

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2023

The Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Tammy Massman. Aldermen present were Delbert Wieberg, Stanley Heckman, Jake Plassmeyer and Lori Asel. Others present at the meeting were Ben Maness of Mid Mo Operations, Osage County Commissioners-Darryl Griffin and Larry Kliethermes and Theresa Brandt-UD reporter.

The meeting minutes from the December monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman and was seconded by Alderman Delbert Wieberg, to approve the December monthly minutes. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes.

The January monthly expense report was reviewed. The city expenses note the amount of \$2,853.27, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$6,395.63, special road district expenses in the amount of \$2054.40. City receipts in the amount of \$10,252.12, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$9,512.83, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$5,087.10. Total city checking account balance of \$162,394.67, total sewer system checking account balance of \$53,401.73, total special road district checking account balance of \$35,164.18, and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,113.84. Total city CDs in the amount of \$440,619.87, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$523,247.19, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$523,076.84. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and was seconded by Alderman Lori Asel to approve the January monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes.

Mayor Massman introduced guests from the Osage County Commissioners Office-Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin and Commissioner Larry Kliethermes who provided the council with community updates. Commissioner Griffin announced that the Osage County Health Department (OCHD) will be opening their new building this spring, likely in March, and will be offering many other services than what they have in the past. Brochures were provided to council members to review and pass along to others in the community that may benefit from services through the OCHD. Commissioner Griffin thanked council members for their service to the community noting that "it can sometimes be a thankless job" and offered the commissioner's office as an additional resource support if the council needed anything.

Alderman Wieberg inquired about the building being built behind the Osage ambulance depot located near the Hwy 50/63 interchange. Griffin reported that they have been told it was going to be a storage building for the ambulance district. Commissioner Kliethermes educated the council, that as a reminder, the Osage ambulance district is a separate entity from the County Commissions office, having its own governing board. Kliethermes continued with updates regarding changes to the Hwy 63 route. A definite route is reported to still be under negotiation. Surveys continue and it is benchmarked to start likely in the next 5 years. Public hearings would need to be held once surveys have been completed and a route is officially defined. The modifications to the route are only to include the stretch from the Hwy 50/63 interchange through to the Maries river bridge area. Other highway areas being considered for improvements are near the Hwy 63 and Route E junction, proposing an addition of a turn lane and other left turn lanes. The county is really pushing for modifications in the area near the State Tech college entrance along Hwy 50 in Linn, MO. A stop light at the interchange is being considered.

Next, Commissioner Kliethermes provided an update regarding the Pentecostal bridge repairs. No settlement has been reached, so the issue will go to trial. A trial date of March 6, 2023 is set with the anticipation that it will take at least 4 days for the parties to represent their sides. The county and their attorney have been preparing for court gathering facts and witness testimony. The trial will be open to the public and will be held in the Christopher Bond Federal Courthouse building in Jefferson City, MO. Local supporters of the bridge's

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2023 (continued)

reconstruction are encouraged to attend, but reminded to be respectful of the process. Commissioner Griffin stated “we are trying, but justice works slow”. Sheriff Bonham was planned to attend the meeting this evening, but was unable to. Commissioner Griffin reported that Sheriff Bonham extends a “hello” and continues to offer the sheriff’s office for any law enforcement issues or concerns.

The sewer system report was next on the agenda. Mayor Massman acknowledged that a report was submitted by Mid MO Operations. Sewer operator Ben Maness reported to the council, that the plant and all lift stations are running well. Maness noted that the dusk to dawn light has been out. Operators replaced the light bulb, but it continues to fail on occasion. Maness believes that the sensor is the issue and just needs to be replaced. Mayor Massman was unsure if the pole was an Ameren pole and whether it could be serviced by them. Mayor Massman will reach out to Ameren to validate and if it is not, be in contact with an electrician to provide service work to have the sensor replaced. Maness reported that sludge will still likely need to be pumped in February if the fields will allow for application. Soil samples and sludge samples will be collected likely next week so that land application can occur when conditions are favorable. First quarter samples will be collected near the end of February or beginning of March. Maness continued, reporting that the sludge holding decant line is stuck in the upward position, likely due to rust and corrosion. Sewer operators will work on freeing it up after the sludge has been pumped out. Maness anticipated that it just needed to be cleaned and greased again while the basin was empty to make it operational again. Operators will update the council if greater repair needs are discovered. Mayor Massman reported that the 4th quarter reporting and annual reporting items (I & I, Sludge) have been completed and submitted to DNR. Mayor Massman questioned if it was planned for Mid Mo Environmental to provide sludge hauling services again this year and whether sewer operators have been in contact with Shawn to align schedules. Maness reported that operators will reach out to Mid Mo Environmental-Shawn and coordinate plans.

Mayor Massman continued the meeting with other business. Mayor Massman reported to the council that she has worked with the accountant to process all end of year reports, and that 1099’s have been mailed. Mayor Massman is preparing the annual budget template for next fiscal year 2023-2024. A draft will be presented during the February meeting, noting that with the end of the fiscal year being March 31, 2023, a new budget will need to be approved during the March monthly meeting. Aldermen were encouraged to begin thinking of projects that may need to be discussed next month with reference to budget planning. Annual business license renewal notifications are also being prepared and will be mailed out, noting that annual business licenses expire March 31, 2023.

The next city meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and seconded by Alderman Delbert Wieberg. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes.