she doesn't understand why we're not charging so I would like to get it approved so that we can start charging those amounts that we originally provided.

Roe – Do you have that information with you?

Howell – Not on me. This is all of the original stuff that was provided to you previously.

Roe – I've got to learn to bring the old stuff back.

Mayor Voorhis – When was that Roy?

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Howell – Two meetings ago. Sgt. Deckard presented it. It was \$3.00 - \$5.00 I think. \$3 for regular reports, \$5 for fingerprints. It couldn't come at a better time. We have like 5 or 6 requests sitting there.

City Attorney – So it would be \$4.00 for reports, \$5.00 for fingerprint cars and the media would be the cost of the c.d. or flash drive so it's in line with the State Statute for records requests and what you're able to charge for them.

Howell – So it would be \$4.00 for a report, crash report and stuff like that and \$5.00 for a fingerprint card and if they ask for an audio or video it would be whatever the cost is to download it. If it would fit on a c.d. or d.v.d., we would put it on a flash drive and download it on that so they would pay the cost of that flash drive and then the cost of the report.

Lord – Could they bring their own thumb drive in?

Howell – I'm not hooking that to my computer. You can let them hook it up to your computer and be over at your house and destroy your computer.

Petty – Are these costs in line with what other cities charge?

Howell – Yes. We did a cost study and we were right in the middle of it. A little lower than some and just a bit higher than some but we are right where we need to be.

Icenhower – I know on some things they charge per sheet.

Howell – They can, yes. That's more on your sunshine requests the charge per sheet. We just had one where I just got done completing and it would have been \$0.10 per sheet for whatever I found. The final bill was almost \$400.

Mayor Voorhis – Within this charging, do you have a policy written on this in Lexipol that falls in line with this?

Howell – There are some generic ones. Once this gets approved, I'll go in there and finalize it, put the numbers in it and make it policy.

Lord – What's the motion need to say, Mayor?

Mayor Voorhis – I don't think we need a motion for that.

City Attorney – You can just do a consensus.

Mayor Voorhis – As long as it's a consensus amongst the board. As long as it gets in the policy and obviously we're all aware of that policy changes to get up to date. These do need to be approved by council as I am sure you are aware.

Icenhower – The policies get approved through council, right?

Mayor Voorhis – Yes.

Howell – Next is the, I'll probably say it wrong, I always do, the 401C3 bank account for the Police Citizens Advisory Committee. I spoke with the attorney again. They said it would be best for the Police Advisory Committee and the city if we set the account up through them. So, come Thursday when we have our meeting July 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. the Police Citizens Advisory Committee will meet here in the chambers and we will address that. The city attorney is going to provide me links to do it online and then we will get that set up through the committee. It will be used for fundraising, Shop with a Cop, National Night Out and any other event. I just wanted to bring that to the Board's knowledge so that when you know what's going on and that was approved by the city attorney. Do you guys need to do a consensus on that too? Everybody good with that?

We were at the Ice Cream Social. I saw Kelly there. I saw Mr. Danderson there. I saw Mr. Cooke there. Forgive me if I saw somebody else and I forgot to mention your name. It's a pretty neat event. It's the first time I've ever attended one. I was serving ice cream up there with Mr. Hoskins. I even got Mean Dean Ratcliff to serve ice cream. It was my first time and I really enjoyed it.

Right now, I've got two very qualified applicants. One is coming from where I used to work. It took me 5 months to talk him into it but he's finally dropped his app. He should be a rubber stamp. The other one is coming out of Salt Lake City, Utah where he was then transferred over to Joplin and he should pretty much be a rubber stamp. Hopefully we will get those two on board. With that being said, the next subject is cars.

With those two hired, if they get hired, we are out of cars.

Roe – Well...

