

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2021.

Notice of this regular meeting of the City Council was given in the Daily American Republic, a newspaper of general circulation located in the City of Poplar Bluff. A copy of the agenda of this meeting was posted on a bulletin board located in the City Municipal building at 501 Vine Street in the City of Poplar Bluff, twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert L. Smith at 7:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Pastor Ben Higgins of the First Church of God.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Matt Winters, City Attorney Mark Richardson and City Clerk Nevada J. Young who performed the duties of their respective offices.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Each member of the City Council was given the opportunity to disclose any possible conflict of interest dealing either with any item on the printed agenda or with any matter discussed at a previous meeting.

No possible conflicts of interest were disclosed.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Each person in the audience was given the opportunity to address the City Council on any matter not on the printed agenda.

No one in the audience appeared before the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

The minutes of the City Council meetings held February 1, 2021, February 4, 2021 and February 16, 2021 were presented to the City Council for their approval.

Approval of Minutes for the Month of February, 2021

The City Clerk reported that each Councilperson had before them a report on fund balances, investments and collections as of February 28, 2021. She reported on funds on deposit in the Commerce Bank in the amount of \$4,204,124.11; in the Peoples Community State Bank \$343,993.65; in the First Midwest Bank \$21,166,904.40; in Sterling Bank \$6,321.67 and in the First Missouri State Bank \$1,073,274.87. She stated this reflects a grand total of all funds in all banks in the amount of \$26,794,618.70. She stated of this amount, total funds on deposit for the account of City Hall is \$5,157,776.50, total amount on deposit for the Coliseum is \$6,321.67, total amount on deposit for the Park Department accounts is \$1,064,959.59 and total funds on deposit for the account of the Municipal Utilities Department is \$20,565,560.94.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Report on Fund Balances, Investments & Collections as of February 28, 2021

The City Clerk reported that each member of the City Council had before them the following reports for the month of February, 2021: a list of Bills Paid, a report from

Downtown Poplar Bluff, Inc., a report from the Fire Department, a Municipal Court report, a Payroll report by departments, a report from the Planning Department, a Police Department/Animal Control/Code Enforcement report, a Street Department report and a list of payments from the Police and Fire Pension Fund for the month of February, 2021.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Parson and carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**WORKSHOP
ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

The City Council considered a request from Spire Missouri Inc. to place a cathodic well attached to their gas line that will be located at the intersection of Roxie Road and Shelby Drive.

**Spire Missouri Inc.
Cathodic Well**

Mr. Reggie Flowers, Senior Right-of-Way Representative with Spire Missouri Inc. appeared before the Council. He stated Spire is looking to further expand their gas services along Shelby Road. He stated the steel gas main must be protected from corrosion with a new cathodic well that will be 300 feet deep. Mr. Flowers stated this proposed site is centrally located for them. He stated Spire is requesting an easement from the City to install the well at the intersection of Shelby Drive and Roxie Road. Mr. Flowers stated they will also make improvements by bringing in gravel for access from Roxie Road to maintain and oversee the well.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held April 5, 2021.

**Spire Missouri Inc.
Franchise
Agreement**

The City Council considered a request for renewal of a franchise agreement with Spire Missouri Inc. to operate a natural gas distribution plant and system within the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

City Manager Matt Winters addressed the Council and stated a franchise agreement with Spire is currently in place that allows them to operate a natural gas distribution system within the City limits and utilize City right-of-way. He stated this agreement expires in October and he is recommending the Council to approve a 20-year agreement that is renewable every five years. Mr. Winters stated this agreement is needed to allow the City to continue collecting franchise fees from Spire.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Taylor and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held April 5, 2021.

**Sale of City
Property**

The City Council reviewed bids for the sale of City property located near the Shelby Road and Roxie Road intersection.

City Manager Winters addressed the Council and stated one bid was received for this property and was opened Tuesday, March 9, 2021. He stated the amount of the bid was \$45,000. Mr. Winters stated his recommendation is to reject the bid and continue working with Nathan Mauer and Kurt Knodell with Poplar Bluff Realty relative to the sale of this property.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson, seconded by Councilwoman Horton and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held April 5, 2021.

Show-Me Clean Energy District Program

The City Council reviewed a proposal for the Show-Me Clean Energy District Program.

City Manager Winters addressed the Council and stated the Show-Me Clean Energy District is one of two clean energy districts in Missouri. He stated the City joined the other district, Missouri Clean Energy District, in May 2020. He stated by joining these districts, businesses have access to loans for energy efficiency improvements.

