



CITY OF NORMANDY

7700 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
NORMANDY, MISSOURI 63121

(314) 385-3300
FAX: (314) 385-1054

Minutes for the Meeting of the Normandy City Council

Tuesday, October 05, 2021, 7:45pm

BE IT REMEMBERED that the City Council of the City of Normandy held a meeting in person and on Zoom on Tuesday, October 05, 2021

Call to order

Mayor Beckmann called the meeting to order at 7:58pm

Roll call

Mayor Beckmann took roll call with the following Councilmembers attending:

Councilwoman Martin- Present

Councilman Moss- Present

Councilman Evans- Present

Councilwoman Smith- Present

Councilman Nelson- Present

Councilman Hunt- Present

Councilwoman Ratlif- Present

Councilwoman Campbell- Present

Mayor Beckmann stated that with all councilmembers present there was a quorum, and the meeting could proceed.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was given.

Approval of the October 5, 2021, agenda

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to amend the agenda for the meeting. Councilwoman Campbell motioned to amend the agenda with Councilman Evans seconding with the entire Council voting aye.

Mayor Beckmann expressed that he would like to amend the agenda to remove item 5, approval of consent agenda, because Council was not given sufficient time to review the minutes. Mayor Beckmann also expressed that he would like to add the issue of the Council's approval of the renewal of Courtyard Bar and Grill's liquor license to the agenda.

Councilwoman Campbell stated that she would not like to vote on the issue of the liquor license renewal on the Oct 5, 2021, agenda but that she would be willing to discuss the issue.

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove item 5 and add a discussion of the Courtyard Bar and Grill's liquor license. Councilwoman Campbell made the motion with Councilwoman Smith seconding with the entire Council voting aye.

Presentation by Tameeka Renfroe the Owner of Courtyard Bar and Grill. Renfroe explained that she was born and raised in Normandy and described the challenges of becoming a bar owner. Renfroe explained that renewing the liquor license with the City was one of the things that she missed. Renfroe explained that she is working hard to improve the bar and address concerns as well as providing service to the community. Renfroe stated that she wants the bar to be a part of the community and explained her plan for her Courtyard Revamp to improve the business.

Report of officers

Mayor:

Mayor Beckmann gave an update on the ARPA application. Mayor Beckmann informed the council that the application was accepted and that the City would be receiving the first half of \$935,000 in the next 30 days, with the other half being received in one year. Mayor Beckmann made the Council aware of a seminar by the Missouri Municipal League on use of the funds. Mayor Beckmann made the Council aware of a visit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources regarding a complaint made about illegal dumping at our public works facility. Beckmann explained that efforts are being made to comply with authorities and progress is being made on cleanup. Mayor Beckmann also made the Council aware of an anonymous complaint made to the Missouri Department of Labor regarding dangerous working conditions at public works. Beckmann stated that the complaints were legitimate and are being addressed. Mayor Beckmann gave an update on the job search for a City Administrator.

Councilwoman Campbell:

Councilwoman Campbell stated that she would like to see the storm pickup done as soon as possible. Campbell also expressed she would like to apply for a grant with Department of Conservation to help train employees to maintain trees in the City's medians and promote beautification.

Councilman Moss:

Councilman Moss stated that he would like to discuss with the company Goldstar regarding previous issues the City has had with their service to see if they can be resolved. Moss expressed that they are a company which he personally has had good results with in the past.

Councilwoman Martin:

Councilwoman Martin raised the concern of properties with tall grass as well as abandoned vehicles on the street. Martin also asked the Mayor to address the status of trash service in the City.

Mayor Beckmann explained that they are currently on a temporary contract with Waste Management and are looking to bid out the service as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Martin asked if the City went with an outside contractor how much resident's trash bill would change.

Mayor Beckmann stated that from what he has seen the cost per resident is expected to go down.

Councilman Nelson:

Councilman Nelson asked about trees located in the right of ways in property and who is responsible for maintenance. Mayor Beckmann expressed that he agrees that tree removal is something the City needs to address.

Councilman Nelson also expressed concern about MoDOT not properly maintaining right of ways and setbacks they are responsible for and asked if the City can look into addressing the issue.

Councilman Hunt:

Councilman Hunt requested that a report of the City of Attorney be added to the report of officer's section of the agenda. Hunt also asked to discuss the City Attorney's bill in old business. Hunt made a motion to pay Anthony Gray and asked for a second.

