Cool Valley Board of Aldermen

July 27, 2022

MINUTES

Pursuant to notice provided to the public and elected officials of the City, the Cool Valley Board of Aldermen regular meeting for the month of July 2022, was called to order at 7:30 PM in the Board chambers in City Hall, 100 Signal Hill Drive.

Upon the roll being called the following members were present: Aldermen Floyd Blackwell, Alderwoman Earline Jones-Collins, Alderman Jermaine Matthew.

The following members were absent: Alderman Don Johnson and Mayor Jayson Stewart. City Clerk Cheryl Wallace was also absent.

Alderman Johnson arrived at approximately 7:45 PM.

Alderman Blackwell, Acting President of the Board of Aldermen, announced that he had just received a message from Mayor Stewart indicating that the Mayor would not be attending the meeting. Alderman Blackwell presided at the meeting and announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Alderman Matthew made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Jones-Collins, to add the question of a business license for home occupation for Jean Collins Hopewell and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES - Aldermen Matthew made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Jones-Collins, to approve the minutes of the June 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS –

Mayor Stewart – absent

Alderwoman Jones-Collins made her report.

Aldermen Matthew made his report.

Alderman Johnson made his report.

Alderman Blackwell made his report.

As part of his report Alderman Blackwell said he was disturbed by the fact that the city’s only clerical support employee, the police clerk, does not have access to the office and files maintained by the City Clerk in order to be able to assist the public, elected officials and others in the absence of the city clerk. He also expressed concern that the police clerk should be cross trained in the duties performed by the city clerk in order to be able to fill in when the city clerk is unavailable - such as at this meeting.

MOTION - Aldermen Matthew made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Jones-Collins, to direct the city clerk to provide access to the city clerk’s office and files to the city’s police clerk and to provide training to the police clerk so that the police clerk and perform the duties of the city clerk when the city clerk is unavailable.

Discussion followed.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:

Alderman Blackwell – Yes

Alderman Matthew – Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins – Yes

Alderman Johnson – Abstain

Motion passed.

MOTION - Aldermen Matthew made a motion, seconded by Alderwoman Jones-Collins, to call upon Mayor Stewart to step down from office for the best interests of the city.

Discussion followed.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:

Alderman Blackwell - Yes

Alderman Matthew – Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins – Yes

Alderman Johnson - Abstain

Motion passed.

ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT - Matthew Finley, the city’s accountant, reported that progress has been made to make the city’s accounts more current. The city’s accounts have not been reconciled since October 2021.

Mr. Finley observed that Mayor Stewart appears to have access to and use of a city WEX credit card for gasoline purchases. Mr. Finley suggested that this card should be terminated.

MOTION - Alderman Johnson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matthew, that city staff take all steps necessary to recover the WEX credit card in the possession of Mayor Stewart and that the account to which he has access be terminated.

Discussion followed.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:

Alderman Blackwell – Yes

Alderman Matthew – Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins – Yes

Alderman Johnson – Yes

Motion passed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT - Captain Sanders provided a report on activities by the Normandy Police Department on behalf of the City of Cool Valley. As part of that report Captain Sanders said that Cool Valley has an obligation to provide police cars to the Normandy Police Department every two years and has not been fulfilling this obligation. Because of the uncertainties as to the city’s financial position as reflected in the report of the accountant, the Board said it would defer action on that matter until it had better information as to the city’s resources.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 72722 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 115 OF THE COOL VALLEY CITY CODE RELATING TO USE OF CITY VEHICLES BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Alderman Johnson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matthew, for first reading of Bill 72722 by title only. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The city attorney read Bill 72722 by title only.

Alderman Johnson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matthew, for a second reading of Bill 72722 by title only. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The city attorney read Bill 72722 by title only for a second time.

Alderman Johnson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matthew, that Bill ~~7272~~~~A~~to be enacted as an ordinance of the City of Cool Valley.

Discussion followed.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:

Alderman Blackwell – Yes

Alderman Matthew – Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins – Yes

Alderman Johnson - Yes

Motion passed. Bill 72722 was adopted as Ordinance 2229 by the Board of Aldermen.

BUSINESS LICENSE - a discussion of the application for a business license for Jean Collins Hopewell followed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Matthew, to approve issuance of a business license for a home occupation. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

WARRANTS FOR PAYMENT - Aldermen Matthew made a motion, seconded by Alderman Blackwell, to table payment of the warrant list to the August meeting in light of the uncertainty about the city’s financial position and because information that had been requested with respect to several items on the list, such as payment to REJIS, had not been provided. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - comments from members of the public were received by the Board of Aldermen.

MOTION - a motion was made by Alderman Matthew, seconded by Alderwoman Jones-Collins, that the Board of Aldermen hold a closed meeting relating to attorney-client communications pursuant to Section 610.021(1), RSMo. and personnel matters pursuant to Section 610.021(3), RSMo.

Upon the roll being called the votes were cast as follows:

Alderman Blackwell - Yes

Alderman Matthew – Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins – Yes

Alderman Johnson - Yes Motion passed. ADJOURN - the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 9:29 PM.