

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2019

The regular Sikeston City Council meeting of October 7, 2019 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 105 East Center, Sikeston. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Steven Burch and Councilmembers Brian Self, Karen Evans, Onethia Williams, Gerald Settles, Ryan Merideth and Brandon Sparks. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Tabatha Thurman, City Clerk Carroll Couch, Deputy City Clerk Rhonda Council, Public Safety Director James McMillen, Public Works Director Jay Lancaster, Street Supervisor Darren Martin and Street Superintendent Darren Marten.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council minutes of September 9, 2019 were presented for approval. Councilman Merideth moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Various boards and commission minutes were presented for approval. Councilman Sparks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilwoman Evans seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

ADVISORY BOARD COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

No reports were presented.

OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

City Clerk Carroll Couch conducted the oath of office ceremony to swear in citizens appointed to various City Boards and Commission.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

BMU Presentation - Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Rick Landers, General Manager for Board of Municipal Utilities, gave a presentation on the upcoming changes BMU will have for their customers. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is an integrated system of advance meters, communications networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers. Customers can basically monitor their daily utility and water usage, detect leaks, get alerts for high usage or outages, have more accurate readings for their water and electric billings and better understand the reading of their bills. This can all be done from their computers using this updated technology. BMU plan to roll out the pilot program during the last two months of 2019 and begin the actual installation in homes and businesses in March or April of 2020. Total installation will take several months for completion.

Award Domestic Violence Shelter Funding

In 2002, the City imposed a domestic violence surcharge of \$4.00 on all municipal court convictions to provide assistance to local domestic violence shelters. The funds come to the City and are disbursed through an application process.

On September 23, the House of Refuge submitted an application for funding in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 which would be distributed on a monthly basis in 2020. In the past years, the City has normally collected around \$6,000 through these funds.

Councilman Merideth moved to award the domestic violence shelter funding to the House of Refuge in an amount not to exceed \$8,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sparks and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Authorization to Execute Estoppel Certificate - Orgill Property

There is an existing Lease Agreement between the City of Sikeston and OG Sikeston MO Landlord, LLC that was entered into in 2008 as part of a property tax abatement program for the Orgill Distribution Center located at 2727 N. Main Street in Sikeston. The existing tenant plans to sell its right, title and interest to ORG Sikeston Missouri Landlord, LLC. The lease with the City will stay in place and ORG Sikeston, Missouri Landlord, LLC will assume the obligations of the Lessee thereunder and will become the owner of the Bonds. The new tenant and the trustee have requested the City execute and deliver the Estoppel Certificate pursuant to Section 10.4(g)(10) of the Lease.

Councilman Sparks moved to authorize the execution of the Estoppel Certificate. Councilman Settles seconded the motion and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Resolution 19-10-01, Establishing Sikeston Complete Count Committee

The 2020 U.S. Census will take place beginning in March of 2020 when online and paper questionnaires will be sent to households. In late March and early April, reminders will be mailed to households that have not responded and in late April and early May, in person follow-ups will be conducted by Census employees to households that have still not responded.

The Census Bureau encourages local communities to form Complete Count Committees that will encourage residents to participate in the Census. The Complete Count Committee will educate residents about why getting an accurate Census count is important to them personally and to the community, and particularly will focus on getting traditionally undercounted communities (including minorities, renters and young children) accurately counted via timely, voluntary submission of the Census questionnaires. Councilman Sparks also suggested running ads on the digital billboards in Sikeston.

Councilman Self moved to approved Resolution 19-10-01, establishing the Sikeston Complete Count Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sparks and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Operation of Golf Carts/UTV's on City Streets

In September 2018, the City Council had the first reading of Bill #6113 regarding operation of golf carts, but not UTV's or ATV's, on city streets. That bill was tabled. At the September 30, 2019 Council meeting, Stan Parham presented a request to reconsider allowing UTV's and golf carts on city streets with certain restrictions.

During this discussion, suggestions included making sure the vehicle is properly insured and the driver has a valid license, City possibly issuing stickers and/or permits when registering vehicle, getting signed affidavits for proof of obtaining items provided on checklist and also making sure the vehicle has proper signal lights.

Authorization to Purchase Vehicle for PAWS Animal Shelter

Staff is seeking authorization to purchase a used cargo van for the PAWS Animal Shelter in an amount not to exceed \$28,000. This van would replace the Ford Ranger that is no longer dependable. It would also assist in transporting animals both locally and also to and from the Humane Society of Missouri in St. Louis. The proceeds to purchase this vehicle will come from an estate donation in the amount of \$37,195.83. The remaining funds will go towards building modifications.

Councilman Self moved to authorize the purchase of a used cargo van for the PAWS Animal Shelter in an amount not to exceed \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Award Bid 20-9, Ditch Mopping/Clean-Out

Bids were opened on September 27, 2019 for the cleaning out of Lateral C Ditch from E. Malone south to Ables Road. The low bid for this project was from Kinder Brothers Excavating in the amount of \$40,000, which was below the anticipated estimated cost.

Councilman Self moved to authorize the purchase of a used cargo van for the PAWS Animal Shelter in an amount not to exceed \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

On a side note, the following ditches were bid for cleanout, but do not require Council's approval:

Package 1, Bid 20-7: Lateral C ditch from Ables Rd. south to HWY 60

Package 2, Bid 20-8: Second St. Ditch

Package 4, Bid 20-10: Lateral B Ditch from E. Malone south to St. John's Ditch

Package 5, Bid 20-11: Greenbrier Ditch from railroad west to basin and including Railroad Ditch (west side) running north/south behind houses on N. West St (which empties into Greenbrier Ditch)

Other Items

The meeting for November 2nd has been cancelled.

Mayor Burch informed Council of a potential buyer for the Little Peddler building but they are having difficulty getting an exact estimate on repairs because of the trash and debris in the building. Staff has been asked to figure out a way to remove the trash and strip down the walls and give recommendations at the next meeting.

Jessie Due, citizen of Sikeston, approached Council about the City creating a complaint form that citizens can use to file a formal complaint against a city employee. The City Manager and Human Resource Director will look into creating a form to be used.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Sparks moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye, Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

APPROVED:

STEVEN BURCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CARROLL L. COUCH, CITY CLERK

SEAL: