TRUESDALE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

REGULAR MEETING

09/28/2022

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was requested: Alderman Robert Green-present, Alderman Jerry Cannon-Present, Alderman Joe Brooks-present, and Alderman Mike Thomas-present. City Clerk reported a is quorum present. Also attending the meeting for Truesdale were Mayor Chris Watson, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, Treasurer Missy Bachamp, Chief of Police Casey Doyle, Attorney Kathleen Joyce, and City Clerk Elsa Smith-Fernandez. The guests in attendance were Bruce McCall (Refresco/Gilmore & Bell), Karl Schmitz (Refersco), Jason Terry (Gilmore & Bell) Gregg Klinginsmith (Warren Co. R-III), Anthony Hayeslip Sr. (WCFD), Adam Rollins (Warren County Record).

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order.

Alderman Green made the motion to approve the agenda, motion was second by Alderman Thomas, motion passed with all Aldermen approving. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, motion passed with all Aldermen approving.

Citizens Participation:

Bruce McCall approached the Board of Aldermen to request a property tax abatement on behalf of Refresco. Bruce handed out material introducing Refreco, that included information about the company. Refresco is seeking a property tax abatement on a line expansion that would create approximately 40 jobs. Mr. McCall stated that Refresco is wanting to be a good corporate partner, committed to be involved in the community they’re in. Karl Schmidt introduced himself as the plant manager from Refesco. One of the biggest concerns stated by the Board of Aldermen was that the production line would add approximately 40 new jobs, in turn would add students to a school that is already struggling financially, and the school would miss out on a projected amount of $718,882.00. Mr. McCall stated that if the line is not put in at Truesdale then the school would not receive any increase at all. Mr. McCall said that if the line is approved for Truesdale then the school would be gaining $300,000.00 and that this is a competitive situation and the possibility of not receiving an abatement could move the project to a different Refresco location, there has been no definitive decision on where to put the line in at. Mayor Watson stated that Coca-Cola, and now Refresco has not been a good steward of the community, and the relationship with Refresco has been nonexistent until now that they need an abatement. Karl stated that he understands the frustration and would like to change the current relationship and would provide his contact information, he would be willing to meet with the Board of Aldermen on a regular basis. Jason Terry from Gilmore & Bell stated that under the abatement of the new line, that even if Refresco decided to move the line they would still have to make the committed the pilot amounts on the line. Alderman Cannon stated that one of the problems is that Refresco is a mulit-million, possibly billion dollar company and giving the abatement would lining the corporate pockets. Another concern for the Board of Aldermen is that it would create more work for the city, to hold Refresco accountable on what they are proposing, such as the hiring of the new positions. It suggested that negotiation on behalf of the city would need to become aggressive and that the mayor would like to set up a meeting before the next Board of Aldermen meeting to discuss the abatement. Alderman Thomas made the motion to postpone the decision for the property tax abatement to the next regular Board of Aldermen meeting, second by Aldermen Green. A roll call vote followed, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion passed with a 4 yes/0 no vote.

Comments from the Board of Aldermen:

Elsa gave the Board of Aldermen a letter that was received from the Warren County Ambulance District in regard to reimbursement of taxes from the previous Chapter 100. It has been determined that there is no reimbursement of funds due as the abatement was issued before the state laws were changed.

Alderman Cannon asked what the plans were for Smith Street. Mark stated that he and Elsa will work on getting that request for engineers completed by the November 1, 2022. Alderman Cannon stated that he had received complaints about someone living in a storage shed located in Truesdale and asked what we can do about that. It was questioned if the city could enforce ordinances pertaining to a residential occupancy. It was stated that it would be difficult to prove that someone is physically residing at that location and questioned what was included in the contract the person has with the business owner. It would be up to the business owner to potentially trespass the person. It was also stated that there had been no direct complaints of the person and they seem to stay to themselves.

Update on Grants:

There were no updates on the Sewer Study.

Reports from Departments, Boards, and Committee:

City Clerk:

Elsa gave the Board of Aldermen information on the proposal that was received for cleaning the MaryLou Community Center. The City had gone out for proposals for cleaning services from companies or individuals, to clean the MaryLou Community Center after each party and a deep clean quarterly. The only proposal that was received was from Clean Queen Cleaning LLC. The proposal was $110.00 after each party and $225.00 for the Quarterly Cleaning. Elsa stated that for three hours the rental fee is only $100.00 and would only require a $100.00 deposit, and that would not cover the cost of the cleaning service. Alderman Thomas suggested that the renter could have the opportunity to select the cleaning service at the cost $110.00 or have the option to clean the building themselves. Elsa stated that that the checklist that we had provided for the proposal process could be used as the check list for the renters of the MaryLou Community Center. Elsa stated that she would set up a meeting with the cleaning service to discuss this information.

Elsa informed the Board of Aldermen that the City Wide Clean Up has been scheduled for October 19, 2022. Elsa reported that the bids for the City Hall Outdoor LED sign would be due on October 11,2022 at 2:30 pm. Elsa stated that Elise is attending the Warrenton Downtown Association meeting tonight to discuss the Christmas Event. Elsa asked if there were recommendations on any changes of the planning and zoning ordinance, if there were no changes requested then she would have the ordinance ready for the next meeting.

Elsa stated that the city could move forward with the assessment of the acoustic panels, and then when it comes time to purchase the panels, we would go out for bids on that. Alderman Green made the motion to go with Guas Acoustics for the assessment of the acoustic panels for the MaryLou Community Center, second by Alderman Cannon. A roll call vote as follows, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-yes. Motion Passed with a 4 yes/ 0 no vote.

Public Works:

Public Works Supervisor Mark reported that Robby Miller will be pouring concrete for the sidewalk at Bruer Park and the concrete pad at the MaryLou Community Center, Monday or Tuesday next week. Mark informed the Board of Aldermen that he had been receiving complaints about the brightness of one of the streetlights at the corner of South Street and Smith Street. Neil with Ameren will start the process of correcting the wattage of the streetlights on South Street. Mark stated that he is paying attention to the electric bill for the streetlights as he was made aware that the electric bill was fluctuating and should not be.

Attorney:

Nothing to report at this time.

Chief of Police’s Report:

Chief Doyle stated that the Truesdale Police Department is lined out for the Drug Take Back Event on October 29, 2022, from 10 am to 2 pm. He informed the Board of Alderman that Officer John Kelly is attending training this week. Chief Doyle reported that there are currently eight people banned from Bruer Park. Chief Doyle stated that would be maintenance work that would need to be done on the Charger, but the car would need to reach a certain amount of miles.

 Bills/Ordinances:

Being no other business to come before the Board, Alderman Cannon made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Alderman Green, with all Aldermen approving. Meeting adjourned.

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Elsa Smith-Fernandez

City Clerk

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Approved on date written above

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Chris Watson-Mayor