



**City of Pleasant Valley Missouri
Meeting of the Board of Aldermen
February 20, 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 David Slater, on Monday, February 20, 2023, at 6:00 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 David Slater, Alderwoman Linda Jacoby, Alderwoman Mary Langner, Alderwoman Robin Martin, Alderwoman Ruth Mesimer, Alderman Tom Moss, Alderman Rick Scarborough and Alderman Garrett Williams.

Absent: There is one vacancy in Ward 3.

Staff Present:

Staff Present: Interim Police Chief Jared McGinley, Public Works Director Chris Cronk, City Clerk Georgia Fox and Fire Chief Pete Knudsen.

Public Present: James Smith and John Alles.

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

City Attorney and other professional services: No one else was scheduled to address the Board.

Public comments and guests: John Alles, President of the Pleasant Valley Civic Organization, thanked the Board for their support of the shared sign. It is understood by PVCO that no advertising will be allowed on the Board. It will be used to announce City and PVCO events and meetings. An MOU will be drafted for approval by both parties so there is a clear understanding of maintenance and other responsibilities. Alderman Scarborough moved to instruct the City Clerk to prepare the Memorandum of Understanding for the Board's consideration. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Slater requested the Board's support in amending Section 205.380, Limitation of Number of Dogs, Cats, and Miniature Pigs, in order to add the following underlined sentence:

Section 205.380 Limitation of Number of Dogs, Cats and Miniature Pigs.

Except where a residence is licensed as a commercial animal establishment, located in a properly zoned area, it shall be unlawful for any person in charge of a residence to keep or maintain more than four (4) dogs, four (4) cats or four (4) miniature pigs, or any combination of, but no more than a total of four (4) such animals in number, over the age of ninety (90) days, except in a kennel as regulated by the City of Pleasant Valley and defined in Section 205.010 and as allowed in Section 400.140. When animals in excess of the limit established herein are found at a residence, all of the animals found at the residence may be removed to the Municipal Animal Shelter to be handled in accordance with Section 205.110, except that the person in charge of the residence, if present, may designate and retain up to four (4) licensed dogs, four (4) licensed cats or four (4) licensed miniature pigs, or any combination of, but no more than a total of four (4) such animals. There will be no limit to the number of dinosaurs, unicorns or mermaids at any municipal residence.

The request is in honor of his grandchildren. Alderman Scarborough moved to approve the request. Alderwoman Jacoby seconded the motion. During discussion, Alderwoman Mesimer moved to



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reduce the number of dogs/cats/pigs to 2 of a kind, with no more than 3 total. Mayor Slater asked that this motion be taken up separately and called for a vote on the original motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – nay, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 6 ayes, 1 nay, 1 vacancy.

Alderswoman Mesimer's motion to reduce the number of pets allowed was taken up, with Alderswoman Jacoby seconding the motion. During the discussion, concerns from staff about how the number would be enforced since some people legally exceed the reduced proposed number now. Someone suggested grandfathering those people in but it would be extremely difficult to determine who legally possessed more pets prior to the change going in effect. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – nay, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – nay, Scarborough – nay and Williams – nay. Motion failed 3 ayes, 4 nays, 1 vacancy.

Mayor Slater also reported that he would be out of town, in Jefferson City, tomorrow, for the MML Legislative Conference.

Aldermen Comments: Alderswoman Langner mentioned that Alderman Williams was interviewed on the news as the girls wrestling coach for Oak Park High School.

Alderswoman Mesimer moved to begin posting the monthly Police Crime Activity Report and the Fire Department's Fire/EMS Response Report on the City's website so that the public can see the activity of these departments. Alderswoman Jacoby seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – nay, Mesimer – aye, Moss – nay, Scarborough – nay and Williams – aye. Motion passed 4 ayes, 3 nays, 1 vacancy.

Advisory Committees / Department Reports:

City Clerk: City Clerk Fox reviewed the administration report with the Board.

Public Works Department: Director Cronk reported that he had been contacted by someone interested in purchasing the school to put a personal storage unit business at the location. Director Cronk said this is the second time someone has contacted him regarding the school in the last couple of months. He said he does not know the status of the school building and if it is for sale. Mayor Slater said he would contact NKCSO to see what the plan is for the building and report back.