Mr. Travis Wood, with the Show-Me PACE Clean Energy District and who gave his address as 238 E. High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, appeared before the Council. He reviewed the program and benefits of it with the Council. He stated this program would be for commercial properties only at this time. Mr. Wood stated there is no cost to the City to join.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Parson and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held April 5, 2021.

Poplar Bluff Public Library Building

The City Council discussed the status of the Poplar Bluff Public Library building.

Ms. Shannon Midyett, Assistant Director of the Poplar Bluff Library, appeared before the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to speak this evening. She stated a packet was passed out containing information on the history of the Library buildings. She presented information to the Council relative to the current main building of the Library on Main Street. Ms. Midyett stated at the time it was constructed the deed to the building was issued to the City. She stated the Municipal Library District is currently an autonomous district. She stated the structure as is stands today was paid for and can be traced back to the Library property tax, Library sales tax, Capital Improvement Fund and private donations.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson to move to the voting session on April 5, 2021 a resolution that the Poplar Bluff Library will pay \$200,000 to the City of Poplar Bluff for transfer of deed and closing costs and for \$100,000 to be paid at the signing of the transfer agreement and an additional \$100,000 will be paid one year from the signing date with the City to have first right of refusal so if ever sold the City has the first chance to purchase.

Mayor Smith suggested moving this item to another workshop session for further discussion.

The motion to move the item to the voting session on April 5, 2021 was seconded by Councilman Cornman and carried by majority vote. Councilman DeGaris voted no on the motion.

ACTION REQUIRED ITEMS

Downtown Poplar Bluff Entertainment District & Open Cup Ordinance

The City Council took action on an ordinance designating and adopting the "Downtown Poplar Bluff Entertainment District" and open cup ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilman Cornman that Bill No. 8293, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI CODE OF CITY ORDINANCES, SECTION 405 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Bill No. 8293 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption

only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8293 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Smith; No: Davis; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 21 - 08.

**Annual Net
Metering Report**

The City Council took action on an ordinance authorizing the City of Poplar Bluff to adopt and approve an annual net metering report and disclosure for the Municipal Utilities Department. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8294, **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN ANNUAL NET METERING REPORT FOR THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Councilwoman Parson and seconded by Councilman DeGaris that Bill No. 8294 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8294 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Parson, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 21 - 09.

**Code of
Ordinances
Chapter 205
Amendment**

The City Council took action on an ordinance amending Chapter 205.480, 500, 510, 520, 530 and 560 Animal Control regarding fees and licensing. Motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Bill No. 8295, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI CODE OF CITY ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE CHAPTER 205 RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL FEES AND LICENSING**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8295 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor that Bill No. 8295 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Parson, DeGaris, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 21 - 10.

**Historical
Monument - 303
Moran Street**

The City Council took action on an ordinance approving the location and placement of a historical monument on City-owned property located at 303 Moran Street. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8296, **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CREATION AND PLACEMENT OF AN HISTORICAL TORNADO MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT 303 MORAN STREET IN THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Councilwoman Parson and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Bill No. 8296 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if

there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor that Bill No. 8296 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Cornman, Taylor, Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 21 - 11.

Call For a Closed Session

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff called for a closed meeting in which they would discuss such matters which are exempted under the open meetings law Section 610.021.1, RSMo, Section 610.021.2, RSMo, Section 610.021.3, RSMo, Section 610.021.9, RSMo, Section 610.021.11, RSMo, Section 610.021.12, RSMo, Section 610.021.13, RSMo, and Section 610.021.14, RSMo. Motion was made by Councilwoman Parson and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that the City Council move into a closed meeting immediately after this regular meeting of the City Council. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. The motion carried unanimously to move into closed session immediately after this regular meeting of the City Council.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Winters addressed the Council and stated he would like to commend some of our City staff. He stated a couple of weeks ago there was a rodeo on a Friday and Saturday night at the Black River Coliseum with loads and loads of dirt brought into the arena. He stated Black River Coliseum Staff, Street Department personnel, employees of the Park Department and the National Guard has the arena cleaned up and ready to go on Tuesday morning for a mass COVID vaccination clinic. Mr. Winters stated he appreciates all the hard work put in by those individuals. He stated tonight's meeting is the first to be streaming live on YouTube. He stated he is happy we are getting up to date on some technology.

There being no further business to come before this meeting of the City Council, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson, seconded by Councilwoman Horton and carried to adjourn this regular session of the City Council.

Mayor Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nevada J. Young
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,

MISSOURI, THIS 19th **DAY**

OF April, **2021.**