

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN OF
THE CITY OF FAYETTE, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Fayette was called to order at 6:00 p.m., November 12, 2024 by Mayor Greg Stidham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone in the Chamber rose for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderwoman Gerlt.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call verified five Board Members present for the meeting.

Responding to the Roll Call: Alderwoman Stephanie Ford, Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt, Alderwoman Peggy O’Connell, Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael and Alderwoman Marsha Broadus.

ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderwoman Ishmael asked for an addition in new business #6 Discussion and/or Approval of Bill # 2024-21 Authorizing to submit to the voters a proposition to appoint a chief of Police, on April 8, 2025 Elections.

Alderwoman Broadus motioned to approve the November 12, 2024 agenda with the above addition. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2024

Alderwoman O’Connell motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 22, 2024. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF GRAFTON COOK AS ALDERMAN FOR THE SOUTHWEST WARD.

Alderwoman O’Connell asked if he was the only candidate. Mayor Stidham responded that Mr. Cook is the one that he recommended. Alderwoman Gerlt asked, since Mr. Cook is on the CID Board, if is that a conflict of interest. Mayor answered that according to the Attorney, it would not be a conflict of interest.

Alderwoman Ishmael voted Yes. Alderwoman Broadus, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderwoman Ford, Alderwoman O’Connell voted No. Motion didn’t pass.

VISITORS

Ann Schnell

Ms. Schnell asked the Council to approve a Resolution to submit the Land and Water Grant. Ms. Schnell also asked to be reimbursed for the mailing cost of the Grant documents package. Alderwoman Ford made a motion to approve the Resolution to submit the Land and Water Grant. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Ms. Schnell also informed the Council that the picnic tables arrived and are ready to put them at Lucille Thurman's shelter house. She also commented that there are 4 new additions to Sparkle in the park and six churches came together and they will have a Nativity Scene across the street of the Lutheran Church.

Caleb Walker – Heritage Insurance

Informed that the Dental and Vision renewal has a small increase just on the dental side. Mr. Walker said that he talked with the Clerk, Mati Rogers about their enrollment system and how to best do this year. Also, they have a portal for their clients to use. Mr. Walker informed that the Dental and Vision renewal is on January 1st. and the Health renewal is on March 1st.

Alderwoman Ford made a motion to approve the Dental and Vision renewal plan. Alderwoman O'Connell seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Sonny Conrow – Electric Department

Mr. Conrow talked about a Hometown grid with John Pettit from MPUA. That's an AI system that keeps track of the calls. He said that he needs to schedule an appointment for a Zoom meeting to look at the system.

Mr. Conrow informed that he went to MPUA Columbia for a meeting and got informed that they have grants for upgrading LED lighting. He is checking with the State to see what kind of lumens we have on the highway and contact MPUA if we could just do the highway, or we also can do the parks and what can we get.

Mr. Conrow also informed the Council that the little bucket truck with 130,000-140,000 miles needs some repairs and doesn't know if it will pass inspection. He said that there is an auction for a truck on Friday 22nd and Mr. Conrow thinks that he can get it for under \$30,000. Mr. Conrow said that they have \$100,000 in their budget so he is asking for approval to spend the money to potentially buy this truck.

Alderwoman Ford made a motion to approve a maximum of \$50,000 to buy the truck. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

- Brendisha Mathews – Downtown Fayette

Informed that the Festival of Light celebration will take place on December 7th. It will be a full day of activities, starting at 10 a.m. and the parade starts at 5:30 p.m.

- Deanna Cooper – Downtown Fayette
Ms. Cooper informed the Council that they will place brand new planters out on the Square. She is asking the City for help filling those planters up with the potting soil they already got. Ms. Cooper informed the Council about the advances on the MODot Tap Grant and offered to look at the Preliminary plans. She also stated that they found out that there is a possibility to add nice curbs and crosswalks, with stamped red concrete in the middle and maintenance free.

Ms. Barbie Oath was welcomed to her first attendance meeting as executive director. Ms. Oath commented about the issue with the front of the Downtown Fayette building that has a big step to get into their office and it's not ADA compliant. She said that they are working with Rick Alexander to get a handicap platform, five steps and a rail. Mayor Stidham stated that since Angie Malone resigned, he will contact Mr. Alexander.

- Randallen Wilson
Mr. Wilson talked briefly about his desire to raise money to be able to attend his first acting audition in Orlando Florida.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

CITY MARSHAL DAVID FORD

Nothing to report.

CITY CLERK MATI ROGERS

Nothing to Report.

CITY ATTORNEY NATHAN NICKOLAUS

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF BILL # 2024-11, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 405 AND 415 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

1st Reading by Title Only

2nd Reading by Title Only

Alderman Ford made a motion to approve it, Alderman O'Connell seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Alderman Ford, Alderman Gerlt, Alderman O'Connell, Alderman Ishmael, Alderman Broadus. Motion passed.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF BILL # 2024-22, AN ORDINANCE ON VACATION OF ALLEY WAY ON WEST HACKBERRY, JEFF DAVIS.

