



***City of Pleasant Valley Missouri  
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen  
September 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 Tuesday, September 18, 2023, at 6:31 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, Alderwoman Ruth Mesimer, Alderman Tom Moss, Alderman Rick Scarborough, Alderman Patrick Gallagher, Alderwoman Mary Langner, Alderwoman Serenity Ohlsen, Alderwoman Linda Jacoby, and Alderman James Page

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

**Staff Present:** City Clerk Matthew Chapman, Fire Marshall Scott Winfrey, Police Chief Jared McGinley, Assistant City Clerk Jen Frink, Public Works Director Chris Cronk, Human Resources Manager Katrina Kinard and Firefighter/EMT Jennifer Gallagher

**Public Present:** None

**Consent Agenda:** Alderwoman Mesimer asked the city clerk to confirm that the only items on the consent agenda were the prior meeting minutes and the approval of expenditures which he did. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Page – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Langner – aye, Ohlsen – aye, and Jacoby – aye, Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

**Public comments and guests:** Charlee Johnston, a scout from Tropp 1460, addressed the Board of Aldermen about an Eagle Scout Project proposal to add to the 911 Memorial at the Pleasant Valley Fire Station. Mr. Johnston would be adding a large piece of metal to the existing memorial display. The addition would be on a base and a plaque would be added. Alderwoman Mesimer made a motion to approve the 911 Memorial scout project. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Langner – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Mesimer – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

Mayor Smith signed Mr. Johnston's proposal allowing him to proceed with his project.

Attorney Frank Brancato and Mr. Anthony Miele spoke on behalf of Mustang Sally's Deli and Liquor located at 8114 NE 69 Highway in Pleasant Valley, Missouri. Mr. Brancato stated that Mr. Miele has a 25-year lease on the property, but the new owners (RKK Real Estate, LLC) were unaware of the existing lease. And when they learned of the lease, the new owners stated that they would open a second liquor store on the same property and run Mustang Sally's out of business. Mr. Brancato stated that the new owners had not done much due diligence and asked that the Board of Aldermen consider the suitability of a second liquor store on the same property.

**City Attorney and other professional services:** None

**Mayor's comments:** Mayor Smith stated that after the Chiefs won some of his neighbors celebrated by shooting guns into the air. Mayor Smith reiterated that no guns should be fired within the city.

**Aldermen Comments:**



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**Advisory Committees / Department Reports:**

**City Clerk:** City Clerk Matthew Chapman provided a written administration report with the Board. Clerk Chapman stated that a meeting needed to be scheduled to hold a Public Hearing to set the annual tax levy for real and personal property tax rates. Clerk Chapman stated the first available date would be Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and after some discussion the Board of Aldermen agreed to hold the public hearing and city council special session at 4 PM on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Alderwoman Mesimer asked the City Clerk to explain the message in his report stating that the Personnel Agenda format had been amended. Clerk Chapman explained that the specific names and rates were being replaced by departmental updates. If the Board of Aldermen wanted to continue to state actual employee names and rates, it should be done in a closed session. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that past financial audits had been clean with information presented in the current format in the minutes and would like to see that same presentation continued. Human Resources Manager Katrina Kinard stated that the items listed on the Personnel Agenda, such as annual raises, resignations, etc. do not require a vote by the Board of Aldermen. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that she would like to see the statute showing that those items did not need to be voted on. Assistant City Clerk Jen Frink explained that a statute explains what you must do, not what is not required.

Alderwoman Mesimer stated that the Board of Aldermen has a responsibility to approve expenditures and if staff reports to the mayor, why do we have a Personnel Committee? Assistant Clerk Frink stated that the Personnel Committee serves a different role. The Personnel Committee would weigh in on policies and procedures and consider how they would like to see the city move forward.

Alderwoman Ohlsen stated that the Board of Aldermen would approve the Salary Step Plan, but staff would be responsible for implementing the plan. Alderman Page asked if there was documentation for all personnel actions that we could produce for an audit. Manager Kinard confirmed that all personnel actions were included in that employee's file and proper documentation is available.

Alderwoman Jacoby stated that the city attorney has never said not to do what they are currently doing as it relates to the Personnel Agenda. Assistant Clerk Frink advised that staff is to guide the Board of Aldermen and the City down the correct path. Alderwoman Langner questioned why the Board of Aldermen would be approving an employee resignation and stated that situation should be handled by a department head.

Alderman Page moved to bring in an attorney to provide a legal opinion on the correct way to present personnel actions to the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays.

