

CITY OF SCOTT CITY

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 4th, 2019

Call to order: A meeting of the Council was held on March 4th, 2019 in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 215 Chester Ave. Mayor Brant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Mike Rhymer, Andrew Reinhart, Randy Morse, Gary Spinks Heather Ingvalson, Tim Porch, Mike Ellison and Pat Brazel.

ABSENT: N/A

Also present: City Attorney, Frank Siebert; Fire Chief, Jay Cassout; Parks Director, Skylar Cobb; Chief of Police, Michael Culler; City Administrator, Mark O'Dell; Public Works Director, Dustin Whitworth.

ABSENT: N/A

Prayer and Pledge: Prayer was led by Pastor Greg Shambo and Pledge was led by Mayor Norman Brant.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda was made by Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson; Seconded by Councilman Mike Ellison. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes: from February 19th, 2019

Motion to approve minutes from February 19th, 2019 meeting was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Gary Spinks. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve bills in the amount of \$21,583.58 was made by Councilman Mike Rhymer; Seconded by Councilman Andrew Reinhart. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried.

Public Forum:

Nothing to report

New Business:

1.) Public Hearing for the property located at 511 Madison, Scott City, Scott County, MO belonging to Bruce and Sonja Westrich;

- Attorney Frank Siebert handed out exhibits 1-7 and pictures to the council before having Nuisance Officer/ Building Inspector Dan McMichael sworn in to testify on the findings regarding the property on 511 Madison.
- Exhibit #1 shows the deed belongs to Bruce and Sonja Westrich which was confirmed by Officer McMichael.
- Exhibit # 2 states that the property received a "Dangerous/Substandard Building" notice.
- Exhibit # 3 & 4 were the papers served to Bruce and Sonja Westrich giving notice of condemnation which were served on the 20th and 22nd days of December 2018.
- According to Officer McMichael the only item completed was that a backdoor was secured.
- Exhibits # 5 & 6 refer to the notice of hearing served to both Bruce and Sonja Westrich.
- At this time Officer McMichael testified that the interior of the home has been compromised and is not suitable for human occupancy. He feels the home has been devalued at more than 50% and the cost to repair would exceed the cost to replace.
- Attorney Frank Siebert requested that a motion be made to accept exhibits # 1-7.

- Mayor Brant asked council to make motion to accept exhibits # 1-7.

Motion was made by Councilman Pat Brazel; Seconded by Councilman Andrew Reinhart
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

- Bruce Westrich addressed council and explained that the home was bought to fix and flip and that they made an agreement with the person renting the home that he could have the option to buy it as he was going to do the repairs needed. The renter tore the home apart and left it in worse condition than it was. Westrich has been in touch with his lawyer and trying to fight. The renter has bailed and there was a contract signed.
- The house has been turned back over to the Westrich's by default.
- Westrich agrees the house is not livable.
- They did not get references before making the agreement with the renter and regret that decision.
- Councilman Tim Porch asked Westrich how long it would take for him to make the home sellable or rentable and Westrich stated roughly 6 months
- Westrich understands that if the timeframe is not met any costs that they accrued would be on them and the city could still vote to demolish the property.
- Attorney Frank Siebert stated he will have an ordinance made for the next meeting.
- Council agreed to allow a 60-day review and if no progress has been made in 60 days they would move forward to the next steps. (**DATE would be May 6th, 2019)

Motion to allow for review after 60 day and if no progress council will determine next steps
Motion was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Randy Morse
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

2.) Retention Basin located by Warner Street was covered in Mayor's Report.

Meeting Break: (Occurred at 7:27 p.m.)

- A motion request was made by Mayor Norman Brant to council in order to break from the meeting and take time to honor retiring Fire Chief Jay Cassout.
Motion was made by Councilman Mike Rhymer; Seconded by Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried
- Chief Cassout will be retiring from the City of Scott City Fire Department effective March 15th, 2019, after serving the community for 52 years.
- The City of Scott City presented Chief Cassout with a plaque and a watch commemorating his retirement. The city also at the request of Chief Cassout's Department retired his helmet and number. The helmet was then presented to him by Deputy Fire Chief William Crump.
- Mayor Norman Brant gave a very heartfelt speech as well as fellow fire firefighters and firefighters from the surrounding counties. The City of Cape Girardeau's Fire Department expressed that the help given from Cassout and his staff has been instrumental to them and they could have not nearly saved the lives they have had without all of them.
- The Missouri State Fire Marshall presented Chief Cassout with several awards, one in which was signed by State Senator Wayne Wallingford for thanking Cassout for his years of service.
- Mayor Brant, Councilmembers and all in attendance then shared in eating cake and taking pictures with Chief Cassout.
- Mayor Brant after the brief intermission called the meeting back to order at 8:00 pm.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Brant addressed council regarding the trailers of G&S and representative of the company Chrystal Brown. The City had issued a 30 day notice that the 3 trailers that are sitting on City property were creating parking issues for the court and needed to be removed by the end of February or they would pay the agreed upon rate of rent, which was approved by council to be \$75.00 per day per trailer and the charges would begin the date On 2/4/2019. The total cost for the month was \$5,625.00. Mayor Brant spoke with Crystal Brown and she denied the agreement and thought it was only if the weather

would not cooperate which was not part of the agreement. Mayor Brant stated that at midnight on March 4th another \$900.00 would be added to the rent.

- Councilman Porch asked if we could tow away the trailers or issue a ticket to which Councilman Brazil agreed with. Councilman Brazil wanted to know if we could lock the trailers down somehow if they don't comply with the rent fees.
- Mayor Brant stated that Chrystal Brown who is representing G&S trailers verbally agreed to the rate. All of council agreed with Mayor Brant, that Brown did agree to the terms during the February 4th, 2019 council meeting.
- Mayor Brant discussed that the retention basin project at Warner Street is a go and that the total cost is \$20,000.00 and that the city would be liable for \$5,000.00 or 25% of the cost. This will help slow down water over 16-hour period and lessen flooding. One more land owner still needs to sign the agreement and then they can begin the process. NRCS has the plans.
Mayor Brant requested motion to proceed with the City paying its portion of the costs for the basin.
Motion was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Mike Rhymer
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Department Reports:

Mark O'Dell, City Administrator:

- City Administrator O'Dell addressed the council regarding the registration report for the Industrial Development Authority and its yearly cost. Council unanimously agreed to renew.
- City Administrator O'Dell stated that he had requested information front the Bootheel Regional Planning Group to make a formal application for CDBG funds for two projects in Scott City.
- Website is getting updates daily and calendar of events, minutes and agendas are all up to date. More pictures will be added as well.
- Need to start looking for new mowers for the cemetery as Teen Challenge stated that they will not be continuing services after this year.
- Mayor Brant and City Administrator O'Dell will be meeting with Jason Hartke of the USDA to finalize grant submission for the farmer's market pavilion. O'Dell has reworded the grant document and simplified it to help hit the main requests for the grant. Number one being the pavilion's use for a farmer's market and in turn how the awarding of the grant will positively impact the city.
- O'Dell asked Chief of Police Michael Culler if they had or use flash band grenades as this has been a major issue in other cities and lawsuit have been filed due to injuries. Chief Culler stated that they do not use them or have them.
- Cemetery cameras will be installed as soon as the weather breaks.
- Public Works Director Dustin Whitworth is working on getting nice looking trash barrels that will placed at the cemetery. Currently there is no receptacles for trash.
- The addition of video surveillance signs will also be placed around the cemetery grounds to help deter acts of vandalism and other illegal acts.

Randy Morse, Admin/Finance:

- Will be meeting with City Administrator Mark O'Dell to go over the budget and to review for positions, etc.
- Morse commented about a joke involving kids stopping a banana train to ask if they wanted to buy a possum before even having possums to sell. He jokingly stated he kind of felt like that when we first decided to run the ad for a new Fire Chief and hadn't determined the salary. He feels much better knowing that the ad will run for 30 days in which then the applications will be reviewed by the Fire Committee and then the Mayor may appoint. In April we will also be having the council elections, so there will be a transition of committees. This will allow the finance committee and fire committee time to evaluate and work the salary into the next year fiscal budget.
- Citizen Weldon Crook wanted to address his concerns with newspapers being put at homes that has no resident. The Southeast Missourian delivers a free newspaper to area home but dispenses to all, so these collect at abandoned or non-occupied homes. Tyler as well as Mayor Brant have been collecting these

and want to see if there is a solution. Mayor Brant stated to Tyler that this matter would be looked into further.