Mayor Beckman expressed that he could not pay Anthony Gray without a contract and that he cannot be compelled to sign a contract.

Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion of Councilman Hunt to pay Anthony Gray, the Council voting aye with only Councilwoman Campbell voting nay in voice vote, the motion carries.

Councilman Hunt asked to make another motion and a debate ensued between the Mayor and Councilmembers whether the motion was out of order of the approved agenda.

City Attorney Anthony Gray emphasized that is important that the Council follow the agenda of the meeting and explained that Councilmember Hunt's motions were a part of his councilmember report and is okay to discuss because the topic is considered old business. Attorney Gray also stated that he has no report, but that he disagrees that he cannot be paid without a contract and stated that it is not true.

Chief of Police

Lt. George, acting in the absence of Police Chief Hall, gave a report for the Police Department. Lt. George discussed a shooting on Florissant Rd. where two people uninjured in the dispute were injured from the shooting. Councilwoman Campbell asked if the suspects came from the Courtyard Bar and Grill. Lt. George stated that they were congregating in the overflow parking area for said bar before the incident. Councilwoman Campbell asked if this was the first time there was a shooting relating to that area. Lt. George stated that it was not the first time there was a shooting in that area.

City Treasurer: No Report

Public works director: No Report

Old business

Consideration of an ordinance to access cell tower funds

Mayor Beckmann explained that the only way the funds for the sale of the cell tower lease can be allocated is through an ordinance of City Council because of restrictions put in place by Ordinance 742 of the City of Normandy. Beckmann explained that previously the Council had appropriated the funds to pay the mortgage of City Hall through resolution and that the Council would have to re-pass authorization through ordinance.

Councilman Hunt stated that the previous vote on the issue was illegal because certain councilmembers were muted through zoom and were put down as voted as abstained. Hunt asked that the issue be revoted on.

Mayor Beckmann expressed that he disagreed with Councilman Hunt's claim but that the issue will be revoted on anyways because it will be brought before the council again as an ordinance.

Councilman Nelson asked for clarification on the issue. Nelson, referring back to a previous agenda item, also stated that previous Council's did not have a contract with Attorney Gray and he did not think a contract was necessary.

Councilman Hunt made a motion to have a revote for the restricted funds on the cell towers. No members seconded.

City Attorney Gray explained that the previous resolution is not in effect because it was a resolution and not an ordinance and that there is no need to revote on the issue.

Other old business

Councilman Hunt expressed that he would like an ordinance to be brought to Council that would change the City Code to allow for a 6:30pm start time. Councilman Hunt made a motion to give an order Attorney Gray to draft such an ordinance, Councilman Nelson seconded with the entire Council voting aye.

Councilman Hunt brought up the issue of paying City Attorney Gray immediately because a contract is not necessary. Mayor Beckmann stated that he has advised with private council about the legality of operating without a contract and believes it is illegal. Councilman Hunt asked if Mayor Beckmann was taking the advice of a private attorney over the City Attorney. Mayor Beckmann responded that he was. Councilman Hunt expressed that he saw the act of not paying Attorney Gray as refusing the will of the Council. Mayor Beckmann stated he understood Councilman Hunt's position clearly.

Councilman Hunt stated he would like to make a motion to reduce the Mayor's emergency spending limit from \$5,000 to \$500. Councilman Hunt asked for a second and Councilwoman Ratliff seconded the motion. Mayor Beckmann stated that Councilman Hunt could address the issue under new business and did not recognize the motion.

New business

New business license

Mayor Beckmann described the application for a new business license for Humble Haven Care Service LLC and stated that he had no objections to issuing the license. Councilwoman Smith and Councilwoman Ratliff stated that they did not receive the application to review it. Councilwoman Ratliff asked that the issue be tabled until the Council have a chance to review the application, but no motion was made. Mayor Beckmann read off the information of the business license to provide Council with more information. Councilman Hunt inquired about the inspection done on the building. Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to pass the business license in question. Councilwoman Campbell made the motion with no members providing a second and the motion failed.

