

City of Cool Valley

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:37 PM

Mayor Stewart Present

Alderman Johnson Present

Alderman Blackwell Present

Alderman Matthew Present

Approval of 4/27/2022 agenda- Motion Johnson 2nd Matthew

Approval of 1/28/2022 minutes- Motion Johnson 2nd Blackwell

REPORTS:

Mayor Stewart- Congratulations to Alderman Matthew and is optimistic of the future of the city.

Alderman Johnson- Would like the ordinance for house on Evans to get signed. Mayor Stewart stated he planned to veto the bill; there were 3 bids and the Board accepted the lowest one. Mayor Stewart would like to reopen the bids to see if a better offer comes along; want to strengthen the city's financial situation by accepting the highest bid.

The Board opposed that proposition and denied acceptance of the Mayor's oral veto.

Shall the bill pass and the objections of the Mayor not withstand. Motion Johnson 2nd Blackwell

Roll call vote needed to pass the bill- Johnson Yes

Blackwell Yes

Matthew Yes

No nays, bill passed for 8400 Evans.

Alderman Blackwell- Spoke with 24:1 about the street issues. Attended a roundtable regarding mental health on 2/17/2022; services lack in our immediate area compared to other services received by other cities; 2963 Stonebridge is a source in this area. We don't have a bid in for street repair; need to finish paying for assessments. Trying to get funding assistance from Mr. Chapman (Developer), street repair is one of the first priorities on the list. Spoke with Dollar Tree, they are having issues with individuals cleaning out their vehicles and dumping trash, if they don't clean it up they will get cited.

Sgt. Sanders said she will go by there (Dollar Tree) tonight or tomorrow.

Mayor Stewart stated that N. Hills have been approved for a larger grant.

Alderman Matthew- Dollar Tree is blaming people but there is a bigger issue, they have been allowed to be a nuisance far too long. Named multiple homes with code violations; violations included trash cans being left at curb for weeks, gutters hanging off of homes, derelict vehicles and blight properties. We need code enforcement; been missing far too long. Small potholes are turning into craters; it is easier to fix when we catch it at the beginning instead of letting the problem getting bigger. A vibrating tempura might be helpful when fixing potholes. Want to know the proper procedure for the city to start to cite nuisance properties. Some of the issues are no-brainers and should be simple to address. I have invested interest in this community; enough talking, things need to be done.

Who is doing the follow up once an issue is presented to the property owner. Speeding is an issue.

Alderman Blackwell we have addressed issues; we have repeat offenders. Ward 2 hasn't had proper representation in two years. I am attending meetings, answering phones and doing what I can; I am only one man.

Resident Debra Carter, Hawkesbury- thought there was going to be a full board. Where is Earline Collins, didn't she get elected? I have been hearing the same thing for 2 years about street repair. There is nothing being done about it.

Mayor Stewart I am limited on what I can do, the board have to vote on a lot of the decisions. We have a new Public Works Director and he has been out filling potholes.

Alderman Matthew- Suggest we get another worker, you will get burnt out sooner or later and we still have expectations as a community. We need to be proactive when making decisions and making plans. We don't need to keep having meeting after meeting; we need to get things done, I am about what benefits the city.

The waterway on Evans with the rocks is caving. Alderman Blackwell went down there with MoDot, they are going to get on it sooner than later.

Resident stated that area belongs to MoDot and you can get on the phone to call them to get a timeframe on correcting the issue.

City Clerk- No report

Public Works Director- Mayor Stewart introduced the new director, he has only been here a month, he is a special young man who works hard. He is a one man show who is competent and hardworking.

Resident Robinson- Were you told your titles and daily duties? There are things that you need to do every day, starting with riding around the city.

Brandon Hine- Worked for the City of Normandy for 8 years, don't know everything about Cool Valley; willing to hear suggestions. Call me anytime; if I am unavailable leave me a message.

Alderman Blackwell- Rode around with him to show him the city and some of the things that he will need to stay on top of.

