

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE,  
MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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., February 25, 2025 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 the following additions:

- New Business:
  2. Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution for Applying for Land and Water conservation Grant.
  6. Discussion and/or Approval of Replacing the Motor of the WETP Surface Mixer for \$5,310.

Alderwoman Ishmael motioned to approve the February 25, 2025 Agenda with the above additions. Alderwoman O'Connell 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

Alderwoman O'Connell motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 11, 2025. Alderwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

**VISITORS**

No Visitors

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

### **George Befort**

Mr. Befort inquiry about widening Church St. expressing concerns that parked cars along the street could lead to accidents. Mayor Stidham responded that the project is managed by CMU and not the City of Fayette.

Additionally, Mr. Befort informed the Council that in 2021, he worked to bring the designation of Purple Heart City to the City of Fayette. He also noted that only six Counties remain to be designated as Purple Heart Cities.

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

Ms. Cooper informed the Council that the Spring Workshop will take place in Fayette next week, from Wednesday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They expect approximately 150 visitors including State Representatives. The event will include a guided tour of the City highlighting its history and notable buildings.

## **CITY STAFF REPORTS**

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

Nothing to report.

### **CITY CLERK - MATI ROGERS**

Nothing to report.

### **CITY ATTORNEY – NATHAN NICKOLAUS**

City Attorney, Mr. Nathan Nickolaus, informed the Council that Missouri Arts Council has grants available to explore the creation of Local Art Districts in Missouri. He recommended considering exploring this idea of establishing an Art District in Fayette and offered to provide additional information to the Council if there is interest.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON CITY ADMINISTRATOR INTERVIEWING AND HIRING PROCESS.**

Mr. Sonny Conrow informed the Council that the Sub-Committee has been conducting interviews for the City Administrator Position and said that they would like to make a recommendation in the Closed Session.

## **2. DISCUSSION ON SIGN ORDINANCE AND ANY REVISIONS.**

Some Council members reported difficulty opening the digital file for the Ordinance. Discussion was tabled to allow the Council time to review the document and discuss it at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. PAY RESOLUTION 2025-04 APPROVING INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Alderwoman O'Connell motioned to approve Pay Resolution 2025-04, approving invoices for payment and salaries in the total sum of \$128,511.19 which includes, General Fund \$29,755.92, Electric Fund \$26,367.85, Water Fund \$65,866.30, Sewer Fund \$6,521.12. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

### **2. ANN SCHNELL TO PRESENT UPDATE ON LAND AND WATER GRANT FOR FAYETTE CITY POOL. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR APPLYING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION GRANT.**

Ms. Schnell informed the Council that the Grant application has advanced to the federal level and it's a 50/50 matching Grant. She explained that the new Resolution requires us to express the City's 50% commitment, which will be covered by donations already available in the City's account. Additionally, she noted that Friends of the Pool will donate \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000.

Alderwoman Ford motioned to approve the Resolution 2025-05 Applying for Land and Water Conservation Grant. Alderwoman Broadus seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Ms. Schnell also took the opportunity to express her gratitude to the City employees for their efforts in plowing snow around the Library.

### **3. DISCUSSION ON CELL PHONE POLICY FOR CITY EMPLOYEES.**

Alderwoman O'Connell presented research about how other cities handle cell phone expenses for employees. She stated that while most of the cities provide a minimum amount, some prohibit employees from using personal phones during work, if the city covers the bill. Other cities expect employees to use their personal phone for work without compensation.

Alderwoman O'Connell noted that the average cell phone service is \$40. She also pointed out that there are free apps like Whatsapp, GroupMe that offer the option to access from a desktop, eliminating additional paid services.

Alderwoman O'Connell recommended the City not provide retroactive compensation to utilities office employees, however, moving forward, pay selected employees or create teams for work communication.

The Council agreed to allow the office employees to select an app that can be used from the computer and test it for one month and revise the matter after that.

