

City of Troy, Missouri
Special Board of Aldermen Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Present for the Special Board of Aldermen Meeting were Aldermen Rachel Dunard, David Norman, Dennis Detert, Harold Horner, Steve Jones, Guy Grimstead, and Mayor Ron Sconce. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Taylor, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Jared Comer, Treasurer Linda Flinn, City Attorney Jesse Granneman, and City Clerk Tonya Hawkins.

Mayor Sconce called the Special Board of Aldermen Meeting to Order, announced a Quorum present, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Becky Martin, 911 Trojan Circle, Troy, MO 63379, stated she is the Libertarian candidate for District 41 Representative. She said that the bill to increase the mayor's salary was being discussed the day before the April 5th election because any change to the mayor's salary after the election would not take effect until 2026. She said the city administrator position was created by ordinance in July of 1990, and she noted there have been three city administrators since that time. None of the administrators were able to fulfill their contract, she said. Ms. Martin said the city must pay the mayor a living wage. She requested that aldermen immediately remove the ordinance for city administrator for at least the next four years. She said four years would be plenty of time to determine a salary before the next mayoral election.

Walter Wright, 1001 Bueneman Lane, Troy, MO 63379, said for the past seven years, he has maintained Bueneman Lane by mowing some of the city's property there. Mr. Wright said he was mad when city employees recently drove equipment on the city's property and caused ruts. Mr. Wright said he talked to Mayor Sconce regarding the incident, and during the conversation, Mr. Wright referred to city employees as idiots. Mr. Wright stated he is aware that the ground is not his. However, he said he walks his dog on the city's property. Mr. Wright noted there are issues with water drainage on Bueneman Lane. He said he is tired of dust and of driving through a ditch to get to his house. He stated that 15 years ago, he gave the city an easement, and he felt like it was a slap in the face. He asked aldermen to let him know what they will do to repair Bueneman Lane.

Thomas Byrd, 200 Rockford Drive, Troy, MO 63379, asked about repairs to Hampton Drive. Mayor Sconce explained that street repairs are currently out for bid and would be awarded in April. Mr. Byrd asked if there would be requirements for the mayor if the salary increase for mayor is approved and the city administrator position is eliminated. Mayor Sconce clarified that the removal of the city administrator position was not up for consideration.

Darryl Huffman, 690 2nd Street, Troy, MO 63379, asked if the mayor's job would remain a part-time position. Mayor Sconce explained the job duties would not change. Mr.

Huffman said it is a Missouri Ethics Commission violation for the mayor to be city administrator. Attorney Granneman said the mayor is not appointed as city administrator.

Cortney Lenk, 875 West Cherry, Troy, MO 63379, said she is a staunch conservative. She stated she is not usually in favor of spending but is in favor of increasing the wage for mayor. Ms. Lenk said if the mayor is expected to act as city administrator, the mayor should be paid. She referenced a St. Louis Post Dispatch article that stated the last administrator made \$82,000 per year in 2007, and the mayor was paid \$36,000 at that time. She added that the last administrator was paid a severance for 9 months. She asked why an administrator had not been hired since then. Alderman Norman said that in the past four years, money was the issue. Ms. Lenk asked if there would be enough money in the next budget year. She said an administrator is a \$100,000-per-year job, and she does not think a \$20,000 increase for the mayor is out of reach.

Mayor Sonce read Bill No. 1354 as Ordinance ____ Establishing Compensation for the Mayor of the City of Troy, read first and second times by title only.

Alderman Jones said he would like to hire an administrator, but he is not sure the city has enough in its budget. He said he believes in a fair wage for the position, no matter who becomes mayor. He said if the next mayor does not want the pay, that mayor can donate it back to the city.

Alderman Norman said the mayor's position needs to be more than the current \$12,000 per year. Alderman Dunard asked if Alderman Jones had compared Troy's mayoral salary to comparable cities' mayoral salaries. Alderman Jones said that if the mayor was not doing extra duties, the board would not be bringing this up. Alderman Norman said it is the board's fault that an increase for the mayor's salary was not approved sooner. Alderman Dunard said all city employees are underpaid and that is why the city paid \$30,000 for a compensation study.

Alderman Detert said he researched mayors' pay, and he quoted statistics from other cities. He said last year, the board brought up the mayor's salary right before the election, as well. He stated that both he and Mayor Sonce knew the salary was \$12,000 per year when they signed up for the position.

Alderman Grimstead said Troy is growing, and the city has been functioning without a city administrator. He said there is no budget to hire an administrator anytime soon. He said the mayor is responsible for all city staff, and he said he wants to right a wrong.

Mayor Sonce said he once debated the former mayor about hiring a city administrator and asked how to pay for an administrator. He said general revenue is going to have a shortfall this year, and at least half of an administrator's pay would come from general revenue. He told aldermen not to increase the pay for the mayor's position if they plan to hire an administrator.

Alderman Dunard said an administrator is absolutely necessary.

Alderman Jones made a motion, seconded by Alderman Detert, to adopt Bill No. 1354 as Ordinance ____ Establishing Compensation for the Mayor of the City of Troy. Vote: Jones aye, Detert nay, Dunard nay, Grimstead aye, Norman aye, and Horner nay. Motion tied 3-3. Attorney Granneman advised Mayor Sconce could vote to break the tie. Mayor Sconce voted aye to break the tie. Motion carried.

Alderman Norman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Grimstead to Go Into Closed Session In compliance with 610.021 of RSMo., for the purpose of discussing Legal. Vote: Norman aye, Grimstead aye, Horner aye, Detert aye, Dunard aye, and Jones aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Attorney Granneman advised the Board on Legal matters.

Alderman Norman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Grimstead to Go Out of Closed Session. Vote: Norman aye, Grimstead aye, Horner aye, Jones aye, Dunard aye, and Detert aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Alderman Norman made a motion, seconded by Horner to Adjourn the meeting. Vote: Norman aye, Horner aye, Grimstead aye, Jones aye, Dunard aye, and Detert aye. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Sconce