

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI**  
**TUESDAY – AUGUST 20, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM**

Mayor Kevin Copling called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Joyce Hartzell, Debbie Martin, Dave Honea, Tony Hutson, Harold Halbert, Jeff Bouse. Police Chief: Doug Shelton. City Attorney present: Charles Hurth III.

**Motion by Hutson, seconded by Halbert, to approve the agenda. Vote: All ayes.**

**Citizens participation:** Dan Eidson stated that he had requested a no parking sign on Route 66 as the view is obstructed when trying to exit side streets at Green St and Treece St. Clerk Garbo stated it was just discussed and being worked on with the attorney.

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Martin, to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 6, 2024. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Bouse, seconded by Halbert, to approve the bills to be paid. Vote: All ayes.**

**Natural gas department committee recommendations:** Honea stated that the committee had a meeting and recommend Matt Pigg for the supervisor position and possibly bringing the pay level from a 26 to 28. Hutson wanted the council to discuss the pay. Hartzell stated she is unsure of the pay levels and asked if it should be a level 28. Matt Pigg, in audience, stated that he thought it was a level 28 but apparently was an error. Martin stated that if it had currently been level 26 would like justification for the change. Honea stated that a budget was passed with level 26. Hutson stated that they do have an operating budget and if moving a pay level just to move then why wouldn't all levels want to be moved. Hutson understands a responsibility jump but is being moved to supervisor with more pay. Bouse wants to have a workshop for the salary committee and would like the input from all the council and encouraged to schedule a meeting time for all to be involved and discuss. Honea asked Jennifer Basham if there was any wiggle room in the budget for the increase. Basham stated no. Hartzell asked if the discussion and any decisions would be for the next budget. Bouse wants to look at making all the laborers equal. Hutson has no problem working on the salaries but have to be equal.

Matt Pigg stated that if the pay level is staying at a 26, he is withdrawing from the position.

**Motion by Martin, seconded by Hutson, to advertise the natural gas supervisor position externally with applications due by 4:00 p.m. on September 13, 2024. Vote: All ayes.**

Pigg stated that Jim Happel is retiring with the last working day August 30, 2024 and will need a second person on call. Mayor Copling stated that he spoke with David Minardi and he will be on call with Pigg with one week on and one off until someone is trained or the end of the year.

**EOC Director:** Halbert stated that Mayor Copling talked to Rodney Neff and he will accept \$12,000. Neff knows the position and all have to keep personal feelings out of the decision. Mayor Copling appointed Rodney Neff for the EOC Director. Martin stated that when Neff had the position previously he was the MRPC representative and asked if he would be willing to represent again. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Martin, to approve the appointment of Rodney Neff as EOC Director for \$12,000. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Honea-yes, Martin-yes, Hartzell-yes.** Bouse stated that he did vote yes, but there was previous matters on Facebook and does not want to see that again and Mayor Copling hopes for an apology. Bouse questioned where the EOC office will be located. Mayor Copling stated that he spoke with Darren Dake and some options will be discussed.

**Audit bids:** There were 2 audit bids received and Basham recommended to open and not approve one until the next council to review. Bids received were from Clifton, Larson, Allen LLP and Catlett & Associates, LLC. Tabled until next council meeting.

**Park and recreation board recommendations:** Mayor Copling stated that he would like things to go back to how they were with the volunteer committees making their recommendations to the aldermanic committee and then they will present to the council.

Hutson stated that there was discussion only at the park and recreation meeting and there are no recommendations as there was not a quorum.

**Police Chief report:** None

**Animal Control:** PC Shelton stated that they interviewed for the animal care assistant position and recommend Zoey Licklider. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Honea, to approve Zoey Licklider for the animal care assistant position. Vote: All ayes.**

PC Shelton stated that Cameron Sanders, Animal Control Officer, turned in his resignation with the last working day being September 13, 2024. PC Shelton would like to advertise the position. It was stated that Sanders also does the nuisance complaints and asked the council to think about if the new officer will take that role or hire a part time person for nuisance complaints. Mayor Copling thinks the new officer should take the responsibility. Bouse also thinks they should see if the new officer would take both jobs. Martin asked if anyone recalled how much money was added to the salary for nuisance complaints and if not, then need to research how to present the salary with and without the nuisance complaints. Hutson stated that he walks around town a lot and there are a lot of nuisances and people won't listen to just anyone trying to enforce them. Honea stated it is discouraging for the officers to enforce because the court won't address them. A 50/50 split of animal control and nuisance duties was discussed. Martin and Mullally bot agreed that a 50/50 would be very difficult. Hutson recommended getting an animal control officer now and address a nuisance officer at a later time. Mayor Copling recommended posting the position including both positions and see who applies. PC Shelton also thinks an animal control officer needs to be first and then worry about nuisance complaints. **Motion by Bouse,**

**seconded by Hartzell, to advertise and animal control officer including nuisance complaint duties. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Martin-no, Honea-no, Hutson-no, Halbert-no, Bouse-yes. Motion fails.**

**Motion by Honea, seconded by Martin, to advertise for an animal control officer at original pay. Roll call vote: Bouse-no, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Honea-yes, Martin-yes, Hartzell-yes.**

Martin stated that the city sold a surplus dump truck and it is located at Indian Hills with the city decals and the city license plate still on the truck. Martin asked the protocol to remove those items. Hurth stated that yes, they should be removed as it is not the city's property anymore. PC Shelton will get the information from Martin and address.

