Truesdale Board of Aldermen Meeting

February 10, 2021

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen met for a regular board meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 5:30 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Watson requested roll call and it was answered as follows: Alderman Mike Thomas-present, Alderman Jerry Cannon-present, Alderman Robert Green-present, and Alderman Joseph Brooks-present. Full Board was present for the meeting. Also attending for the City of Truesdale was Mayor Chris Watson, Attorney Katie Joyce, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, Chief of Police Casey Doyle, and Administrator/City Clerk MaryLou Rainwater. Adam Rollins from the Warren County Record also attended the meeting.

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, and all Aldermen approving the motion. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the minutes of the regular meeting on January 13, 2021, and the accounts payable list for January 2021. Approving the consent agenda also stated the Board has received the Treasurer’s report for the month of December 2020 and it will be filed for audit purpose. (Note: Board meeting scheduled for January 27, 2021 was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Citizens Participation: A resident who is ill and unable to attend the meeting requested an extension on the water bill until March 30, 2021. Due to his illness, he has been unable to work. Checking the history of the resident, he has only been disconnected one time for non-payment and he has lived in Truesdale since 2016. Alderman Thomas made the motion to extend payment period until March 30, 2021, charging the penalties but not disconnecting nor charging the service fee. Motion was second by Alderman Green, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion carried: 4 yes/o no votes.

Comments from Mayor Watson: Mayor Watson stated he had a telephone conversation with Warrenton Mayor Eric Schleuter concerning the sewer study grant the City of Truesdale plans to have completed when funds are available from Rural Development. This grant will include I and I study and a CMOM could be added to the project. The City does not have budgeted for extra engineering for sewer study in the current budget. The City works very hard to obtain grants when available. Mayor Watson stated he thought it was a positive conversation between the two Mayors. They also agreed the two Public Works Supervisor should get together and discuss the sewer expansion and get more details on what exactly is required from Truesdale to be included in the expansion planning. The Administrator stated she has received another email from Brandie Walters from the City of Warrenton wanting dates to set up a zoom meeting between the Boards. Mayor Watson stated he appreciated Alderman Gary Auch from Warrenton wanting the Board to meet to discuss the issue instead of sending another letter. Three available dates for a zoom meeting were agreed to by the Truesdale Board and these are February 17, February 25, and March 3rd. It was also stated the time recommended would be 5:30 p.m. but would be available at 7:00 p.m. if needed. City Administrator will provide this information to Brandie, and will inform the Board when date has been agreed upon by Warrenton’s Board of Aldermen. Mayor Watson stated he would request that Attorney Katie Joyce, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, and City Administrator/City Clerk MaryLou Rainwater also attend the zoom meeting.

Attorney Joyce reviewed the letter she has prepared to send to Warrenton’s City Attorney. The Board agreed with the content and she stated she would email it right away. She suggested the City of Warrenton use the same percentage rate of growth for Truesdale as will be used for the City of Warrenton.

 One issue has come up that someone wants to put a new mobile home on a lot previously owned by her Grandfather and it is unknown if Warrenton will allow her to connect to the sewer system and if she would be required to have an engineer report completed as was required by Wes and Jane Kelly on their three lots on Smith Street. This could be discussed during the zoom meeting.

Adam Rollins from the Warren County Record asked the Board what does Truesdale want to come out of the zoom meeting with Warrenton. Mayor stated he would want better communications between the two cities moving forward as a good outcome of the meeting. He would also like to move forward if Truesdale continues to use the Warrenton treatment plant or can have their own in the future.

A letter written to the editor of the Warren County Record by former Mayor Jerry Pherigo was reviewed at this meeting and everyone agreed it had valuable information and was well written.

Frank Stuermann met with Mayor Watson to inform him of the fund raising event in the County to support keeping the two ag teachers at the Warren County R-3 School district. The funding for the schools has been cut and without the support of the community, one of the ag teachers will be let go from the school. The goal is $78,000 . Mayor Watson had flyers for anyone interested in supporting the event. Alderman Cannon who is a history teacher stated the funding for schools is a mess. He also stated Warren County is losing good teachers that are leaving for better paying positions. Chief Doyle wanted to see if a gun raffle could be set up with one of the gun shops in the area. Mayor Watson and board members thought it would be a great idea and ask Chief Doyle to follow up with it.

Mayor Watson reported that Olive’s Bakery is doing a good business and has sold out of items early several days. It was noted the Chamber will do a ribbon cutting on Friday, February 19 at noon and the City will meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 20th to celebrate the opening of the bakery.

Mayor Watson also thanked Adam Rollins for the good article on the Financial report of the City.

It was reported that the libertarian group is looking for a place to meet on a regular basis each month, but Mayor Watson did not think it would be a good time to set up something permanent for a meeting place at City Hall.

The Girl Scouts have asked if they can use the City Hall for one meeting a month for three months until their regular place to meet reopens. This is the group that has participated in Railroad Days, put up the pet waste stations in the park, and built the little library at City Hall. The board had no objection for the short time use of the City Hall. Administrator and Alderman Cannon will work together for the closing and opening of the building for the meetings.

Mayor Watson stated his daughter Charlee, and he attended a Father-Daughter dance recently and he thought this would be a great event in the future at the safe room. Possibly a non profit could be in charge of setting it up and putting in on as part of a fund raiser.

Board of Aldermen’s comments: Alderman Thomas discussed the complaints received concerning coyotes near Heritage Hills. He has talked to Chief Doyle about the issue. They could be living on the south side of the tracks which would put them in the city limits of Warrenton. Alderman Thomas stated he received a press release, and it seems the problem is everywhere. It is recommended for everyone to be extra careful with small pets.

