TRUESDALE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

JUNE 9, 2021

The Truesdale Board of Aldermen held a meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 5:40 p.m. at the Truesdale City Hall, 109 Pinckney Street, Truesdale, MO 63380.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was requested from Mayor Watson and was answered as follows: Alderman Jerry Cannon-present, Alderman Robert Green-present, Alderman Joseph Brooks-present, and Alderman Mike Thomas-present. A full board was reported present. Mayor Chris Watson, Attorney Katie Joyce, Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett, Chief of Police Casey Doyle, Treasurer Elsa Smith-Fernandez, and Administrator/City Clerk MaryLou Rainwater attended the meeting for the City of Truesdale. Visitors included Stanley Brookshier, Alfred and Gale Wheeler, Kari Hartley, Don Smith, Adam Rollins, Charles Girardier, Paul Owenby, Rick and Tracy Ellis, David and Elisabeth Sparks, and William (Bill) Moir.

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, with all Aldermen approving. Alderman Cannon made the motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Alderman Thomas, with all aldermen approving.

Public Comments: Paul Owenby requested approval for the Warren County Fair Parade to come into Truesdale on Highway M and then down Pinckney Street to the high school. It would be the same as in previous year. The date would be the 4th of July and starting at 4:00 p.m. The Board approved.

Alfred Wheeler addressed the Board on several issues. The first one has to do with a drainage ditch located between him and Norman Leesman on N. Water Street. During heavy rains, Alfred stated the water gets up into his yard and around the bricks under his mobile home. Mark stated Public works had cleaned out the ditch, and stated there is probably a 10 foot drop from the south to the north and a lot of water could be coming from this area. He stated there is a large gas line in the area of the ditch. He stated he could check it out the next time there is a heavy rain in the area. Gail stated it is like a flood plain. She is also concerned about the gas plant and how often it is checked for leaks. Gale also stated that drivers think the stop sign is a yield sign and just goes right thru them. Mayor Watson stated he thought sometimes they took it for a “speed up” sign. Mayor Watson stated he would meet with Mark to look the situation over and also asked Wheelers to take videos and photos of the area when there is a problem. Alfred then asked when North Water Street would be worked on. He stated it has been ten years he has been waiting. Mayor Watson stated there is street work in the budget and the decision what will be done depends on the biggest need.

Charles Girardier attended the meeting to get the final decision on his mobile home being approved to be placed in Countryside mobile home park. After reviewing the photos at the May 26th meeting, it was stated by the Board that the home looked almost brand new. Attorney Joyce stated she believes the variance can be granted on the condition of the home, which would not set a precedent to allow older homes into the City. Alderman Green made the motion to approve a variance to Charles Girardier due to the age of the mobile home according to its excellent condition, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Green-yes, Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, and Alderman Thomas-yes. Motion passed: 4 yes/o no votes.

William (Bill) Moir addressed the Board concerning the radio tower. He stated Tracy and Rick Ellis was at the meeting, and George and Dana Heath were going to take an ownership role with the tower. It will be a local community effort. Then he stated the ownership instead of leasing the ground was being negotiated at this time. He stated there would be a maintenance agreement, and the tower would be built as strong as a tower that would be 1,000 ft tall. It was asked how often it was inspected and Bill stated every three months, and they check everything including guyed wires and paint. He stated he currently owns 4 towers. As the owner, the Heaths would be responsible for the tower. Mayor Watson asked if they ever abandoned a tower in the past and Bill stated no. He has had no tower problems and he has built 12 in several states. He stated the plans would have an engineer stamp. It was asked why it took 5 years to come back to the City with information and Bill stated there was a problem with someone, and 2 of the 5 station has to be surrendered, and fines were charged. Now, however, they have received a license until 2029 and then it is renewed every 8 years. FAA has approved the tower to go 500 feet. Alderman Thomas asked if this project had been discussed with MoDOT as it is next to the Highway, and Bill stated he had not.

