

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**

**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., January 28, 2025 by Mayor Greg Stidham.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call verified four Board Members present for the meeting.

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

**ADDITIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alderwoman Broadus motioned to approve the January 28, 2025 Agenda. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2024**

Alderwoman O’Connell motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 14, 2025. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**VISITORS**

**Caleb Walker – Heritage Insurance**

Mr. Walker informed the Council about a recent meeting with the City Mayor and MEM, during which some safety recommendations, employee handbook and safety grant were discussed.

Mr. Walker also provided an update on the upcoming health insurance renewal, noting that the rate will increase by 10.9%. He mentioned that there are three key factors that are considered into the increase: (1) the overall performance of chamber block, (2) the demographic composition of the city group and (3) the performance of the City group in regards of utilization of the medical plan and projected future costs. The current premium of \$629.32 will increase to \$697.90 for the upcoming year. Mr. Walker emphasized that there are no significant changes to coverage or deductibles, and the renewal will take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Walker informed the Council about a startup based in Columbia that provides funding assistance to help cover deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. This benefit is now automatically included in the chamber plans.

If approved, enrollment would take place through their online platform, with the option for employees to complete the process in person on two designated days. During this time Mr. Walker will be available to address any questions and assist employees with their selection.

He proposed to meet with the Employee Committee prior to the next Council Meeting. The Council will review this matter, and the renewal will be included on Agenda for the next Council Meeting for discussion and/or approval.

### **Curtis Hammons – Water Department Superintendent**

Mr. Hammons presented two Line-Item Requests for line materials to replace water lines and fire hydrant on Elm Street.

Alderswoman O’Connell made a motion to approve the two Line-Item Request for line materials to replace water lines and fire hydrant on Elm Street. Alderswoman Broadus seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

### **Deanna Cooper – Downtown Fayette**

Ms. Cooper updated the Council on Capitol Day, which was held in Jefferson City and attended by nine representatives from Fayette. During the event, they met with legislators to discuss the importance of their support.

Regarding the meeting with Tim Taylor at the Capitol, Mr. Stidham mentioned that they were informed that Howard County will soon have its first roundabout. He also mentioned that a bill is being introduced that would allow individuals residing within 5 miles of city limits to be eligible for appointed as mayor.

Ms. Cooper provided an update on the Main Street project, stating that an onsite meeting will be held with Great River Engineers in regard of the water line and drainage of the project.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

### **CITY MARSHAL - DAVID FORD**

City Marshal David Ford was absent, with Officer Matthew Johnson covering in his place. Nothing to report.

## **CITY CLERK - MATI ROGERS**

Nothing to report.

## **CITY ATTORNEY – NATHAN NICKOLAUS**

City Attorney, Mr. Nathan Nickolaus, referenced the presidential order to freeze all Federal grants. Although the order has been stayed by a judge, Mr. Nickolaus advised that the City must be aware of its potential impact when planning for projects moving forward, as the State funding is essentially Federal money.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. DISCUSSION ON UPDATING COUNCIL PAY. PEGGY O’CONNELL TO PRESENT RESEARCH INFORMATION**

Alderman O’Connell provided information on the average pay for city council members. She mentioned that the national average pay is \$14 an hour, while Missouri’s average is \$13.

Ms. O’Connell also mentioned that the Mayor in Marceline is paid \$12,000 a year while in Glasgow the Mayor receives \$3,000, highlighting that the City of Fayette is below the average.

Mayor Stidham stated that, based on comments from citizens he’s spoken with, there is no one that supports the Council pay increase.

### **2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON CITY ADMINISTRATOR JOB DESCRIPTION, SALARY AND HIRING PROCESS**

Alderman Ishmael reported that the Sub Committee has met twice to review the job description and discuss interview questions and establish timelines for the hiring process. She informed the Council that the job ad has been posted, and applications are already being received, and the interview process will begin soon.