Sewer lateral estimates

Mayor Beckmann explained that he had two estimates from Tope Plumbing on sewer lateral repairs at 7702 Augusta estimated at \$5,400 and 3629 St. Mary's Lane estimated at \$6,400. Mayor Beckmann asked for direction from the Council about whether he should accept the estimates from Tope Plumbing, a company the City has used many times in the past or seek bids from multiple contractors. Mayor Beckmann also stressed the urgency of the issue because the sewer lateral damage is causing damage to the City's streets. Councilman Evans inquired more about the specific cases. Councilman Hunt asked why the Council was not provided with the application and estimate for the sewer lateral repairs. Hunt expressed that he thinks the Mayor should seek three bids for each job. Councilwoman Campbell shared her personal experience with sewer lateral problems as a homeowner. Campbell explained that in her case the City used Tope Plumbing for convenience and to get the repairs done quickly. Councilman Hunt acknowledged that Tope has done a lot of sewer lateral repairs for the City in the past. And, while he is frustrated that the Council was not provided with more information before the meeting, he thinks that the Council should go ahead and have Tope provide the service so that the homeowners do not face delays. Councilman Moss stated that he never remembers ever having to approve sewer lateral work. Mayor Beckmann explained that that is his understanding as well but just wanted to ensure that Council was okay with not seeking other bids. Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to approve the bid on St. Mary's Lane. Councilwoman Campbell made the motion with Councilman Evans seconding and the Council voting Aye. Mayor Beckmann then asked for a motion to approve the bid on Augusta. Councilman Evans made the motion with Councilwoman Campbell seconding with the Council voting Aye.

Part-time IT employee

Mayor Beckmann explained the current IT arrangement with REGIS and expressed interest in hiring a Part-time IT employee to replace a portion of their services to save money and provide more accessible IT assistance. Mayor Beckmann stated that former Normandy Police Officer Tom Moore would be an ideal fit for the job and asked Moore to speak on the issue to Council.

Officer Moore explained that the current rate for REGIS is \$90 an hour. Moore explained that REGIS is not local and struggles to provide help for simple IT repairs in an efficient manner. Moore explained several IT issues the city is facing including police department computer equipment, computer servers, and phone systems. Moore then stated his experience in IT which includes 15 years of experience working in a wide field of IT services. Moore explained that he could provide considerable cost savings for the City. Councilman Hunt expressed interest in hiring Mr. Moore and thinks the Council should approve the hire. Councilman Nelson asked who was at fault for some of the previous issues with REGIS. Moore explained that no employees of the City were at fault because they simply lacked the IT knowledge to prevent the inefficiencies. Councilman Nelson asked who made the decision to go with REGIS and use them so often. Moore stated that to the best of his knowledge it was Sharron Warren.

Councilwoman Campbell made the Council aware that the MML would soon be hosting a seminar on cyber security.

Councilman Nelson asked how other municipalities handle IT issues and Moore explained.

Motion to restrict spending powers of the Mayor

Councilman Hunt made a motion to reduce the emergency spending power of the mayor from \$5,000 to \$500. Councilwoman Ratlif seconded the motion. Mayor Beckmann expressed concern with the \$500 and how it would affect the ability of the City to deal with emergencies. Councilman Hunt proposed that the Council form a committee to investigate the issue. Councilwoman Campbell expressed that she thinks the \$500 is too low and thinks the limitation would be inappropriate. Councilman Nelson expressed his position on being able to pay attorneys without a contract. Nelson also expressed a desire to be given a Council packet that is delivered to him. Councilwoman Ratlif asked for Gray's opinion on the issue of limiting emergency spending power of the Mayor. City Attorney Gray explained that there is currently a motion to address the issue and that a discussion has been conducted. Gray explained that the next step is to have a vote deciding what to do on the issue. Councilman Hunt corrected Gray that he is trying to limit the discretionary spending power of the mayor to \$500. Attorney Gray then explained that previous concerns about not being able to deal with emergencies not being an issue because the motion is limited to discretionary spending. Councilwoman Campbell asked what constitutes an emergency. Gray explained that the Mayor would make the initial call if it is an emergency and then the decision could be reviewed by the Council. Councilman Hunt asked that the motion go to a vote. Councilwoman Campbell asked how much the current discretionary spending limit currently is. Mayor Beckmann stated that he was not aware that there is such discretionary spending allowed by City Code or Ordinance. Mayor Beckmann asked Councilman Hunt to repeat the motion and clarify what the vote was for. Councilman Hunt stated the City Attorney Anthony Gray already explained it and asked to go to a vote. Attorney restated his understanding of the situation which was substantially the same as his explanation from earlier. Voice vote was taken, and the Council voted aye with Councilwoman Campbell voting nay, the motion carried.

