



*City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
June 19, 2017*

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Pleasant Valley Board of Aldermen was called to order at City Hall, 6500 Royal, Pleasant Valley, Clay County, Missouri, by Mayor David Slater, on Monday, June 19, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were: Mayor David Slater, Alderman Anthony Crawford, Alderman John Higgins, Alderwoman Linda Jacoby, Alderwoman Mary Langner, Alderwoman Ruth Mesimer, Alderman Rick Scarborough and Alderman James Smith. Alderman Jim Menaugh was not able to attend the meeting.

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Stinson, Public Works Director Chris Cronk, Court Administrator Sarah Everhart, Police Chief Gordon Abraham, Police Sergeant Mike Buchanan, Human Resource Manager Steve Smith and City Clerk Georgia Fox.

Consent Agenda: Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

City Attorney, Engineer, and other Professional Services: Municipal Court Judge Michael Svetlic gave the annual State of the Court address. Judge Svetlic discussed changes to the state law that continue to adversely affect the court and their ability to enforce city ordinances.

City Prosecutor Shawn Blair was also present and answered questions from the Board.

Codes Enforcement Officer Sergeant Buchanan discussed with the Board the specific changes to state law that have changed the nuisance abatement procedures, fines, etc. These changes have made it more difficult for the City to enforce nuisance codes. The other issue is frequently the owner is out of state and difficult to contact.

Public Comments: There was no one from the public present at the meeting.

Mayor's Comments: In response to the discussion regarding nuisance earlier, Mayor Slater said, "you mentioned Representative Eric Schmitt (*now state treasurer*), on March 6, 2016 several of us went to Jefferson City to testify against his bill and we waited all day in Jeff City, because they kept delaying and delaying. The hearing started at 6pm and it went up to 10pm and he never showed up for it. There were judges, prosecutors, elected officials from Kansas City, Independence, across the state, and this guy never even showed up."

Mayor Slater reported that Alderwoman Langner informed Teresa Reed, at the last civic organization meeting, that the Board of Alderman had nominated her for the MML 2017 Civic Leadership Award. She accepted the nomination. The award ceremony is scheduled for July 20th at 6pm in Blue Springs.

Mayor Slater also said that he had spoken with Director Cronk before the meeting regarding making the property on the west side of the new Sobbie Road extension a city park and asked what the Board's opinion was on this idea. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if the property was ours. Mayor Slater explained that it is currently MoDOT's but that they will deed it over to

the City after they have officially accepted the project from the contractor. There was further discussion regarding walking trails, etc.

Aldermen Comments: Alderwoman Langner suggested that the City slow down on starting to replace street lights until a comprehensive plan for street lighting could be developed. *(The board had recently discussed adding two street lights in the next financial year).* Alderwoman Langner said this could be developed in conjunction with the street improvements plan. She said she has concerns about randomly adding street lights without a policy in place. Members of the public may feel that it is unfair if there is no basis for where and why street lights are being installed at some locations and not others. Alderman Scarborough objected, saying that he was on the Board in 1992 when street lights were first installed in Pleasant Valley and to his knowledge there have not been any street lights added since then. When they were first installed, street lights were put in at street corners and that was all, he said. Alderman Scarborough said that he believes adding street lights in certain locations should not be delayed because they are a visible improvement that the public can see as opposed to improvements that are not as obvious. Mayor Slater said he supports having a plan in place before deciding where lights should be placed. Alderwoman Mesimer suggested that the Board obtain a map of the street lights in the City to review before deciding what locations should be the priority. The City Clerk said, just for clarification, there is an additional \$4,900 in street budget this year for the addition of two street lights. Alderman Higgins asked Director Cronk about the cost of various kinds of street lights. Director Cronk said a steel pole with a single LED light is \$340 per year. A wood pole with a single light is \$240 per year. The City currently pays around \$50,000 a year for street lighting. Between 2016 and 2017 the cost of electricity (includes maintenance) for street lights went up \$6,000, without the addition of any lights.

Alderwoman Langner reminded everyone that movie night is this Friday night. It is hosted by the civic organization.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk Georgia Fox reported to the Board that Special Counsel Jeremy Cover would like to meet with the Board in special session either June 27th or June 29th. After some discussion about scheduling, the Board agreed the meeting would be set for Tuesday, June 27th at 7pm.

The City Clerk also reported that she had received an email from Liberty saying the rezoning of 8301 NE 69 Hwy has been postponed until the applicant is prepared to be put back on the agenda. They will contact us when this happens.

The City Clerk provided the board with a capital purchases account report. Mrs. Fox said that the report is not in balance yet and requested postponement of Council Bill 3264, approving the FY 2017 budget, until the next meeting to allow her time to locate the issue and resolve it. She said she will have the report ready in time for the June 27th meeting.

Mrs. Fox informed the Board that her department could now print business cards, as needed, for the aldermen, to be given out at city hall. She explained that frequently they receive inquiries from residents wanting to know who their representatives are. It would be easier and more professional to have business cards that her department could give to people who come by in person. The Board thought this was a good idea.

Mrs. Fox informed the Board that reservations for attendance at the MML Civic Leadership award banquet are due Wednesday. Please contact Mrs. Fox by tomorrow if you plan to attend.

The City Clerk provided the Board with a Risk Prevention Advisory from Midwest Public Risk but it was not discussed further.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director Chris Cronk met with MoDOT regarding the preliminary acceptance of the interchange. Acceptance of the interchange project and additional signage to be installed was also discussed. Director Cronk also reported that MoDOT said that they will fix the Church Road culvert at Timber Creek Lane.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Robert Stinson provided the Board with the monthly report.