**4. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF INCREASING SEWER RATES BY 3% - 5%.**

The Council discussed the matter and agreed to schedule a Public Hearing to consider a 3% increase in the Sewer rate to keep inflation cost covered. Attorney Nathan Nickolaus will prepare the Notice of Public Hearing proposing a 3% annual increase in the sewer rate effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. 2025, for the next 5 years. He will also prepare the correspondent Ordinance.

**5. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF SEWER WAIVER FOR 203 OAKLAWN ST.**

Mayor Stidham informed the Council that he spoke with the person requesting the sewer waiver, who explained that in 2005, he rented a house and, after moving in, discovered a water leak between the house and the meter, which he had repaired. After a sewer backup in the basement, he decided to move out. Now that he has returned to Fayette and is requesting utility service, he discovered outstanding charges from September to December of 2005. He is requesting the waiver of \$860.40.

The item was tabled to gather more information.

**6. DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL OF REPLACING THE MOTOR OF THE WWTP SURFACE MIXER FOR \$5,310.**

Mayor Stidham explained that the Sewer Superintendent was unable to attend the meeting but requested approval for the purchase of an electric motor for the backup mixer.

Due to lack of information regarding the amount available in the budget, the discussion was tabled till the next meeting.

**BOARD OF ALDERMAN COMMENTS & COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**Alderman Stephanie Ford - East Ward**

Nothing to report.

**Alderman Ronda Gerlt - East Ward**

Alderwoman Gerlt expressed her concern about water pooling on Hwy 5 passing Unity Baptist Church during rainfall, which could create hazardous driving conditions. Mayor Greg Stidham stated that he will research whether the maintenance of that part of the highway falls under the City's or the State's responsibility.

#### **Alderwoman Peggy O'Connell - Northwest Ward**

Alderwoman O'Connell presented a report from the last Historic Preservation Commission – HPC, highlighting the following topics:

- A Tax Credit Workshop is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- HPC members talked about the Grant managed by Ann Schnell for pool repairs.
- The Commission talked about the stabilizing the back of the building on Main St.
- Talked about the letter of concern received from a Fayette resident about the growth of family homes converted into student rentals.
- A complaint was discussed regarding trash service on Elm St.

#### **Alderwoman Michelle Ishmael - Northwest Ward**

Alderwoman Ishmael reported receiving 3 concerns about the Budweiser sign and the ordinance update. She also noted that residents would like to know about recycling opportunities. Additionally, she reported several trees overhanging electric lines in the Northwest Ward. Finally, she expressed community concerns about the truck parked on Church St.

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

Alderwoman Broadus expressed concerns about loose dogs in the community. She also inquired whether any applications had been received for the building inspector position.

#### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- Mayor Stidham asked Chief Ford to check on a pickup truck parked on E. Morrison St. for several weeks without a bed or license plate.
- Julie Bowen, the new Administrative Assistant, started her position today.
- Mr. Stidham reported speaking with a school board member that wants on a cross walk on Spring St. and Cleveland St. He will obtain an estimate to determine whether if the city would like to contribute to the project.
- Mayor Stidham asked Attorney Nickolaus whether board members are required to reside within city limits. Mr. Nickolaus clarified that City Council members, HPC and P&Z commission members must live in town, however members of other commission are not subject to this requirement.
- Central Methodist University will hold a service day on April 8<sup>th</sup>. with 200-300 students participating. CMU asked what can be done for the city.

- Reported a new house under construction at 305 Watts St.
- Two contractors are preparing estimates for the repair of City Hall entrance.

**TO CLOSED SESSION**

Aldерwoman Broadus motioned to move to closed session at 6:55 p.m. Aldерwoman Ford seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

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


Aldерwoman Broadus moved to adjourn closed session at 8:00 p.m. and go into open session. Aldерwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – None. Motion passed.


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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Aldерwoman Gerlt motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Aldерwoman Ishmael seconded the motion. Five voting Aye. Nays – 0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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