



***City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
September 5, 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 5, 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, and Alderwoman Linda Jacoby

Absent: Alderman James Page

Staff Present:

Staff Present: City Clerk Matthew Chapman, Fire Chief Pete Knudsen, Police Chief Jared McGinley, Assistant City Clerk Jen Frink, Court Administrator Sarah Everhart, Court Clerk Jan Werner, and Dispatch Supervisor Audrey Chapdelaine

Public Present: None

Consent Agenda: Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the consent agenda. Alderman Scarborough seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Page – absent, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Gallagher – aye, Langner – aye, Ohlsen – aye, and Jacoby – aye, Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Public comments and guests: None

City Attorney and other professional services: None

Mayor's comments: Mayor Smith stated that he was pleased that board members were taking turns when speaking and that it was easier for the mayor and the city clerk to follow the conversations.

Aldermen Comments: Alderwoman Mesimer asked that staff make descriptions as meaningful as possible in the space allowed when they submit receipts for payment.

Alderman Moss stated that he was confused by the fact that discussion about the proposed VA Clinic from the July 25th Board of Aldermen Meeting was included in the Pleasant Valley Flyer. After some discussion it was agreed that everything included in the Flyer was discussed in open session and therefore part of the public record.

Alderwoman Langner asked if the Board of Aldermen would be interested in hosting a retreat and having Mid-America Regional Council provide Servant Leadership training. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that with the recent roundtable meetings between council members and Administration Staff, new board members had learned a lot and maybe training would be more appropriate after the next election. Alderwoman Ohlsen asked if training information might be available for board members to review. Alderwoman Langner said she would find out.

Alderman Moss stated concerns about restarting the Ethics Committee saying Pleasant Valley was too small for an Ethics Committee. Mayor Smith stated that we have a state ethics committee that could investigate any incidents. Alderwoman Langner stated that we shouldn't assume the Board of



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September 5, 2023*

Aldermen could not get good citizens to serve on an Ethics Committee. Alderman Moss asked who would be checking on the Ethics Committee. Alderman Gallagher said the Ethics Committee's actions would be based on complaints received.

Assistant City Clerk Jen Frink stated that the Ethics Committee would be an advisory committee to the Board of Aldermen and that the Board of Aldermen would appoint the members of the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee would provide information to the Board of Aldermen and the Board would determine how to proceed. Alderwoman Ohlsen asked with no Ethics Committee, who do complaints go to and was told they would go to the mayor.

Alderwoman Langner stated that the Ethics Committee members would need to be vetted and be neutral.

Alderman Scarborough made a motion to do away with the Ethics Committee. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. No vote was taken.

Alderman Scarborough made a motion to amend the motion to bring an ordinance to a future Board of Aldermen meeting to remove the Ethics Committee from the Pleasant Valley Municipal Code. Alderman Moss seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Langner – no, Gallagher – no, Page – absent, Mesimer – no and Ohlsen – no. Motion failed 3 ayes, 4 nays, 1 absent.

Alderwoman Mesimer stated that Public Works Director Chris Cronk was currently getting bids for the 2023 bulky item pickup event.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk Matthew Chapman provided a written administration report with the Board.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director Chris Cronk was unable to attend the meeting.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Pete Knudsen provided a written Fire Department Report to the Board of Aldermen. Chief Knudsen noted that the fire department had spent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on six sets of gear for staff. Pleasant Valley will need to pay for the gear but will be reimbursed. Pleasant Valley should receive the gear in approximately 14 weeks. Chief Knudsen is currently participating in a 4–6-week training period for implementation with Everbridge for the Public Alert System.

Police Department: Police Chief Jared McGinley stated that he has been meeting with other area agencies to prepare for the likely strike at the Ford Motors Plant in Claycomo. Ford will possibly be shutting down on September 14th for 2-3 months and will have picketers up and down 169 Highway. Equipment made possible by the ARPA grant has been ordered.

Chief McGinley was approached by the city of Avondale, Missouri. They are restarting their police department with one officer and have asked about Pleasant Valley providing dispatch services for them. Chief McGinley will be meeting with Avondale to discuss dispatching services on Wednesday, September 6th. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if they had information on how many calls from



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September 5, 2023*

Avondale would be expected and Chief McGinley said it would likely be around 25 calls per month. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if it could be determined when Avondale calls would be heaviest and Chief McGinley said he would find out and report back to the Board of Aldermen. Chief McGinley said he anticipated recommending an annual cost to Avondale for the dispatching services of \$15-20,000. Alderwoman Mesimer asked if Oakview had made a decision related to continuing to use Pleasant Valley for dispatching services. Chief McGinley said no decision had been made, but one needed to be made soon.

Chief McGinley recommended a \$2 per hour pay increase for Pleasant Valley dispatchers as they are the lowest paid of any area agency by quite a bit. Chief McGinley stated that Pleasant Valley needs to be competitive, and the city is getting ready to lose two dispatchers due to low pay and high benefit cost. Chief McGinley added that Pleasant Valley will likely pick up dispatching services with Avondale resulting in \$15-20,000 in revenue.

Alderwoman Mesimer stated that in 2019 the Board of Aldermen approved a salary study, a consultant interviewed staff and a new salary schedule was adopted. Alderwoman Mesimer stated that the Board of Aldermen approved an 8% across the board increase to salaries in 2022 and that a \$2 increase for dispatchers would throw the entire schedule out of whack. Chief McGinley stated that if the Communications Department (Dispatchers) was fully staffed the total annual cost would be \$30,000 most of which would be offset by the possible dispatch services for Avondale.

Alderwoman Mesimer asked about the remodeling plans for the bottom floor of city hall (carpeting, paint, etc.) and when we could get that scheduled. Chief McGinley said the department is short-staffed, but that he will start working on it.

Chief McGinley received an email from Machens Ford stating that the 2024 model was no longer an option for purchase and that the window to order a 2025 model will open in January 2024, but we don't have an idea on price or exact purchasing window. Chief McGinley is asking for approval to purchase 2 cars when the window opens. This will allow the city to skip at least 1 and likely 2 years before we need to purchase additional patrol cars.

Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Chair, moved to approve the hiring of Joshua Verhamme, Public Works Groundskeeper/Maintenance Worker, at Pay Grade 100/step 1, \$17.50 per hour, effective 9/5/2023. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Langner – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – absent, Mesimer – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Chair, moved to accept the resignation of Alex Coyle, FF/EMT, effective 8/31/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye, Langner – aye, Gallagher – aye, Page – absent, Mesimer – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Finance Committee: Alderwoman Mesimer, Finance Chair, stated that Pleasant Valley will have a number of big-ticket items to pay for in the next year including the culvert replacement originally budgeted at around \$600,000, the firehouse loan and a new ambulance and we have to be able to pay



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for these expenses. Alderwoman Langner asked how use and sales tax receipts were looking. Alderwoman Mesimer responded that both receipts were looking up, but utility costs were up as well.

Old Business: None

New Business: None.

Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

None

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 – absent, Langner – aye and Ohlsen – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent 7:22 pm.

Mayor James Smith

ATTEST: _____
Matthew Chapman, City Clerk