

City of Troy, Missouri
Public Hearing and Board of Aldermen Meeting
Monday, August 1, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Present for the Public Hearing and Board of Alderman Meeting were Aldermen David Norman, Harold Horner, Steve Jones, Dennis Detert, and Mayor Ron Sconce. Alderman Guy Grimstead arrived later. Alderman Rachel Dunard was absent. Also present were Public Works Superintendent Jeff Burkemper, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Jared Comer, Treasurer Linda Flinn, City Attorney Jesse Granneman, and City Clerk Tonya Hawkins.

Mayor Sconce simultaneously opened the Public Hearing and started Citizen Comment concerning:

Elimination of Voluntary Property Tax Rollback in the amount of \$0.15 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation.

Mayor Sconce called the meeting to order, announced a quorum present, and led in the pledge of allegiance.

Alderman Horner made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jones, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: Horner aye, Jones aye, Detert aye, Norman aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Gary Leifert, of 1050 Old Cap Au Gris, said it is disappointing that some aldermen were not present for the public hearing. He said aldermen who were not present should not vote. He said the United States is in a recession, and aldermen want to increase taxes. He said aldermen were renegeing on a deal made with citizens to reduce property taxes with the passage of a voter approved capital improvement sales tax. Mr. Leifert expressed the elimination of the property tax rollback would not solve the city's \$700,000 deficit, and he asked aldermen why the elimination of the rollback was necessary.

Alderman Horner said he was a citizen when voters approved a capital improvement sales tax in 2011 and the voluntary rollback was implemented. He said funding is needed for things like salaries and equipment.

Mr. Leifert told aldermen they have a problem that they are not solving. He said aldermen were being disingenuous. He said he heard there was little business development in Troy due to infrastructure issues. He asked aldermen what they were doing to attract commercial growth. Mr. Liefert said he would support a tax increase if aldermen could tell him what he would get from it. Alderman Horner commented that hopefully growth would come from a tax increase.

Resident Jason Phillips said a tax increase is a bad look right now. He asked if aldermen knew they needed money before the mayor received a raise. He said residents received another poke when aldermen voted to ban fireworks right before July 4, 2022. Now, he said residents are receiving another poke as aldermen consider raising taxes.

Alderman Horner said his vote to ban the use of fireworks was due to safety concerns.

Terri Huffmon, of 690 Second Street, said this is a bad year to increase taxes due to inflation. She said the increase may not mean much to her or aldermen but it could mean a tank of gas or groceries for someone else.

Jerry Kaiser, of 1051 Huntington, said his real estate taxes went up 13 percent. However, he said what really concerns him is personal property taxes. He read newspaper clippings noting that car values have appreciated, causing personal property rates to increase. He asked board members if they have talked to the county assessor. Mr. Kaiser said personal property taxes are unfair. He said an increase in taxes is a slap in the face to people affected by inflation.

Frank DeNatale, of 129 Shellbark, said his real estate tax bill went up by \$210 last year. He said two of his older neighbors moved because they could not afford real estate taxes. He told aldermen they were running people, mainly older people, out of town. He asked if the City of Troy had \$5 million in reserves, and he asked why those funds were not being used.

Mayor Sconce explained that the city must hold reserves in case of economic downturn.

Mr. DeNatale said he would prefer that instead of purchasing new police cars, the city instead buy used cars. He begged aldermen not to raise taxes.

Barb Hupper, of 206 S. Lincoln, thanked aldermen for the opportunity to speak. She said she talked to the Lincoln County assessor. She mentioned Missouri's Hancock Amendment. Mrs. Hupper told aldermen they are accountable for taxpayers' money. She said individuals who have properties in Troy may have to pay thousands, not hundreds, for a tax increase.

Mayor Sconce thanked speakers and closed the Public Hearing and Citizen Comments portion of the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

*Approved Liquor License for Good News Big Sticky's, LLC

*Approved Pay Application #11 for Cherry Street Improvement Project STP-9900(387) submitted by Lamke Trenching & Excavating Inc. for in the amount of \$273,457.08

Alderman Jones made a motion, seconded by Alderman Grimstead, to Approve purchase of a 900-ECO 12 Yard Truck Mounted Combination Sewer Cleaner from Sewer Equipment Co. of America, Sourcewell Contract # 101221 for \$473,489.25, to be purchased through a 4-Year (5 payments) lease-purchase agreement with Clayton Holdings, LLC at an annual cost of \$100,717.67. Alderman Detert asked if this was for a vactor truck. Superintendent Burkemper confirmed that it was for the purchase of a vactor truck. Vote: Jones aye, Grimstead aye, Horner no, Detert aye, Norman aye. Motion carried 4-1.

Alderman Detert made a motion, seconded by Alderman Norman, to adopt Resolution 2022-3 to Eliminate Voluntary Property Tax Rollback in the Amount of \$.15 per \$100 of Assessed Valuation. Alderman Jones said he was against eliminating the rollback. Alderman Detert said he

was voting because of Mr. DeNatale. Alderman Horner cautioned that the city could lose police officers because they can make more money elsewhere, and he said employees may not receive the equipment they need to do their jobs. He said that raising taxes was not in his personal best interest either. Alderman Detert said corporate greed is destroying America. Alderman Grimstead said before the elimination of the property tax was considered, aldermen were looking at over \$1 million in budget cuts to the FY23 budget. He expressed that half of yearly expenditures should be held in reserves. Alderman Grimstead said the city has added police, and alderman have done all they could to keep the lights on. Vote: Detert nay, Norman nay, Grimstead aye, Horner nay, Jones nay. Motion failed 1-4.

Alderman Grimstead made a motion, seconded by Alderman Horner, to Waive Procedural Bidding Requirements for extension of the 2022 Concrete Replacement Program with M&H Concrete Contractors. Mayor Sconce explained there are funds to move from another project to this one, and M&H Concrete Contractors has extended the same price rate. Attorney Granneman explained this allows the city to tack onto the larger project. Vote: Grimstead aye, Horner aye, Norman aye, Detert aye, Jones aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Alderman Grimstead made a motion, seconded by Alderman Norman, to Approve Amendment to Agreement with M&H Concrete Contractors in the Amount of \$299,000 for extended 2022 Concrete Replacement Program contingent upon mayor's approval of contract. Vote: Grimstead aye, Norman aye, Detert aye, Jones aye, Horner aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Alderman Jones made a motion, seconded by Alderman Norman, to Go Into Closed Session. Vote: Jones aye, Norman aye, Grimstead aye, Horner aye, Detert aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Granneman advised aldermen on legal matters. Aldermen discussed personnel matters.

Alderman Grimstead made a motion, seconded by Alderman Norman, to Exit Closed Session. Vote: Grimstead aye, Norman aye, Horner aye, Jones aye, Detert aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Alderman Grimstead made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jones, to Adjourn. Vote: Grimstead aye, Jones aye, Detert aye, Norman aye, Horner aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Sconce

*Approved on Consent Agenda