



***City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
January 2, 2024***

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 Pro Tem Rick Scarborough, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 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: Alderman Patrick Gallagher, Alderwoman Ruth Mesimer, Alderwoman Linda Jacoby, Mayor Pro Tem Rick Scarborough, Alderman James Page Alderman Tom Moss, Alderwoman Mary Langner, and Alderwoman Serenity Ohlsen.

Absent: Mayor James Smith

Staff Present:

Staff Present: City Clerk Matthew Chapman, Fire Chief Pete Knudsen, Sergeant David Heckman, Public Works Director Chris Cronk, Firefighter/EMT Jennifer Gallagher, Assistant City Clerk Jen Taylor

Public Present: None

Consent Agenda: Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda. 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 comments and guests: None

City Attorney and other professional services: None

After Board of Aldermen discussion as to why a Sunshine Request was made for police body camera footage, Alderman Moss made a motion to table further discussion and seek advice from the city attorney. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – abstain, Mesimer – aye, Jacoby – aye, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – no, Motion passed 6 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstain.

Mayor Pro Tem's comments: None

Aldermen Comments: Alderwoman Langner stated that Nolan King, the last founding member of the Pleasant Valley Fire Department had passed away. City flags would be lowered to half-staff in his honor.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk, Matthew Chapman, provided a written administration report to the Board of Aldermen.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director Chris Cronk provided an update on the S. Church Road streetlight project. The light arms will be attached to the overhead distribution poles. Every anticipates that the design phase will be complete by the end of January and construction will begin in February..



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Fire Department: Fire Chief Pete Knudsen expressed sadness at the passing of Nolan King. Alderman Scarborough suggested that a resolution be passed at a future meeting honoring Mr. King. Chief Knudsen stated that ARPA Grant for radios had been submitted and the city should know something by late February.

Police Department: Sergeant David Heckman stated that Chief McGinley would be okay with freezing one position in the Police Department. Alderwoman Mesimer asked which vehicle had been involved in an accident. Sergeant Heckman stated that it had been vehicle 701, but the vehicle had been fully repaired.

Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the promotion of Kaitlynn Browne, from FF/EMT Pay Grade 100/Step 3 \$15.59 per hour to FF/Medic Pay Grade 110/Step 1 \$17.50 per hour, effective 1/2/2024. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer - aye Jacoby – no, Scarborough – aye, Page – aye, Moss – aye, Langner – aye, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 1 nay,

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to approve the annual step increase for FF/EMT aspen Pruchnik from Pay Grade 100/Step 1 \$15.28 per hour to Pay Grade 100/Step 2 \$15.59 per hour, effective 1/2/2024. 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 FF/Medic Kyle Kennedy, effective 1/1/2024. 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 approve the hiring of Jack-Lynn Williams as Part Time Communications Officer at Pay Grade 116/Step 1 \$21.72 per hour, pending successful drug screen and physical results, effective 1/2/2024. 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 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.

Alderwoman Mesimer reviewed the Pleasant Valley Balance Sheet and described the cities' restricted funds and the allowed uses of those funds. Alderwoman Mesimer noted that property taxes and business license renewals would be coming in soon and the City would be flush for a while. But the city will need to make it through the rest of the year.



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Closed Session: Alderwoman Langner moved to enter closed session, authorized by RSMo. 610.021, subsection 3 (Personnel). 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 7:15 pm. The closed session was held in the mayor’s office with Clerk Matthew Chapman in attendance.

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

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to return to open session. 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. 7:25 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Scarborough asked Jennifer Gallagher if she was recording the meeting. She stated that she was recording and livestreaming the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Scarborough stated that there was a law against livestreaming the video. Ms. Gallagher as well as Alderman Patrick Gallagher stated that there were laws explicitly allowing anyone to record and post the videos of the public meeting.

Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mayor Pro Tem Scarborough 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 Ohlsen moved to approve the bill on first reading and move the bill to second reading. Alderman Gallagher seconded the motion.

The Board of Aldermen discussed the balance of unrestricted general funds in relation to approving the 2024 budget as proposed. Alderman Gallagher distributed a spreadsheet that he had created showing actual revenue and expense for the last 4 years for the city. Alderman Gallagher explained that in the last 4 years none of the encumbered/carried forward amounts were actually used. The use of all of the encumbered/carried forward funds would be only in a worst-case scenario situation. Alderman Gallagher stated that in his opinion the city should be responsible with funds but should not be driven by fear and a total freeze in salaries is not called for. Alderman Page stated that he did not think it was sound budgeting practice to budget one way and then hope for better results.

Alderwoman Mesimer stated that city revenues may be in a slump and the city needs to be prepared if that is the case. Alderwoman Ohlsen stated that she had reviewed the budget and did not see anything extreme. Alderwoman Ohlsen asked the rest of the Board of Aldermen where they would recommend cutting expenses in the budget. Alderwoman Jacoby stated that all department heads ask for more money after the budget has been approved, so the Board of Aldermen needs to be careful.

Alderwoman Langner suggested that the Board of Aldermen hold a working session to go over the 2024 budget line by line. The Board of Aldermen attempted to find a date to meet in a working session to discuss the 2024 budget in depth but were unable to arrive at a date that worked for all.

The vote was as follows: Gallagher – abstain, Mesimer – no, Jacoby – no, Scarborough – abstain, Page – no Moss – no, Langner – no, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion failed 1 aye, 5 nays, 2 abstains.



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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. Alderwoman Ohlsen moved to approve the bill on first reading and move the bill to second reading. Alderman Gallagher seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Gallagher – aye, Mesimer – no, Jacoby – no, Scarborough – no, Page – no Moss – no, Langner – no, and Ohlsen – aye, Motion failed 2 ayes, 6 nays.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alderwoman Mesimer moved to adjourn. 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.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mayor James Smith

ATTEST: _____
Matthew Chapman, City Clerk