**Public Works Department:** Public Works Director Chris Cronk stated that the tractor the City had listed at auction sold for \$13,700. The other vehicles for sale are in process. Director Cronk stated that if the vehicles the City is selling were purchased with restricted funds, the sale receipts would need to go back to the restricted fund. Director Cronk is continuing to have trouble reaching the easement owners for the Kaill Road project. Director Cronk is waiting for a response from Chuck



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with Jim's Disposal related to date for the bulky item pickup. Director Cronk anticipates having a firm date to include in the October Pleasant Valley Flyer.

**Fire Department:** Fire Marshall Scott Winfrey provided a written Fire Department Report to the Board of Aldermen. The Fire Department responded to 33 calls in August and had sports-related training.

**Police Department:** Police Chief Jared McGinley stated that a lawyer is looking for times with higher call volumes related to a previous question regarding a potential dispatch agreement with Avondale. Chief McGinley is also waiting for an answer from Oakview regarding a possible long-term agreement for dispatching services. For now, the agreement will stay as it is for one more quarter.

**Personnel Committee:** After additional discussion between board members and city staff, it was determined not to read the Personnel Agenda, but to wait for a legal opinion. Alderwoman Langner stated that the city had hired excellent people and the council should let them do their job. Alderman Page stated that if the Board of Aldermen do not trust the staff, we will be in this situation every meeting.

**Finance Committee:** Alderwoman Mesimer stated that the Personnel Committee had discussed the proposal presented by Chief McGinley to raise dispatcher pay by \$2 per hour. The Personnel Committee recommends making the proposed increase supplemental pay so as not to change the salary schedule knowing the city will likely need to give employees a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase. Alderwoman Mesimer presented a spreadsheet showing anticipated total costs to the city for the proposed \$2 per hour increase along with COLA increases of 4 to 5%. Alderwoman Mesimer asked the Board of Aldermen if they wanted to proceed with the contract for dispatching services with Avondale. Alderman Moss said yes. Alderwoman Ohlsen said if it would bring in more money for the city, she was in favor of the Avondale contract. Alderman Page asked if the Avondale contract would result in more work for the dispatchers. Chief McGinley said yes, but average calls for service in Avondale averaged 25 per month.

Ms. Kinard stated that the city has 3 dispatchers leaving now. The city needs to offer good pay to hire and retain good people. Being down 3 dispatchers will result in additional pressure and stress on the current Communications staff. Alderwoman Ohlsen stated that the city should be competitive with other cities for dispatchers. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that the city needed to make a choice between a supplemental pay increase and an increase to the Salary Schedule.

Chief McGinley stated that the dispatch center would bring in approximately \$129,000 with the addition of the Avondale dispatching agreement. Chief McGinley stated that most dispatching departments do not generate that kind of revenue and that the Communications and Police Departments have consistently underspent their budgets and that money was available for the proposed increases for dispatchers.

Alderman Moss asked why the city was stuck on \$2 per hour as the amount of the increase and could it be more. Chief McGinley stated the \$2 increase was his minimum request. Alderman Moss suggested amending the proposed increase for dispatchers from \$2 to \$3 per hour.



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Alderwoman Mesimer stated that \$209,000 was taken out of savings to balance the budget. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that Pleasant Valley is trying to be competitive. In 2023 the city has added the LAGERS Retirement Plan, converted the Human Resources Manager and Fire Chief positions from part to full-time and are contributing \$100 per month to staff who participate in the H.S.A. plan.

**Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:**

Bill No. 3523, entitled, [Ord. #3523]

“AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 3486 AND AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN TO INCREASE IN DISPATCHER COMPENSATION WITH THE CITY OF PLEASANT VALLEY.”

was given two readings by title only and placed on final passage.

Alderman Page moved to amend Bill No. 3523, to change the rate increase in Section 1 from \$2 per hour to \$3 per hour. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – nay, Mesimer – nay, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion approved 6 ayes, 2 nays.

Alderman Page moved to approve Bill No. 3523 as amended. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – no, Mesimer – no, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Bill approved 6 ayes, 2 nays.

Bill No. 23-0918-02, entitled, [*tabled indefinitely*]

“A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASE IN DISPATCHER COMPENSATION WITH THE CITY OF PLEASANT VALLEY.”

Alderman Page moved to indefinitely table Bill No. 23-0918-02 approving a supplemental increase in dispatcher compensation with the City of Pleasant Valley. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – no, Mesimer – no, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion approved 6 ayes, 2 nays.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Alderman Scarborough moved to adjourn. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – aye, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays. 7:58 pm.

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Mayor James Smith

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Chapman, City Clerk