

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NIXA, MISSOURI

NIXA CITY HALL

September 19th, 2016 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Nixa City Council was called to order by Mayor Brian Steele. Attending were Council Members Kendal Dingus, Andrea Long, Chris Russell, Aron Peterson, Justin Orf and Ryan Keating.

The pledge of allegiance was given.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Steele called for a motion on the Consent Agenda. Russell made a motion to accept and approve the Consent Agenda as presented, items a through b, with Peterson seconding and Long, Russell, Peterson, Orf, Keating and Dingus voting aye on roll call vote.

VISITORS:

None.

SERVICE AWARDS:

Mayor Steele presented Jay Blea with a five (5) year service award. City Administrator Brian Bingle explained Blea has worked in Administration in maintenance for the past five (5) years and has proven himself to be a very hard worker that takes a lot of pride in his work. Bingle expressed his appreciation for Blea's job performance over the past year during which Blea helped with maintenance at the XCenter on top of his regular duties at City Hall, Utility Billing and Nixa Police Department.

Mayor Steele also acknowledged Scott Proe for his five (5) years of service in Utility Billing. Proe was unable to be in attendance but Finance Director Donna Swatzell stated Proe was recently transferred from meter reader to a utility account specialist and was going a great job in his new role.

Next, Mayor Steele presented Jenni Gerhauser with a ten (10) year service award. Swatzell said Gerhauser started in the Finance Department doing internal auditing. Gerhauser spends a lot of time auditing Utility Billing records along with her other duties including remitting sales tax for the city. Swatzell said Gerhauser recently took over office supply purchasing and has done a phenomenal job with pricing, including finding great deals on recycling containers for the city recycling program. Swatzell complimented Gerhauser on her great sense of humor and Swatzell is grateful to have Gerhauser in the Finance Department.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Steele read a proclamation designating September 17th through September 23rd as Constitution Week in Nixa.

Peterson made a motion to amend the agenda, moving 2017 Budget Items-Capital Improvement Project Introduction after Discussion Items. Russell seconded the amendment to the agenda and all Council members voted aye.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Bingle asked Council to consider a budget amendment for \$25,000.00 for Nixa's contribution to the Christian County Business Development Corporation (CCBDC). Bingle explained these monies will be

given to Yates, Mauck Bohrer, Elliff and Fels, P.C. These funds will be used for future projects for the CCBDC. Council asked for clarification on the division of payments and Bingle explained the \$25,000.00 is Nixa's portion. Nixa, Ozark and Christian County will each pay \$25,000.00 for the next five (5) years toward this venture with smaller towns contributing what they can afford. The smaller towns have all signed a memorandum of understanding in support of the CCBDC and have pledged monies based on their budgets. Bingle went on to say that the vast majority of contributions will come from the private sector. Russell made a motion to approve the budget amendment with Dingus seconding the motion. All Council members voted aye on the motion to approve the budget amendment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Unfinished Business Items:

Police Chief Jimmy Liles provided Council with his views and concerns on the proposed utility task vehicle (UTV) use of city streets. Liles said he had several concerns regarding UTV safety equipment, UTVs are not crash rated for low or high speed crashes. Crossing major highways in Nixa, US 160, SH 14, and Highway M would be a big safety concern. These roadways have speed limits of sixty (60) miles per hour with large truck and semi-trucks traveling these roads, increasing the chance to have a dangerous impact on these UTVs. Liles also has a big concern for the potential for UTV rollovers. Data he reviewed indicated UTVs have a tendency for rollovers even in good road conditions. Liles pointed out Nixa has several hills and curves which could increase this rollover factor. Liles stated he had researched several UTV types and brands. Each of the manufacturers stated in the manuals that the UTV was not for use on streets.

Interim City Attorney Tim Ricker added UTV operation on state highways was prohibited and could not be allowed in the city. Ricker urged caution if Council decided to adopt an ordinance allowing use of city streets. Ricker also said insurance requirements would have to be stated in the ordinance. Council had a brief discussion about UTV use of city streets. Some of Council had also researched the topic and found it stated UTVs were not for use on streets or highways. Council brought up concerns with other small vehicles and mopeds. After further deliberation, Council decided to postpone the topic indefinitely.

Liles addressed Council with a request for permission to accept the Missouri's Blueprint for Safer Roadways Grant in the amount of \$1695.00. This grant will provide funding to purchase a Lidar speed measuring device. The grant application was submitted prior to the city's grant policies were in place and therefore Liles asked for Council's permission to accept the grant. Peterson made a motion to approve and accept the \$1695.00 grant with Keating seconding and all Council members voting aye.

New Business Items:

Liles informed Council the department, in accordance with the city's grant policies and procedures, had applied for and been awarded two (2) grants from Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). MoDOT requires signatures from all Council members prior to issuing the grants. Liles explained the first grant is for \$6000.00 and would be used to reimburse overtime used to enforce hazardous moving violation and the second is for \$9500.00 which would be used for reimbursement for overtime used for DWI enforcement. Liles asked Council to sign the submitted form to move forward receiving the two (2) grants.