Citizen comments

Terri Gannon, address not given, questioned how approving bills would work because she thinks a lack of quorum is a problem. The citizen listed her concerns with previous acts of council including not showing up to meetings and not passing budgets. She also stated that she was upset with Courtyard Bar in Grill because patrons urinate in her business parking lot.

Becky Harrington, address not given, thanked the council for dealing with the "trash crisis." She then addressed the Council verbatim:

"there is another crisis boiling on the back burner – I would like to implore you to fire Chief Hall. Which he is not here because he is at Bel-ridge, which is great because he has not shown up for any council meetings for any of our contract cities, he does not know what he is supposed to do. And there is a lot of talk about cancelling contracts with the City. We have never lost a police contract before, but I guess that is what you get when you allow a patrolman from U-City to be the Chief of Police with no experience. I watched at the hearings, with Mayor Beckmann, as the Chief –who is supposed to be our chief law enforcement officer- became our charmer and chief as he caressed Ms. Ratlif, who was upset during the meeting. I understand that he is charming, but the bloom will be off that rose very quickly. He does not show up for work, nobody has seen him. I appreciate the fact that we have a police officer sitting to answer questions, because every meeting he gets a call in the meeting and leaves."

Ms. Harrington continued substantially as follows. She then questioned the accuracy of the Police Chief's report given at the last meeting. She also expressed concern about police department accreditation. She also spoke to her concerns over the firing of Tameeka Sanders and the lawsuit over

the issue and the bills for legal counsel. She voiced various other frustrations with the police department.

Tameeka Renfroe, owner of Courtyard Bar and Grill, defended herself and her bar over the claims made by a previous citizen comment. She expressed that she wants to work to improve things but was frustrated with the lack of warnings she is given about concerns about her bar.

Ed James expressed his opinion that a City Attorney does not need a contract but that the council must then approve every invoice. He also expressed that every dollar spent by the city should be approved by the council. James expressed that the Council needs to work together to solve the issues for the City of Normandy.

Kimberly Moore, Skyview dr., expressed her satisfaction with the new temporary trash service from Waste Management. Moore expressed that she feels that issues of bills being paid is the fault of previous administrations. She also called for the City to be proactive about leaf pickup and making sure the equipment is functional. She also expressed her frustration with Courtyard Bar and Grill and asked for security. She also expressed her dissatisfaction with Councilman Hunt's actions at the meeting and asked for the people of Normandy to vote.

Closed Session

Mayor Beckmann asked to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters related to the hiring of a City Administrator.

Councilman Nelson asked that the Mayor let the Council and the citizens know what the last invoice for the previous lawyer was.

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to go into closed session. Evans made the motion with Councilwoman Campbell seconding and the council voting roll call as follows:

Councilwoman Martin- Abstain (no response) Councilman Moss- Nay

Councilman Evans- Aye Councilwoman Smith- Abstain (no response)

Councilman Nelson- Nay Councilman Hunt- Nay

Councilwoman Ratlif- Nay Councilwoman Campbell- Aye

The motion failed.

Mayor Beckmann expressed confusion because his understanding that there was an agreement that there was going to be a decision on which candidate for City Administrator the council wanted to meet for a second interview.

Adjournment

Councilman Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting with councilwoman Ratlif seconding.

Councilman Evans asked if he could ask a question before adjournment and the Mayor granted him the floor. Evans asked about the illegal dumping at Public Works, the cleanup, and how long it has been going on. Mayor Beckmann explained the investigation has been going on for about 30 days and the dumping for what he estimates is likely over a year. Councilman Evans asked if any Councilmembers could speak to their knowledge of the illegal dumping. There was no response by any Councilmembers. Councilman Evans then asked Councilman Hunt directly if he had any knowledge of the illegal dumping. Councilman Hunt stated that he did not know what Councilman Evans was trying to prove and asked to move forward to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Evans and Councilwoman Ratlif then exchanged disagreements about the situation while Mayor Beckmann attempted to establish order. Several members of the Council then began arguing with name calling between members ensuing.

Mayor Beckman took a voice vote to adjourn the meeting with Councilmembers voting aye. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:52pm.

Minutes approved by the City Council on this 18 day of January, 2022.



Honorable Mark Beckmann, Mayor



Acting City Clerk, Samuel Johnson

SEAL: