City of Cool Valley

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 31, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:36PM

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Stewart Present

Alderman Johnson Present

Alderman Blackwell Present

Alderman Matthew Present

Alderwoman Jones Collins Present

Approval of 8/31/2022 agenda- Motion Matthew 2nd Johnson

Approval of 7/27/2022 minutes- Blackwell requested the City Clerk read the minutes aloud.

Minutes read by Cheryl Wallace

Motion to approve Blackwell 2nd Matthew with the motion to correct Bill #7272 to Bill #72722 on page 3- All in favor

REPORTS:

Mayor Stewart- Working on a few projects in the city, one of the top three is the hydroponic garden located at the DRS building. Fresh Harvest 365 is the name of the business, they grow enough to feed the whole city. That area is under major development, next spring I will fund a pollenated community garden.

Alderman Johnson- No report

Alderman Blackwell- Request that the Mayor turn in the car and gas card. Wanted to go on record that he was refunded for paying Mr. White and not paid. Thanked Matthew for cutting the hill on Evans and stripping Evans. Normandy has committed to cutting the grass at their hourly cost. Ferguson has committed to one day a week for code enforcement. I put up barriers on Emerling. Asked for McDonalds lot to get cleaned up, left message with attorney for McDonalds. Spoke with Mr. Chapman about the 353 for the city. Mayor, we have censured you and asked for you to step down.

Alderman Matthew- Recognized Alderman Blackwell for stepping up and engaging; he was able to get a price to cut the common ground area. Particular Board members have been receiving disturbing text messages from the Mayor; will address that going forward. There is no need to reschedule or cancel a monthly meeting if a quorum is present. I requested documentation for oversight but as an Alderman I shouldn’t have to pay for it. Speeding on Evans is still a problem; would like to see more police presence.

Alderwoman Jones Collins- Working on burnt up house, 4800 Barbara, getting bids from three different board up companies to board up home. Getting the word out to the community about the tree program, this is just for trees in the front yard.; residents will need to provide their address. Still the issue of getting information out to residents about the neighborhood watch program. Would like to get Zoom started.

City Attorney- Kevin O’Keefe read email sent to Board from CPA Matt Finley

City Clerk- No report

Police- Captain Sanders- Police report for the timeframe of July 28, 2022, until this evening…

18 reports

189 calls for service

59 summonses

Spoke with the owner of the BP, who tried to call Republic Services, but would not let her arrange pickup for the dumpster because she did not order it. Republic would not speak with me either, Ms. Wallace was able to get the dumpster removed over a two-day period and got an independent company to pick trash up off lot. BP is the independent owner of the property at 1790 S. Florissant, we will penalize the previous owner for the trash on the lot. Sgt. Mink will step in as the business liaison; he has contacted the business. Need approval from the Board to bring a representative from Flock. Fire Chief Randolph is inspecting the fire hydrants, will need the address of the problem hydrates; he is checking on the hydrate on Barbara. The Mayor will need to declare the property on Barbara a hazard as the city’s Building Commissioner.

Unfinished Business:

Erica Hallman with Beyond Housing- Municipalities are pooling resources together to assist with cost. Step one is the street assessment the fee for Cool Valley is $5962.16; this is an optional program.

New Business:

Renewal of liquor licenses for Family Dollar, Mobile and BP; Motion made by Johnson 2nd by Matthew; all in favor

Approval of new business license for Saint Louis Metropolitan In-Home Care Services, Inc.

Motion made by Blackwell 2nd Johnson, all in favor

RESOLUTION 08-031-2022-A- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ENAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES

Alderman Johnson asked is there a cost associated with the Resolution; Alderman Blackwell responded yes

Motion made by Matthew 2nd by Blackwell

Johnson No

Blackwell Yes

Matthew Yes

Jones Collins Yes

Motion to approve warrant list made by Matthew 2nd by Johnson

Alderman Matthew has questions about the Rejis invoices

Motion to table July warrant list until September’s meeting, motion made by Matthew 2nd by Blackwell, all in favor

Motion to give Alderman Matthew a full refund on taxes on a purchase that was made for stripping machine and paint; motion made by Blackwell 2nd by Jones Collins, all in favor

Public comments:

Debra Carter- Requesting financial reports and updating the website to show terms of Alderpersons. The Board approved to spend $250 an hour on counsel services so you can move up in ranks, the people voted on who they wanted. Street aprons are broken, we want to see where the money is spent.

Sharon Hall- Requesting the city does something about the house next door and approval to get permit to build fence in backyard

Cpt. Sanders- Fence doesn’t meet code, she is looking for a variance

Mayor- Will follow up with you about what is needed to get a variance

Melanie Matthew- Dereliction of duties; the city clerk never has a report. Financial comes from the clerk, who is our budget officer? Do we spend $250 an hour to rid the Mayor out of his position or $100,000 in the budget to fix the streets? We put the Mayor in office and the Board appointed the city clerk; we can deal with the devil we know or the devil we don’t know. We can call the news; they would love a story like this. We need to reclaim our city.

Donna Dameron- Residents need to come to city hall for the yearly fiscal budget meeting, it is public information

Joan Ferguson- Regarding hydroponic garden; will they ever be allowed to grow marijuana?

Mayor – Good question, a lot is being explored for that area

Ferguson- How much of the city’s money was invested in Bitcoin?

Mayor- none

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Johnson 2nd Matthew

Meeting adjourned at 9:38PM