



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

Monday, September 13, 2021, 6:30pm

BE IT REMEMBERED that the City Council of the City of Normandy held a meeting in person and on Zoom on Monday, September 13, 2021

Call to order

Mayor Beckmann called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Roll call

Mayor Beckmann (present) took roll call with the following Councilmembers attending:

Councilperson Lelia Martin- Present

Councilperson Walter Moss- Present

Councilperson Tony Evans- Present

Councilperson Lawanda Smith- Late

Councilperson Rick Nelson- Absent

Councilperson Maurice Hunt- Late

Councilperson Erma Ratlif- Present

Councilperson Yolonda Campbell- Present

Mayor Beckmann stated that Councilperson Nelson will likely be late. Councilperson Moss stated that Councilperson Hunt will likely be joining by phone shortly.

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

Workshop Budget Discussion

Angela Dorn, the city's third-party accounting consultant, was present to discuss and answer questions regarding the proposed FY 2022 budget.

Mayor Beckmann noted that there was roughly an additional \$600,000 of revenue as compared to last year due to a new police contract with the City of Bel-ridge.

Mayor Beckmann stated that he would like the position of Assistant City Clerk to be eliminated from the proposed budget and have that money reallocated to Public Works Salaries.

There was a discussion about whether to have four lower paid Court Clerk positions or three higher paid positions. Mayor Beckmann favored the three higher paid positions because of difficulties recruiting and retaining Court Clerks. Councilperson Campbell asked about the duties of Court Clerks and if each

position does substantially the same work. Mayor Beckmann and Dorn clarified the duties and explained that duties do not differ from position to position. Councilperson Campbell asked about parks staffing and Dorn and Mayor Beckmann clarified that they were seasonal summer help.

Mayor Beckmann asked about the bottom line of the draft of the budget and how big the deficit was. Dorn stated that the proposed budget was currently at a \$105,000 deficit. Mayor Beckmann stated that some of the deficit could be covered if revenue from fines and forfeitures increases due to courts reopening after the pandemic. Mayor Beckmann also noted that there were roughly \$935,000 in restricted ARPA funds that the City will be receiving but cannot budget for because he is unsure of what they can be used for.

Councilperson Smith asked to return to the conversation about the number of Court Clerks and how much money would be saved from eliminating the 4th position. Smith agreed it would be a good idea to reallocate it to Public Works. Mayor Beckmann agreed that along with that eliminating the Assistant City Clerk position that a significant raise could be given in Public Works even with the deficit. Councilperson Evans stated that he thinks Public Works employees that have their CDL should be paid more, Mayor and Council agreed.

Mayor Beckmann asked Dorn about meetings with the Chief of Police Mark Hall about patrol officer raises. Dorn stated that Hall was concerned about retention for entry level officers due to the labor market.

Dorn explained that a large portion of the budget deficit is caused by moving the mortgage payments for 7733 Natural Bridge Road from capital improvement funds to the general fund. Mayor Beckmann agreed that the mortgage should not be in the capital improvement fund and was favorable to the idea of using funds from the sale of the cell towers to pay for the mortgage.

Mayor Beckmann asked Dorn about the state of the sanitation fund. Dorn stated that the fund from last year was operating in significant deficit due to unforeseen repairs the trucks and equipment. Mayor Beckmann discussed the dire state of the sanitation trucks and suggested bidding out trash services. Councilpersons Moss and Evans expressed interest in seeing bids from trash companies.

Councilperson Campbell brought up a lawsuit regarding utility taxes and suggested that Normandy might be owed some money but was unsure of the status of the lawsuit.

Councilperson Campbell asked about the line items for dues and subscriptions for administration being so high from the previous year. Angela Dorn explained that it was because of the budget actuals from the previous year, but that it needs to be adjusted and that she will fix it.