Director Cronk showed the Christmas decoration pictures from the Park Board meeting. He said they have found someone who can help them repair the current Santa's sleigh and reindeer decoration in time for this year's event.

John Alles asked Director Cronk about the heavy equipment vehicles that were parked at Public Works. Director Cronk explained that he was trying to obtain two lost titles so that the vehicles can be auctioned off. The titles that were processed by the DMV never arrived in the mail. He recently received the phone number of someone at the Department of Revenue who can help him with the lost titles.

John Alles asked Director Cronk about the Welcome to Pleasant Valley signs. Director Cronk explained that these signs state the population of Pleasant Valley, which was in dispute by the City after the 2020 Census results were released. Unfortunately, the City was not able to challenge the population results (which were 10% lower than the last census), only the group housing results. This was just recently resolved so that he can order the six replacement signs.

Fire Department: Chief Knudsen reviewed the Fire Report with the Board. Mayor Slater asked how many of the calls were mutual aid. Chief Knudsen said he did not have that information in front of him but could get it and report back. Alderman Scarborough asked the Chief could put the general



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location of fire events, like the nearest intersection or block number, in his reports. Alderman Scarborough said he would like to know when events occur in his ward.

Police Department: Interim Chief McGinley reviewed the CAR report with the Board. Chief McGinley asked the Board if they had any questions about the CAR report; no one had any questions.

He also reported that retired Chief Abraham, Aldermen Moss and Scarborough and he met with the Clay County Sheriff and Liberty Police Chief regarding contracting police service due to the severe vacancy level in his department. Currently they only have 4 full time officers but 10 full time positions.

The Clay County Sheriff said that he, too, is down several officers and has been forced to cut some specialized units. He is only able to provide Pleasant Valley with the service that he is legally required to provide. They will not provide patrol services. Sheriff Will Akin plans to attend the March 6th meeting to discuss the matter further.

Liberty said that they do not want to enter into a contract for services but will provide mutual aid, per the mutual aid agreement. Mutual aid will only be provided if Pleasant Valley has an officer on duty. Liberty officials did say that they recently passed a public safety sales tax that has helped them increase the pay and benefits they can provide police officers. Due to this, they have been able to recruit more officers. Chief McGinley asked the Board if they would be interested in putting a public safety sales tax on the ballot. Mayor Slater responded by saying that the state legislators must pass a bill to allow Pleasant Valley to do this type of sales tax. Mayor Slater said he would talk to officials when he is in Jeff City this week.

Alderwoman Mesimer asked Chief McGinley about the donated dispatch furniture from North Kansas City. She said the Board was unaware of this donation. Mayor Slater said that he was. Chief McGinley said that they are moving the dispatchers out of their office temporarily so that the new furniture and new carpet can be installed.

Personnel Committee: Alderwoman Jacoby, Personnel Committee Chair, moved to rescind the offer of employment to Aidan McGinnis, Volunteer Fire Fighter, effective 2/6/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to accept the resignation of Clayton Clevenger, Volunteer Fire Fighter, effective 2/14/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Alderwoman Jacoby moved to accept the resignation of Georgia Fox, City Clerk/TIF Manager/Acting Human Resource Manager, effective 4/1/23. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. Due to the timing of Mrs. Fox work anniversary, it will be necessary to reappoint her as Interim City Clerk. *(for more information see Council Bill 3496)*

Police staffing challenges were discussed. Currently there are only 4 full time Police Officers (Interim Chief, 2 sergeants and one police officer still in training) and 6 vacant positions. The Police Department recommended increasing entry level (POST certified) pay by 15.32% to \$55,000 per year. This increase affects every other position in the step plan for the department causing all salaries to go up by 15.32%. It also invalidates the equity of a pay grade system which was set up by the consultants in November 2021. All previous increases to the city's step plan, since 11/2021, were



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done across the board to keep the pay grade system intact. Chief McGinley provided the Board with information about budget savings by suspending 2 positions to fund the increase. The total salary savings of the two positions would be \$120,471.47. Finance Chair Mesimer requested time to review the information. This will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee on 3/2 and by the whole Board on 3/6.