Howell – I know, I know, I know. I'm just trying to make sure that people understand. If they are hired, at that point, we are out of cars and when reserves work, Chief Howell will probably be in his P.O.V. driving back and forth and his car is gonna be sitting over here for use. Which I don't have a problem with. I know we have set an agreement on trying to get that car taken care of. With that being said, I've brought this up before and I want to bring it up again tonight. We need to look at a fleet management system where we are buying a car and rotating them out every year. Again, I don't care if that's a 65,000 mile car from the patrol, we just need to start looking ahead instead of playing catch up all the time. So I just want to put that out there right now.

National Night Out is August 6th from 7 to 9:00. It's at the park behind city hall here. I called the park board and they reserved it for us. I don't know if you've noticed or not but they've been working on the volley ball court for us. We're going to try to get a volleyball game against the firefighters and cops, see whose more out of shape I guess. I don't know. We would like to see you guys attend. So far we've gotten donations in from Price Cutter for \$200 and additional food items. Mr. Roe also offered to donate some items of his to help out, I appreciate that a lot. Myself and Sgt. Deckard are going to donate money ourselves to help get this going. This is the first time this has ever been held in this city. I would appreciate it if all of the Aldermen could

attend and try to make an effort to get there. National Night Out was actually started in 1987, forgive me if I'm wrong on the exact year but the 80s, and it was created for the citizens to get out and meet their neighbors to fight crime. They stood on their doorsteps and turned on their lights. This is supposed to be for the citizens to get out in their wards and have BBQs at their residences. We've never had it in this town so we are going to have it at the city park and the police department is going to host it and try to get the community back together as one.

I brought up the Police Citizens Advisory Committee. It's going to be held Thursday at 7:00. The next thing is I just got out of Internal Affairs Investigations training. I've never been in charge of them. Have I done them, yes! I've been the interviewer. We put together a multijurisdictional task force that we did all of the metro area of Omaha investigations when an officer was involved in misconduct. Now I'm in charge of the internal affairs so I just completed that class. Some things that I didn't know are that we should probably be reporting to the public the stats of uses of force and stuff like that to the community. As part of being transparent, that stuff will be published on our website at some point.

Next topic is probably going to be a touchy one. The School Resource Officer program. This program has been here for a while. I spoke with Mr. Bell today. Our current SRO has decided to take another position with another agency. The current situation is not good legality. It's very shaky ground that this city has done. When you have an employee who works for a different company and is being paid by a different company but is wearing my badge, the city's badge. These two over here should understand it quite well. You sign a Memorandum of Understanding that you're working for the F.B.I. task force, you're working for the Homeland Security task force, the D.E.A. or the A.T.F., you still have to follow your departments policies and you still have to follow the task forces policies but you are still a city employee. They'll supplement your income, they'll pay your overtime, but you are still an employee of the city. That way if they violate a policy or make a mistake, the department can handle it. Currently, we have a position that's paid by the school. Some incidents have occurred and I cannot take any action because that person is not an employee of the school, or an employee of the city I mean. That provides a problem. However, if someone's down at the school and that person is wearing this badge and a gun and he uses it, guess who they're going to come after. We need to fix this problem before it becomes an issue. That being said, I've been in talks with Mr. Bell. I have voiced my concerns with him and we have talked briefly on the phone. We have a sit down discussion on the 7th to kind of finalize some things and maybe bring something to the Board. Bolivar and other agencies around, school's in session for about 9 ½ months. The supplement the wage and the benefits for that officer to the city. The other 2 ½ months, the city picks up the wages and the benefits. This employee needs to be under the police department. If we're going to put this individual in the school, under the city with arrest powers, he needs to be under us not the school district. Because when something goes wrong or a mistake is made the police department has no legal recourse. I am sure the city attorney can give you some advice on this issue. So we need to sit and discuss this and figure out the best outcome 'cause currently the way it's set up, there's a lot of legal issues. The city has gotten awful lucky that nothing has happened. Any questions?

Roe – I understand your concerns and my biggest concern is getting all of this figured out before the start of school, number one, and another concern is that we just had our budget approved in

June. So what you're saying is going to greatly affect our budget which could affect the police department a lot. There's a lot of details to have to work out...

