Truesdale Board of Aldermen Meeting

December 9, 2020

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m. in the board room at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, Missouri.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Watson requested a roll call from the City Administrator: Alderman Robert Green-present, Alderman Joseph Brooks-present, Alderman Mike Thomas-present, and Alderman Jerry Cannon-present. A full board was reported present. The following also attended the meeting from the City of Truesdale Mayor Chris Watson, City Attorney Tim Joyce, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, Chief of Police Casey Doyle, Treasurer Elsa Smith-Fernandez, Utility Clerk Elise Morris and Administrator/City Clerk MaryLou Rainwater. Visitors were Ben and Sara York, State Representative Bryan Spencer, Bart Korman from Lewis-Bade Inc, and Adam Rollins from the Warren County Record.

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the agenda with two additional items to be added: The minutes of the special meeting held on November 23, 2020 and an invoice from Lewis-Bade with the Safe Room Project. Motion was second by Alderman Cannon, with all aldermen approving. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the consent agenda minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting and the addition of the special meeting held on November 23, 2020. Motion was second by Alderman Thomas, with all Aldermen approving.

Citizens Participation:

Sara York attended the meeting to request a business license for her business “Sara Fit 365 LLC”

She lives at 114 South Water Street, but the business will be in person’s home and outdoors such as in Bruer Park, and virtual training. It is for personal training, boot camps, and small group training. She has been doing this for approximately two years and wanted to open her own business when Covid-19 caused her place of work to close down. She also worked with the St. Charles Park to hold boot camps. She would not be doing any of the training in her home or garage at this time. Alderman Thomas made the motion to approve the business license for Sara Fit 365 LLC, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-yes, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried:4 yes/0 no votes.

Comments from Mayor Watson:

Mayor Watson stated this would be the last meeting of Attorney Tim Joyce as he is retiring after 38 years as City Attorney and Prosecutor for the City of Truesdale. Mayor Watson presented Tim with a proclamation from the City of Truesdale for his service to the City.

A proclamation was also provided to State Representative Bryan Spencer who will end his term in January 2021. Although Representative Spencer was not officially the City’s representative, he was available to help the City in many ways including the curb mailbox issue in Heritage Hills and he also worked with the City for the National Night Out in 2019 (this event was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19).

Comments from the Board of Aldermen: No comments given.

Grant Updates

1. Safe Room: Bart Korman from Lewis-Bade submitted a written report to the Board concerning activities through November 2020. He stated the construction company had been hit with one worker’s death and another down with COVID-19. Mark (City’s public works) stated there was an issue obtaining the rebar but it should be delivered by next week. Bart stated he would be working with Tim Churchill from Boonslick RPC to break down the invoice from T.S. Banze into the different categories of the grant. A time-lapse camera has been installed at the park and will take photos to document the work.

He then shared the details on the inside walls of the building. Since FEMA would not pay for paint, the west wall would be approximately 9 feet gray concrete, 8 feet of gray concrete blocks and then 3 feet of parchment blocks. The cost would be $2,000 to make it all the parchment block. If the City plans to paint it or put up a mural in the future, he would suggest not doing anything different. Also, once the air conditioning is installed, part of the wall will be hidden. No action was taken on the issue so no changes will be made.

Mayor Bruer stated Boonslick Regional Planning Commission has not received any updates from the Community Development Block Grant application, so the City needs to look into other ways to finance the safe room. A meeting will be set up in January with Chad Eggen from Boonslick to discuss a lease purchase agreement and other financial options.

Alderman Thomas made the motion to approve three invoices: T.S. Banze Construction for $60,025.55, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission $12,940, and Lewis-Bade Inc $4,000. Motion was second by Alderman Green, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion passed:4 yes/0 no votes. The invoices will be given to Tim Churchill (Boonslick RPC) and he will submit them to the state for approval. The City will be responsible for 10% of the total.

1. The Department of the Interior National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. The first report will be sent in January 2021 showing what the expenditures have been for the City ending as of December 31, 2020.
2. The Sewer Study Grant: An email was received from Michael Hartman of the Rural Development on December 7th. He stated “at this time, we are waiting to get our budget from Washington D.C. No funding has been released yet. I will let you know ASAP.”

Reports from Departments, Boards, and Committees:

1. Administrator/City Clerk

The following message was received on the City’s email:

It's the Christmas season again, our fourth just outside the city limits of Truesdale. Each year my wife and I await the Christmas lights hung along the city streets. That wonderful feeling of small town American pride, and belief is so appreciated. We wanted to take a moment to thank the city government of Truesdale for the time, effort, and expense to continue a heart warming tradition.  
Merry Christmas, and a Blessed New Year, from your neighbors, the Olendorff's.

The Board appreciated the email.

A reminder was given that the first date to file for the election will be December 15, 2020 and the last date to file will be January 19, 2021. The term of Mayor and two Aldermen (Alderman Cannon and Alderman Green) will be up for election.

The City had discussed the use tax and if the Board wanted to put it on the April 2021 ballot. Alderman Green made the motion to not put the use tax on the ballot for the April 2021 ballot, motion second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. The use tax will not be placed on the issue. Motion carried: 4 yes/0 no votes.

Alderman Green made the motion to approve the payment of the invoice of $100 for Warren Area Chamber dues, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-yes. Motion carried:4 yes/0 no votes.

1. Treasurer: No report given.
2. Attorney: Tim reported things have been quiet with no court yet.
3. Public Works: Mark reported the work on the sidewalk across the Laura Street crosswalk has been completed, and he is satisfied with the work. He is still waiting on an invoice
4. Chief of Police: Chief Doyle gave the following report:

Toys for Toons: Toys donated during the event at Deerfield's will be given to Agape and Turning Point

Shop with a Cop: Shop with a cop is scheduled for Saturday December 12th, at Walmart.  The total amount raised for the event is just over $2100 from local businesses, city elected officials and employees.  The Police Department is expecting to provide Christmas for three local families.  Five officers are currently staffed for the event

Radios: The Police Department has received (6) portable digital radios and (2) digital radios were installed in the vehicles by S&A Communications.  The cost of the radios, programming and installation was funded through the CARES Grant.

Incident Reports: 8

Calls for service: 107

Citations: 13

Warnings: 19

Chief Doyle stated there has been an increase in stolen vehicles and property. One of Truesdale’s office recovered a vehicle that had been stolen from a local business, and the arrest may lead to solving several cases in the area.

It was noted the collection for the Shop with Cop event was mostly from small family-owned businesses and they donated without hesitation. Elsa has been highlighting the businesses that have made donations on the City’s face book page.

Report from various committees:

(1) TAC committee meeting on November 19, 2020. MaryLou provided a written report to the board with additional papers provided during the meeting.

(2) Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce: Mike was not able to attend due to work obligation. However, he did want to inform the Board the City is not a voting member of the Board.

(3) University Extension Meeting: Joe attended the meeting after the City’s special meeting on November 23, 2020. He stated Billy Miller wanted to meet with Mark to discuss the Park.

(4) Greater Warren County EDC Meeting on November 24, 2020: Robert stated he is still unsure what information from the meeting he should be providing to the Board. He reported on the solar farms. There are more public hearings to be held.

Being no other business to discuss, Alderman green made the motion to adjourn, second by Alderman Thomas, with all Aldermen approving.

Meeting closed at 6:17 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

NOTE: After the close of the meeting, the City held a small reception to honor Attorney Tim Joyce on his retirement. (no large event could be planned due to Covid-19).