

**MINUTES  
OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI  
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 2020.

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 Mayor Pro Tem Steve Davis.

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 Mark Massingham, 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 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.

Mr. Jim Chrisman, who gave his address as 464 N. Main, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council. He expressed his concern regarding funding for the new Police Station and a potential new City Hall, as well as shortfalls in the 2020 budget. Mr. Chrisman stated he passed out a sheet of paper with highlighted questions to the Council and he would like each Councilperson to answer one of the questions.

Mayor Smith stated these questions would be answered at a later date with the input of the City Manager.

Ms. Morgan McIntosh, Executive Director of Downtown Poplar Bluff, Inc., who gave her address as 1804 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council. She requested permission to allow the discharge of fireworks for the annual display on Saturday, July 4, 2020 in downtown Poplar Bluff.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilman Cornman and carried to allow the discharge of fireworks on Saturday, July 4, 2020.

Ms. Nicki Johnson, who gave her address as 419 Pershing Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Ms. Tausha Clay appeared before the Council to request permission for the discharge of fireworks on June 27, 2020 at the Wheatley School. She stated they have spoken with Fire Chief Ralph Stucker and have a safety plan in place and a volunteer with the Butler County Fire Department will assist in the discharge of the fireworks. Ms. Johnson stated Police Chief Danny Whiteley has also volunteered to assist them.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cornman, seconded by Councilwoman Parson and carried to allow the discharge of fireworks at the Wheatley School on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

**Approval of  
Minutes for  
the Month of May,  
2020**

The minutes of the City Council meetings held May 13, 2020 and May 18, 2020 were presented to the City Council for their approval.

**CITY CLERK'S  
REPORT**

**Reports on Fund  
Balances,  
Investments &  
Collections as of  
May 31, 2020**

The City Clerk reported that each Councilperson had before them a report on fund balances, investments and collections as of May 31, 2020. She reported on funds on deposit in the Commerce Bank in the amount of \$2,359,287.44; in the Peoples Community State Bank \$568,153.51; in the First Midwest Bank \$23,624,611.48; in Sterling Bank \$77,486.46 and in the First Missouri State Bank \$1,068,071.07. She stated this reflects a grand total of all funds in all banks in the amount of \$27,697,609.96. She stated of this amount, total funds on deposit for the account of City Hall is \$4,374,213.09, total amount on deposit for the Coliseum is \$77,486.46, total amount on deposit for the Park Department accounts is \$566,073.02 and total funds on deposit for the account of the Municipal Utilities Department is \$22,679,837.39.

The City Clerk reported that each member of the City Council had before them the following reports for the month of May, 2020: 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 May, 2020.

After discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilman DeGaris and carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**WORKSHOP  
ITEMS FOR  
DISCUSSION**

**Lease Agreement  
with MoDOT**

The City Council reviewed a contract with MoDOT for the land lease agreement for the "Gateway to the Ozarks" property.

City Manager Mark Massingham addressed the Council and stated this property is located north of town on Highway 67 and is MoDOT right-of-way. He stated they have allowed us to have the Gateway to the Ozarks sign there for years with the requirement that we provide them with a copy of the City's liability insurance policy. Mr. Massingham stated we normally have a five-year lease on the property but MoDOT is requesting a ten-year lease to cut down on their surveying costs.

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

**CARES Act  
Recovery  
Assistance Program**

The City Council considered a grant application between the City of Poplar Bluff and the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program for Downtown Poplar Bluff

**Grant Application**

infrastructure.

Ms. Chelsae Cordia with the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission appeared before the Council and stated the City applied for a CDBG grant last year for downtown infrastructure and was denied. She stated this grant available from the CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program would hopefully provide 90 percent of the funding for sidewalk improvements and lighting upgrades in the downtown area with 10 percent of in-kind work to be provided by the City. She stated the total amount of the grant project would be approximately \$421,000.

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 tonight.

**Fire Station #1 Bids for Roof Replacement**

The City Council considered bids for the roof replacement project for Fire Station #1 located at 300 South Broadway.

Fire Chief Ralph Stucker appeared before the Council and stated three qualifying bids were received for the roof replacement of Fire Station #1. He stated the lowest best bid was from Meinerhagen Roofing & Sheeting from Farmington, Missouri in the amount of \$30,775.00.

City Manager Massingham stated this will be paid for out of the Fire Department's Capital Budget.