Liles provided an update on Nixa Police response times. Liles told Council dispatch is now able to provide statistics on average response times in Nixa. Liles explained this data is based on the time from the call is dispatched to officer arrival on the scene. Liles reports in 2012 the average response time was 3.74 minutes. In 2016, the current average response time is 8.05 minutes. Liles said the department has seen a substantial increase in calls for service. Liles believes this increase in calls for service accounts for the jump in average response time. A brief discussion was held about manpower. Liles said Christian County has been asked for help more often. At one point last week the Nixa Police Department had seven

(7) non-priority calls stacked in waiting. Liles assured Council priority calls are always first priority and will be answered first.

Communication Director Jill Finney provided an update on the Nixa District 1 Community Festival-NixaFest. Councilmen Dingus and Keating will be showcased during this event. Finney stated anyone on Council and all members of the community is invited. Finney stated Harter House will be donating all paper goods, chips and condiments for the event. Harter House is also giving the city a huge discount on the hamburgers and hot dogs for the occasion. Finney explained the event is being included in all city social media and two (2) 10 foot banners will be out to promote the event. Finney also said Travis Cossey and Travis Carr are working on information and maps to provide information for fliers and those in attendance.

Park and Recreation Director Matt Crouse informed Council he had submitted an application to the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Program for a dog park. Crouse said State Farm will be giving forty (40) nationwide grants for \$25,000.00 each. Crouse explained this application was submitted due to a time constraint. Crouse reminded Council he had applied for a dog park grant from PetSafe but had not received any notification of a grant award.

2017 BUDGET ITEMS:

Bingle highlighted the proposed 2017 capital improvement project (CIP) listing. Council was also supplied with information on the five (5) year 2017-2021 CIPs. Bingle focused on the 2017 listing and explained the five (5) year list was an attempt at prioritizing future needs. Bingle reviewed each department and he pointed out areas of concern that he wanted Council to be aware of. He suggested that Council review this list and let staff know if they would like to see any changes. Administration has plans to upgrade audio and visual in the Chamber. Bingle is seeking direction on the removal of the downtown, old City Hall. City-wide computer hardware upgrades are necessary and the underground backup system will require an upgrade. Bingle highlighted Police Department needs and emphasized Taser replacements were imperative. Park Department is recommending upgrades and repairs to the pool needed for pool operation. Bingle pointed out Crouse had made application to two (2) grants to assist in construction of a dog park. Bingle stated the Street Department is focusing on utilizing STP cost share opportunities with MoDOT to afford major street improvements. Bingle did point out that Governor Nixon had put nearly \$50,000,000.00 on hold for next year, which may impact MoDOT. Bingle reported the Electric Department estimates \$650,000.00 of improvements are needed in 2017. Bingle reminded Council per their direction in 2014 Electric has spent down their reserve account. The electric improvements are essential for operation and Bingle stressed the importance of evaluating current electric rates. Bingle said a rate study will be completed and will be sent to Council for their direction. Bingle informed Council that Nixa's Water Department is looking to earmark funds for construction of a water tower on Norton Road. Plans are to save monies over the next few years to pay for the water tower project outright. Wastewater is recommending a civil engineering Master Plan Study to better predict areas of capacity needs. Wastewater is also looking to increase line capacity at South and Little Eagle to help alleviate problems at Missouri, Market and Prospect. Council expressed their concerns with some of the proposed Administration CIPs. Council also asked if IT improvements should wait until an IT person was hired. Bingle responded the proposed upgrades and improvements were recommended by TSI. Council asked if it was possible to combine the IT expenses within a single budget. Council asked if the Police Department would need an additional car. Liles stated the vehicle is contingent upon a departmental restructure. Council asked to see more information on the throwbot listed. Council then had questions on the Park budget including the need for a pool pump, if other floatable options were available and location of the proposed storage building. Council expressed their concerns with a dated look at the XCenter and mentioned the possibility of sound-proofing some of the areas. Council then held a discussion on downtown improvement options for the old City Hall location. Completing the CIP

discussion, Council asked questions about Nixa Street Department CIPs including: easements on Prospect for sidewalks and pricing for zero turn mowers and vehicles.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Finney provided information on email statistics. Currently there are 8,047 subscribers with an average open rate for newsletters at 38%. Finney stated 70% of the open rate is on mobile apps. Council discussed options for generating revenue through advertisement.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

October 1-NixaFest 11:00 am-2:00 p.m.

October 6-First CASC meeting

November 1-State of the Community Dinner

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:36 p.m., Peterson made a motion to move to executive session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.03- Personnel with Keating seconding and Russell, Peterson, Orf, Keating, Dingus and Long voting aye on roll call vote.

Council returned to regular session at 9:53 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Russell made a motion to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. with Peterson seconding and all voting aye.

Mayor

City Clerk