Alderman Thomas brought in a window cling that is promoting Moscow Mills celebration and thought it would be something the City might use with Railroad Days.

The fire alarm/smoke detector at 229 Conrad Circle has been going off at lease since Saturday (the 6th of February). The house has been sold. Mayor Watson contacted the previous owner, and he did not know the new owner. The Administrator will see what she can find out on the new owner.

The fence committee received a fence permit request for a temporary fence at 601 Ashleigh and then a fence permanent application for the permanent fence.

The temporary fence does not meet the City’s fence ordinance and was put up due to the delay in getting the permanent fence. The committee was concerned about the visual look of the long area of fence along Austin Drive but nothing in the fence ordinance prohibits it. This is due to the set up of the home on the odd shaped lot. The Committee did not approve the temporary fence permit and understands it will be removed when permanent fence is installed. The fence committee will approve the permanent fence permit.

Alderman Cannon has been contacted by someone who is interested in doing a Caring Cupboard. It is a food pantry available 24/7 where someone can leave nonperishable food or take food if needed. He has one he manages at his school and is has been well received. Volunteers would build it, and someone would keep access items in their home until needed, and it would be stock by volunteers also. The Board considered best place to put it. It was decided Bruer Park would be a good place for it but with all the building activities, the Board did not think it would be the best time to set it up.

Grant Updates:

Safe room Grant Project:

Bart Korman from Lewis-Bade INC attended the meeting and gave an update on the project. He did a temperature check on the concrete recently poured, and it was good. Design team is working on the air conditioning addition. Also, the type of material used for the stairs is being reviewed, and modifications could be possible. The Administrator noted that Ian Hagen from TS Banze considered the project 1/3 completed. Bart also presented the Board with a report for the month of January. Bart also stated the drain issue between the two projects have been worked out. He stated the playground equipment may need to be closer to the pavilion than original planned. More information will be needed on this issue.

Three invoices were submitted for approval: Application #3 from TS Banze in the amount of $49,212.77, Lewis-Bade Invoice #23895 for $4,000 and invoice #23950 for $4,000. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the three invoices, second by Alderman Thomas and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Brooks-yes. Motion carried: 4 yes/0 no votes.

The Department of the Interior National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant:

The City will bid out the project starting February 25 and will accept bids until March 19th. A pre-bid meeting will be held on March 3rd. Notice of award and notice to proceed will not be issued until late May or early June.

Sewer Study Grant:

The Administrator received the following information from Michael Hartman from Rural Development “At this time as I understand the State of Missouri has not received the 2021 funding for the SEARCH grant program as of today. I will inform the City ASAP once I hear anything”.

Report from Departments, Boards, and Committees:

Administrator/City Clerk: It was reported sales tax was charged on commercial sewer usage in error and the accounts will be credited this month.

The city’s real estate and personal property taxes received for December 2020 uncreased by $25,627.66 from payment received in January 2020 $277,226.09 compared to payment received in January 2021 $302,853.75.

Boonslick Regional Planning Commission held a Hazard Mitigation meeting on January 19, 2021. The plan is being worked on and the City will need to approve it once it is completed.

Treasurer’s Report: No report provided as Treasurer is in Florida on vacation.

Public Works Supervisor’s report: Mark did not attend the meeting as he was resting for the next round of winter weather expected to hit the area. He provided the following information to the Administrator to present to the Board.

Mark has prepared a list of the meter pits in Belaire Mobile Home Park and work that needs to be completed on them. He gave a copy of the new managers of the Park.

Mark requested authorization to order street signs in the amount of $570.79 plus shipping. Alderman Green made the motion to approve ordering the signs, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Cannon-yes. Motion carried: 4 yes/0 no votes.

While Mark was snow plowing on February 9th around 12:30 a.m. a deer hit the truck and did damage to the headlight and left fender well. Mark is in the process of getting estimate and then we will check with insurance.

Attorney Joyce’s report: She reported that court will be delayed until March. She again reviewed the information in the letter to Warrenton on the sewer extension plant.

Chief of Police’s Report: The State changed the charge codes, and the police department is working to correct the issue.  ITI completed an update in our system, but the police department has to manually change charge codes as they relate to municipal codes. Attorney Joyce agrees that it is a nightmare.

Incident Reports: 6

Calls for Service: 168

Citations: 44

Warnings: 24

Chief Doyle also reported that he is down three officers-one left the department, one is on medical leave from his full-time position, and one is on maternity leave. The new hire is working extra hours and is staying very busy.

He stated the Department had an insurance audit and recommended a few changes included a small refrigerator with lock for evidence for officers to use when Chief is not on duty.

Mayor Watson commended Chief Doyle on how the department is running now.

Report from committees:

1. TAC Committee: original meeting is scheduled for February 18th.
2. Chamber meeting: Alderman Thomas stated it was moved to a morning meeting and he was unable to attend. Attorney Joyce stated she was unable to attend also but stated the meeting went well, a discussion of the difficulty of doing fund raising events with Covid-19. The golf tournament for May is still being planned. It was also stated the license bureau is doing well.
3. University Extension Center: Alderman Brooks was not able to attend due to the birth of his daughter. It was stated the Extension Center will now be in charge of the Community Gardens and the Master Gardeners will still be helping with it.
4. Warren County EDC meeting: Alderman Green stated he attended the meeting and the main topic was moving forward with the solar farms.

Being no other business to come before the Board, Alderman Cannon made the motion to adjourn, second by Alderman Green. Meeting closed 7:09 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