After further discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Parson and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held July 6, 2020.

**481 Highway W Annexation**

The City Council considered a zoning recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding a proposed annexation of property located at 481 Highway W, Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Mr. Matt Winters, City Planner, appeared before the Council and stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the property located at 481 Highway W to be annexed in with the zoning designation of RS-2, General Residential.

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

**465 Highway W Annexation**

The City Council considered a zoning recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding a proposed annexation of property located at 465 Highway W, Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Mr. Matt Winters, City Planner, appeared before the Council and stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the property located at 465 Highway W to be annexed in with the zoning designation of RS-2, General Residential.

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

**ACTION**  
**REQUIRED ITEMS**

**Cell Tower Height  
Request 1017  
Ridge Avenue**

The City Council took action on an ordinance authorizing a temporary cell tower height request located at 1017 Ridge Avenue. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis that Bill No. 8239, **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING NETWORK REAL ESTATE, AN AGENT OF AT&T, TO ERECT A TEMPORARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CELL TOWER LOCATED AT 1017 RIDGE AVENUE IN 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 Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilman DeGaris that Bill No. 8239 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. 8239 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance duly adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 20 - 38.

**Land Lease  
Agreement with  
MoDOT**

The City Council took action on a contract for a land lease agreement with MoDOT. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8240, **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LAND USE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF AND MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF WELCOME SIGN LOCATED ON STATE RIGHT OF WAY ON HIGHWAY 67 NORTH IN POPLAR BLUFF**, 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 Councilman DeGaris that Bill No. 8240 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. 8240 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 duly adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 20 - 39.

**481 Highway W  
Annexation**

The City Council took action on an ordinance for annexation of property located at 481 Highway W. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Bill No. 8241, **AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, SUCH PROPERTY BEING DESCRIBED AS 481 HIGHWAY W, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, AND OWNED BY JOE AND KAREN KNUCKLES**, 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. 8241 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 Councilman DeGaris that Bill No. 8241 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 duly adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 20 - 40.

**465 Highway W  
Annexation**

The City Council took action on an ordinance for annexation of property located at 465 Highway W. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Taylor that Bill No. 8242, **AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, SUCH PROPERTY BEING DESCRIBED AS 465 HIGHWAY W, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, AND OWNED BY KATHY LEDWIDGE**, 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. 8242 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. 8242 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 duly adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 20 - 41.

**USDA Grant for  
Fire Department  
Ladder Truck**

The City Council took action on a resolution to apply for a USDA grant for a new Fire Department ladder truck. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, that Resolution No. 1926, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) RELATIVE TO THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDER TRUCK, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO**, be read by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its reading and was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this resolution. There being none, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Resolution No. 1926 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Taylor, Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1926 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**CARES Act  
Recovery  
Assistance Prgram  
Grant Application**

The City Council took action on a resolution authorizing the City to apply for the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's CARES Act Recovery Assistance Program for Downtown Poplar Bluff Infrastructure. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Parson, that Resolution No. 1927, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION "CARES ACT" RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE**, be read by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its reading and was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this resolution. There being none, motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Resolution No. 1927 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1927 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**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 Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis 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 Massingham addressed the Council and stated a huge decline was expected in sales tax for March and April due to COVID-19 but March was 10 percent higher than last March and April was up more than 13 percent over last year. He stated he is hoping for the same thing for May's which will come in next month. Mr. Massingham stated people shopping local helped tremendously. He stated MoDOT estimated travel dropped 50 percent in the State which will affect our gas tax. He stated with no Municipal Court fines and violations are down. He stated hotel tax will also be down due to the lack of travel during the pandemic. Mr. Massingham commended Parks and Recreation Director Lanny Corcimiglia for the softball tournament that brough 41 teams from out of town I not our hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Mr. Massingham stated the 2020 budget began with a \$283,000 deficit and we were hoping the use tax would pass but it did not. He stated at this point we will have to make some cuts. He stated some options are to close the Pool and Fitness Center, defund the Art Museum and change police patrol from 12 hour shifts to 8 hour shifts. He stated he would like to bring this before the Council for discussion at the first meeting in July.

Mayor Smith stated he truly enjoys his job as Mayor and thanked everyone for their patience and support.

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

Mayor Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Nevada J. Young  
City Clerk

**APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

**OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,**

**MISSOURI, THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY**

**OF July, 2020.**