Howell – I'm working on that, sir.

Roe – That's why I have this look in my face of 'oh, this is big'.

Howell – Here's what's going to happen. Me and Mr. Bell have talked. It's imperative that the school is involved in the hiring and firing, not the hiring and firing, the appointment of this individual into the city. Not everybody is made to be an SRO. These two can talk to you about special assignments. Where I came from, you couldn't be in a special assignment without training. For a department to throw a brand new individual into the school who has no experience is a liability. A big liability. Some things had happened. There was no recourse. We need to, as far as the budget goes, I'm trying to figure out that dollar amount that will need to be made up and where I can cut and scrape without having to come to you guys. We're working on that right now. The other part will come from the school and they will do the LAGERS just like we do. They're going to put in that amount of money while that person is employed by the school, while they're up there. That being said, for the first couple months of school, Chief Howell is going to be SRO Chief Howell cause that's what Chief Howell used to be years ago was an SRO. So I will be up at the school leading the police department from the school because I told Mr. Bell that the school will not not have a cop in it. I am a firm believer of the school having a police officer so there will be someone in that school every day.

Mayor Voorhis – Mr. Roy, do you know what the pay salary was for the school compared to what we're paying new officers?

Howell – I think, don't quote me, but I think Officer Castleberry was making about \$23.70.

Mayor Voorhis – Where do we start out?

Howell – We start at \$23 and I talked to Mr. Bell about that and we're right there.

Mayor Voorhis – I mean, we're talking about 2 ½ months anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000, or around, benefits too, right, sir? If they're supplementing 9 ½ months and we're supplementing 2 ½ months, you're around \$15,000...

Howell – Approximately

Mayor Voorhis – That's just for wages and benefits.

Icenhower – Well the SRO, they do more at the school then just during school hours. They have to attend ball games. There's a whole lot more involved then just being at the school from 8 to 5.

Mayor Voorhis – Well that's the school...

Icenhower – That will be on us from what he's saying.

Howell – Mr. Icenhower, that is something that me and Mr. Bell are going to talk about.

Icenhower – There's a lot more involved here then what you're talking about.

Howell – About overtime or comp time for that individual or the police department help covering those events when we can.

Attorney – This is normally worked out with an M.O.U. between the city and the school district regarding employee agreements on percentage of pay, what benefits they're going to cover, the schedule, all of that and we have a bunch of those. They can be pretty standard. A lot of cities in this area do it the same way now so we can help get that set up.

Roe – To me that sounds like the starting point. To work out the agreement.

Howell – That's why me and Mr. Bell have a meeting on the 7th.

Lord – Do you think we need to change the way it's going now?

Attorney – I think, I don't want to give too much legal advice, but I do think there is a lot of liability when a city commissions a police officer but has no control over their training and their day to day operations. Because if something was to happen, the city is ultimately responsible for the police officers that they commission and they will be named in a lawsuit. I think there's some issues with insurance as well. What coverage the school district might have for the officer versus what a city might carry so there's just a lot of issues where the city is more equipped to have a police officer as an employee as opposed to a school district.

Lord – Is there any other municipality that does it exactly how we are doing it right now?

Howell – I'm not 100% sure. I talked with Mr...

Roe – There's a hand going up behind you, Roy.

Howell – Oh, do you know?

Porter – I'm an SRO.

Howell – Where?

Porter – Fordland. I'm paid through the school but commissioned through the county.

Howell – Do you answer to the county or do you answer to the superintendent?

Porter – I think both. I mostly answer to the superintendent but me and the Sheriff are in contact you know if there's an issue or whatever. I do all of my reports through the Sheriff's department.

Howell – Who approves your reports as an SRO?

Porter – The Sheriff's department.

Lord – Who does it at Strafford? How are they set up?

Howell – I do not. I spoke to Willard. They said they looked at commissioning themselves and they said not only no, but hell no because of what they have to go through and they would rather pay the money to someone.

