

City of Cool Valley

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:40PM

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Stewart	Present
Alderman Johnson	Present
Alderman Blackwell	Present
Alderman Matthew	Present

Mayor Stewart recommends Earline Jones Collins for Alderperson of Ward 2.

Alderman Johnson makes a motion to appoint Earline Jones Collins to the seat of Alderperson for Ward; Alderman Blackwell 2nd the motion.

Roll call vote to appoint Earline Jones Collins to the seat of Alderperson for Ward 2:

Alderman Johnson	Yes
Alderman Blackwell	Yes
Alderman Matthew	Yes

Earline Jones Collins is sworn in by City Clerk; oath is signed and certified with the City seal.

Alderman Blackwell introduces the State Representative of Texas by way of Pasadena Park, Jasmine Crockett.

Approval of 5/25/2022 agenda- Motion Blackwell 2nd Matthew- all in favor

Approval of 4/27/2022 minutes- Motion Johnson 2nd Matthew- all in favor

REPORTS:

Mayor Stewart- Grass cutting comes up a lot this time of year and there are obviously some houses the need a little bit more help than others. Would be nice to approve a small budget to assist the elderly and disabled with their lawn care needs; as well contract out some of the city's lawn care needs. Just an idea for the Board to think about. Need a piece of legislation to approve speed bumps; I am ready to sign the bill so we can start on getting bids for the contract. There is money sitting in the budget for the neighborhood watch program. I would like to thank the Chief and the Officers for doing a great job; crime is down 66%, which is awesome.

Alderman Johnson- No report

Alderman Matthew- Regarding potential budget to help certain residents...had a conversation with Matt Finley and he said our books aren't reconciled, any conversation before the books are reconciled, is premature. Anyone in Ward 2 that is elderly or handicap contact me, I will see if I can offer assistance. Street lights aren't working in Ward 2; I have been in contact with Ameren. I have been taking pictures of nuisance properties and sending them to Cheryl to send out notices. Potholes were kind of done; work is not acceptable. Matthew asked Chief if he would do a wellness check at the house on Madonna. Potholes on Hawkesbury not fixed properly. Several blight properties have been a nuisance for way too long. Double yellow line missing on Evans, this is where money needs to be spent. Need to address foundational issues; it's unreasonable for people who do right to have to live next to these properties.

Alderman Blackwell- After last week's meeting I took some time to look at me from the residents' point of view, I have been attending a lot of meetings. There is a great big hole on Haley, it has 4 cones and caution tape around it. El Punch has been broken into 5 times; need to get the Flock cameras. I informed the nuisance property on Hawkesbury that they have to move the container. Food drop/giveaway at Murchison Tabernacle Church, 7629 Natural Bridge on 5/26/2022. I would like to welcome Ms. Earline Jones Collins. The next meeting is the 1st Monday of next Monday discussing mental health; I attend a lot of meetings, there is a lot happening behind the scenes.

Alderman Matthew- I would like to make a proposal to make a motion to get the monthly gas card invoice. No city vehicle should be on personal premises.

Mayor Stewart- I am the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the city; also I donate 100% of my salary to a community improvement fund. In the past 24 months I have raised 1.1 million dollars; I'm working on a way to distribute the 1.1 million in Bitcoin to the residents. I have been working with Jack Dorsey, CEO of Square regarding Bitcoin education and awareness.

Alderman Matthew- We need to work on accountability and oversight. The employee handbook says that public works comes in at 7am, I have been here at that time and no one is here. I would like to see the timesheets for public works, because if he is getting 40 hours a week, that is wrong.

Alderman Matthew- Motion to return city vehicle and gas cards; city vehicles and gas cards are to be returned after each use to city hall. Also any records associated with the cost of a city vehicle are distributed to the Board.

Alderman Blackwell- 2nd - all in favor

City Clerk- No report

Public Works- No report

Chief Hall- We had 222 calls for service, 21 reports, 9 arrest, 17 citations, 5 tows associated with the parking tickets, 13 parking tickets. We provided 5 people in 3 vehicles with service, who reportedly overdosed on a parking lot on the 1700 block of S. Florissant. Shots fired on 5/24/2022, we took into custody a 12 and 15 year old, they were right on the border, they are Ferguson residents that took off running into Cool Valley. No injuries; they were quickly sent home to their parents. Uptake in accidents; 9 accidents in Cool Valley this month, 3 left the scene.