Martin was approached with a parking issue and asked if a 2 hour parking sign could be installed on the north side of Route 66 on Hickory Street between Robert-Judsons and the post office as postal workers are parking there all day. PC Shelton stated he has been approached also and can put the signs up but stated that they aren't enforceable as an officer can't do anything until someone reports the parking and an officer sees it themselves. Martin asked about a courtesy visit to the postal department asking them to park somewhere else. Martin stated that Jimmy West said they could park at the church he owns or Bouse stated that they could park along the railroad tracks in that parking area off Main Street. Martin thinks some communication could help the issue.

Martin stated that she received a compliment on the pool manager for a job well done and a suggestion of more pay for the future.

Halbert stated that he received about the grass and brush on Florence Street but the city has started working on the issue.

Bouse stated that he had a conversation with Mike Plank, Fire Chief and the city does not have a commercial inspector which could cause a problem. There is a facility that requested to have their sprinkler system shut off but are still using the facility as a warehouse and that is a problem. Plank will address the council with solutions.

Bouse spoke with Plank regarding an easement for the shooting range and that there has not been and conversation. Plank doesn't want to a road put in after some grade work is done. Bouse stated that someone needs to reach out to Plank.

Clerk Garbo stated that the Cuba School is requesting permission to use Hood Park for a cross country meet on October 2, 2024 from 2 pm – 7pm. Garbo checked with insurance and all is ok. **Motion by Honea, seconded by Martin, to approve Cuba School using Hood Park on October 2, 2024 for a cross country meet. Vote: All ayes.**

Clerk Garbo presented the MRPC FY 24-25 annual membership dues and asked the council which membership. The basic membership with 15 grant hours is what was recommended. **Motion by Martin, seconded by Honea, to approve the MRPC FY 24-25 basic membership. Vote: All ayes.**

Mayor Copling stated that he would like to hear from the citizens of Cuba to help move the town forward.

Mayor Copling stated that there is a piece of playground equipment that he would like to purchase from the park tax and the capital improvement tax for roughly \$301,000. The citizens will love it as it is one of the best and great for our parks. Honea thinks that it is bad timing to pay this amount when the city can't afford to give raises to employees. Mayor Copling stated that the people voted for this tax to improve the city and can't use the tax for payroll. Honea asked if the park and recreation board asked for this. Andi Harley, in audience, stated no that they did not have a quorum at their last meeting to discuss. Martin stated that she has mentioned it to some in town and did not get positive feedback but is not against it. Martin stated that this is a lot of money and would like to have more information on the existing equipment and if it can be added onto or improved and also asked which park would it go in. Mayor Copling stated that Hood Park nor Tangle Creek Park have had any added park equipment in years. Mayor Copling stated that the park tax can afford little stuff but nothing to the extent of this piece of equipment. Martin stated that the people are asking why the city would pay for one piece of expensive equipment when they can upgrade several things instead. Mayor Copling agrees, but this would be giving them something to be proud of and thinks the citizens deserve it. Hutson stated that it is a lot of money and is going to drain the park tax reserves and if the park tax doesn't renew then that can hurt in the future and would like to see improvements to many things. Hutson would like to research and revisit seeing if any industries would like to help with parks like sponsorships. Mayor Copling asked why the city would want to ask businesses to pay. Basham stated that there are options to pay and still have a good cash flow but is up to the council. Bouse asked what would happen if they drain the tax and then something happens during the winter. Basham stated that there would be some reimbursement from the capital improvement tax. Eidson, in audience, stated that the people that voted for the tax ask the ones spending the money to make wise decisions. Cyndi Mercer, in audience, asked if the \$301,000 included installment and it was replied yes. Mercer stated that would be half the budget they are working with and they are wanting to do some things. Hutson feels there needs to be a recommendation coming from the park and recreation board because what if there is a \$200,000 piece of equipment just as good and then they could also work on something else. Bouse recommends tabling the issue to discuss and involve the park and recreation board. Harley was asked her opinion on the issue and she stated that since there was no quorum at the last meeting she doesn't have the boards opinion, but her personal opinion is that \$301,000 is a good value for what would be received but hasn't done any research to find out if that is the best use of the money. The issue is tabled to meet with the parks and recreation board before moving forward.

Martin asked the status of the old firehouse maintenance. Jerry Montgomery has bids for the material. Basham stated that the council would need to know the total cost, and labor cost to use capital

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improvement funds. **Motion by Martin, seconded by Martin, to move forward with the old firehouse maintenance project. Vote: All ayes.**

**Motion by Honea, seconded by Hutson, to adjourn. Vote: All ayes.**

**Lainie Garbo, City Clerk**