

## **Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for February 27, 2024**

The Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Tammy Massman. Roll call was taken. Aldermen present were Aldermen Delbert Wieberg, Stanley Heckman, Jake Plassmeyer and Lori Asel. Also present at the meeting were sewer operator-Aaron Lackowicz of Mid Mo Operations, Sheriff Michael Bonham, County Commissioners Darryl Griffin and Larry Kliethermes, UD reporter-Theresa Brandt and business owner Sam Barnhart.

The meeting minutes from the January monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer and was seconded by Alderman Stanley Heckman, to approve the January monthly meeting minutes. Aldermen votes: Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes. Alderman Delbert Wieberg was exempt from vote, due to absence during the January meeting.

The February monthly expense report was reviewed. The city expenses note the amount of \$3,311.11, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$6,500.47, ARPA expenses in the amount of \$2,066.51, special road district expenses in the amount of \$369.40. City receipts in the amount of \$12,465.93, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$8,660.41, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$14,279.00. Total city checking account balance of \$176,376.17, total sewer system checking account balance of \$71,998.12, total special road district checking account balance of \$96,731.22, ARPA checking account balance of \$54,513.37 and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,119.74. Total city CDs in the amount of \$449,935.15, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$534,350.85, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$532,964.21. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to approve the February monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes.

The sewer system report was next on the agenda. Mayor Massman acknowledged that a report was submitted by Mid MO Operations. Sewer operator-Aaron Lachowicz reported to the council that the plant and lift stations are all running without issues. The air header that has been replaced is working well. Quarterly samples have been collected. Operators are preparing to collect soil and sludge samples per annual land application requirement. Sample collecting containers to be received soon. Air filters and the pH probe have been replaced.

Mayor Massman continued the meeting with the next agenda item-Budget. Mayor Massman provided a handout with a proposed draft budget template for the upcoming fiscal year 2023-2024, including each account separately and a combined template for the city, sewer and special road district. Mayor Massman reviewed and discussed the items on the proposed budget providing explanations for revenue and expenses. It was noted to date, the income and expenses reflect only 11 months. Discussions surrounding potential projects: sidewalk improvements, roadway projects, sewer repairs and building improvements were explored for the upcoming year. It was noted that the draft budget included figures for these updates and that the current draft and the ending balances are reflecting a positive balance. Mayor Massman educated aldermen that the budget is considered a working document and will be presented again during the March meeting for approval and passage, noting the city's fiscal year ends March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. One correction was noted to be required on the combined report for interest income by Alderman Plassmeyer, as it only reflected the interest income for the city fund, instead of the total for the three accounts. Mayor Massman will verify the total interest income for all three accounts and make the correction on the combined budget report.

Next, Mayor Massman introduced guests from the Osage County Commissioners Office-Presiding Commissioner Darryl Griffin and Commissioner Larry Kliethermes and Sheriff Michael Bonham who provided the council with community updates.

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Commissioners noted that plans for the replacement of the Pentecostal Bridge are underway. Bartlett and West Engineering firm have been selected to provide surveying for the project and the hope is that construction will be underway in early 2025. Commissioner Griffin complemented Commissioner Kliethermes for the success of making the bridge rebuild a reality. The bridge rebuild is moving forward as a result of the \$1.5 million settlement from the trucking company that caused the bridge's destruction and from money from a MoDOT grant. Commissioners also reported that the Hwy 63 bypass project is continuing to move forward. Surveys and studies are underway, but no scheduling updates for work to begin was able to be provided by MoDOT. Commissioner Griffin provided education to the council that if there was interest in any sidewalk grants, that MRPC would be able to assist as grants for sidewalks are coming available March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sheriff Bonham also addressed the council, noting that he and his officers are working to attend to traffic problems with speeders on Hwy 63 and on Main Street. The county has plans to work alongside the MO State Hwy Patrol to attend to these concerns for speeding within the city limit. Bonham stated that a safety check point will be implemented to monitor speeds especially when school lets out. Bonham also noted he had good news to share that Osage County First Responders are now part of SafetyNet, an organization that provides financial assistance to the families of fallen first responders. This venture is at no cost to the county.

In other business, housekeeping topics were addressed. Mayor Massman reported that all business license renewal invoices have been mailed out. A total of 34 invoices had been mailed. Current business licenses are valid only thru March 31, 2024. Request for renewal payments were requested to be received prior to March 15 for processing. Second notice letters will be issued to businesses that have not paid renewal fees by this date. As businesses return payments to the city, new business licenses will be issued. Mayor Massman noted having received some returned payments already.

Mayor Massman reported to the council that she has worked with Republic Services and Boehm Trucking to have additional base rock installed in the area where the recycle bin sits. The recycle bin was removed temporarily at the beginning of the week and is to be returned by Thursday of this week. Boehm Trucking delivered and prepared the rock base today. Mayor Massman has also requested that Republic Services place the bin perpendicular to the roadway to prevent issues of patrons encroaching onto the neighboring farmland.

Alderman Delbert Wieberg questioned if there were any updates related to the survey requested for the Senior Citizen complex property. Mayor Massman reported that the survey was still in process and results are still pending.

Lastly, business owner, Sam Barnhart addressed council members regarding his upcoming plans for reopening the Westphalia Inn property and concerns he has about the need to apply for variances for the business to be more conforming. Barnhart shared that plans are for the Inn to reopen hosting businesses including hotel rooms, a coffee shop, a restaurant and special events center. Barnhart acknowledged that parking is of concern, and they are looking at doing some excavating to allow for better access to the rear of the building, but that obstruction of street traffic due to parking may occur. Aldermen discussed possible routes to make Barnhart's parking lot more accessible and easier to maneuver. Barnhart acknowledged that plans were made to meet with Mayor Massman tomorrow evening to review plans further and discuss the variance application process. Barnhart voiced he would like to see the business be open in the next 30-60 days. Mayor Massman offered clarification on the process for variances and that completing the process would be more realistic with a timeframe of 60-90 days. Mayor Massman encouraged Barnhart to include all variance requests on a single variance application to streamline the timeframe. Handicapped parking was additionally discussed and was

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noted to be the responsibility of the business owner to adhere to meeting ADA compliance regulations. Barnhart noted that he could designate handicapped parking on his won parking lot as needed.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer and seconded by Alderman Stanley Heckman. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes, and Lori Asel-yes.