

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CUBA, MISSOURI
TUESDAY – MARCH 15, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
CUBA CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM**

Mayor Cody Leathers called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Kevin Copling, Sam Black, Dave Honea, Warren Graddy, Curtis Holt, Jeff Bouse. Public Works Director present: Craig Bouse. Police Chief present: Doug Shelton. City attorney present: Lance Thurman.

Motion by Black, seconded by Bouse, to approve the agenda. Vote: All ayes.

Thurman clarified that in the March 1, 2022 meeting minutes the committee minutes are to be approved by the committee at the following committee meeting, not the council meeting.

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Honea, to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 1, 2022. Vote: All ayes. Graddy abstained.

Motion by Honea, seconded by Black, to approve the executive session meeting minutes from March 1, 2022. Vote: All ayes. Graddy abstained.

Motion by Holt, seconded by Bouse, to approve the bills to be paid including the Fletcher-Reinhardt invoice paid on March 3, 2022. Vote: All ayes.

Dr. Scott Davidson, Assistant Superintendent of Cuba School thanked the council for meeting with him to discuss the upcoming SRO (School Resource Officer) contract. Dr. Graves, Superintendent, had surgery and was not able to make the meeting so Dr. Davidson was asked to take his place for this discussion. Dr. Davidson asked if the council had any information regarding the SRO changes and Mayor Leathers stated that PC Shelton has spoke with the police committee members and they have the information that will be explored later based off a police committee recommendation. Dr. Davidson stated that some of his roles include safety and security and there are currently two SRO's with one being in the middle school and the other in the high school. Crawford County Sherriff Darrin Layman talked to Steelville and Bourbon school about an SRO program as they do not have one and then Dr. Graves was approached about a county wide SRO program to have one sheriff and one city police officer so both jurisdictions are met. Dr. Davidson and Dr. Graves think this would be a nice blend. They city police officer would be at the school nine months and at the police department the other three months, being a 75/25 split in pay. Some of the changes would include the superintendent in choosing the SRO's, additional training, more approachable uniforms, and it would stay the same that if the SRO isn't available an officer would be provided which has been appreciated by the school. Currently the SRO's are Betty Post and Jay Coleman. Dr. Davidson stated that Post has done better with parent and student relationships, allowing Coleman to go back to patrolling. Bouse stated that he had spoke with PC Shelton and the committee is interested in seeing what the school board has to offer and then discuss at budget time. Mayor Leathers noted the changes Dr. Davidson listed. Mayor Leathers stated that the police committee will meet and bring more detailed information to the board. Dr. Davidson appreciates

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022

and thinks this will be a great partnership as a lot of people are doing a lot of work for the better. Black asked Dr. Davidson if the superintendent being part of picking the SRO is usual and assumes that there wouldn't be many changes in the officers. PC Shelton stated that the current SRO officers are NASRO certified. Mayor Leathers stated that the council will put the final stamp on the budget and salary for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1, 2022 and asked if that was enough time for the school. Dr. Davidson understands it takes time and will ask Dr. Graves and keep in communication. Mayor Leathers thanked Dr. Davidson for attending.

Leo Sanders, Crawford County Presiding Commissioner and Jared Boast, Crawford County District 2 Commissioner approached the council to discuss an outer road project from Hwy P to Hwy UU. This project was originally presented in 2013 and it fell short due to funding. This project is being discussed again and there was a meeting held at Cuba Lakes Golf Course with PWD Bouse, MoDot, and themselves in attendance. Mr. Boast stated that for many of these projects there are state revolving funds and a list of ways for entities to pay for half and the state paying for the other half. Mr. Boast feels that this project will be useful for safety and emergency reasons alleviating traffic from town and Route 66 if there is an accident on Interstate 44. From an economic development perspective there is property to purchase. Another project discussion is on the other side of the interstate where the MoDot building sits, they would like for their facility to be in the city limits to connect to city utilities. A majority of MoDot facilities are or have been annexed into city limits and can possibly get funding for the water and sewer services. The county is moving forward with the original project plans from Archer Engineering that were drawn in 2013 and trying to get a preliminary cost estimate as you can't apply for grants without a cost. Mr. Boast does not expect an answer at this time, but would like to know if the city is interested in partnering for this project to be discussed at budget time. To move forward the engineering cost could be \$35,000-\$50,000 that would be split between the county and city. Mayor Leathers asked if MoDot would consider doing phase 1, the outer road project only at this time as phase 2, running services to the MoDot facility will be very costly. Mr. Boast does not have all the answers. Mayor Leathers stated that if only move forward with phase 1, the outer road project there are several landowners that would have to get easements from, and the city is restricted as to how money is spent on things not within city limits. Mayor Leathers stated that if the council is on board, then he is willing to discuss the outer road project and maybe put together a ten year plan for the utility infrastructure. Mr. Boast stated that MoDot knows they need the water and sewer services and could be willing to pay for the looping project. PWD Bouse will reach out to Cameron Schweiss with Archer Engineering to present the water and sewer plans. Black asked what the incentive was for providing the water and sewer services. Mr. Boast stated that it could be the MoDot well is aging and they also need a wastewater system for disposal. Mr. Sanders suggested reaching out to Preston with MoDot for more details. Mayor Leathers would like to get more information from MoDot and then come budget time, they will discuss and decide whether or not to move forward with the engineer costs.