Michael Culler, Interim Chief of Police:

- Police had shut-down yet another house containing methamphetamines, which resulted in two arrests.
- Received guidance from the state regarding medical marijuana. There was a packet sent and City Administrator Mark O'Dell has the packet. The packet explains guidelines on permits, etc. Chief Culler sent officers and medical personal to attend a meeting regarding the issue and could voice their thoughts. The deadline for official findings must be completed by June 1st and the program will be effective July 4th, so we need to stay on top of this matter.
- Meeting with Mayor Brant, City Administrator O'Dell, Chief Culler and Nuisance Officer Dan McMichael. Nuisance season is quickly approaching meaning, overgrown lawns, trash in yards, etc. Due to this Nuisance Officer McMichael will no longer be doing condemnations and these will be directed to Rob Hodo the City Inspector of Scott City.
- Mayor Brant explained that Nuisance Officer McMichael stated that condemnations take so much time he is not able to focus on nuisance issues. Mayor Brant suggested that condemnations be put on hold and take care of cleaning up the city as we have many areas in the city that are creating eyesores. According to Mayor Brant, Nuisance Officer McMichael said he feels there is not much he can do to address the trash. Mayor Brant as well as City Administrator Mark O'Dell explained that our current ordinances due allow him to address matters and we can get things cleaned up.
- Attorney Frank Siebert stated that citizens can request a hearing with the Police Chief regarding nuisance issues. Chief Culler stated that no one has ever requested this in the past.
- Councilman Tim Porch suggested that a ticket be given with the abatement if the homeowner is repetitious regarding nuisance violations. Officer Culler stated that they would be happy to start this process.
- Citizens of the area and the Police Department are very interested in getting a drug dog for the City. Citizens have stated that they want to raise funds to help fund the project. Sargent Brooks Brockmire worked for the K-9 unit for the county and still has many connections and the project can be funded through grants and private donations. The yearly cost to have a drug dog after initial fees would be between \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00.
- Council is on board with the Police Department pursuing this project.

Mike Ellison, Police:

- Nothing to report.

Jay Cassout, Fire Chief:

- Chief Cassout wanted to give a sincere thank you to the City and said he has truly enjoyed his 52 years of service and has no regrets.
- He will not be a stranger to the City and is happy to help with the transitions that will occur in the Fire Department and offer any assistance he can.
- Councilman Mike Rhymer stated that in February alone, the Scott City Fire Department reported to 78 calls and rescues.
- Chief Cassout said he believes in working with what you have been given and he said he feels fortunate that when he has asked council for help, they have always found a way to make it happen.
- The Fire Department has had some issues with collecting for fire calls due to some insurances, but in the big picture we are doing well with collecting funds.

Pat Brazel, Fire Department:

- Nothing to report

Skylar Cobb, Parks Director:

- Counts are slightly down for baseball but are up for softball this year.
- Weather is slowing down the production of items at the Parks Department.

- Painting the foul poles on field one and playground equipment.
- Hiring for Maintenance/ Mower as well as Concession and Lifeguards will happen this month.
- Councilman Tim Porch asked the status of Summerfest. Cobb stated that he has an amusement company that should be able to work with the dates they have in mind and will have more information later this week.

Heather Ingvalson, Parks:

- According to Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson council voted to set aside money from the Casino for the concession stand at the ballpark if we got the grant.
- Mayor Brant stated that the money was set aside for the construction of the pavilion for the farmers market. Councilwoman Ingvalson stated she had believed the money was for the concession stand and not the pavilion and therefore could the money be used to help in repairing of the pool, since the concession stand grant for the ballpark has yet to be approved.
- In the fall we will receive money from the casino again and with these funds being allocated for the pool there would be enough to help fund the project.
- The lowest bid for the pool has come in at \$34,000.00
- Mayor Brant said that the pavilion costs should not exceed \$7,000.00, so it would be up to the council to determine where the remaining \$2000.00 of casino money would go.
- Councilman Tim Porch stated the Park Board needs to get together and work on their budget and then determine what additional funds is needed from the city to supplement. Councilman Porch also stated that the Parks does have \$13,000.00 in capital improvements that has not been spent. Mayor Brant agreed with this.