Alderman Matthew- I understand that you rode with him, but it is a lot, you need a list of daily duties. It is important to have something to look at to stay on track of your responsibilities.

Sgt. Sanders- The report will start from February 23 till today, April 27th. There were 355 calls to service; calls per service are down 66%. Volume/nature of calls have dramatically changed from the time we renewed the contract for the 2nd time in 2018 when there was a spike in violent crimes, gun crimes and burglaries/thefts. Crimes are now compartmentalized to domestic and nuisance calls in the business district. Violent crimes are down and call volume is down. Seventy-nine summonses issued for the city and highway. Police department is back to full staff, we're bringing back the traffic division. Speeding; we are aware and we are writing tickets. Doing a fundraiser to purchase a new radar trailer, corridor is what we want to keep safe for all the communities. We have spoken about speed bumps on longer streets. Amazon and Express Scripts utilize the 24-hour gas stations in this area. Concrete barriers are robust to navigate; the Brotherton, Hern and Evans all meet up, the water leak has been an ongoing issue. Speeders don't worry about the street condition when they are in a hurry, concrete barrier may be away to slow them down. Illegal dumping is an issue; I went and personally spoke to the businesses on S. Florissant about the trash issue. The only business that did not comply was Family Dollar, they have been warned. A vehicle violation on private property is a code enforcement issue. Can't go on private property; violations on the street get a 72 hour tow notice, if it is still there after 72 hours we will have it towed. Officer Anderson your day officer gave 11 citations and 5 of those resulted in tows.

Chief Hall- I personally was on Evans and speeding is an issue; I pulled over 5 cars while on patrol. If we could at least get speed strips to help speeders slow down. Currently working with Berkeley and Ferguson to assist with pursuit policy of those who don't stop for cops; can't chase speed violators. Working on getting Flock cameras to connect with other officers in neighboring cities; trying to get Bi-State to fund cameras. Six new officers; outfitting 2 traffic cars. We can help with the documentation of the nuisance house on Emerling; 3 physical arrest/felonies needed to start the process of making them leave. There has been a lot of young people shooting guns in there air, call to report if you hear shots.

Resident- Police will go to house on N. Hills and know too many people are there and not do anything? Young man that lives there is a problem, the police never arrest him or take him into custody. Why don't you ticket illegally parked vehicles? I don't see an officer; I have ridden around and couldn't find an officer in the city.

Sgt. Sanders- You pay for one officer and that officer can't be at more than one place at a time. Most of the call for service calls require more than one officer; even though your city pays for one, we send the appropriate needed officers for that call. The one officer maybe on another call, Cool Valley has an officer on duty 24 hours day 7 days a week.

Resident- Why don't you pull over expired tags?

Sgt. Sanders- We still pulls over, cite and take expired temp tags. DMV sent out notices asking that we give people leeway because they were closed.

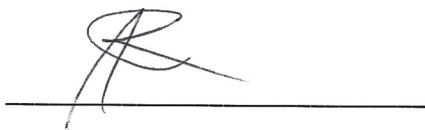
Chief Hall- Arch City Defenders won against Normandy because we were writing too many tickets. Some officers are afraid of writing tickets to African-Americans because of the fear of losing their jobs.

Resident- Young man is walking around with a machete, why isn't he arrested?

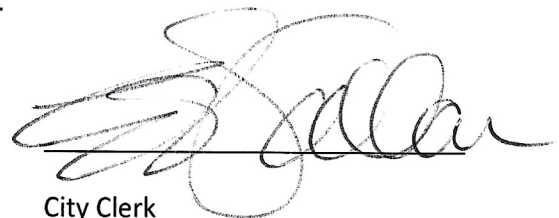
Sgt. Sanders- It is not illegal to walk around with a machete; it is illegal to walk around with a knife with a blade over 3 inches. We can not violate his civil rights.

Resident- It is not a machete it is an axe.

Resident- He has a mental illness and family has a hard time with him at times. There are protocols with dealing with mental issues the cops cannot always intervene.



Mayor



City Clerk