Copling stated that this project to expand was brought up years ago and he is on board. There is property that is beneficial, and the ordinance states the city has time to provide services. Copling is also

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022

interested in MoDot putting in a bridge for access to Wal-Mart. Mr. Boast stated that between a bridge or overpass, one has to come before the other and they are huge projects. Copling is aware that the county needs the city because with out water and sewer you can't put in houses. Copling agreed that the road should get done first.

Mr. Boast stated that there is a tax on the April 5th ballot and if not passed, then the project may not be possible on their end. Mayor Leathers asked if any of the ARPA funds would be going toward this project. Mr. Boast stated that the first round of ARPA funds could not be used on roads or bridges. There will be a meeting with the cities to discuss their money request submittals from this second round of ARPA funding, but the counties portion will be used to repair and overlay existing paved roads as they are in dire need and can't seem to get ahead of proper paved maintenance in District 1 and 2. This outer road project is a bonus and MoDot is supportive as well as the community and they feel the sales tax revenue should be used to benefit the community as a whole. The ARPA money could have been used for the project but felt it was better used for county road repairs.

Jimmy Happel, Natural Gas Superintendent stated that he is looking into the quality of a natural gas employee as he will need to start looking for another employee for his department. Happel stated that David Minardi will be going to the treatment plant when the current treatment plant operator leaves. Mayor Leathers stated it is something to start thinking about and suggested to get with his committee to budget and plan ahead to present a recommendation. Happel presented the council with a letter from the Missouri Public Service Commission showing requirements and needs to work in the natural gas department to show what is really needed.

Dr. Sean Siebert announced to the council that he is stepping down from the Cuba Development Board President as of April 30th. He thanked the council as it was an honor to work with them. He has some opportunities for the future and what it could hold. He loves Cuba and will still be able to help with any connections. He stated that there is still a board that will meet and will decide what to do moving forward. Mayor Leathers thanked Dr. Siebert for all he has done and stated that he and his family will be missed.

The park and recreation board held a meeting on March 7th and had two bids for new grates at the pool.

Vaughan Pools & Spas \$138,518.96

Capri Pools and Aquatics \$213,724.00

The park and recreation board recommends to accept the bid from Vaughan Pools & Spas for \$138,518.96. **Motion by Honea, seconded by Copling, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes.**

Honea stated that the fair board requested 25 more camping spots in Hood Park, but since that is not budgeted they will have to present a plan to possibly include in next years budget.

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022

Honea stated that the new Hood Park playground equipment is being installed.

Copling stated that the pond in Hood Park will be stocked soon, or they could fill it in and let the food pantry build a building there. Mayor Leathers stated that was a conversation for another time.

The park and recreation board recommends advertising for the employment of lifeguards with a pay of \$11.15/hour and a manager at \$13.50/hour. If the manager position is filled by a returning employee then a cost of living raise could apply as of July 1, 2022. **Motion by Black, seconded by Copling, to approve the recommendation. Vote: All ayes.**

The electric committee had a meeting on March 7th. For the electric study that is being done to move forward, a two-year capital plan has to be approved by the council. A plan was presented to the council.

Two-year capital plan:

FY 2023 - \$750,000

Double circuit project. Need to be contracted. \$600,000

Andy Stubblefield subdivision west of town - \$60,000

Start Rutz subdivision project - \$40,000

FY 2024 - \$500,000

Phase II – 7200 circuit. Transformers needed. \$400,000 (inflation)

Finish Rutz subdivision project. \$100,000 (inflation)

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Holt, to approve the electric committee recommended two-year capital plan. Vote: All ayes.

EOC Director, Rodney Neff stated that all sirens worked during the last test.

