

DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library
200 South Pine Street
May 14, 2018
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being present the council meeting of the Dixon City Council was called to order at 6:05P.M. By Betty Thilges, Mayor Pro-Tem

2. ROLL CALL:

3. Betty Thilges, Paul Watson, Barbara Thomas, Mycal Brown, Marlene Blackburn, Marilyn Timmons absent

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Adopt the Agenda.

6. APPROVE MINUTES:

Old Business

Cemetery Discussion with Leo and Jerry:

Council discussing financial problems with the Dixon Cemetery Association. Jerry Driskill from the cemetery board said the organization is nearly out of money, has only about \$10,000 left, and spends more than \$900 each time the cemetery needs to be mowed and weeded. Jerry Driskill stated, I would recommend that we sit down as a working group and find out how to address this." Barbara Thomas cautioned that the cemetery board spent tens of thousands of dollars to expand the cemetery when it didn't have enough money in the bank to pay for perpetual care of those already buried. Barbara Thomas said the current \$250 fee to buy a plot is too low, and while she commended the cemetery board for trying to keep the costs low for people wanting to bury family members, she said the costs are not sufficient to cover perpetual care of the cemetery. Jerry Driskill said if the cemetery association disbands the cemetery becomes the city's responsibility; Thomas said that's not true. According to Thomas, if the cemetery association disbands, the cemetery will be offered to the city, but if the city doesn't take it over, it will be offered to the county, and if the county doesn't take it over, it will be offered to the state. If neither the city, county nor state are willing to accept the cemetery, it would be considered an abandoned cemetery and no longer maintained by anyone. Barbara Thomas: "I am very interested in helping this cemetery personally; there are a lot of people who have family members and loved ones buried there and they do not want to see this become an abandoned cemetery with weeds and unkempt grass." Responding to questions about whether the Dixon Cemetery Association has a Facebook page, Jerry Driskill said it doesn't. William Carter asked why an earlier decision of the city council to help the cemetery can't continue. Barbara Thomas said state law doesn't allow the city to expend public funds for a private organization. Barbara Thomas: "The prior council or board exceeded its authority in doing those things." Aldermen voted unanimously to rescind the decision. Thomas: "That is not against the association; that is to establish that the board felt that was not done in conformity with law and the board basically overstepped its authority in making that verbal agreement."

Several aldermen, including Betty Thilges and Barbara Thomas, said the city should have received better legal advice from its lawyer, Brian Stumpe, who had attended the city council meetings and in their view should have advised the city that it could not legally spend public funds on a private organization.

Waynesville Growth Alliance Committee:

Nuisance Ordinance

Dale Lane:

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation to Former Mayor Shawn Wethington and City Engineer John Doyle:

Three New Business License

Dog License

Grant Writing Committee:

Marshal Salary Ordinance:

Missouri Municipal League Committee:

Calibrate the flow meter

Budget Discussion.

7. Police Department Report; Marshal Gary Brankel

8. Maintenance Report: Supervisor Josh Lachowicz

ADJOURNMENT:

CLOSED SESSION AS PER RSMO 610.021 with subsection (1) (2) and (3) FOR LEGAL REAL ESTATE, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS.

FOR ACCOMMODATION DUE TO DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL 7596115 TWO WEEK DAYS IN ADVANCE, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.