Mayor Voorhis – Yeah, Springfield commissions their own officers.

Lord – It's their own thing.

Howell – It's like a teacher. You work 9 months you get paid for 12.

Icenhower – Well Greg was the SRO here for how many years, Greg?

Porter – 12 years.

Mayor Voorhis – Can I ask you, changing over, what if we just put in agreements. If we work this all out in policy, procedures and agreements, theoretically we wouldn't have to change it as long as we have the agreements and the documentation we wouldn't have to change everything. As long as it was under the understanding that he's a city employee and he's going to fall under the city, right? We wouldn't have to change everything.

Attorney – No, you wouldn't have to essentially remake the position, as long as there is an understanding of what SRO is to the police department, what control they have over the training, the operations, how you're going to do certain things. The school could still have a say in the office and that can be worked out in a Memorandum. But it is a good idea to have them as a police officer first and then as a school resource officer. That's a little bit safer for everybody, including the officer themselves.

Mayor Voorhis – That's all I needed to hear.

Stewart – I will say that's how we do in Springfield for MSU and Drury. There's Springfield police officers that gets assigned to them, you apply like you would to go to a specialized unit and somebody from the school sits on that panel whenever you do your interview and you get selected, they then pay them through the school. MSU pays 80% of the salary so it's very similar to what Mr. Howell is talking about.

Howell – And that's the vetting that I went through when I was a school resource officer was a panel. The police department was on it, the school district was on it and they had me assigned as being the school resource officer and that's exactly what would happen here. It wouldn't just be me saying hey, you go up here. No. Not every body is made to be in the school with kids 24/7.

Mayor Voorhis – I think you're on the right track Mr. Roy. Just get some numbers and understanding and come back here and tell us.

Howell – I did want to come to you and approach the subject now because me and Mr. Bell have been talking and are scheduled to talk some more and get some numbers together and figure out what it's going to cost the city to encompass this and bring it back under the city to cover the city. I don't want to disagree with Mr. Porter but there is a fine line in legality when it comes to when you pull this gun in that school whose going to cover you and who isn't because there going to come after the police department and not the school.

Mayor Voorhis – Well, Mr. Porter, you said the Sheriff's Department reviews all of your reports and stuff. Do we have a thing like that with Fair Grove or is that just all on the school?

Howell – No. They're supposed to come do reports with us. They're supposed to do the reports here, they're supposed to log evidence, the supposed to, supposed to.

Porter – I was on the school desktop, the I.P.I., whatever it was, it was on the school desktop.

Howell – Again, we pay for that so that's one of the things that we're paying for processes that the school is using. It should be that city employee that's using it. Not the school using it.

Petty – Bell is in agreement with this?

Howell – Yes. I spoke to Mr. Bell. Mr. Bell and I were in discussion for about 20 minutes, I told him my concerns he said he did not disagree with it. He said that he would like to sit down and crunch the numbers and see what it looks like. He said yeah, I don't disagree with this, it sounds like we just need to sit down and figure the numbers and stuff like that. And the coverage. The main thing is having somebody in the schools. I said you will have somebody in that school. That's the main concern is having qualified, not somebody brand new thrown in there with no experience.

Lord – Is the SRO, Officer Castleberry, when is he done?

Howell – August 29th. He's already put in his two week notice. Or excuse me, not August, July 29th. So I'll probably be setting up at the school. I got a lot I could say, but..

Mayor Voorhis – I think if you get all of that worked out, Roy and you come back in communication with Mr. Bell and the city attorney and see what it's going to cost us and how we need to move forward. I think we all want the best and make sure the city is covered. We just need to look at it and understand the memorandums that are going to be signed and come with that agreement.

Howell – I just wanted to approach the Aldermen and let them know and make a fair warning out of it that we're going to have discussions about it and try to figure out what's best for everybody. A lot of moving parts. I get it.