Neff presented the council with an invoice from Storm Sirens, Inc. for \$2450 for approval. **Motion by Honea, seconded by Black, to approve the invoice from Storm Sirens, Inc. for \$2450. Vote: All ayes.**

Neff stated that the cameras are working ok, with some trouble areas that he is looking into. He is going to create a plan for better visibility at those trouble areas and will get with PWD Bouse for costs.

PWD Bouse asked the council to advertise for two seasonal part time helpers for the grounds department at \$11.15/hour. **Motion by Graddy, seconded by Bouse, to approve advertising for two seasonal part time helpers for the grounds department at \$11.15/hour. Vote: All ayes.**

PWD Bouse asked the council to approve and advertise a Spring Clean-Up for household items curbside on May 9th and May 10th. **Motion by Black, and seconded by Holt, to approve the Spring Clean-Up and advertisement. Vote: All ayes.**

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022

PWD Bouse presented the council with conduit bids.

Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. \$4186.00

Butler Supply \$4809.70

Motion by Bouse, seconded by Black, to approve the conduit bid from Fletcher-Reinhardt Co. for \$4186.00. Vote: All ayes.

PC Shelton gave an update on nuisance complaints. Mayor Leathers stated that this has been a successful program so far.

Copling stated that there needs to be some sidewalk work done, as some are bad. Would like to have the work done in house, but if not able to then contract the work out. He feels the citizens deserve better and would like to plan for the next budget.

Black stated that Jimmy West contacted him and has a plan for an airport fundraiser. At the airport there would be a dinner, planes out, and people able to fly in for this event. If the council is interested, then he would need to start planning. **Motion by Black, seconded by Bouse, to explore the ideas of the fundraising event at the airport. Vote: All ayes.**

Bouse asked all to keep Jim King in their prayers.

Garbo stated that Ms. Joyce Stewart is asking to use the outside commons area at Recklein Auditorium on April 17th for an Easter Sunrise Service. They will not need access to the building, just outside with a possible small fire pit to warm hands. **Motion by Black, seconded by Holt, to allow use of the outside commons area at Recklein Auditorium on April 17, 2022. Vote: All ayes.** Garbo will check on the use of fire pits and contact Ms. Stewart.

Mayor Leathers stated the next council meeting will be Thursday April 7, 2022 due to the election.

Mayor Leathers read a letter from Missy Mullally with Animal Control stating that community cats are once again becoming a problem with citizens feeding them and not claiming ownership. In August 2021, the focused on three problem areas and the people were sent letters stating that they had thirty days to clean up the area or face further action by the city and the citizens did not help re-home them meaning the animal control department had to trap them. Some were adopted, and many were euthanized due to being sick or feral. The total cost in 2021 for euthanizations was \$1127.00. As of January 1, 2022, the vet charge to euthanize cats is \$35. 99% of the feral cat problem is from citizens feeding them or feeding their cats outside. Mullally would like to get with her committee and discuss with hopes of getting a handle on the situation.

CITY OF CUBA – BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2022

Motion by Graddy, seconded by Holt, to go into executive session – closed to the public pursuant RSMo 610.021 – Section 2) Real Estate; 3) Personnel – hiring, firing, and/or promoting of particular employee(s); 17) Communications with auditor. Roll call vote: Copling-yes, Black-yes, Honea-yes, Graddy-yes, Holt-yes, Bouse-yes.

Actions of executive session: Attorney Thurman stated that the council met in closed session to discuss real estate, personnel, and communications with auditor and there were no final actions taken.

Motion by Black, seconded by Honea, to go back into regular session. Roll call vote: Copling-yes, Black-yes, Honea-yes, Graddy-yes, Holt-yes, Bouse-yes.

Motion by Copling, seconded by Bouse, to set a meeting with supervisors Christine Nash of City Hall, Shelton of the Police Department, and C.Bouse of Public Works. Mayor Leathers wants Thurman in attendance as some questions will regard departments that overlap. Vote: All ayes.

Bouse stated that in all his years with the city, all have gotten along and does not know what has happened with the bickering and fighting.

Copling stated that he has been asked who is in charge of City Hall. **Copling motions to keep the City Clerk position as supervisor and not Comptroller position, seconded by Bouse.** Honea wants to see job descriptions. Black stated the only change would be who staff would report to. Thurman stated that there isn't a written policy, and if they decide to create one then they would need to designate a position and not a person. **Roll call vote: Copling-yes, Black-his vote is not about a specific employee but for structure and is undecided. Copling withdraws motion. Bouse also withdraws motion.** Bouse wants to determine duties. Mayor Leathers stated that job descriptions are available upon request.

Motion by Graddy, seconded by Honea, to adjourn. Vote: All ayes.

Lainie Garbo, City Clerk