

City of Willow Springs

Regular Council Meeting Thursday, May 18, 2023 City Hall Council Chambers, 5:30 pm

Present: Mayor Brooke Fair, Alderman Danny Bradley, Alderman Kim Rich, Alderman David Collins, Alderman Phill Knott, City Attorney Zane Privette, City Administrator Beverly Hicks, City Clerk Heather Duddridge, Police Chief Wes Ellison, Assistant Police Chief Alan Lewis.

Guest: Dean Aye, Robert Rackley, Susan Rackley, Tyler Morris, Wendell Bailey, Carl Lewis, Amber Lewis, Boyd Lewis, Brantley Lewis.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

City Clerk Heather Duddridge called the roll.

Mayor Brooke Fair opened the meeting of the Board of Alderman at 5:30 pm with a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Collins to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Collins to approve the Consent Agenda which included Approval of Minutes – (RM 4/18), Approval of Bills for Payment, Receipt of Financial Reports, and YMCA, Department Head’s & Board’s Reports. Motion carried 4-0.

EXISTING BUSINESS

104 E Main Building Discussion: Dean Aye appeared on behalf of the Willow Springs Community Foundation (WSCF) to inform Council that a contract has been signed with OKE-Thomas for design and engineering services with J&M Engineering. Aye also stated that work should begin sometime in mid to late June. Council thanked him for the update.

Past Due Business Licenses: City Clerk Heather Duddridge provided Council with a copy of the letter that was personally served upon businesses and informed Council that all businesses have complied, except for two. However, Duddridge added that the two non-compliant business owners have not been in contact with the clerk’s office, but they have not been in operation for the last few days. Council unanimously agreed that no further action was necessary if the businesses are no longer in operation. No further action was taken.

Distracted Driving Update: City Administrator Beverly Hicks reminded Council that a draft distracted driver ordinance was presented in the April meeting for general discussion, however, it was not adopted or amended due to a pending bipartisan bill in the Missouri Senate. Hicks informed Council that Senate Bill 398, including the “Siddens Bening Hands Free Law,” was

passed by Missouri legislators on May 11, 2023, which requires drivers of all ages to utilize hands-free options while driving. Hicks further stated that the bill is awaiting Governor Parsons' signature.

Hicks added that Missouri will become the 49th State plus Washington D.C. to pass a distracted driving law for drivers of all ages. Once signed by the Governor, the bill will take effect on August 28, 2023, however, citations will not be written until January 1, 2025 to provide ample time for public education.

No action was taken by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Rackley Retirement Recognition: City Administrator Beverly Hicks recognized wastewater supervisor Robert Rackley for his 39 years of service to the community and presented him with a plaque. Photos were taken of Rackley with Hicks, Council, and Rackley's family.

City Bank Accounts: City Administrator Beverly Hicks informed Council that the City's current money market accounts are making 1.25% interest. Hicks added that she would like to keep approximately \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00 in liquidity and move approximately \$1,000,000.00 into CDs.

Hicks further informed Council that she obtained quotes from all 3 banks in town. US Bank offers CDs from 30 days at 3.15% to 180 days at 3.3% interest and money market accounts at 3.75% interest. Simmons Bank offers money market accounts at 1.25% interest and 9- or 12-month CDs at 4% interest. West Plains Bank offers money market accounts at 3% interest and 12-month CDs at 4.5% interest.

Hicks concluded that she would like to move forward with preparing suggestions for the next meeting on how to proceed with those funds and Council unanimously agreed. No further action was taken.

Public and Media Questions: There was no one from the media present and there were no questions from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Rich to move to executive session for (2) Real Estate and (3) Personnel pursuant to §610.021. A roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Bradley, Rich, Collins, Knott

Nays: None.

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 5:58 pm and adjourned at 6:20 pm with no action taken.

Motion by Alderman Knott, second by Alderman Collins to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm. Motion carried 4-0.



CITY OF WILLOW SPRINGS

Brooke Fair
Brooke Fair, Mayor

Heather Duddridge
Heather Duddridge, City Clerk