



***City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
November 6, 2023***

Call to Order: A regular session meeting of the Pleasant Valley Board of Aldermen was called to order at City Hall, 6500 Royal Street, Pleasant Valley, Missouri, by Mayor James Smith, on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 6:32 p.m. Copies of the agenda, minutes, and council bills to be considered were available in the lobby for public inspection prior to the meeting.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor James Smith, Alderman Patrick Gallagher, Alderwoman Ruth Mesimer, Alderwoman Linda Jacoby, Alderman Rick Scarborough, Alderman James Page, Alderman Tom Moss, Alderwoman Mary Langner, and Alderwoman Serenity Ohlsen.

Absent: None

Staff Present:

Staff Present: City Clerk Matthew Chapman, Fire Chief Pete Knudsen, Police Chief Jared McGinley, Public Works Director Chris Cronk, Firefighter/EMT Jennifer Gallagher, Court Administrator Sarah Everhart, and Assistant City Clerk Jen Taylor

Public Present: City Attorney Tom Capps and Missouri State Representative Bill Allen

Consent Agenda: Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Public comments and guests: Representative Allen told the Board of Aldermen that he was the State Representative for District 17 which includes Claycomo and Pleasant Valley. Representative Allen thanked the Board of Aldermen for their hard work and that if there was anything he could do to help he was there for them.

City Attorney and other professional services: None

Closed Session: Alderman Gallagher moved to enter closed session, authorized by RSMo. 610.021, subsection 13 (personnel records). Alderman Page seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mesimer questioned the section being used to move into a closed session. After some discussion, Alderman Page moved to amend the motion to enter closed session, authorized by RSMo. 610.021, subsection 1 (legal), subsection 3 (personnel) and subsection 13 (personnel records). No vote was taken on the original motion. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays. 6:35 pm. The closed session was held in the Mayor's office with Clerk Matthew Chapman and City Attorney Tom Capps in attendance.

During the closed session, no vote was taken, nor motions made.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to return to open session. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays. 7:25pm.

Alderwoman Mesimer suggested a motion to end remote computer access for city staff (she did not make a motion). Court Administrator Sarah Everhart stated there was a need to login from home for



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court and police department business and training. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if staff had remote access prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrator Everhart stated that yes staff had access before the pandemic. Alderman Page suggested more research be done on the need for remote access for staff. Alderman Gallagher stated that more information was needed to determine how staff is currently using remote access and what future needs would be. Alderwoman Mesimer shared concerns regarding the potential for abuse of time related to remote work. After more discussion, Alderman Page made a motion to end remote computer access for city staff. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – no, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – no, Page – no, Moss – no, Langner – no, and Ohlsen – no, Motion failed 2 ayes, 6 nays.

Mayor's comments: Mayor Smith reminded everyone to clean up after their dogs, especially around mailboxes.

Aldermen Comments: Alderwoman Langner stated that the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting would be held on December 1st at 6:00pm with special activities after the lighting. Alderwoman Langner stated that she had received a resignation from one of the members of the Parks and Recreation Board and that now they had 2 vacancies on the Board.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk, Matthew Chapman, provided a written administration report with the Board. Clerk Chapman stated that he had received a call from a company expressing an interest in purchasing the cell tower lease located at the Park Building. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that several people have approached the city in the past about purchasing the lease and wanted to know if the land the cell tower is on would be included in the purchase. Clerk Chapman said he would investigate and return with additional information. Clerk Chapman stated that he was approached about serving on the Clay County 2040 Compass Committee, a group working to update Clay County's new comprehensive plan. Participation on the committee would require some time away from city hall during business hours. Alderwoman Mesimer wanted to be sure Clerk Chapman could complete all job duties including upcoming budget and year-end projects. Clerk Chapman assured the Board of Aldermen that he could.

Alderman Scarborough moved to allow Clerk Chapman to participate on the Clay County 2040 Compass Committee. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director, Chris Cronk, is continuing to have trouble reaching the easement owners for the Kaill Road project. The easement wording has been sent to the attorney for Pleasant Valley Oaks for review. Director Cronk has sent easement paperwork to another of the owners and is waiting for a response. City Attorney Tom Capps offered to draft a letter to easement owners asking them to sign the easement documents.

Alderman Scarborough moved to have the city attorney review the Pleasant Oaks easement document. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer



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– aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Director Cronk introduced Corey Butts, the new Assistant Public Works Director, to the Board of Aldermen. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if the city received any complaints regarding the bulky item pickup event. Director Cronk stated that there was only one complaint.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Pete Knudsen stated that the Public Alert System is close to being rolled out and he would like to include notice of the system in water bills. Chief Knudsen will be seeking an ARPA Grant for radios which would cover 50% of the cost. Chief Knudsen is waiting on a bid from Commenco, but he anticipates the total cost of the radios needed to be \$80-90,000.

Chief Knudsen stated that the Board of Aldermen had approved tuition reimbursement for EMT's last year and he would like to expand the program to include paramedics. The participants would be reimbursed \$3,600 for a 2-year commitment working at least 48 hours per month.

Alderman Scarborough moved to expand the tuition reimbursement program to include paramedics. Alderman Page seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Police Department: Police Chief Jared McGinley will be seeking an ARPA Grant for radios which could cover 50% of the \$129,000 cost of all radios needed. Chief McGinley stated that he realized as he was writing the LLEBG Grant application that he might not be able to have a car by the 6/30/2024 deadline for spending the funds. So, he rewrote the grant for purchase of a mobile radio.

Chief McGinley asked the Board of Aldermen for an answer on his request to allow a Pleasant Valley Police Officer to participate in the Special Tactics and Response Team (STAR) program. Chief McGinley stated that it would be nice for Pleasant Valley to get the specialized training and Clay County has been a good partner for Pleasant Valley. Chief McGinley stated that the cost of the program would be the \$6,500 in gear required, but \$5,000 of the gear could be reused by Pleasant Valley. Alderman Moss stated that the officer that participated in the program would be in demand by other agencies and the city should attempt to have the officer commit to more years at Pleasant Valley if the participate in the STAR program. Chief McGinley stated that the officer most interested in the program would stay based on his participation in the STAR program.

Alderwoman Ohlsen moved to allow a Pleasant Valley police officer to participate in the Special Tactics and Response Team program with Clay County. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – no, Page – aye, Moss – no, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 6 ayes, 2 nays.

Municipal Court: Court Administrator Sarah Everhart provided a written report to the Board of Aldermen for their review and stated that court costs and fines were down due to the low number of officers.



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Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the annual step increase for Jenn Gallagher, FF/EMT from Pay Grade 100/Step 1 \$15.28 per hour to Pay Grade 100/Step 2 \$15.59 per hour, effective 10/29/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – abstain, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the recruitment/reimbursement fee of \$1,800 for Jenn Gallagher, FF/EMT. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – abstain, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to accept the resignation of Gia Landreneau, FT Communications Officer, effective 10/26/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to accept the resignation of Lacey Adkison, FT Communications Officer, effective 10/26/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Finance Committee: Alderwoman Mesimer reviewed the proposed 2024 City of Pleasant Valley Budget document. Alderwoman Mesimer questioned the significant increase in EMS Incentive/Overtime Pay. Chief Knudsen stated that the difference was due to the weekend incentive program. Alderman Page asked if the EMS Tuition Reimbursement line accounted for all prospective tuition reimbursements for 2024. Chief Knudsen stated that it did as the most the department would have is two participants at \$1,800 each.

Chief McGinley explained that the increased request in Police Training-LET/POST was due to the prospect of sending Captain Andrew Cramer to Command College. If Captain Cramer attended the Command College training, MIRMA would cover half of the cost of tuition. Chief McGinley stated that he would like to move the DUI Recoupment Fund from General revenues to a restricted fund due to the restricted nature of the revenue. Chief McGinley noted that the MARRS Subscriber Fees line needed to be adjusted up to \$3,195 based on newly received information. Alderwoman Mesimer wanted confirmation that Chief McGinley was requesting 2 police department vehicles in the 2024 Budget. Chief McGinley confirmed that he was since no car was purchased in 2023 and there are significant lead times for any new vehicles.

Court Administrator Sarah Everhart stated that there were no significant changes in the court budget for 2024 but requested that the Judicial Education Fund (JEF) be moved from General revenues to a restricted line.

Public Works Director Chris Cronk noted that Engineering expense for 2024 was down significantly due to businesses opened in 2023 (Show Me Logos, Pride Fitness, etc.) that were not anticipated for 2024. Director Cronk stated that the Park Expense line of \$5,000 would cover all the maintenance at both parks (mowing, mulch, sand, etc.). Director Cronk is requesting an increase in Street Repair to



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complete significant street overlay projects in 2024. The Pleasant Valley Road District will pay a portion of the street overlay costs and they have been asked to repave the city hall parking lot. Due to increased prices, Pleasant Valley will only be able to complete sewer scoping on approximately 25% of city pipes when we have been able to scope 33% in prior years.

Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3529** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and Fire Fighter/EMT Ann Marie Kellum, to reimburse tuition and related fees” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill on first reading and move the bill to second reading. Alderman Page seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3529** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and Firefighter/EMT Ann Marie Kellum, to reimburse tuition and related fees” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderman Page moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3528**. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alderman Page moved to adjourn. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Mayor James Smith

ATTEST: _____
Matthew Chapman, City Clerk