



***City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
December 18, 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, December 18, 2023, at 6:30 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 Linda Jacoby, Alderman Rick Scarborough, Alderman Tom Moss, Alderwoman Mary Langner, and Alderwoman Serenity Ohlsen. There is currently one vacancy on the Board of Alderman for Ward 1.

Absent: Alderman James Page

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, Assistant City Clerk Jen Taylor, Human Resource Manager Katrina Kinard

Public Present: City Attorney Tom Capps

Consent Agenda: Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1, absent, 1 vacancy.

Public comments and guests: None

City Attorney and other professional services: None

Alderman Moss made a motion to amend the Board of Aldermen Agenda to include Ordinance No. 3536 “an Ordinance approving an application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the temporary storage of vehicles on property generally located at 8601 Pleasant Valley Road in accordance with Chapter 400, Zoning Regulations, of the Pleasant Valley Municipal Code.” Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion, The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – no, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 5 ayes, 1 nay, 1 vacancy, 1 absent.

Mayor’s comments: Mayor Smith stated that Wal-Mart will be donating \$500 for the Pleasant Valley Shop with a Cop event next year and he has received dozens of calls saying how great the Santa on a Truck event was. Mayor Smith made a nomination to appoint Ruth Mesimer as an Alderwoman to fill the Ward 1 seat she resigned from on November 20th. Alderwoman Ohlsen asked why Ms. Mesimer would step down and then be immediately reappointed. Ms. Mesimer was given the opportunity to step to the podium and answer questions from the Board of Aldermen, but she declined.

Mayor Smith stated that he wanted to clarify his comment from the previous Board of Aldermen Meeting about freezing employee raises for 2024. Mayor Smith stated that everyone would get their step increases, but not extras.



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Alderman Scarborough moved to appoint Ruth Mesimer to the vacant Ward 1 Alderperson position. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – abstain, Motion passed 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 abstain, 1 vacancy.

Alderman Scarborough moved to approve a 5-minute recess to allow the city clerk to prepare an oath of office for Ms. Mesimer. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy.

Alderman Scarborough moved to reopen the Board of Aldermen Meeting. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, 1 vacancy.

City Clerk Chapman administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Mesimer.

Alderman Scarborough moved to appoint Alderwoman Mesimer as the Finance Committee Chair through the first Board of Aldermen Meeting in April 2024. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent,

Aldermen Comments: Alderman Moss asked about an update on the Fire Department holiday pay issue that was discussed at the Personnel Committee. Clerk Chapman stated that an ordinance would be brought forward at a later meeting for consideration.

Chief Knudsen stated he would like to see a change made to holiday pay for Fire and EMS staff as far as which days they get time and a half. It would just be cleaning up a clerical error where different holidays are paid for his full and part-time staff.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk, Matthew Chapman, provided a written administration report with the Board. Clerk Chapman stated that Pleasant Valley had received a Sunshine Request for audio recordings from the November 20th and December 4th City of Pleasant Valley Board of Aldermen Meetings.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director Chris Cronk stated that he is still working on a signature for the easement with Pleasant Valley Oaks and he has met with Ron Cowger, City Engineer, about the possibility of using eminent domain. Director Cronk will present options at the next Board of Aldermen Meeting. Director Cronk stated that the painting project downstairs in the Police and Dispatch areas was 60% complete.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Pete Knudsen provided a written report showing that November had 36 calls of which 32 were EMS and 21 were transported to local hospitals. The Pleasant Valley Fire Department has provided 263 transports in 2023 versus 240 through this period in 2022. Chief Knudsen thanked the Administration staff for helping with the Santa on the Firetruck event.



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Police Department: Police Chief Jared McGinley provided a written C.A.R. Chief McGinley stated that the Shop with a Cop event was held last Tuesday, and the Police Department was able to help 6 kids.

Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the hiring of Seth Huffman as FF/Medic at Pay Grade 110/Step 1 \$17.50 per hour, effective 12/18/23. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the annual step increase for Chris Cronk, Public Works Director from Pay Grade 145/Step 4 \$29.81 per hour to Pay Grade 145/Step 5 \$30.41 per hour, effective 12/18/23. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Alderwoman Jacoby stated that she thought Director Cronk should receive his retro pay back to his anniversary date in July 2023. Human Resource Manager Katrina Kinard stated that if the city paid Director Cronk for his back pay, everyone due back pay should receive it and the City Personnel Manual clearly states that the city does not pay back pay. Alderman Gallagher stated that it would be appropriate to change the policy on back pay if the delay in paying an employee the increased rate is through no fault of the employee. City Attorney Tom Capps asked that he be allowed to research the issue and that the city not take any action now.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the hiring of Sterling Hicok as Police Officer at Pay Grade 130/Step 4 \$24.34 per hour, effective 12/18/23. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3532** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and the City of Avondale, Missouri, for the provision of dispatching services 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 Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3532** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and the City of Avondale, Missouri, for the provision of dispatching services” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderman Scarborough moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3531**. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3533** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri, and Police Officer Sterling Hicok, to



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reimburse police academy tuition 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. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3533** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and Police Officer Sterling Hicok, to reimburse police academy tuition” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderman Scarborough moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3532**. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3534** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and Axon Enterprise, Inc., for tasers and related equipment 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. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Chief McGinley stated that the outlay for tasers was included in the 2024 Capital Purchases Schedule and that the city would be receiving a 75% reimbursement grant from MIRMA resulting in an actual cost to the city of approximately \$4,000.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3534** “An Ordinance approving an agreement between the City of Pleasant Valley, Missouri and Axon Enterprise, Inc., for tasers and related equipment” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3533**. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3535** “An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 3523 and amending the Employee Compensation Step Plan 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 Gallagher seconded the motion.

Alderwoman Mesimer stated that with the proposed \$3 per hour increase for EMS staff, Pleasant Valley could not afford the 5% increase for all other staff included in the 2024 Preliminary Budget. Alderwoman Mesimer asked to see the 10/31/2023 Pleasant Valley Balance Sheet.

Alderwoman Mesimer moved to approve a 5-minute recess to allow the city clerk to print the requested balance sheet and distribute to each council member Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent,



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Alderwoman Mesimer moved to reopen the Board of Aldermen Meeting. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent,

Alderwoman Mesimer recommended a 0% raise for non-EMS staff rather than the 5% raise reflected in the proposed 2024 Budget. After additional discussion, the Board of Aldermen requested that the City Clerk produce costs for a 0%, 2%, 3.2% and 5% increase in 2024 for all city employees who did not receive the \$3 per hour increase and provide at the next Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Alderwoman Mesimer moved to table **Council Bill 3535**. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3536** “An Ordinance adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and authorizing the mayor to make appropriations. No motion was made to approve the bill.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3537** “An Ordinance approving an application for a conditional use permit to allow the temporary storage of vehicles on property generally located at 8601 Pleasant Valley Road in accordance with Chapter 400, Zoning Regulations, of the Pleasant Valley Municipal Code 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 Scarborough seconded the motion.

Melissa Vancrum of Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C. spoke on behalf of the applicant, StreamCo. Ms. Vancrum stated the request was a renewal of the existing permit that is set to expire on December 31, 2023, and that the Planning and Zoning Committee had unanimously voted to renew the conditional use permit. Ms. Vancrum stated that the current property owner, Star Acquisitions, or Pleasant Valley could terminate the lease in a timely manner with the initiation of development on the property. Alderwoman Mesimer expressed concern about the lack of development on the property by the current owners and asked if a shorter term for the permit might spur the developers to act. A 3-month term was discussed, but the Board of Aldermen felt that would be too tight, and a 6-month term was determined to be agreeable.

Alderman Gallagher moved amend Council Bill 3537 to an end date of June 30, 2024. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3537** “An Ordinance approving an application for a conditional use permit to allow the temporary storage of vehicles on property generally located at 8601 Pleasant Valley Road in accordance with Chapter 400, Zoning Regulations, of the Pleasant Valley Municipal Code, as amended 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. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye,



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Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Mayor Smith directed Clerk Chapman to read **Council Bill 3537** “An Ordinance approving an application for a conditional use permit to allow the temporary storage of vehicles on property generally located at 8601 Pleasant Valley Road in accordance with Chapter 400, Zoning Regulations, of the Pleasant Valley Municipal Code, as amended” was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3536**. Alderwoman Ohlsen seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alderman Scarborough moved to adjourn. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer - aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – absent, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mayor James Smith

ATTEST: _____
Matthew Chapman, City Clerk