Appropriation of the Money from the Cell Tower Fund

Councilperson Moss asked about the money from the cell tower funds. Mayor Beckmann stated that it was roughly \$700,000. Councilperson Moss asked if it would be wise to use that money and pay down the principle of the mortgage for 7733 Natural Bridge Road to lower the total amount of interest paid and or have an option to skip payments. Mayor Beckmann stated that he could look into it.

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to authorize the Mayor to use funds from the cell tower to make payments on the mortgage for 7733 Natural Bridge Road.

Councilperson Campbell made the motion and Councilperson Evans seconded.

Councilperson Evans asked about how many late payments there were on the mortgage. Mayor Beckmann stated there were six late payments.

Councilperson Moss asked about how close the City was to the sale of Sinclair Station. Mayor Beckmann stated that we were not close. Councilperson Campbell discussed getting an appraisal. Mayor Beckmann stated that he will move forward with getting an appraisal.

Mayor Beckman called for a voice vote with Councilpersons Evans and Campbell voting Aye, Councilperson Hunt voting Nay, and the rest of the Council abstaining. The motion carried.

Councilman Hunt stated that he thought that the vote was illegal. Mayor Beckmann stated that he disagreed but would seek council on the legality of the vote.

Councilperson Campbell asked about the Council original intentions regarding the use of money from the sale of the cell tower. Councilperson Hunt explained that it was to pay down the principle of the loan that was used to buy the property at 7733 Natural Bridge. Councilperson Hunt stated that it would be wise to pay down the loan as much as possible because the property of the current City Hall is also collateral for the mortgage.

Other Budgeting Discussion

Mayor Beckmann asked Dorn why there were no capital improvements budgeted. Dorn stated that she was never told to budget anything for capital improvement. Mayor Beckmann stated that he was sure that something would come up that they could spend it on. Dorn stated that the City would have to amend the budget when they decided they needed something.

Public Works Discussion

Mayor Beckmann stated that they had currently had job posting out for Public Works Director. He stated in the interim one employee was acting as the supervisor and that he would like to give him a temporary raise until an appointed Public Works Director is approved. Councilperson asked if that should be a closed session issue. Mayor Beckmann stated that he believes it doesn't have to be but is willing to go into closed session. Councilperson Hunt stated that he is already the supervisor down there and that if he is going to assume the Director's duties, he would like the Council to sit and talk with him to see if he is qualified. Councilperson Ratliff stated that this conversation needs to be done in closed session and that if it is a temporary position it needs to be very clear that it is temporary.

Mayor Beckmann asked to table the discussion until closed session.

Other Budget Discussion and Topics

Mayor Beckmann summarized that the City would eliminate one Court Clerk position and the Assistant City Clerk position and redistribute that money to entry level positions in Public Works. Councilperson Campbell asked about the Cares Act revenue from FY 2021 and if it was properly accounted for. Dorn explained when the revenues came in and that the monies were properly accounted for.

Councilperson Campbell asked if there were any park grant funds. Dorn stated that she was not aware of any park grant funds that had been applied for. There was then a discussion about a parks project with Pasadena Hills. Councilperson Campbell asked if there was anyone working on applying for grants and Mayor Beckmann stated that they were not.

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to go into closed session. No motion was made. Mayor Beckmann asked for direction from the council on the issue of the temporary raise. Councilperson Campbell stated that she was fine with the temporary raise. Councilperson Moss stated that he has a problem with temporary raises and would prefer a bonus for the temporary fill in. Councilpersons Evans and Campbell stated that he liked that idea. Councilperson Smith raised a concern about training the new Public Works Director. Councilperson Smith asked about the performance bonus amount, Mayor Beckmann stated it would depend on how he performs. Councilperson stated that she thinks it should be in the range of \$1,000-\$1,500. Mayor Beckmann stated that this should be address a later date.

Adjournment

Mayor Beckmann asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Moss made the motion with Councilperson Smith seconding. A vote was taken by voice with the Council voting Aye and none voting Nay.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

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



Honorable Mark Beckmann, Mayor



Acting City Clerk, Samuel Johnson

SEAL: