

CITY COUNCIL
PALMYRA, MISSOURI

October 18, 2007

The Palmyra City Council met on the above date in City Hall at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Loren Graham presiding. The following council members answered roll call: Emmett Garner, Jim Bross, Tim Wright, Gary Coleman, Carolyn Andresen and Jeff Merkel. Also present were Harold Lee, Raymond Houston, Mark Cheffey, Gary Crane and Chase Hickman.

A motion was made by Council member Andresen and seconded by Councilman Merkel to approve the consent agenda as presented. The roll call vote was as follows: Ayes; Garner, Bross, Wright, Coleman, Andresen and Merkel. Nays; none. The motion carried. The consent agenda included the minutes of the October 4th meeting.

Gary Crane, Fire Chief, reported that the department has answered 257 calls in 290 days this year. He also reported that following the recent storm some needs were identified such as a generator at the fire station, phone lines and radios. He reported that the fire trucks stayed out that night until 1:30 am.

Old Business: Councilman Bross reported that three bids were received for a recycling trailer for the high school and the committee met and is recommending the purchase of a trailer from American RV for \$3,741.00. The purchase was approved by council at their last meeting so Bross may proceed with the purchase.

City Attorney Hickman gave the first reading of Bill #1460: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 205 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALMYRA, MISSOURI, REGULATING DOGS AND CATS AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF. Councilmember's asked several questions about the ordinance which will have the second reading at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Council member Andresen and seconded by Councilman Garner authorizing the mayor to sign a consent to sub-sublease, as requested by Hardees, for a parking area. The roll call vote was as follows: Ayes; Garner, Bross, Wright, Coleman, Andresen and Merkel. Nays; none. The motion carried.

City Clerk Dodd informed the council that as part of a class action lawsuit between Missouri Municipalities and several telecommunication companies, Verizon has agreed to a settlement. A part of this settlement allows the municipalities to assign 5% of the franchise fee to the Missouri Municipal League. Also, in order for the city to receive the past taxes from Verizon an ordinance will need to be passed next month. A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilmember Andresen allowing the fee to MML for litigation and approving the settlement. The roll call vote was as follows: Ayes; Garner, Bross, Wright, Coleman, Andresen and Merkel. Nays; none. The motion carried.

Dodd also stated that several thousand dollars in taxes have been paid under protest by several telecommunication companies and the money is being held in a passbook until the lawsuit is settled.

A discussion was held regarding the testing of the storm sirens. It was the consensus of the council that the sirens need to be tested on a regular basis and advertised in advance of the testing. Acting Police Chief Lee will coordinate the tests with the board of public works. He advised that a set time is not always possible due to the weather conditions. Lee also stated that at this time the city does not have an emergency management director.

Andresen brought up a property on W. Hamilton that needs attention and asked that Lee be given information on what has transpired in the past with this property.

Merkel asked that a letter be sent to Griesbaum for weeds on his property on North Street and N. Spring. He also asked about the water drainage situation on Oakview. Mayor Graham will be meeting with an engineer and Houston next week to look at the site.

Merkel stated that there is a hollow tree at the corner of W. Main Cross and Bradley that will probably be a problem the next time there is a storm. Houston stated that he has already discussed taking this down with the board employees.

Houston informed the council that the railroad crossing at W. Main Cross has been repaired by the railroad. Houston stated that he has just purchased two generators, one for his personal use. He has a need for one at the street department and wants to know if the city would like to purchase one from him. A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilman Bross to approve the purchase of a generator for \$1850. The roll call vote was as follows: Ayes; Garner, Bross, Wright, Coleman, Andresen and Merkel. Nays; none. The motion carried.

Mayor Graham announced that since Jim Beadle retired as police chief, the council asked Assistant Chief Harold Lee to become acting chief which he agreed to. The council asked that a help wanted ad for police chief be placed in the local papers.

Dodd informed the council that the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Taste of Palmyra," event that will be held in conjunction with the police department Halloween party on October 29th. The committee asked permission to block off a portion of downtown for the event. Dodd stated that she will have city hall open that evening.

Dodd also informed the council that the town hall meeting conducted by PACB will be held at the American Legion Hall on January 12th and that more information will be given at a later date.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner to adjourn to closed session for real estate. Council member Andresen seconded the motion to close for real estate. The roll call vote was as follows: Ayes; Garner-Real Estate, Bross-Real Estate, Wright-Real Estate, Coleman-Real Estate, Andresen-Real Estate and Merkel-Real Estate. Nays; none. The motion carried, the guests left the council chambers and the council entered into closed session at 8:05 p.m.

Loren L. Graham, Mayor

Rhonda J. Dodd, CMC, MRCC, City Clerk