

MARIONVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Marionville Conference Room, 101 S Central

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mayor Blankenship called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. On roll call the following Aldermen were present: Melissa Freeman, Gina Herndon, Kay Leffingwell and Doris Rapp. Joanne Lawrence and Murlin Bettinger were absent.

Following roll call, Mayor Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and Doris Rapp opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approve Order of Agenda:** Alderman Rapp made the motion to approve the order of the agenda as presented. Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Rapp, Freeman, Herndon, Leffingwell

**Approve minutes of February 25, 2021 Regular Meeting:** Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 25, 2021 as presented. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 3- Herndon, Rapp, Freeman

ABSTAINED: 1- Leffingwell (absent)

**Approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports:** Alderman Rapp made the motion to approve payment of Bills, Adjustments, Bank Recs and Cash Reports as presented. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Leffingwell, Freeman, Herndon, Rapp

***Citizens Comments/Official Guests & Visitors***

*Johnathan Lindblom:* Mr. Lindblom stated a portion of King Street was vacated several years ago; however, the county is showing King Street has not been vacated from Newton to Ash Street. Mayor Blankenship stated Rick Woods has been looking into this, but hasn't found anything at the moment. Rick Wittenborn expressed concern about a tree that needs to be taken down, plus there is a sewer line and manhole along that portion of the street. The bridge at Ash Street has been gone for about twenty-eight years. Mayor Blankenship will follow up with Mr. Woods and begin the process to vacate if needed, plus he will look at the tree.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

*Tyrrel Snider, Street Department:* The Street Department repaired a major hole on Washington Street due to the freezing temperatures.

*Karyn Marsh, ACO:* She has started a couple of trapping projects.

*Sewer:* Mayor Blankenship informed the board of another water line break, probably as a result of the freezing temperatures. No major damage from this one. There will be more sludge hauling involved. There will be repairs made to sewer lines along Maple Street and Ohio Street, and then we will try to get a camera to check those lines and others.

*Fire/EMD:* Mayor Blankenship stated the city has a radio repeater on the water tower at Washington and Youngblood that has been out of service for years and the Lawrence County Emergency Management would like us to give them the repeater and they will repair it. This will be on the next agenda.

The Fire Department has worked hard to improve Marionville's ISO Rating. It will be a 5 as of June 1, 2021. In order to see a difference on insurance rates, it needs to get to a 4. There are a few things the city could do to help. One is adding a ladder truck due to the amount of commercial buildings over two (2) stories. They would like to pursue a bond issue to fund an addition to the station and a ladder truck. Another area to improve on is updating to current building/fire codes. Ours are currently greater than five (5) years old. Mayor Blankenship stated later this year we can discuss going with the 2021 building codes.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

***Bill No. 2021-04/Ordinance No. 04-2021; "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PROPOSED PAY SCALE & COMPENSATION OF WAGES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES":*** Bill No. 2021-04 was read twice by title only. This ordinance is adding the position of police captain to our pay scale. Alderman Freeman made the motion to approve Bill No. 2021-04/Ordinance No. 04-2021 as presented. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Leffingwell, Rapp, Herndon, Freeman

***Bill No. 2021-05/Ordinance 05-2021: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 710.040, 710.050, 710.060 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MARIONVILLE, MISSOURI, REGARDING SEWER RATES STRUCTURE AND USER FEES":*** Bill No. 2021-05 was read twice by title only. If passed, the rates will increase in May for next three (3) years. Alderman Rapp made the motion to adopt Bill No. 2021-05 as presented. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Rapp, Freeman, Herndon, Leffingwell

### **NEW BUSINESS**

***Cattle Guards removed from City Farm:*** When we stopped leasing the farm, Mayor Rapp had the cattle guards removed. Alderman Rapp made the motion to sell the cattle guards by advertising for sealed bids. Alderman Freeman seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Leffingwell, Herndon, Freeman, Rapp

***2002 Dodge Ram:*** Animal Control is now using the new Nissan Van. Alderman Rapp made the motion to sell the 2002 Dodge Ram, as is, by advertising for sealed bids. Alderman Herndon seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Herndon, Rapp, Leffingwell, Freeman

***Cemetery CD Account:*** This will be maturing next month. Alderman Rapp made the motion to contact three (3) banks and see what the interest rates are and go with the best one. Alderman Freeman seconded the motion. Motion passed on roll vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Freeman, Rapp, Leffingwell, Herndon

03/11/21

**Reappointment to the Marionville Housing Board:** Mayor Blankenship reappointed Betty Bassore to serve on the Marionville Housing Board. Alderman Herndon made the motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Betty Bassore. Alderman Rapp seconded. Motion passed on roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 4- Leffingwell, Herndon, Freeman, Rapp

**ALDERMEN COMMENTS**

*Melissa Freeman:* She has been in contact with three (3) cities about their abatement procedures. Billings has their Chief of Police notify the residents of any nuisance. If it is not abated, he issues a ticket for non-compliance. They don't really abate anything themselves. The City of Monett has more resources than we do. They rarely do administrative warrants. They have "administrative hearings" only for trash and mowing. The city administrator is the judge and they have this every week. This would increase communication. The City of Aurora does administrative search warrants for everything. They issue a letter, and then an administrative warrant application with pictures goes to their attorney, then to the judge. We need to revisit our codes. Not only for nuisances but some things don't apply anymore.

*Doris Rapp:* She got worried about the mowing at the cemetery since we didn't get any bids, so she contacted two (2) people who may be turning in bids at City Hall. Mayor Blankenship indicated we can look at them during the next meeting along with the possibility of the city purchasing a forty-eight (48) inch mower and having public works mow the cemetery.

**MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Blankenship stated he had spoken with our attorney regarding abating nuisances. He indicated we can't miss any steps per our ordinance. Mr. Reynolds is working on getting us a list showing the steps to be taken. Our April meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the Thursday after the general election and we will not have the certified results before the 9<sup>th</sup>. The board consented to moving the April meeting to Thursday, April 15, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Rapp made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Alderman Herndon. All voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Dale Blankenship, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Debbie Bateman, City Clerk

