

**City of Elsberry
Regular Session
August 10th, 2021
Elsberry City Hall**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Elsberry met on the evening of the above date at Elsberry City Hall, 6:30pm. Mayor Short presided over the meeting. Present were Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell, Alderman Wilch, City Attorney Rob Guinness, City Clerk Rachel Reed, City Treasurer Brooke Cerutti and Tashua Chiodini, City Treasurer Lisa Grumich and Police Chief Randy Davis. Also present were Justin Reaves, and Ron Smith of Alliance Water Resources. Alderman Davis was absent.

Mayor Short called the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call deemed a quorum present.

Mayor Short asked to have the agenda amended to add paving the alley behind the library.

Alderman Wilch made a motion to amend that agenda to add paving the alley behind the library. Alderman Taylor seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Reading and acting are unapproved minutes from previous meetings

Alderman Harper made motion to approve the unapproved minutes.

Alderman Rockwell seconded the motion.

AYES- AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Reading of unpaid bills approval to pay report

Alderman Wilch made a motion to pay unpaid bills.

Alderman Rockwell seconded the motion.

AYES- AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Project updates

Boonslick- Chad Eggen reached out to Mayor Short to let him know that DNR is going to have some potential grants and funding available. Mr Eggen has submitted Elsberry for these opportunities.

USDA- nothing to report

Meco Engineering- Jim Bensman said that we are still in a holding pattern waiting on some HUD related language that needs to be added to the contract document. Jim spoke with Chuck Eichmeyer and Michael Hartman and the state is reviewing all bonding documents. Alderman Wilch asked how long this would take and Mr. Bensman said he wasn't sure.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS AND THE HEARING OF ANY PERSON OR GROUP DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, EACH OF WHOM HAVE FILED PRIOR REQUESTS TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE 24.105

Steve Drummond- Mr. Drummond had a water leak that did not go into the sewer. He would like to ask for a water and sewer abatement.

Alderman Miller made a motion to abate the sewer in the amount of \$191.10.

Alderman Taylor seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Alderman Miller made a motion to abate the water by 50%.

Alderman Taylor seconded the motion

AYES-Alderman Taylor, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-Alderman Wilch and Alderman Harper

Absent-Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Paula Romero/Larry Manual- Payment agreement- they called and said that they wouldn't be here.

Amanda Moyer- not present

Tim Turner-Mr. Turner wanted to talk about the amount of his bill. He said that it has been off since July of 2020 and he doesn't understand how it can be so high. City Clerk Rachel Reed said

that the water was shut off and then the meter was tampered with. Mr. Turner admitted that he hooked up a water hose from the neighbors' house to get water in the house.

No action was taken.

April Taylor- Mrs. Taylor made a statement about the history of Elsberry and how there were no plans for replacing lines. The situation was inherited from previous boards. She also said that she is appalled with the amount of people that are getting on social media spreading nothing but negativity about this town. This is not helping and is only preventing people from coming to this town and causing the people who live here to pick up this town. The only thing she sees that will be helpful is to raise taxes. Mrs. Taylor said that she chooses to live here and she loves this town and the people and doesn't agree with the nastiness going on. She said if we don't move forward, we will be left behind. She said that she understands that everyone wants the Cemetery to look nice but, Alliance is responsible for mowing more than 54 acres every week and this does take a large amount time. She thinks that having them make a weekly report is a waste of time and takes them away from the work that they need to be doing.

Sue Beck- Mrs. Beck would like to discuss the PA system and the recording system in the City Council room. She feels that the citizens of Elsberry should be able to hear every word. It is very hard to hear when you are listening to a board meeting from the audience. She said that the microphones that are for recording do project into the speakers but they must be spoken into directly. She asked if the recording system was working? City Clerk Rachel Reed said no it doesn't work. She asked Rachel how the meetings are recorded. Rachel said they use a recording device provided by the City. She wanted to ask the board if they would consider a new PA system or at least speak into the microphones so the audience can hear better. Mrs. Beck also wanted to ask about the camera system in City Hall and how long that haven't been working. Rachel Reed explained that they had just quit working in the month of June. Mrs. Beck would also like to have cameras installed in the Alliance building so that the equipment can be watched and so the City can see what the employees are really doing. She said that they cook breakfast every morning, work on their personal vehicles, and make gavels for the Mayor.

Alderman Taylor made a motion refer the purchase of new cameras and a PA system to the infrastructure committee.

Alderman Miller seconded the motion.

AYES- Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING A REQUIRED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE

No Public Hearings

ACTING ON UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Paving the Alley behind the library

Larry Carter would like to pave the alley behind the library. He would cover the cost and it would not cost the City anything.

Alderman Wilch made a motion to approve Larry Carter paving the alley behind the library. Alderman Taylor seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Proposal from Advanced Microbial Solutions

Bo Higgins with Advanced Microbial Solutions gave a presentation about his company. They manufacture Microbes that will eat away the sludge and get the ammonia numbers down below the requires numbers. He said that even if we build a treatment plant the City is going to have to deal with the sludge. Alderman Wilch asked what would need to be done to get started? Mr. Higgins said that they would need 220 50 amp RV service for each unit and they need a water source. We would need 5 units for our lagoon. They charge \$5000 per unit set up fee and then \$.07 per gallon of what they produce. Mayor Short asked how long they have been doing this type of work. Mr. Higgins said that they have been growing microbes for over 20 years but this new system was started in April of 2019. Alderman Miller asked if we moved forward with this and they were able to get us in compliance what would we need after? Mr. Higgins said that we might not need anything but they do have maintenance plans that could be around \$80000 a year on the high side.

Water filter plant media

The Infrastructure committee made a recommendation to the board to have the filter media replaced. Justin brought 3 bids Tonka Equipment \$104,205, Municipal Equipment 77,127, and All Service Contracting Company \$62000.

Alderman Miller made a motion to go with All Service Contracting Company for \$62,000.

Alderman Harper seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

New Hose for sewer jetter

Justin Reaves said that the hose on the sewer jetter needs to be replaced. He has 3 bids the first is \$1049.95 with free shipping, \$1109.95 plus shipping, and 1090.90 plus shipping. These are all for 2500 psi ³/₄ in 400ft hose.

Alderman Wilch made a motion to purchase the hose that is 1049.95
Alderman Taylor seconds the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Hose Monster for flushing

Mayor Short said that this hose is needed for the flush that is being planned. This keeps the hose from flying around and hurting people. Eric Graham with the fire department worked with Justin to get the right product for us. Justin also added that this hose has a dechlor feature that will take the chlorine out of the water. The price of the Hose Monster is \$4833

Alderman Harper made a motion to purchase the Hose Monster
Alderman Rockwell seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Hiring a mowing and clean up company

Chief Davis would like to go out for bid to find a company that could clean up properties that are not following the ordinances. Alderman Wilch asked who would pay for this? City Attorney said the City would have to pay and then try to collect. The City can send a bill after the property is mowed and cleaned up.

Alderman Harper made a motion to go out for bids for a mowing crew.

Alderman Wilch seconded the motion

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Approving 2020 Financial Audit

The 2020 audit is now complete and was done by Devereux & Company.

Alderman Wilch made a motion to approve the audit

Alderman Taylor seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Budget adjustment due to Show Me Court

City Attorney Robert Guinness said that the transfer over to Show Me Court and Mobile Ticketing is very time consuming and he wanted to make the board to know what is going on and that there is probably going to be a cost for all the data entry.

No Parking on side of street with fire hydrant

Chief Davis and Justin have been working together to fix some of the problem areas with parking. There are some serious issues at Hwy B and S 7th St. Cars are having to come all the way out into the street to check for oncoming traffic. Also, if there are cars on both side of S 7th it is hard for emergency vehicles to get down the street. Chief Davis attached no parking signs on the utility poles. Chief Davis has received threats from business owners and has been receiving nasty emails. Chief Davis has contacted Ameren about the signs, there are no laws that prevent the City from posting signs on the poles. The signs have been put of properly. Mayor Shorts asked what's the board pleasure with this matter. Alderman Wilch said that we need to follow the ordinances and Alderman Taylor agreed.