Finance Committee: Alderwoman Mesimer, Finance Chair, reviewed the budget report with the Board. She said sales and use taxes are performing better than predicted.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mayor Slater directed the City Clerk to read **Council Bill 3494**. "An Ordinance of the City of Pleasant Valley reaffirming the gross receipts tax to be imposed upon natural gas corporations conducting business with the city and matters related thereto" 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 Mesimer seconded the motion. During discussion, Alderman Moss asked for more information about the proposed bill. The City Clerk explained that it is necessary to reaffirm the 5% gross receipts tax any time a utility increases their rate by more than 7% unless the Board wants to reduce their tax rate. Spire Gas was recently approved by the FCC to increase their rates by 12.65%. This is explained in the "whereas" section of the ordinance and supporting documents attached to the bill. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Mayor Slater directed the City Clerk to read **Council Bill 3494**. "An Ordinance of the City of Pleasant Valley reaffirming the gross receipts tax to be imposed upon natural gas corporations conducting business with the city and matters related thereto" was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3493**. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Mayor Slater directed the City Clerk to read **Council Bill 3495**. "An Ordinance amending Ordinance 3450, An Ordinance for the appointment of the Fire Chief and setting salary" was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Mesimer moved to approve the bill on first reading and move the bill to second reading. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. During discussion, Mayor Slater said that Finance Chair Mesimer has indicated that there is not a budgetary concern with the increased expense, \$28,376 (difference in salary), to make the Fire Chief full time so he can perform Emergency Management duties. Mayor Slater said, "I am not sure how you will look residents in the eye and tell them after a natural disaster sorry we didn't want to spend \$28,376 a year to have a disaster plan". Mayor Slater continued by saying the City currently has an experienced, highly reputable Emergency Management Director in the Fire Chief and that the City would be foolish not to take advantage of that. Alderman Scarborough said the timing of this was not good since it is unknown how much the City will have to spend on the Police Department to staff it properly. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – nay, Langner – aye, Martin – nay, Mesimer – aye, Moss – nay, Scarborough – nay and Williams – aye. Motion failed 3 ayes, 4 nays, 1 vacancy.



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Mayor Slater directed the City Clerk to read **Council Bill 3496**. "An Ordinance appointing an Interim City Clerk/TIF Manager and setting salary" 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 Mesimer seconded the motion. During discussion, Alderman Scarborough objected to appointing Mrs. Fox as Interim City Clerk since her resignation effective 4/1 was given. He asked if the Assistant City Clerk should be appointed instead. Mrs. Fox responded by saying:

1. The Assistant City Clerk is not performing the duties of the City Clerk until after 4/1 and only if a permanent City Clerk cannot be hired and appointed by then. The City Clerk's previous appointment by ordinance expires March 4th. Additionally, the Assistant City Clerk will be retiring soon, so this will also be a temporary appointment.
2. Since the ordinance is necessary to provide Mrs. Fox with the annual rate adjustment, like all other employees, she asked Alderman Scarborough how this was any different than his vote to approve then Captain McGinley's annual increase as Police Captain and in the same meeting was appointed to Interim Police Chief to take effect in a few weeks. Alderwomen Jacoby and Mesimer responded that there is no difference in the two actions.

The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Mayor Slater directed the City Clerk to read **Council Bill 3496**. "An Ordinance appointing an Interim City Clerk/TIF Manager and setting salary" was read by title only, by the City Clerk. Alderwoman Jacoby moved to approve the bill as **Ordinance 3495**. Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy.

Closed Session: Alderwoman Langner moved to enter into closed session, authorized by 610.021, subsections 1 (legal) and 3 (personnel). Alderwoman Mesimer seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – nay, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 6 ayes, 1 nay, 1 vacancy. 7:32pm. All department heads were excused except City Clerk Fox.

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

Alderwoman Mesimer moved to return to open session. Alderwoman Langner seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. 7:58pm.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Alderwoman Langner moved to adjourn. Alderman Williams seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Jacoby – aye, Langner – aye, Martin – aye, Mesimer – aye, Moss – aye, Scarborough – aye and Williams – aye. Motion passed 7 ayes, 0 nays, 1 vacancy. 7:59pm.

Mayor David Slater

ATTEST: _____
Georgia Fox, City Clerk