

**O'FALLON CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Gary Graham who led the Council in "The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag."

Philip Goodwin, City Clerk, called the roll: Nila Grogan, present; Mary Schmidt, present; Ed True, present; Dan Polites, present; Rick Reckamp, present; Jerry Mouser, present; John Drolet, present; Allen Medford, present; Michael Bennett, present; Dennis Renner, present; Steve Engler, present; Ned Drolet, present; Jerry Albrecht, excused. A quorum was declared present.

Motion by J. Mouser and seconded by E. True to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESIDENTS: Lori DaCosse, attorney for LaParilla Mexican restaurant stated she was in attendance in case the Council had any questions regarding the Ordinance on 2nd reading.

Tammy Morton of 309 Fontainbleau stepped forward to ask for assistance on the sewer back up problem that occurred at her home. It was the second time in four years. She added that her neighbor's home, which is up for sale, had a sewer back up, as well.

Mayor Graham replied that he will have the Public Works department check on it. He will have the vector truck come in.

Stewart Drolet stepped to the podium to comment on the budget. He said that he went to the Special Budget meeting and was given a 30 page summary. He had questions about the amount of money for IT support and computer services. He said that \$589,000 was in the budget. He specifically singled out the Parks department which includes \$175,000. He added that many of the items did not appear in either the 07 or 08 budget. He added that he did not agree with the \$350,000 added to pay for right-of-way for the Venita overpass.

Mayor Graham added that everyone is welcome and may speak at any committee meeting. After questioning by the Mayor, Mr. Drolet added that he is currently running as an alderman.

J. Drolet stated that he passed out a letter to the Council before the meeting, and he wanted to comment about the inaccurate comments in a letter previously circulated supporting Alderman Mouser.

S. Engler added that traditionally and out of respect in an election that anyone running for office remained neutral. He said that he thought the letter was unprofessional.

REPORTS:

Clerk's Report: City Clerk Philip Goodwin read a request from the Southern Illinois High School Bowling Conference to conduct a raffle from April 7 – December 31, 2009. Motion by R. Reckamp and seconded by E. True to approve the request. All ayes. Motion carried.

He also read a request from St. Clair Sting to sell alcohol at the Family Sports Park for a fundraiser during a baseball tournament from May 15 – May 17, 2009 pending insurance verification. Motion by R. Reckamp and seconded by E. True to approve the request.

J. Drolet said that we have debated selling alcohol at the Family Sports Park before. He asked about who was participating in the baseball tournament. M. Hutchison, the Parks Director, replied that it is a youth tournament. He said he could not support selling alcohol during a youth tournament.

E. True stated that in the past we have talked about the City selling alcohol.

N. Drolet said that it was his understanding that we were not going to permit the selling of alcohol when children were present.

D. Renner pointed out that people will be bringing it in anyway. It will help their fundraising efforts. He would like to see some control over the alcohol.

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, nay; True, aye; Polites, aye, Reckamp, aye; Mouser, aye; Medford, aye; Drolet, J., nay; Drolet, N., nay; Engler, aye; Bennett, aye; Renner, aye. Ayes – 9; Nays – 3.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Graham introduced Miss O'Fallon and the scholarship pageant committee. M. Hutchison stepped forward along with the Mayor. The scholarship committee presented the Mayor and M. Hutchison, Parks and Recreation Director, with a plaque which included the former Miss O'Fallon names and their reigns. They stated that with the support of the Mayor and the community, they have been able to give scholarships to many women. Their next pageant is July 24th.

Mayor Graham thanked them and said he will hang it in a prominent place at City Hall. He asked them to introduce themselves: Gabriela Windey, Miss O'Fallon, Kristy Schulte and Barb Schneider, co-directors, Nicole Vinder, 2002, Jamie Johnson, Miss O'Fallon 2006 (also qualified to run for Miss Illinois), Sue Cook, member, Linay Schneider, 1990.

Mayor Graham called former Ward 7 alderman John West forward to present a plaque (made by Gifts for Individuals) and a proclamation for the ten years that he served the City. He has now accepted a position on the St. Clair County Board. Mayor Graham read the proclamation declaring April 6th as John West Day.

J. West stated that this has been the best ten years of his life. He is honored to have worked with this Council and staff. He said we have one of the best cities in Illinois. He added that the Council has always worked together even when they have differences.

He said that he will work for District 15 as well as he did for Ward 7. He has been working on the tax issue and has met with Gordon Bush, Tax Assessor, for discussions on the problem.

RESOLUTIONS:

Motion by D. Renner and seconded by J. Mouser to approve Item 1 – A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Nevco Scoreboard Company to purchase four (4) scoreboards for the Family Sport Park in the amount not to exceed \$24,995.

S. Engler asked for clarification on the bids. M. Hutchison said they were new bids.

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, aye; True, aye; Polites, aye, Reckamp, aye; Mouser, aye; Medford, aye; Drolet, J., aye; Drolet, N., aye; Engler, aye; Bennett, aye; Renner, aye. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by J. Mouser and seconded by R. Reckamp to approve Resolution items 2, 3, and 4 under the Omnibus Agreement. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Graham read the items aloud.

Item 2 - Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with St. Clair Grant Commission for the Purpose of Rock Springs Park Improvements Construction Grant in amount not to exceed \$25,000

Item 3 - Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2008 Ford F-450 "Wheeled Coach" Ambulance from the Coulterville Emergency Ambulance Service for an amount not to exceed \$57,500

Item 4 – Resolution of the City of O'Fallon Requesting the Assistance and Participation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in Identifying Environmental Conditions located at 102 East State Street

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, aye; True, aye; Polites, aye; Mouser, aye; Reckamp, aye; Medford, aye; J. Drolet, aye; N. Drolet, aye; Engler, aye; Renner, aye; Bennett, aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

1st Readings

Motion by A. Medford and seconded by R. Reckamp to consider on 1st Reading Item 5 – An Ordinance budgeting for all corporate purposes of the City of O'Fallon, St. Clair County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2009 and ending April 30, 2010.