Tabled.

3. DISCUSSION AND / OR APPROVAL OF BILL # 2024-23, AN ORDINANCE ON VACATION OF ALLEY WAY ON 400 BLOCK OF SOUTH PARK, CARLOS NEVELS.

1st Reading by Title Only

2nd Reading by Title Only

Aldерwoman O'Connell made a motion to approve it, Aldерwoman Ford seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Aldерwoman Ford, Aldерwoman Gerlt, Aldерwoman O'Connell, Aldерwoman Ishmael, Aldерwoman Broadus. Nays – None. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PAY RESOLUTION 2024-22 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT.

Aldерwoman O'Connell motioned to approve Pay Resolution 2024-22, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$435,249.47 which includes, General Fund \$80,836.27, Electric Fund \$189,788.94, Water Fund \$76,209.12, Sewer Fund \$88,415.14. Aldерwoman Ford seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

2. DISCUSSON AND/OR APPROVAL OF SEWER WAIVER FOR 308 W WALNUT

Tabled for more information.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF SEWER WAIVER FOR 304 N CLEVELAND.

Aldерwoman O'Connell made a motion to approve it, Aldерwoman Ford seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT OF JESSE WILLIAMS FOR THE FAYETTE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD.

Aldерwoman O'Connell made a motion to approve the reappointment of Jesse Williams for the Fayette Housing Authority Board. Aldерwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR HAIR BY CHLOE.

Aldерwoman Ford made a motion to approve the Business License for Hair by Chloe. Aldерwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF BILL # 2024-21 AUTHORIZING FOR THE APRIL 8, 2025 ELECTIONS TO INCLUDE A PROPOSITION FOR VOTERS TO DECIDE IF CHIEF OF POLICE/CITY MARSHALL SHOULD BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED.

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus explained that now the City has a Marshall who is elected and the statutes allow to convert that to a chief of police. The responsibilities would be the same, the difference is that one is elected, and one is appointed. The elected Marshall can only be removed by impeachment, the chief of police can only be removed following a hearing process and only for certain causes. The question would be in the ballot for April of 2025 and it would take effect when the actual Marshall finishes his term.

Discussion was taken by the Marshall and the Council Members.

Alderwoman Gerlt made a motion to approve Bill # 1024-21, no one seconded the motion. Motion died.

BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Alderwoman Stephanie Ford - East Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderwoman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward

Nothing to report.

Alderwoman Peggy O'Connell - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman O'Connell mentioned the need to discuss the Council salaries. Alderwoman O'Connell volunteered to work on the number to discuss.

Alderwoman O'Connell also commented about the Sign of Jeff Parks. Attorney Nathan Nickolaus stated that Mr. Parks never asked for a permit so it's illegal and since the building inspector at that time said that it doesn't comply, he couldn't get the permit. Mr. Nickolaus suggested that the Council have him send Mr. Parks a letter to take the sign down.

Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward

Alderwoman Ishmael informed the City's days off for the holiday season: Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day.

Alderwoman Ishmael informed that they are starting the interviews for the Administrative Assistant position. Ms. Ishmael commented that the Mayor's house is on the Holiday Homes tours

Alderwoman Marsha Broadus - Southwest Ward

Nothing to report.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Stidham reported that the Building Inspector, Angie Malone, resigned.

Mayor Stidham reported that the Parking Committee has met two or three times and has been working on the Parking around the Square and has come down to that nobody's in favor of parallel parking. The Committee took a vote on two -way traffic around the Square versus one way traffic. Three voted for one-way and four voted for two-way. So, the Committee plans to bring it to the City Council and decided. Mayor Stidham said that one way traffic would generate 16 more parking spaces. He mentioned that CID is working on getting estimates to put a seal coat over the Parking to get rid of the old lines.

Mayor Stidham reported that he attended a Howard County government Roundtable and got informed that they got the incinerator. Also, he went to a Housing meeting where the Public Works director from Moberly presented information on how they deal with vacant or condemned properties.

TO CLOSED SESSION

Alderwoman Ford motioned to move to closed session at 7:21 p.m. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

Responding to Roll Call: Alderwoman Broadus, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderwoman O’Connell, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderwoman Ford.

Alderwoman Broadus moved to adjourn closed session at 7:47 p.m. and go into open session. Alderwoman Ford seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Alderwoman Broadus, Alderwoman Ishmael, Alderwoman O’Connell, Alderwoman Gerlt, Alderwoman Ford.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman O’Connell motioned to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:


_____ Maria Rogers, City Clerk


_____ Greg Stidham, Mayor