Chief Stinson also reported that he had just received information from WSKF Architects regarding the flooring at the new fire station. Director Cronk and Chief Stinson will evaluate this information, regarding different types of flooring, and report back to the Board at a later date.

Police Department: Police Chief Gordon Abraham reminded the Board that Coffee with a Cop will be held here at the station this Saturday from 9am to 1pm.

Chief Abraham presented the monthly crime activity report.

Chief Abraham requested approval to order the in-car video equipment for the police car they will receive in July. This expenditure is in the FY 2017 budget. Alderwoman Mesimer moved to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$4,770. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – abstain, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Chief Abraham asked the Board for their input regarding the COPS hiring grant he is applying for. The grant application requires the applicant to identify what needs within the City hiring another officer would address. Traffic and codes enforcement seems to be at the top of most response lists.

Municipal Court: Court Administrator Sarah Everhart presented the monthly reports to the Board. She also reported that citations are up now that the police department is fully staffed. Also, the new court file separation requirements between the court and prosecution have been achieved by making Chief Abraham the prosecutor's assistant.

Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve an annual rate adjustment for James Heck, Fire Fighter / Paramedic, to step 4, \$13.66 per hour, effective 6/18/17. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve an annual rate adjustment for Taylor Nave, Police Officer, to step 2, \$17.77 per hour, effective 6/18/17. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Alison Folks, Part Time Court Clerk, at step 2, \$12.88 per hour, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – abstain, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Kyle Kennedy, Part Time Fire Fighter / Paramedic, at step 1, \$12.50 per hour, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Daniel Elsrode, Part Time Fire Fighter / EMT, at step 1, \$10.50 per hour, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Michael Lavasseur, Part Time Fire Fighter / EMT, at step 1, \$10.50 per hour, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Jeff Stephens, Volunteer Fire Fighter, at \$7.50 per call, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve hiring, Joshua Koepka, Volunteer Fire Fighter, at \$7.50 per call, pending background checks, drug screen and physical. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve the status change for Erin Larson, Volunteer Fire Fighter, to Part Time Fire Fighter / Paramedic, at step 4, \$13.66 per hour, effective 6/18/17. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Finance Committee: Alderman Higgins, Finance Chair, had nothing to discuss at this time.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business: The Mayor asked the Board if they wanted to adjust the date or time of the July 3rd meeting since some government offices are not open on Monday, July 3rd this year and most people will be attending 4th of July celebrations that evening. After some discussion, Alderswoman Jacoby move to change the start time of the meeting from 7:30pm to 7:00pm and to try to keep the agenda limited so the meeting will not take more than 30 minutes. Alderswoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – abstain, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed. The City Clerk will prepare a resolution for official adoption at the next meeting, June 27th.

Alderswoman Mesimer asked if there was a requirement to give a reason when an alderman abstains from a vote. There was some debate about this but no positive conclusion was reached.

Consideration of Ordinances, Contracts and Resolutions, Continued:

Council bill 3262, “An Ordinance appointing and setting the salary of the Municipal Court Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderswoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill and place it on second reading. Alderswoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby

– aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3262, “An Ordinance appointing and setting the salary of the Municipal Court Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as Ordinance 3261. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3263, “An Ordinance appointing and setting the salary of the City Prosecutor” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Langner moved to approve the bill and place it on second reading. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3263, “An Ordinance appointing and setting the salary of the City Prosecutor” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as Ordinance 3262. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3264, “An Ordinance approving the FY 2017 budget” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Mesimer moved to postpone the bill until the June 27th meeting. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – abstain, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3265, “An Ordinance reaffirming the Loss Control Program for the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill and place it on second reading. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Council bill 3265, “An Ordinance reaffirming the Loss Control Program for the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as Ordinance 3264. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Higgins – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed.

Alderman Higgins requested the floor in order to make a statement. He requested that the statement be included in the minutes of the Board. Alderman Higgins said “Two years ago I initiated a capital purchases plan for future purchases. It is by far my most proud moment that I have had on this Board. The first year we funded this fund. Last year there were many parts of it that we did not fund in lieu of having a balanced budget. This year, again, we are choosing to not fund parts of this capital purchases fund for future purchases, again, in an effort to balance the budget. Along with both the last two years having to take money not from revenue but from current reserves or cash to balance the budget the last two years. I believe this is a trajectory that is not going to end well. And so, because of that, I officially resign my position from this Board effective immediately. I want to be clear, this is strictly based on the budgeting, and how we are approaching it and I don’t want to be held accountable to this type of budgeting because I just don’t agree with it. It has nothing to do with my health. It has nothing to do with blackmail. It has to do with the budget. I will respond to your inquiry earlier (*directed at Alderwoman*

Mesimer who had inquired about his reason for abstention earlier in the meeting) about why I abstained on certain things, they were things I was not going to be here for because I knew I was going to do this and/or the two items that were relative to the budget that I won't support so I just abstained, because I knew this was coming. That's all. Thank you." Alderwoman Jacoby moved to accept Alderman Higgins resignation. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – nay. Motion passed.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alderwoman Jacoby moved to adjourn. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Crawford – aye, Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Menaugh – absent, Mesimer – aye, Scarborough – aye, Smith – aye. Motion passed. 9:40pm.

Mayor David Slater

ATTEST:

Georgia Fox, City Clerk