The questions brought up during the public hearing was asked:

1. Does insurance increase for the property owners around the tower? Bill stated he did not know but he would not think so.
2. Would the salt from the highway and service road affect the tower’s steel? Bill stated he did not think it would but the maintenance inspection would catch any issues.
3. Other users of the tower: Bill stated that other companies would require the engineering of the tower to be sure it means their requirement before renting on the tower.

Alderman Thomas asked Tracy why the Mayor and the other three Aldermen were contract but he was not. Tracy stated he understood that he stated he was going to abstained from the vote.

Bill stated there would still be room for a building in front of the tower. The tower is a small skinny tower. The steel is being made by Savers Steel and Wallace Towers would build it. He stated “Above All Towers” from Farmington would probably be the company that handles the maintenance. He stated he would provide contact information for all companies.

Alderman Green stated he was still concerned about the location and he did not want anyone to get hurt, and Bill agreed.

It was asked why in Truesdale and Bill stated they had more coverage here than other areas of the county. Bill stated they had been contacted about the tower for their communication upgrade. Louis Eckelkamp (Buzz) is the person that talked to someone. Chief Doyle stated the 9-1-1 center director was not aware of it, but Tracy checked and stated it was Joe Gilderhaus they spoke to about this request.

Bill stated he would consult with the City with every part of the engineering if the tower location is approved. He stated there are many towers, but the cell towers are too full or too short and the utility towers such as owned by AmerenMissouri is not available for others to use. He stated the maintenance would stay with the tower owners. At this time, the construction date is set for September 1st, but could be a couple of weeks later.

Alderman Thomas asked about security and fencing. Bill stated this is required with the tower so there would be a fence, security lighting, security cameras, and signs.

Alderman Green stated he was still not happy about the location and would like to know the feelings of the surrounding property owners. Mayor Watson stated he still had questions and would like to suggest the topic be tabled to provide more time to discuss with the owner of the property, MoDOT, and property owners around the area. This will be on the agenda again on June 23, 2021.

Comments from Mayor Watson: Mayor Watson stated he attended a meeting the evening of June 8th with the Commissioners, other Mayors, Amy from the 9-1-1 center. It has to do with storm warning system that is being discussed. Alderman Cannon had attended a meeting concerning this several months ago. This has to do with new storm siren that would all be connected with the National weather system and would allow the tones to be set off when a warning is issued for the area. There were some questions on if the present locks at the safe room could be set up to open with this. Mark was asked to share information on the locks with Mayor Watson.

Mayor Watson thanked everyone for their prayers and help during the recent illness of his family.

Comments from Board of Aldermen: Alderman Thomas stated Elsa did a good job on the yard sale notices. Alderman Cannon stated some people stated they could not submit them online. Elsa explained the form could be completed on the web site but not the facebook page. Jerry discussed looking into Google Drive for future use for the City.

The Administrator brought up the issue of various organizations and businesses sending email asking to be linked to the City’s web page. The Treasurer and the Administrator agree that some would be helpful but some would not and how to you say yes to one and not someone else. Then the time it takes to set up and maintain should be consider also. The Board agreed that it is best to keep the web page for City use only. To be clear there are organizations already on the web page such as the Warren County Administration building, Boonslick RPC, MORIDES and the Warren County School District.

Grant Updates:

Safe Room: Bart Korman provided his written report that was given to the Board and Public Works Supervisor Mark Bennett gave an update on the Safe Room and stated it is on schedule. There was an issue with the fire compression line being worked on and the water was turned on. It caused the lid to shoot off and approximately 25,000 gallons of water was lost.

Two invoices were submitted for approval: Lewis-Bade Inc for $8,000 and T.S. Banze for $147,226.64. Alderman Green made the motion to approve payment on both invoices, second by Alderman Cannon, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. Motion carried: 4 yes/0 no votes.

Bruer Park: The Administrator informed the Board that JoAnn Toerper would be leaving Boonslick RPC at the end of June due to family health. It was stressed how great JoAnn had been to work with and she will be greatly missed. At this time, it is unknown who will be assigned to administer the grant. Mark mentioned that things are on schedule with this project and that Tom Dohr from Freise is great to work with and keeps the City informed.