Alderman Miller made a motion to take this to the infrastructure committee once we know how many signs are needed.

Alderman Taylor seconded the motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

READING OF BILLS REQUIRING ONLY A FINAL READING FOR PASSAGE

None

INTRODUCTION AND READING OF BILLS FOR PASSAGE

None

RESOLUTIONS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION OF THE BOARD

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Library- nothing to report

Cemetery/Parks- Alderman Harper said that the cemetery looks much better. There is a section that hasn't been done yet. Justin Reaves said they haven't made it over there yet but will be taking care of it soon.

Infrastructure- Alderman Miller would like to get the street lists from the Alderman so we can get a list together.

Emergency Services- nothing to report

Page Branch Park- nothing to report

Old Glory Jubilee- nothing to report

Tree Board- nothing to report

REPORTS OF ALDERMAN AND MAYOR

Mayor Short- Mayor Short said that representative Pietzman contacted him today and he is looking into getting us some funding. Also, the flushing will be done in mid-September.

Alderman Miller- water pressure is very low in Sanderson

Alderman Taylor- Alderman Taylor would like to see the ordinances enforced. He would like to see some action taken

Alderman Harper- Alderman Harper asked about a lot on Griffin that isn't getting mowed. She also said that her filter is getting ready to get changed so they can test it. She would like to get Animal Control back again. Alderman Wilch has reached out to S&R and they are willing to sit down and work something out. Alderman Harper asked about 105 Broadway getting water. Justin said that it's the owner now. The service is there he just needs to connect.

Alderman Wilch- Alderman Wilch would like to see the properties at the main entrances of town be clean up. Chief Davis said that tickets have been mailed.

Alderman Davis-not present

Alderman Rockwell-nothing to report

REPORTS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS

City Attorney Robert Guinness- nothing for open session

Alliance Manager Justin Reaves- Justin wanted to make sure that everyone got the report on Friday. Ron Smith wanted to address the board about what Alliance is doing to improve the

water. The last couple weeks Alliance has sent it some water experts to look at what can be done to help. The source water is very hard and they have optimized the lime softening. They have seen good results and are hoping that the replacing of the filter media will improve it even further.

Police Chief Randy Davis- nothing to report

City Clerk Rachel Reed- We need to set a meeting to have a public hearing to set the tax rates. The meeting was set for August 30th at 5:30 pm.

City Collector Brooklyn Cerutti- Brooke Cerutti said that she is going to greatly miss everyone. She wanted to clear up why she is leaving. It is not because of the people in City Hall. It is solely because of the way the residents have treated her. She also wanted to clear up the rumors about Rachel. Brooke said that Rachel has been nothing but nice and helpful to her and she is not the reason she is leaving.

City Treasurer Lisa Grumich-nothing to report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT BY ANY PERSON OR GROUP DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD WHO HAS NOT FILED A PRIOR REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE 24.105

Chris Heatherly- Mr. Heatherly wanted to say thank you for giving the gentlemen earlier on the water bill. He also wanted to ask about the request for the Alliance to pay the bill for Mr. Anderson. He also said that the cemetery looked very nice. He said that he is happy with Alliance and the work they do and wanted to thank them. He said that he filled his pool and then had to drain it because the water is so bad. He didn't pay for sewer. He came in and said that his personal file is missing due to a prior officer.

VOTE TO TAKE UP BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION

No closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Miller made a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Harper seconded that motion.

AYES-Alderman Wilch, Alderman Taylor, Alderman Harper, Alderman Miller, Alderman Rockwell

NAYES-0

Absent- Alderman Davis

Motion Carried.

Open session meeting was adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

