

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Monday, July 6, 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 Councilwoman Lisa Parson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Robert L. Smith.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, and 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.

Councilwoman Parson, Councilman DeGaris and Councilwoman Taylor all stated they would abstain from the discussion of Workshop Item C.

CITIZENS 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 North Main Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and expressed his concern regarding the 2020 budget deficit and the expense of the new Police Station and possible new City Hall.

Ms. Addison Kirkman, who gave her address as 600 Honeysuckle Lane, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and expressed her concern with the possibility of the Black River Coliseum pool closing. She stated she is on the Poplar Bluff High School Swim Team and that is the only place they have to practice.

Mr. Spencer Jones, who gave his address as 903 Garfield, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and stated he is with the non-profit People United to Save Rural America. He stated he would like to see Martin Luther King, Jr. street be designated in Poplar Bluff. He stated he would like the City to be intentional in hiring African American police officers and firefighters.

Mr. Kevin Ellis, who gave his address as 2067 Tumbleweed Trail, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council. He stated he is the Interim Vice-President of the Butler County Chapter of the NAACP. He stated he is employed by the VA Medical

Center as the Voluntary Assistant and is president of the union. Mr. Ellis stated it is his objective to fight for equality for all citizens regardless of race, religion, gender, political affiliation or sexual orientation. He stated he would like to see police brutality addressed and racism eradicated from our community. Mr. Ellis stated he would like to see an ordinance passed banning the Confederate flag and symbols from the City of Poplar Bluff. He also encouraged investments be made in impoverished areas and mental health services be made available to those in need.

Mr. Chester Pumphrey, who gave his address as 1119 Spring Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and expressed his concern regarding police brutality and improper practices by the Police Department. He stated he would like the City to form a Citizen Police Complaint Review Board. Mr. Pumphrey stated he doesn't believe the position of City Planner should be filled in order to save money.

Ms. Abby Heuser, who gave her address as 1414 Woodland Road, Poplar Bluff, Missouri appeared before the Council as a member of the PB Frontliners. She expressed her concern relative to police brutality and stated their mission is to support the black community and get more community leaders involved.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for their comments.

Councilwoman Parson stated there is a Bridge the Gap service being planned for the fall by Police Chief Danny Whiteley and Bishop Ron Webb.

**WORKSHOP
ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

The City Council reviewed a loan agreement with Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (MTFC) and the City of Poplar Bluff related to the Highway 67/I-57 Project.

**Loan Agreement
with Missouri
Transportation
Finance
Corporation**

City Manager Mark Massingham addressed the Council and stated this agreement is for the Highway 67/I-57 Project. He stated this is for the four-laning of Highway 67 from Highway 67 South to County Road 338. He stated the loan is for Phase I in the amount of \$8,781,000 and will be repaid with funds collected from the tax passed by the citizens last August.

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 July 20, 2020.

**Street Paving
Grant
Engineering
Qualifications**

The City Council reviewed qualifications for engineering services for street paving for a CDBG grant application.

Mr. Matt Winters, City Planner, addressed the Council and stated this grant will allow for the paving of various streets that are currently gravel. He stated submissions were received from four firms and Mathis and Associates ranked the highest and is recommended for approval.

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 20, 2020.

Budget Issues

The City Manager updated the City Council on current budget issues.

At this time, Councilman DeGaris, Councilwoman Parson and Councilwoman Taylor recused themselves from the meeting.

City Manager Massingham addressed the Council and stated we currently have a deficit budget of \$283,000. He stated the hope was the use tax would pass to alleviate the deficit, but it failed. Mr. Massingham stated some savings has been made by not filling some open positions, savings in health insurance costs and COVID relief funds for employee costs at the Airport. He presented various options to the Council to reduce the deficit including not filling open positions, changing patrol shifts for the Police Department from twelve hour days to eight hour days (approximate savings of \$43,000), defunding the Art Museum (approximate savings of \$39,000), closing the Pool and Fitness Center (approximate savings of \$51,000) and an across the board one percent pay cut for all employees for the remainder of the year (approximate savings of \$32,500). Mr. Massingham stated he doesn't expect an answer from the Council this evening but would like them to begin thinking about these options as a decision will need to be made within the next couple of weeks.

At this time Councilman DeGaris, Councilwoman Parson and Councilwoman Taylor rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Jim Chrisman addressed the Council and stated he is concerned with the decrease in the Capital Fund Budget.

**ACTION
REQUIRED
ITEMS**

**Bid Acceptance
for Roof
Replacement at
Fire Station #1**

The City Council took action on an ordinance accepting a bid for the roof replacement on Fire Station #1 at 300 S. Broadway. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris, seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Bill No. 8243, **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A BID FROM MEINERHAGEN ROOFING AND SHEETING OF FARMINGTON, MISSOURI FOR THE ROOFING PROJECT ON FIRE STATION NUMBER 1 OF THE POPLAR BLUFF FIRE 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 Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilman DeGaris that Bill No. 8243 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 Horton that Bill No. 8243 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 - 42.

**Board
Appointments**

The City Council took action on a resolution making appointments to the Airport Advisory Board, Downtown Poplar Bluff Board, Municipal Utilities Advisory Board, Tree Advisory Board, Residential Housing Advisory Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilman DeGaris that Resolution No. 1928, **A RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD, DOWNTOWN POPLAR BLUFF BOARD, MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD, ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, TREE ADVISORY BOARD AND RESIDENTIAL HOUSING BOARD**, 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 Councilwoman Horton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis that Resolution No. 1928 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 resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1928 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**Board
Appointments**

The City Council took action on a resolution making appointments to the Animal Control Advisory Board, Arts & Museum Advisory Board, Fair Housing Committee, Historical Preservation Commission, Housing Authority Board, Land Clearance and Redevelopment Authority Board, Library Board of Trustees, Park Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, the Disabilities Advisory Board and the Black River Coliseum Advisory Board of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Resolution No. 1929, **A RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD, ARTS & MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD, FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE, HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION, HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, LAND CLEARANCE FOR REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD, LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PARK BOARD, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND THE BLACK RIVER COLISEUM ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Horton that Resolution No. 1929 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 resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1929 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**Board
Appointments**

The City Council took action on a resolution making appointments to the Plumbing Board, Electrical Wiring Board, Building Standards Board and Heating and Air Conditioning (HVACR) Board of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Motion was made by Councilman Cornman and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Resolution No. 1930, **A RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLUMBING BOARD, ELECTRICAL WIRING BOARD, BUILDING STANDARDS BOARD AND HEATING AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION (HVACR) BOARD OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**, 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 Taylor that Resolution No. 1930 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 resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1930 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**Call for a Closed
Session**

Mayor Smith stated there is no need for a closed session tonight.

**City Manager's
Report**

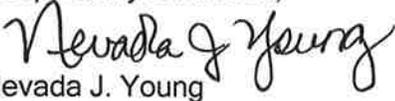
City Manager Massingham addressed the Council and stated he would like to thank the Council and the community for the opportunity to serve as City Manger for the past five years. He stated he will miss working with the Council, citizens and City employees.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Massingham for his 30 years of service to the City of Poplar Bluff.

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

Mayor Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nevada J. Young
City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,

MISSOURI, THIS 17th DAY

OF August, 2020.