N. Drolet commented that he is against the Venita overpass. He thinks it should be placed on hold along with the Family Sports Park improvements because of the state of the economy. He stated we should husband our resources for now. We also have possible litigation on the horizon for over a million dollars. Mayor Graham asked him about the litigation, and he replied that it has to do with construction and contractors not getting paid. Mayor Graham said that he received incorrect information. He added that N. Drolet could meet with Dean to get more information.

J. Drolet mentioned that at the budget meeting last Thursday showed that the staff worked hard on the budget, but we still have issues. He believes that this budget continues to take us down the wrong path. He added that there is too much money allocated to the Family Sports Park and the Venita overpass. In particular, the stormwater and capital improvements are not in the budget. We have been talking about these same problems in Public Works meetings, but we never resolve the issue.

S. Engler echoed Ned and John Drolet's sentiments on stormwater. Generally speaking, he knows we do not have the funds. He added that we continually throw money at the Sports Park, but this is not the right time. He said that it is a wonderful park, but we have vitally more important budget issues. He also had issues with the traffic circles. He would prefer that the money be spent on roads instead.

Mayor Graham asked whether any of these questions were brought up at the special budget meeting and how much money we have cut from the budget.

D. Rich said that there were over one million in cuts. Mayor Graham added that Proposition S funds have been used exactly how we told the voters we were going to spend it, but we could change it. The City and Family Sports Park expenditures are separate taxing areas. We have talked about infrastructure for twelve years. We have lowered the property tax for twelve years. We have paved 55 miles of street. He asked for solutions from the Council. There are chunks on the roads. We have had a miserable winter this year. We would fix

every problem, but we need the money. Four years ago, we brought up a stormwater utility tax, but the Council would not support it. He added that many of the stormwater problems go back fifty years.

He stated that we need a special meeting with the Council to discuss all of these issues. We have over ten thousand children in town that may be using the Family Sports Park.

R. Reckamp agreed that the Family Sports Park is a wonderful thing for O'Fallon. He thinks we can do a good job on the Park and stormwater issues.

N. Drolet said that the staff did a great job in modifying the budget with the decrease in income this year. We do not want to have to lay people off. Where is the money going to come from? He has been an outspoken critic of the overpass and thinks the study done on the project was flawed.

Mayor Graham said on a positive note that renovation permit requests are increasing, developers are installing streets and utilities at Cobblestone Ridge and the Villas and car sales are going up.

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, nay; True, aye; Polites, aye, Reckamp, aye; Mouser, aye; Medford, aye; Drolet, J., nay; Drolet, N., nay; Engler, nay; Bennett, aye; Renner, aye. Ayes – 8; Nays – 4.

2nd Readings

Motion by J. Mouser and seconded by N. Grogan to consider under the Omnibus Agreement on 2nd Reading Items 6, 7, 8, and 9. All ayes. Motion carried.

D. Renner commended the staff for checking on the church going in on Old Collinsville Road.

Motion by J. Mouser and seconded by D. Renner to approve on 2nd Reading, Item 6 and number 7, 8, and 9 under the previous Omnibus Agreement.

Mayor Graham read the following Ordinances:

Item 6 - Ord. Amending Ord. 623, Zoning, Development known as La Parilla Mexican Restaurant

7. Ord. Amending Ord. 623, Zoning, Development known as True Vine Christian Center Church

8. Ord. Amending Ord. 623, Zoning, Development known as OK Salon

9. Ord. Designating as a Local Historic Landmark, 104 South Cherry Street

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, aye; True, aye; Polites, aye; Mouser, aye; Reckamp, aye; Medford, aye; J. Drolet, aye; N. Drolet, aye; Engler, aye; Renner, aye; Bennett, aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Community Development: J. Mouser stated that the committee met on March 23rd. The minutes are in the packet.

J. Mouser stated that the next scheduled meeting will be April 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room.

Public Works: A. Medford stated that the minutes are in the packet. The next meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room on April 27th.

Public Safety: E. True stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Finance/Administration: A. Medford stated that the warrant would be read in two parts excluding Gifts for Individuals.

Motion by A. Medford and seconded by R. Reckamp by approve Warrant #181 in the amount of \$1,063,466.54.

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, aye; True, aye; Polites, aye, Reckamp, aye; Mouser, aye; Medford, aye; Drolet, J., aye; Drolet, N., aye; Engler, aye; Bennett, aye; Renner, aye. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by A. Medford and seconded by D. Polites to approve the payment of Gifts for Individuals in the amount of \$286.50.

N. Drolet mentioned that the plaque for J. West was donated and is not included in this total.

ROLL CALL: Grogan, aye; Schmidt, aye; True, aye; Polites, aye, Reckamp, aye; Mouser, nay; Medford, aye; Drolet, J., abstain; Drolet, N., aye; Engler, nay; Bennett, nay; Renner, present. Ayes - 7; Nays - 3, Abstain - 1; Present - 1. Motion carried.

A. Medford stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Parks and Environment: D. Renner the next meeting is cancelled. M. Hutchison stated that the next meeting is scheduled for the second Monday in May.

Mayor Graham asked everyone to vote. The City Council, School Board and Township election is tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Bennett and seconded by R. Reckamp to adjourn. All ayes.
Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Philip A. Goodwin
City Clerk

Minutes taken by
Maryanne Fair, Deputy City Clerk
Proper notice having been duly given