Next, I want to visit the nuisance ordinance. As you know, letters were hand delivered out, I went and drove around town. Some of you live around here and a lot of improvements have been made. A lot of improvement has been made. We still have a certain couple of houses. Those houses are probably going to have another conversation. I will reach back out to them and make contact with them again and see why they are not trying to become compliant. We have different things we can do per the ordinance. There are citations. If they just absolutely refuse we can go with a citation or we can get the city, myself and Ken, to go over and pick up their appliances...

Hokanson – Huh? You must have a mouse in your pocket.

Howell - To go pick them up and get them out of their yard and put a lien on their property I guess. It depends on how work was to move forward. But there's always going to be those few that are going to push it instead of trying to become compliant.

Lord – What kind of feedback are you getting from the ones that are non-compliant? Are they saying hey, give us some time or are they saying get out of here, we're not doing it?

Howell – Well I had one guy slam the door in my face

Lord – Alright, get out of here.

Howell – Yep. I had one refuse to open the door and I could see them. The other ones just looked at the letter and I tried to explain it and the other ones said they would try to get it done. So like I said, I'm going to revisit with all of them. I just need to know what the Board wants to do after a certain amount of time, we've given them the 5 days, we've given them the 15 days. It's like your kids. How many times are we going to warn them before we spank them. We need them to become compliant with what we're asking.

Stewart – What have we done in the past?

Howell – I believe citations have been handed out.

Davis – I believe but I'm not 100% sure.

Howell – After the citation and they don't become compliant where would you like to go with that? Again, if they're not going to do it after we went out there and handed them the letter, probably had a discussion with them, we go out there and we follow up with them, we give them free access to things. I believe that Mr. Cooke told me earlier tonight that only one person took advantage of the free trash thing. One. I think we sent letters to around 25 and only one took advantage of it. That doesn't mean that they didn't use another source, I'm just saying that there were opportunities available to them to get rid of that stuff for free without charging them. The community should be thanked for what they did. I don't know if you guys know the house over on Swan but holy cow. I didn't know there was a house there.

Roe – I agree. I didn't know there was a house there. I want to compliment you on partnering with Franklin Hodges. That event brought 15 people to 30 people at the peak. I was talking to Franklin about that and a lot was accomplished so I applaud you for initiating that with Franklin.

Howell – A lot of people just want to get on Facebook and be that keyboard warrior but didn't give me a chance to get out there and finish what I was trying to accomplish. I am very community oriented. I believe in the community. I also need the Board's backing on what we're going to do with this ordinance.

Mayor Voorhis – Chief, you were put in that position to enforce the rules and laws of the State of Missouri and Fair Grove city police department. We understand that, this is my personal opinion, I wouldn't like to see citations go out over it. I would like to see us make every effort that we can to assist them. Unfortunately there are some people out there that are going to require that. As we've elected to put our faith and trust in you I believe that you need to do what's necessary and what you believe is worthy as you are coming into contact with these people and having these discussions. If you believe it's something that we can get the community around and get people out there to help clean it up, the Mayor's personal opinion, let's not write a citation. Let's get people together like you have been doing. Your best judgment of dealing with these people and if they're slamming doors in your face and being rude, you have the authority to do what you have to do to handle that situation. I appreciate you asking for this. I want to see you go out there and enforce the laws of Fair Grove, Missouri. The ordinances that were set in place. If that means writing citations and it coming back and us dealing with that, then they didn't take advantage of the free services you had provided them in the first place.

Petty – Could it help if someone other than the chief tried to talk to them?

Howell – We could address that in the Police Citizens Advisory Committee.

Roe – I was thinking the same thing.

Icenhower – I think the problem you've got, I don't care who you send out there or what you do, if you have the community come and clean it up, it's going to be the same way so you're going to have to address them. Now that's my opinion. I'm not for sure where you're talking about but I'm around town every day. I've seen it time after time. I've seen it get cleaned up and in 60 days, it's right back. City of Springfield has this problem all the time. What do they do?

Stewart – They don't bring it to city council, they just do it.

Mayor Voorhis – You've been put in that spot to enforce the rules of Fair Grove, Missouri.

