

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – JANUARY 21, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM**

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

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Bouse, to approve the agenda. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.

Citizens participation:

Linda Plank gave an update on the warming center noting how many utilized the facility ranging in eight to twenty-five individuals per day. Bouse thanked Plank for helping with the shelter and asked her to pass along to the other volunteers.

Derrick Sutton with the Amazon Store, asked if anything is being done with parking on Green Street since the last council meeting discussion. Mayor Copling suggested the street committee or the police committee have a meeting to discuss and present a recommendation. PC Shelton stated that he made the recommendation of no parking on the west side of Green Street between West Washington Street and West Spencer Street because of complaints and he does not recommend anything different. Sutton thinks it is more of a safety concern for citizens to cross Route 66 to park. PC Shelton stated that he still agrees with the no parking recommendation and does not want to go back and forth changing the ordinance.

Dan Eidson asked about the no parking at the corner of Green Street and Route 66 that was approved previously. Bill Dotson, street supervisor, stated that they are waiting for the sign to arrive.

Pitts Lesesne thanked the street department for a job well done on the streets during the bad weather.

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 9, 2025. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Bouse, to approve the bills to be paid. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.

Bids for legal services: Two bids were received for legal services.

Williams Robinson Wiggins – retainer of \$3000.00/month, and \$200.00/hour for additional attorney hours

Hamilton Weber, LLC – retainer of \$5000.00/month, up to \$290.00/hour for additional attorney hours

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Halbert, to approve the bid from Williams Robinson Wiggins for legal services. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.

Street department – laborer position: Bill Dotson, street supervisor, would like to advertise the position again as all the previous applicants want more money than the starting pay and none have their CDL license. **Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to raise the pay of all laborers to the same pay as a natural gas laborer.** Mayor Copling doesn't think that is in the budget. Hutson doesn't disagree that something needs to be done but is not ready for that decision as there are things to be considered like call out employees, a huge financial burden, and the salary gap will be nonexistent. Thurman stated that only one position is on the agenda and that single position is to be determined at this time, the others will need to be addressed on another agenda. **Bouse and Hartzell rescind their motions. Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to raise the street laborer position to the natural laborer pay and require a CDL.** Hutson doesn't want to put a dollar amount with the position at this time. It was discussed that a salary committee meeting is needed to discuss salaries. **Bouse and Hartzell rescind their motions.**

Bouse stated that a salary committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 24, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

Park and recreation recommendations:

Dan Eidson, park and recreation member, stated that the park and recreation board has been trying to approve \$30,000.00 for a survey of Tangle Creek Park so have an engineered plan for a nice central park and make improvements. They have concerns with new playground equipment coming in before the survey is completed and the equipment being placed outside of a plan. The park and recreation board is requesting time to have the survey done and the equipment not being placed somewhere before then. Eidson stated that they would like to be able to expand the equipment at some time and will need it placed accordingly. Mayor Copling stated that was reasonable.

Cyndi Mercer, park and recreation president, requested some feedback on their budget as they would like their actual budget and numbers along with some budgetary guidance as there are some things the park and recreation would like to do and move forward on. Hutson stated that Jennifer Basham is working on it and the new budget will be started on soon.

Hutson stated that the park and recreation board recommended \$30,000.00 for an engineered survey of Tangle Creek to work on a plan for the park. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to approve \$30,000.00 for an engineered survey of Tangle Creek Park. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.** Bouse asked about using capital improvement money. Thurman stated it would depend on the wording and use of it but would have to check into.

Hutson stated that the park and recreation board recommended waiting to install the playground equipment until the engineered survey is complete. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to approve waiting to install playground equipment until the engineered survey is completed. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.**

Hutson stated that the park and recreation board recommend spending up to \$10,000.00 for improvements to the Hood Park arena for the demolition derby including a steel fence and concrete blocks. These improvements will also help the fair and safety concerns. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to approve \$10,000.00 for Hood Park improvements for the demolition derby. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.**

Hutson stated that the park and recreation board recommend the request the use of Hood Park on May 3, 2025 for the demolition derby and May 4, 2025 for clean-up. The demolition company will provide proof of insurance. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to approve the use of Hood Park on May 3 & 4, 2025 for a demolition derby. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.**

Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to have the first reading of Bill No. 2164 by caption only. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent. Clerk Garbo read Bill No. 2164 – An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Cuba, Missouri, on behalf of said city, to execute a quit claim deed transferring real property to Crawford County 911 Emergency Services. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Hutson, to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2164. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Hartzell-yes. Martin and Honea absent. Motion by Halbert, seconded by Bouse, to have the second reading of Bill No. 2164. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.** Clerk Garbo read Bill No. 2164 a second time. **Motion by Hartzell, seconded by Halbert, to approve the second reading of Bill No. 2164. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes. Martin and Honea absent.** Mayor Copling declared that Bill No. 2164 becomes Special Ordinance 929 on this 21st day of January 2025.

Hutson thanked all the volunteers that worked and kept the warming center open.

Hutson thanked Dotson and the street department for a job well done keeping the streets clear in the bad weather.

Bouse thanked all the workers during the bad weather.

Mayor Copling stated that there are grants for UV lights at the treatment plant that are needed and would like permission to pursue. Engineering work and a rate study may be needed to move forward but would like to check into. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Bouse, to move forward with a treatment plant UV light grant. Roll call vote: Bouse-yes, Halbert-yes, Hutson-yes, Hartzell-yes. Martin and Honea absent.**

Ray Mortimeyer stated that he met with a representative regarding many other grants that are available but at this time the UV lights are critical. Mayor Copling agreed that there are many grants available and they need to be looked at as the citizens deserve it.

Mayor Copling stated that there is a vacant seat on the planning and zoning board and recommended appointing Anna Lee Williams. **Motion by Hutson, seconded by Halbert, to approve the appointment of Anna Lee Williams to the planning and zoning board. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.**

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Halbert, to enter into closed executive session – closed to the public pursuant to RSMo 610.021 section 3) personnel-hiring, firing and/or promoting of particular employee(s). Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes. Martin and Honea absent.

Motion by Halbert, seconded by Bouse, to go back into regular open session. Roll call vote: Hartzell-yes, Hutson-yes, Halbert-yes, Bouse-yes. Martin and Honea absent.

Thurman thanked the council for allowing his firm to work with the city again.

Thurman announced that the Board of Aldermen met in closed session to discuss personnel and there were no final actions taken.

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Hartzell, to adjourn. Vote: All ayes. Martin and Honea absent.

Lainie Garbo, City Clerk