MINUTES

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

# CITY HALL

BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were NUESSEN, DYE and MILLER, Councilmember HINRICHS arrived at 7:05 p.m. Council member absent was HAMLIN. Also present were City Clerk Marcia Johnson, City Attorney Steve Atherton, Police Chief Jody Meyers and maintenance Nick Gadino.

**VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Veronica Dean, Hailey Clark and Ryker Hinrichs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *December 11, 2018 and January 8, 2019.* Due to lack of quorum the December minutes were moved to the March agenda. Moved by DYE to approve the minutes for Tuesday, January 8th. Motion seconded by MILLER, 3-0 vote.

**BILLS TO PAY:** Moved by MILLERto approve the accounts payable for February in the amount of $73,075.37. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 3-0 vote.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:** MILLER reported from the maintenance department.The department has been working to keep the levels at the lagoons down and recently passed the state compliance test. The street the department has been making street repairs as a result of the weather. Last year the department used approximately 3 ton of a sand and salt mixture, this year to date the department has used 10 ton. The department has also been mixing in cmk for traction. Several roads have been re-rocked, mainly Tenth Street due to the Sycamore Street bridge being temporarily closed. Maintenance has also been doing ditch cutting. In 2018 January 1st through Feb 11 the city used 166.1 ton of rock (9 trips) the same 227.5 ton of rock (13 trips).

**ADOPT THE AGENDA:** Moved by NUESSEN to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by DYE, 4-0 vote.

1. **LYON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER:** Haley Clark was present to speak to the council on the Lyon County Emergency Notification System Member Portal. Lyon County Emergency Management is opening a public portal member site through Everbridge. Everbridge is a mass notification system through various methods, text, email, phone, tty device. The department has used the system for employee part of the system for the past 3 years. The department would like to expand to the public portal. The public site would create subscriptions. On the public site there will be event subscriptions, Dirty Kanza, Glass Blown Open etc. Local communities could create subscriptions for their communities. The system is Free for the community. A city member would be established as the administrator, the contact point for the subscription. Training with Haley would be available. The weather subscription is through the National Weather Service. Emergency Management is currently drafting guidelines for placing information on the system. Residents can customize their profile for what they want and how they would receive the notifications. Residents would apply through a website. Consensus of council to move forward with notification system portal. Information will be available in the monthly newsletter once the cities site is setup for residents to apply for notifications.
2. **PARKS & RECREATION:** *Ball field*. City Clerk Marcia Johnson presented to the council 3 options for land that is currently owned by the city that is large enough to accommodate a baseball/softball field. The 3 locations include the block 107 where the swimming pool was located, block 21 also know as college block and block 20 also known as park block. In order to have enough room in block 21, adjoining streets on the North and South would have to be closed. The field is drafted to be 275’ down the bases and 280’ up center field. Veronica Dean was present representing ARO. A field will not be ready for the summer of 2019, ARO is currently looking at other options for this summer’s games. The proposed field was drafted by Bruce Boettchter with B&G in 2006. Veronica Dean and Marcia Johnson will check if the field would be regulation for high school play also if the field will fit in block 107.

Veronica Dean left at 7:49 p.m.

1. **CONDEMNATION:** City Clerk gave each councilmember a copy of the city code for Dangerous and Unfit Structures for review. The first round of letters has been sent out notifying property owners that a structure on their property has been placed on a list for condemnation. Of the 6 letters sent out two have already replied with plans to have the structure demolished. Those that have not been heard from are 507 Elm, 1010 Main, 410 Sycamore and 1017 Main. The Planning & Zoning Board will be compiling a list also for consideration. Mobile homes will also be taken into consideration. The council will complete a list once recommendations are received from the Planning & Zoning Board.
2. **CITY CODE CHAPTER 2:** *Review of dog regulations.* The council was given a copy of the city code for dogs. NUESSEN would like for the council to consider raising the cost of yearly dog licenses. Recommendation by the clerk, assistant clerk and police chief is to go to a lifetime registration, the cost to register your dog would be $25.00. If you currently have a dog registered with the city you may choose to continue a yearly registration for $5.00. All new registrations would be for a lifetime registration. The new fees would not take effect until January 2020. City Clerk brought to the council’s attention that the city does not currently have a tether law, City Hall has been asked on numerous occasions about a tethering law. At this time the council does not plan to enact a tethering law. Clarification of “running at large” was defined. An ordinance will be drafted to change the dog registration fees. Chief Meyers also asked the council to consider raising the fines for citations written for dog violations. The council took into consideration raising the violation fines.
3. **AMERICUS POLICE DEPARTMENT:** *Resignation of Kenny Rodriguez.* Moved by HINRICHS to accept the resignation of Kenny Rodrigues. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 4-0 vote. The council would like to thank Kenny for his service.
4. **CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE ORDINANCE:** On April 1, 2019, all CMB licensed businesses will be able to sell beer containing not more than 6% alcohol by volume. In preparation for the change, ordinance no. 591 regulates the sale of cereal malt beverage and beer containing not more than 6% alcohol by volume within the city of Americus. Moved by HINRICHS to approve ordinance no. 591. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 4-0 vote.
5. **FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT:** *Review of the proposed changes to the floodplain map.*City Clerk/Americus Floodplain Manager Marcia Johnson attended the Flood Risk Review meeting for the Neosho Headwaters watershed on January 22nd, a draft floodplain map was presented and discussed. A copy of the map was given to the council for review. The map indicated the areas proposed to be out of the floodplain, areas proposed to remain in the floodplain and areas proposed to be added into the floodplain. The council was asked to submit comments by February 22nd. There will be a public open house in May of 2019, estimated preliminary distribution of the flood insurance rate map draft is scheduled for August and a community coordinator’s meeting is scheduled for September of 2019. An appeals period will follow with the effective date of the new maps scheduled for November of 2020.
6. **RECYCLE CENTER:** DYE reported that there has been an increase in prohibited items put into the recycle center. There has been a high volume of trash that is not recyclable along with other items. DYE is requesting to install a camera system to prosecute those dumping illegally. Signs will be placed notifying users of the recycle center they may be on camera. A camera box or protective camera cover will be installed.
7. **STEVE’S TRASH SERVICE:** *Review of 2019 agreement.*The council was given a copy of the current agreement. Steve Bechtel is in the process of adjusting the rates to cover the recent rises in the county rates at the transfer station. Once the city receives the new rates they will be published in the newsletter. The final draft is scheduled for adoption in March.
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Non-elected personnel matters.*Moved by HINRICHS to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel matters with the council and mayor present at 8:36 p.m. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 4-0 vote.

Back in regular session at 8:45 p.m.

Moved by DYE to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Motion seconded by HINRICHS, 4-0 vote.

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Dustin R. Wright, Mayor

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Lea Hamlin, Council President

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Nicky Nuessen

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Marie Miller

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Britney Hinrichs

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Jason Dye