Sewer Study: No update on the sewer study. Mark did present the CMOM to the Board for their review. A copy will be provided to the City of Warrenton and a copy will be scanned and sent to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Public Hearing: A public hearing on the budget has been set for June 23rd at 5:15 p.m.

Reports from Department, Boards, and Committees:

Administrator/City Clerk: Meramec Specialty Company has submitted their application for a firework tent for 1020 East Veterans Memorial Parkway. Alderman Thomas made the motion to approve the application, second by Alderman Brooks, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Green-yes, and Alderman Cannon-yes. Motion passed:4 yes/0 no votes.

A work session needs to be held to review the budget information. It was decided to have a work session on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

The Administrator received a telephone call from a resident in Heritage Hills stating she had peddlers in the neighborhood and wanted to have the City put up signs against this. She stated she had signs and it did not deter them. The Board agreed that it is up to each individual if they want solicitors to come to their home or not.

Mayor Watson stated he was concerned because he heard in August there might be a record foreclosures due to the covid relief package ending.

Treasurer: Elsa reported they plan to start working on the float for the fair parade and would need some supplies which should not cost over $200.00. This cost would come from the Railroad Days expense account. The next Railroad Days meeting will be June 22nd. Elsa and her husband may bring the trailer with the float to the meeting for additional help to complete it.

There was a concern from a vendor that due to the cost of supplies she may not be able to participate in Railroad Days this year. However, it was reported there was over 80 vendors at Wright City for their First Friday Event.

Attorney Katie Joyce: Attorney Joyce did not have anything to report. She did state there was a conference for municipal attorneys in July that she would like to attend. It is put on by the Missouri Municipal League. It was noted that under the current contract, the City allows up to $500 for training purposes for the City attorney.

Chief of Police’s Report: Chief Doyle provided the following report:

Meeting Notes

06-09-2021

IRS Letter of Determination: The Police Department received a letter explaining our inherent tax exempt status from the IRS

Grants: The Police Department's application to submit grants to a local community-based organization has been approved to proceed. The Police Department will be submitting grants to purchase evidence collection-based equipment, to include Nikon digital cameras, evidence collection kits, and crime scene investigation tools.

He did report the 2014 police car is back in service.

Public Works Supervisor: Mark reported that the half basketball court should be poured on Friday, and part of the sidewalks is being completed. The locks for the bathrooms are working correctly and the rest rooms are open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Flynn Well Drilling did an inspection on Well 1 and Well 2. It is mentioned about the meter and Mark plans to follow up to obtain more details. The invoice was received from Flynn in the amount of $500.00 and submitted to the Board for their review. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the payment of the $500 to Flynn Well Drilling, second by Alderman Thomas, with 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 water meter and valve were moved out of the sidewalk area in Bruer Park. This move was completed to prevent anyone from opening or removing the lid within the sidewalk causing an accident and if repairs are needed in the future, the city will not have to remove the sidewalk o complete them. Mark contracted T& D Utilities and MKA Contracting. He never received a response back from T & D Utilities and the bid submitted by MKA Contracting was $950.00 The work has been completed. Alderman Green made the motion to approve the payment to MKA for $950, second by Alderman Thomas, and roll call voted as follows: Alderman Cannon-yes, Alderman Brooks-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, and Alderman Green-yes. Motion passed:4 yes/0 no votes.

Report from various Committees:

1. TAC Committee: next meeting August 19th.
2. Chamber Meeting: Alderman Thomas was unable to attend the last meeting, but Attorney Joyce did attend and stated it was an interesting meeting with the non-profit organization reporting on their activities. Also, the chamber board and officers provided the meal and Alderman Thomas provided chips. Any chips that were left will be donated to the school for their lunch program. Four scholarships were awarded.
3. University Extension Center-next meeting June 28th
4. Warren County EDC-next meeting June 29th

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

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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