

## **CITY OF NORMANDY**

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### **Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Normandy City Council**

**Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 6:30pm**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the City Council of the City of Normandy held a meeting in person and on Zoom on Tuesday, November 23, 2021

#### **Call to order**

Mayor Mark Beckmann (present) called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

#### **Roll call**

Mayor Mark Beckmann took roll call with the following Councilmembers attending:

Councilwoman Lelia Martin- Absent

Councilman Walter Moss- Present

Councilman Tony Evans- Present

Councilwoman LaWanda Smith- Present

Councilman Rick Nelson- Present

Councilman Maurice Hunt- Present

Councilwoman Erma Ratlif- Present

Councilwoman Yolanda Campbell- Present

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

#### **Approval of the Agenda**

Councilmember Hunt made a motion to table any discussion of the trash pickup. Mayor Beckmann made a point of order asking City Attorney Gray if the motion was in order. City Attorney Gray clarified that Councilmember Hunt is trying to amend the agenda for the meeting. City Attorney Gray offered his opinion on having a first reading at this meeting, stating that he thinks it would be a good idea.

Councilmember Hunt withdrew his motion. Councilmember Evans made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Councilmember Campbell. Upon a roll call vote the Council voted as follows:

Councilman Moss- Aye

Councilwoman Campbell- Aye

Councilman Evans- Aye

Councilwoman Smith- Aye

Councilman Nelson- Aye

Councilman Hunt- Aye

Councilwoman Ratlif- Aye

The motion carried.



## **Solid Waste Contract Ordinances**

### **Council Bill 09-07-007 (First Reading)**

*AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMANDY, MISSOURI to divest and discontinue solid waste collection and disposal services throughout the City in lieu of granting an exclusive license agreement to a private service provider for the same and to establish the rules and governance thereof.*

Mayor Beckmann gave a first reading of Bill 09-07-007. Councilmember Evans asked City Attorney Gray what the ordinance did, and City Attorney Gray clarified. Councilmember Hunt inquired about the status of the city's sanitation vehicles. Mayor Beckmann clarified that trucks were in poor shape with some waiting on parts and some waiting on expensive repairs. Councilmember Hunt asked if he could talk to someone at Public Works about the condition of the sanitation truck. Mayor Beckmann stated that he would be happy to have Brandon Harkless-Hines at public works speak to the council at a meeting. Councilmember Hunt stated that he would not want to put that pressure on Brandon. Councilmember Hunt stated that as a Councilmember he has the authority to talk to employees and does not think its appropriate for Brandon to speak at a meeting. Councilmember Campbell expressed that she thought that any discussion between employees and Councilmembers should be transparent. Councilmember Moss asked to hear from a third-party mechanic on the issue. Mayor Beckmann invited Councilmember Moss to call the mechanics working on the trucks. Councilmember Moss stated that he would call the Mechanics. Councilmember Hunt stated that he would contact Brandon at public works. Mayor Beckmann advised that he thought Councilmembers reaching out directly to employees violated city code. Councilmember Hunt asked that the Mayor provide the ordinance saying it violated city code and Mayor Beckmann stated that he would.

### **Council Bill 09-07-008 (First Reading)**

*AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORMANDY, MISSOURI authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an exclusive license agreement with Waste Management of Missouri, INC. For the collection and disposal of waste, recyclables, and bulk items throughout the city*

Mayor Beckmann gave a first reading of Bill 09-07-008. Mayor Beckmann then opened the floor to discussion and debate and invited Joshua Johnson from Waste Management to answer questions the Council may have. The Council, the Mayor, and Johnson discussed bulk pickup, trash pickup times, senior discounts, the price of the proposed contract per residents, how delinquent accounts will be handled, the exclusivity of the contract, and other matters relating to trash pick-up.

## **Discussion of Budget Amendments**

Mayor Beckmann expressed that he thinks that there are serious flaws in the budget that will need amending throughout the year. Mayor Beckmann asked Police Chief Colonel Mark Hall to speak on the issue of Police Budget salaries. Chief Hall gave a report stating that the starting salaries, \$46,000 annually, in the police department are comparatively low as compared to the surrounding area. Mayor Beckmann stated that the city could use ARPA funds to bring staffing back to pre-pandemic levels which would help cover the cost of these raises. Mayor Beckmann continued explaining that ARPA funds are extremely restricted and that this would be a good way to use those restricted funds. Mayor Beckmann discussed that a 13% raise would bring the starting salary up to \$52,000 annually and make the



Normandy Police Department competitive in the labor market. Councilperson Nelson asked about how the ARPA funds can be used. Mayor Beckmann clarified the rules regarding ARPA. Further discussion between the Mayor and Council continued on the topics of who should be eligible for raises, other uses for ARPA funds, the sustainability of the salary increase, the number of police officers needed to provide services, the level of staffing in other departments of the city, the urgency and need of recruiting and retaining officers, and other general inquiries about the police department and ARPA funds. Councilmember Hunt stated that he has talked to some of the members of the police board, and they said that they have approved an abundance of police officers but only a very few numbers of officers have been hired. Chief Hall explained the hiring process for police and a decision by the Mayor to emphasize quality of candidates. Councilmember Campbell asked Councilman Hunt if he has had meetings with the personnel board and how he can attest to the quality of the candidates. Councilman Hunt claimed that Councilmember Campbell was twisting his words and that he has the right to talk to the citizens of Normandy as a Councilmember. Councilmember Nelson asked what the rationale was for giving the raise only to patrol officers. Councilmember Moss expressed support for the idea of raising starting salaries so that we can get more officers that are needed to maintain law and order.



Councilmember Hunt asked that an ordinance restricting the Mayor's spending be brought at the December meeting.

## **Adjournment**

Councilmember Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Councilmember Nelson seconding, with the Council voting Aye upon a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Minutes approved by the City Council on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of **March, 2022**.

  
Honorable Mark Beckmann, Mayor  
Acting City Clerk, Samuel Johnson

**SEAL:**