Dustin Whitworth, Public Works Director:

- City Administrator Mark O'Dell and Public Works Director Dustin Whitworth met in Sikeston, MO with David Wyman of MODOT to discuss the Highway 61 Interchange. They wanted to know our thought on how to bring the pedestrian walk-bridge across and what the City will do regarding sidewalks, etc. for the pedestrian walk-bridge. MODOT will be supplying pedestrian lights but will not provide any sidewalks past the on and off ramp of Scott City. Public Works Director and City Administrator O'Dell explained that the City did apply for the sidewalk grant and MODOT was happy to hear this and was not aware we did so.
- A new "Welcome to Scott City" sign was discussed with Wyman of MODOT. Wyman gave information to City Administrator O'Dell and Public Works Director Whitworth to review and discuss.
- Smoking Sewers bid has been submitted to the paper.
- Ramsey Creek and Roth Drive Waterline Project bid opening will be on Thursday, March 7th, 2019 at 10:00 am in the City Hall Council Chambers.
- Continuing to work on ditches and doing preventative maintenance.
- Councilman Porch suggested that we get figures from the Ad-hoc Committee before we prepare the next fiscal budget, so we can figure asphalt costs needs, etc.
- Public Works Director Whitworth confirmed to Councilman Andrew Reinhart that the 61 Interchange project will not happen till next year.

Mike Rhymer, Public Works:

- Addressed street lights concerns for the city.
- The street light at Dearborn and the Railroad crossing would be at a cost of \$2500.00 and feels that this cost is not worth the investment. Council agreed
- The major areas of concern according to Councilman Rhymer and the Police Department are the areas of the park on Nellie Avenue. This includes the Horseshoe pavilion, swimming pool, and tennis courts. The total cost is \$448.75 to install the two recommended lights per Councilman Mike Rhymer.
- Mayor Brant requested for motion to approve the recommendations to install 2 lights near Nellie Avenue.

Motion was made by Councilman Mike Rhymer; Seconded by Councilman Pat Brazel
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Gary Spinks, Cemetery:

- Report of City Administrator, Mark O'Dell covered cemetery concerns.

Tim Porch, Ordinances:

- An ordinance committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 7th at 5:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Andrew Reinhart, Planning and Zoning:

- Councilman Reinhart stated he has been continuing to work on the request of a getting a Chinese restaurant come to the City of Scott City. He spoke with the owner of China Palace in Cape Girardeau, MO and the early response was they had reservations about opening in Scott City, since he feels the area may be to small. Councilman Reinhart has drafted a letter and has dropped them off at 5 restaurant locations already.

Closed Session:

Motion to go into closed session was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Mike Rhymer.

Roll Call Vote: Randy Morse-AYE; Andrew Reinhart-AYE; Mike Rhymer-AYE; Pat Brazel-AYE; Gary Spinks-AYE; Heather Ingvalson-AYE; Tim Porch-AYE; Mike Ellison-AYE

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 Motion Carried. Went into closed session at 9:10 pm

Open Session:

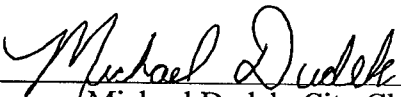
Motion to go into open session was made by Councilman Mike Rhymer; Seconded by Councilman Mike Ellison.

Roll Call Vote: Randy Morse-AYE; Andrew Reinhart-AYE; Mike Rhymer-AYE; Pat Brazel-AYE; Gary Spinks-AYE; Heather Ingvalson-AYE; Tim Porch-AYE; Mike Ellison-AYE

AYES: 8 NAYS: 0 Motion Carried. Went into open session at 9:30 pm

No further business being presented, moved by Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson; Seconded by Councilman Pat Brazel to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. All in Favor; None Opposed; Motion carried.

Attest:



Michael Dudek, City Clerk



Norman Brant, Mayor