Icenhower – That's my opinion. I've seen what's been done like over there on Swan Street. There were tractors and more over there but there was an extenuating circumstance there. Some of these others, there aren't any circumstances, it's just laziness.

Roe – Lack of desire..

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Icenhower – And until you build a fire under lack of desire, it's still just kind of lack of desire. I don't want to be hard core but I guess I am.

Howell – Alright, moving forward then. I will move ahead with that and I will try to reach out to them and the Police Citizens Advisory Committee and see how we want to go from there. Heritage Days. Randall Hoskins and I are in talks and starting to plan. I've talked to Mr. Roe about this already. He's on board. I just figured I would come to the Board and get the Board's approval. The rental place on Kansas and Kearney, National Rental, is that what it's called? United Rental has agreed to rent us a U.T.V. for the Heritage Festival. Cost is right at \$510. It's for the insurance on the vehicle in case we put a tear in some cloth or something like that and for the use of the vehicle for a week. The reason I chose a week is because we are billed by the day \$190 something, basically \$400. This way I can pick it up on Tuesday with my truck and trailer, haul it out here, put it in the police garage, have it there, and take it back on the Monday after the festival is over.

Icenhower – I think in the past, they got them donated.

Howell – Yeah, I tried that. That went over like a lead balloon.

Mayor Voorhis – Fair Grove Power Sports, are they still doing anything?

Howell – They don't even have them.

Icenhower – No, they don't have them out there.

Howell – I went over to the Bolivar store. Nope, insurance has changed, we don't do that anymore. I tried the one down by Rogers, same thing. We don't participate in that anymore.

Icenhower – I think in the past S&H Tractor store helped and I'm pretty sure they furnished ATVs.

Roe – Over towards Rogersville?

Icenhower – Yes. S&H Farm Equipment.

Howell – There or in Lebanon?

Icenhower – Over here at Rogersville.

Roe – It's right off of 60.

Icenhower – They furnish the tractors that pull the trams.

Howell – Well, either way, it's about \$110 if I can't get it donated. I got it and I'll talk to Randall about it. It will be for police and firefighters to get into the crowds and help those individuals

that died, not died, go down because of heat exhaustion, hopefully nobody dies, especially since I'm 0 for 5 on CPR.

Mayor Voorhis – Have you been in contact with Mercy? Don't they provide ...

Howell – They provide a gurney to transport them from inside the festival, outside to the hospital but they are stationed at Kum and Go...

Mayor Voorhis – Ambulance.

Howell – But nothing for the firefighters to move around and get to people. And they only respond once the firefighters there and diagnose and decide that they need to be transported.

Icenhower – They have an ambulance sitting at the bottom of the hill.

Mayor Voorhis – That's what I thought too. I don't want to disagree with you, but..

Howell – It was told me that they are always at Kum and Go.

Mayor Voorhis – It's all dependent on how it gets set up. Some years the fire department, Miss Debbie, the old secretary was able to go down there and block off areas for. Cause there's really only two spots and sometimes crowds push themselves down further towards the main street and towards 125 so it takes away a spot. So I think a year, maybe a couple of years ago, the ambulance did park at Kum and Go but usually they are right there right there with the fire truck, like Mr. Icenhower said.

Icenhower – Or across the road there right in front of the bank.

Mayor Voorhis – Yeah, they're not far away from there. It's \$510, you do what you want. I guess my question would be, in the last five years, that this event has happened, how many calls has the police department ran to inside the heritage society? How many calls are they going to inside that small area?

Howell – I haven't been here.

Mayor Voorhis – I know, but...

Roe – I'll comment. In the past, we've had very hot weather and I know there have been times when an ATV or a UTV has gone into the crowd and picked up a person that has collapsed during heat exhaustion so how many times has that occurred? I don't know, but it has occurred.

Mayor Voorhis – Well that's what the Mercy is for.

Roe – But they don't go into the audience.

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Mayor Voorhis – Yeah they do. They do provide that and they do go in there and usually it's them and the fire department. The police department, I don't know.

Howell -- This would be the fire and police department together because Chief Hoskins has asked me specifically, he said we've had problems with the crowd not backing up, we would like an officer with us when we go in the crowd.

Mayor Voorhis – And that's the biggest issue is them trying to get through..

Howell – Yes.

Mayor Voorhis – Mercy, I know they send one in the crowd with the fire department. Usually it's Mercy and the fire department together because they ride in the...

Howell – Well Chief Hoskins specifically asked to have an officer with them, on their UTV to get them around and get the crowds back.

Mayor Voorhis – I mean, it's \$510 I don't...

Howell – I'll reach out like Mr. Icenhower said, to S&H and see what they say. Maybe they will be a little more excited.

Icenhower – I know they have in the past.

Howell – Insurance has gone up in the last few years.

Icenhower – You can use mine if you need it.

Roe – We used it the other day.

Howell – And last but not least, we are going to start rotating our trucks in. They finally got the equipment in, the download equipment for the vehicles, for the camera equipment that we paid for three months ago, so hopefully we start getting that stuff installed and hopefully at the end of that, we will have functional equipment the way it should be. Any questions?

CITY CLERK

Davis - The only thing I have is that Phil Kent, our backup inspector, has decided that he no longer wants to do anything with the city. He wants to be completely out. He had a situation that upset him and now he doesn't want anything to do with. So we're going to have to find a backup inspector.

Stewart – So we don't have a city inspector?

Davis – We have one but he's been out for surgery because he had cancer and Phil is our backup and he's the one handling it right now but he came in the other day and said he wants out completely.

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Mayor Voorhis – Can you elaborate on what incident? I mean he wants out, but what was it that caused him to want to be out?

Davis – Him and Ms. Petty had a conversation over a fence and he felt like she went above his head and it upset him so he wants out. He does not want the drama, his words, not mine.

Mayor Voorhis – Anything else?

Davis – That’s it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sewer Committee report attached.

APPROVE BOARD OF ALDERMAN MINUTES

Motion by Roe to approve Board of Alderman Minutes for June 25, 2024, July 9, 2024, and July 12, 2024. Second Petty

Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE

Mayor Report

Adjournment

Motion by Roe to Adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Seconded by Stewart
Petty AYE, Roe AYE, Stewart AYE, Icenhower AYE, Lord AYE



Sara Davis, City Clerk

Street & Sewer Committee Report, July 23, 2024

Street

On June 26 a storm took down a tree which fell across E. Cherry St blocking the street. This tree was removed the same day by KT Farms for \$1200. There was also a damaged Mulberry tree on the west side of N Orchard Blvd & Willow St that could potentially fall onto Orchard Blvd. This tree was removed a day later at a cost of \$2000.

On July 22 mowing the city ditches started on Saddle Club and S. Main Streets. This will continue for the next couple of weeks.

Sewer

On July 5 Fluid Equipment was on site and installed the rebuilt pump at the Highway CC lift station. They pulled the second pump out for inspection. The impellor was found worn as well as the wear ring around the impellor. This pump was taken back to Fluid Equipment at the Kansas City shop for rebuild. Grease build up had occurred again and was pumped out of the wet well and taken to the WWTP.

On July 16 Roe had a meeting with Kelly to review the Fair Grove Sewer Rate Study provided by OWN Engineering. More details will be to come at a later time on this.

An on-line meeting was held today at City Hall today with a company called Titus Twister Mixing Aerator. Kelly attended on-line from her work. They offer equipment for addressing grease buildup in lift stations and breaking up solids. They will be sending us references as well as more information for review.

Fluid Equipment personnel spent today in Fair Grove performing the maintenance inspections on all the city wastewater lift station pumps. This pro-active maintenance will help reduce the pump down times that have occurred most recently this past spring. They will provide a report when the inspections are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Roe, Richard Icenhower, Kelly Petty