Joel Pugh with St. Louis County- I am Cool Valley's new specialist. In 2019 the city wanted to do N. Hills street, our environmental department did the clearance and cleared the project to go on. I would like to get that project back

on track. Funds for 2021 were not allocated, that is why I am here at this meeting. Currently have \$50,000 in the bank pool, need to have a conversation to see where unallocated funds will go. The project is for repaving of N. Hills, working with Palladian to get estimate on repair for this project.

Alderman Blackwell- Motion to have 2021 CDBG allocation funds of \$20,000 to go to N. Hills for road improvement project.

Roll call vote:

Alderman Johnson- Yes

Alderman Blackwell- Yes

Alderman Matthew- Yes

Alderwoman Jones Collins- Yes

Motion passes

Caroline Jackson with 24:1 Forestry Department- Native Stewardship over at Beyond Housing Forestry department. Target nuisance projects, we are always applying for grants. A suggestion box is coming next meeting to get a list of properties and colors of plants residents would like to see along with an allergy list. We are working on a project at Ball Creek; maintenance will be done by my crew along with training for public works to learn the upkeep process. We need to know how to protect these investments from ordinance violations, because some of the natural plants grow taller than the ordinance may allow. Ball Creek is about .3 acres and will be a park and an outdoor learning area for the school to be used as an area of explanation of native plants. (Visual presentation provided)

Motion to renew Spirits Plus liquor license: Motion Blackwell 2nd Johnson- all in favor

Rachel Hurtado- I am with Beyond Housing, I am transiting out of my position. Introduced Nikta Hill, she will take the street assessment project. Presented a collective bid for a street assessment for Cool Valley. Cool Valley is in stage 3 of the process. A full evaluation of the every street is done; projected cost is \$ 5962.00, with this project the city saves around 30%- 40%. Smaller cities pay less. This is an assessment only, not repair another bid is needed for repair. Phase 3 deadline has passed, signed contract need to be reviewed and signed ASAP. If Cool Valley would like to opt-out of the assessment please let us know.

Kevin O'Keefe- For clarification the report is just a tool for the Board to determine which streets/ areas are in the most need.

Motion to approve warrant list- Matthew 2nd Johnson- Motion carries

Public Comments:

Al Robinson, N. Hills- think that you should be more informative about the meetings that you state you attend; we need more knowledge of what is going on in city hall. Did you give public works a list of duties, I ride the city and I don't see him. What are his hours? We need more from the Board.

Resident, 8311 Hawkesbury- Because we don't have code enforcement officer, that mean nothing can get done?

Mayor- No, that isn't what it mean. We (the board) have been riding around and reporting nuisances to give people a chance to get their home in order. The city also has properties that have not been kept up, I feel funny enforcing upkeep if the city is lacking in the same area, and I want to be fair to everyone.
I should not have to pay for tree services when the tree is not on my property.

Resident- What trust fund is the bitcoin going into?

Mayor- It is a process; the bitcoin is sitting in a virtual wallet. It's a 5 year project, I'm working with Mr. Jack Dorsey and the owner of Tik Tok, and this is process that has never been done before. Free education will be coming as well. The money will be tied to the land and not the resident.

Mrs. Matthew- Tonight's meeting has been one of the better meetings. I have been in Cool Valley for 15 years, I just ask that the Board not take things personally and continue to work together. With the 1.1 million- what is the timeframe to provide that education? Education before the 5 year timeframe will be beneficial.

Resident, 8600 Barbara- Trees are a problem for me as well, shouldn't take a code officer to send a letter from Cool Valley.

Resident, 4604 Barbara- Please come by and see my home.

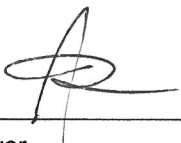
Kevin O'Keefe request a closed meeting for attorney client communication pursuant to section 610.021


Alderman Blackwell- Motion to end public forum and go into closed board meeting for attorney client communication pursuant to section 610.021. 2nd Johnson

Roll call vote to go into closed session:

Alderman Johnson	Yes
Alderman Blackwell	Yes
Alderman Matthew	Yes
Alderwoman Jones Collins	Yes

PUBLIC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10PM



Mayor

City Clerk