Truesdale Board of Aldermen Meeting

October 28, 2020

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 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 Joseph Brooks-present, Alderman Mike Thomas-present, and Alderman Jerry Cannon-absent.

A quorum of Aldermen was present. Mayor Chris Watson, Attorney Tim Joyce, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, Chief of Police Casey Doyle, Treasurer Elsa Smith-Fernandez, and Administrator/City Clerk MaryLou Rainwater. Visitors were Marie Beyer of Papu’s Cuban Café, Julie Myers from Tri-County Agency, and Adam Rollins of the Warren County Record.

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, with three aldermen approving/Alderman Cannon absent.

Alderman Green made the motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, with three aldermen approving/Alderman Cannon absent. The consent agenda included the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting and stating the Board received the treasurer’s report for the month of September 2020, and it will be filed for audit purpose.

Due to having another appointment, Chief Doyle gave his report. He had provided a letter to the Board of Aldermen addressing their concerns on the agreement between Warren County and the City for equipment with the Care Act Funding. He stated the equipment is guaranteed for three years. The communication towers have been crossed out as part of the City’s responsibility. Alderman Watson Communications will be doing the installation. Chief Doyle stated the current radios being used could be used by public works and city sponsored events. The City would need to obtain a FCC license and they are good for 10 years. The cost of the license is between $600-$1,000. The channel would not be a secure channel so others could listen in if they have scanners. Mayor Watson stated he talked to Commissioner Joe Gildehaus and he feels better about the Care Act Funds being used for this equipment, and the County should be in great shape for 10-15 years. Chief Doyle stated he had seen a demonstration of a digital radio and the coverage is great.

There will be one officer working on Halloween and he will have goodies bags to hand out to the children.

The Drug Take Back day was held on October 24th. The City has a total of 274.7 pounds to turn over to the DEA. The City has taken in 3,219.3 pounds of medication since starting with the program.

The Truesdale Police Department plans to do the “SHOP WITH A COP” again this year. This will involve two families and will be asking for help with obtaining donations. They would like to raise $600. There were 8 incident reports, 94 calls for service, 17 citations, and 25 warnings issued.

Chief Doyle stated to hire another full-time officer at this time would be hard on the budget but would like to discuss this for the next fiscal year. He does not want to eliminate all the part time officers to go to a full-time officer. He stated the City would lose coverage time. He would like to hire two more part-time officers to bring the total police force to 10 officers. This should provide additional 40 hours of coverage per month.

Marie Beyer addressed the Board concerning the event she helped sponsor at Bruer Park on October 24th. She said it went well, steady flow of attendees, and the venders made money.

She stated she shared ideas for events to be held in Truesdale and Wright City. The one issue with the park is the lack of places to park. Mark stated the City winterizes the pavilion each year and the water is shut off to keep it from freezing.

Julie Myers discussed the three bids she received for the City’s property and liability insurance. The three bids were as follows: STAR Insurance Company $33,946

Intact Insurance $27,580

MOPERM $52,602

Currently the City is with STAR Insurance Company through Missouri Rural Services and has been for many years. STAR Insurance Company was the only carrier that meet the City of Truesdale bid specifications. It has a detailed cyber security policy.

Intact offered coverage at a lowest premium but did not need the City’s bid specification. Also, their cyber security coverage was at a lessor limit than detailed on bid specifications.

MOPERM is a delf-insurance fund offering broad coverage and is one of the largest public entity liability pools in the nation. They could never refuse to provide coverage for the City as they were established to provide coverage to municipalities. But their bid was the highest submitted.

It was noted the City IT Daniel McCory stated the City does have cyber security with the back ups that is being done and the active ransom ware protection in place.

Alderman Thomas made the motion to go with STAR Insurance Company as they did meet the City’s bid specification. Motion was second by Alderman Green, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Watson stated there is a trunk and treat at Faith Christian Family Church in Truesdale tonight. Mayor Watson stated he would also be reaching out for help in requesting funds for the SHOP WITH A COP. It is a worthwhile activity.

Mayor Watson stated he has been invited as a special guest to attend the Liberty for Warren County “Liberty Live “meeting to be held at Deerfield’s on November 10, 2020 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Alderman Ramiz Hakim from Wright City will also be a special guest at the event. The event is hosted by Josh Poore.

Comments from Board of Aldermen: Alderman Thomas informed the Board that Aaron Goodvin plans to perform in Warrenton the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It will be held either at the Bell Star theater or at Deerfield’s on Main. Donation of a toy will be the cost of admission. Alderman Thomas stated Aaron really likes this area after his performance in Truesdale.

Alderman Brooks discussed the fence on Austin Drive and stated it is still in need of repair. He stated post had been put in the ground, but the top railing is still not on the fence.

The administrator stated she will review the ordinance and see what steps the committee needs to take to notify the owner.

Alderman Green inquired why the City cannot get permission from the railroad to put up a permanent fence from Laura Street heading east on railroad property to prevent people walking across the track to attend events. He has seen this done in other cities. The railroad would need to be contacted on this subject.

Grant updates: Safe room: Public works supervisor reported water and sewer connections have been completed from the mains. The water line was a life tap and was very interesting to watch it be done. Mark had the piece of the water line that was cut out of the water pipe and showed it to the Board. It showed very little discoloration from the water. A high-lift machine should be brought in next week as they will be removing a tank buried in the ground where the new building will be located. Weather permitting, they hope to have the footings in the ground, in November and the foundation in before Christmas.

The National Part Service Grant: The decision has been made to delay the bidding of the project until January or February. This will allow the Safe Room project to proceed without a conflict with the Park project. This will eliminate the concern that one project’s work could be damaged from the other project and is the best way to avoid waste of the funds available for the projects.

(also known as Phase # of Bruer Park).