Mayor Stidham added that the City Administrator job advertising will be posted on Indeed and MML website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. PAY RESOLUTION 2025-02 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Alderman O’Connell motioned to approve Pay Resolution 2025-02, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$177,723.21 which includes, General Fund \$37,017.28, Electric Fund \$69,081.64, Water Fund \$64,219.59, Sewer Fund \$7,404.70. Alderman Broadus seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **2. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF POSTING FOR SALE:**

1977 International Fire Truck #2 Tanker, no known title, FD  
1974 Dodge Digger Truck, with title, Electric Department  
2024 Chevrolet 2500, sale of 8-foot bed only, Electric Department

Alderswoman O'Connell motioned to approve the posting for Sale of the above-mentioned vehicles. Alderswoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**3. DISCUSSION ON SIGN ORDINANCE.**

Attorney Nathan Nickolaus informed the Council that they made some revisions on the Ordinance. He said that the Ordinance is ready, however some changes may be considered, such as changing the Planning official to building inspector.

Mr. Nickolaus explained that the Ordinance is very long and noted that the updated Ordinance includes provisions for billboards and illuminated sign regulations.

Mr. Nickolaus stated that he will provide a digital copy of the Ordinance for the Council to review. This Item will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**4. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL BUSINESS LICENSE FOR HERITAGE BUILDING SOLUTIONS.**

Alderswoman O'Connell motioned to approve the Business License for Heritage Building Solutions. Alderswoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**Alderswoman Stephanie Ford - East Ward**

Absent.

**Alderswoman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward**

Alderswoman Gerlt brought to the Council a resident in the Louisiana Sub-division that is seriously ill. She inquired if the City could plow snow from her driveway in case she needs an ambulance. Mr. Stidham replied that if the City provides this service for one resident, it would need to be so for all, however, he will discuss this matter with Dennis Daniels about it.

Alderswoman Gerlt reported that a resident on Church St. has loose chickens running in the alley. She requested that an officer contact the resident to ensure the chickens remain on his property.

Ms. Gerlt also commented that somebody told her that the Christmas lights are still up on the square. Mayor Stidham clarified that the lights stay up year-round but will check it out.

**Alderswoman Peggy O'Connell - Northwest Ward**

Nothing to report.

**Alderswoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward**

Alderwoman Ishmael congratulated Mc. Millan's Café on its soft opening. She also thanked the Council Candidates for being present at the meeting, as well as Downtown Fayette for their great job and contribution to the City.

### **Alderwoman Marsha Broadus - Southwest Ward**

Alderwoman Broadus expressed her concerns about the dogs running loose problem in the City. She mentioned that there are people willing to assist building a bigger Dog Pound. Discussion was held and Alderwoman O'Connell noted that having a bigger pound may not be the solution and suggested that a dedicated Animal Control Officer would be more effective.

Alderwoman Broadus also talked about the need for a Building Inspector, not just for buildings but to address issues related to yards and abandoned cars.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Stidham reported that the City met with Capital Asphalt and requested bids for the removal of the road lines on the square. Additionally, requested bids to pave Morrison St. from Church St. to Cleveland St.; Davis St. from Church St. to Cleveland St.; Lucky St. from Cleveland St. down to past the school; and the first block of Spring St. near the Middle School.
- Mr. Stidham informed the Council that we are still working on the City Audit. The accountant asked for more documentation to solve the discrepancy between the electric and Water sales and the financial records.
- Mr. Stidham informed the Council that he and the City Clerk have interviewed three candidates for the Administrative Assistant position. They will narrow down and present the top candidates to the Council.
- Mr. Stidham reported on the recent meeting with MEM regarding risk management. He shared the information to the Superintendents, who are reviewing opportunities to apply for 50/50 safety grants available through MEM.
- Mr. Stidham will meet with Missouri Regional Planning to discuss potential grants for the City.
- Mayor Stidham will attend a transportation meeting at the Court House, where MoDOT needs will be discussed.
- While in Jefferson City, Mr. Stidham met with Missouri Municipal League and mentioned that MML is a good resource that can assist the City with many things.
- Mr. Stidham met with all City Superintendents to review the budget, major expenses anticipated and upcoming projects for the next year. They also talked about vehicles' mileage, condition and insurance.

### **TO CLOSED SESSION**

Alderwoman O'Connell motioned to move to closed session at 6:54 p.m. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

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

Alderwoman Broadus moved to adjourn closed session at 7:10 p.m. and go into open session. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderwoman Broadus motioned to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Alderwoman Gerlt seconded the motion. Four voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Maria Rogers, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Greg Stidham, Mayor