Sewer Study Grant: The last report is the funds may not be available until the end of the year.

Report from Departments, Boards, and Committees:

Administrator/City Clerk: An invoice from Cochran for work on Phase 3 of Bruer Park in the amount of $2,216 was submitted for approval. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the payment of the invoice to Cochran for $2,216.00, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-absent. Motion passed: 3 yes/1 absent.

The decision to terminate the 457 plan with VOYA was discussed. At this time, the Board is no longer contributing to this plan as the City’s contribution is going to LAGERS as of October 1st. The City employees have all submitted paperwork stating they do not plan to contribute to VOYA as they are also contributing to LAGERS. The City would need to send a letter on City’s letterhead stating the City wants to terminate the agreement. Once this is accepted by VOYA, no one can contribute to VOYA. Also, it was stated by VOYA representative that once the City terminates VOYA, it is not easy to rejoin. It was noted the City employees can decide to leave their funds in VOYA, remove part or all of it, roll over to an IRA with VOYA or with another agency. There will not be a penalty to the employees if they remove part or all of their funds but 20% is withheld for federal taxes (this is a law). The employees can request state tax be withheld. Alderman Green made the motion to terminate the 457 plan with VOYA, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-absent. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent.

The meeting schedule during the months of November and December was discussed. The first meeting in November would be on Veterans Day and the second meeting is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the last meeting in December would be the night before Christmas Eve.

It was noted the City can call for a special meeting with a 24-hour notice if there is a need to meet. Alderman Green made the motion to move the meeting on November 11th to November 18th, and cancel the meetings set for November 25th , and December 23rd. The motion was second by Alderman Brooks, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried: 4 yes/1 absent.

The invoice for the debt service payment for the lease/purchase of Well #2 and tower was submitted for approval in the amount of $3,269.67. Alderman Green made the motion to approve this payment, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes-Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent.

Treasurer’s Report: Elsa has been in contact with the City Clerk in Marthasville. They are interested in National Night Out and Mayor Lange is to contact Elsa to obtain more information.

The CPA audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 will start next week. This is the first audit since Elsa became treasurer.

Mayor Watson stated Elsa will be attending the Kiwanna meetings each month as he is unable to attend.

Attorney Joyce: Attorney Joyce stated the tickets are still coming in from Police Department and as this time courts are still not open.

The issue of a home in Truesdale that is infested with roaches, which is now traveling to nearby neighbors was discussed. There is an eviction case in court as the person staying there does not have a lease with the owner. The next court date is November 4th. A discussion on what action the City can take was discussed, and Mayor Watson is to follow up with Chief Doyle.

Public Worker Supervisor: Salt has been delivered and stored for the winter. The cinder spreader and the snowplow has been put on the truck and is ready for use this winter.

Report from Various Committees:

TAC Committee (next meeting November 19th)

Chamber Board Meeting (next meeting November 4th)

University Extension Center: Alderman Brooks stated the meeting discussed investments options. Also, there will be a public hearing on the proposed solar farms on November 4th.

Greater Warren County EDC: Alderman Green stated the solar farm was also discussed at their meeting. There will be public hearings on November 4th and November 19th. There are two companies involved. It would be a two year to build and another two years before they would produce energy. Alderman Green also briefly discussed projects. Mayor Watson stated that if the city of Warrenton will allow no new sewer connections to their sewer plant from Truesdale for at least three years and it could take that long for Truesdale to have its own sewer plant , this means no new growth for the City of Truesdale. If no new business, what service is the EDC able to offer to Truesdale at this time. The City of Truesdale pays $5,000 per year.

It was noted the tech school that was being considered for Warren County will be going to Wentzville.

Bills and Ordinances:

Alderman Green made the motion to introduced Bill #34-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: An ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Truesdale to execute an intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the City and the County of Warren, Missouri, for the upgrade, improvement, and ongoing maintenance of the communication system, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #34-2020 for the second and final reading, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #931.

Alderman Green made the motion to introduced Bill #35-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: An ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Truesdale to execute an agreement between the City of Truesdale and Buddy Jewell, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-absent. Motion passed: 3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduced Bill #35-2020 for the second and final reading, second by Alderman Thomas and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #932.

Alderman Green made the motion to introduced Bill #36-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: An ordinance amending Chapter 705.015 (K) of the revised ordinances of the City of Truesdale in its entirety and adding a new section 700.015 (K) (requiring occupied buildings to be connected to Truesdale water line with service active and in use), and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #36-2020 for the second and final reading, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. Motion passed:3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #933.

Alderman Green made the motion to introduced Bill #37-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: an ordinance amending Chapter 710, Section 710.040 (N) of the revised ordinances of the City of Truesdale in its entirety and adding a new section 710.040 (N) (requiring occupied buildings to be connected to the Truesdale’s sewer line with service active and in use., and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-absent. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #37-2020 for the second reading, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #934.

Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #38-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: An ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Truesdale to execute an agreement between the City and STAR Insurance Company for property and liability insurance for the City of Truesdale and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #38-2020 for the second and final reading, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. Motion passed: 3yes/1 absent. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #935.

Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #39-2020 for the first reading, second by Alderman Thomas: An ordinance closing a strip of ground ten feet (10’) wide on the west side of lot twenty-two (22) in Block Six (6) in the City limits of Truesdale and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried:3 yes/1 absent. Alderman Green made the motion to introduce Bill #39-2020 for the second and final reading, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-absent, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried: 3 yes/1 absent. This will now be Ordinance #936.

Being no other business to come before the Board, Alderman made the motion to adjourn, second by Alderman Green, with all aldermen approving.

Meeting closed at 6:52 p.m.

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MaryLou Rainwater, MRCC

Administrator/Clerk

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Approved on date written above

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Chris Watson-Mayor