

**MEETING MINUTES  
OAKLAND BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
JULY 24, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Board President Susan Lueker at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL.** Mayor Tom Steuby was absent due to a COVID infection. Board President Susan Lueker called the meeting to order. The City Clerk called the roll. Alderpersons Lueker, Heaton, Daake and Schwegmann were present and constituted a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Alderperson Schwegmann moved to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2024 meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderperson Heaton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 with Alderpersons Schwegmann, Lueker, and Heaton voting Aye, Alderperson Daake abstaining since he was not present for that meeting and no one voting Nay.

Alderperson Heaton moved to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2024 closed meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderperson Schwegmann seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 with Alderpersons Schwegmann, Lueker, and Heaton voting Aye, Alderperson Daake abstaining since he was not present for that meeting and no one voting Nay.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHER.** Alderperson Schwegmann moved to approve the Voucher of July 2024. Alderperson Heaton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Voucher passed by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Schwegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Treasurer Charles Funk presented the financial statement for July and through the end of June 30, 2024 for the end of the prior fiscal year. Funk stated that the fiscal year numbers were not final, being still subject to the annual audit. City Administrator Starr stated that the budget for fiscal 2024-25 should be amended to transfer sufficient funds to the capital account for East Madison Avenue reconstruction costs, which were inadvertently left off the budget approved in June 2024.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS.** There were no citizens present.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. **BILL 970: AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY CHAPTER 135.030(A) TO CLARIFY THAT EVENT PLANNERS ARE INCLUDED IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EXEMPT FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING.** Alderperson Schwegmann moved for the first and second readings of Bill # 970 and its subsequent adoption. Alderperson Lueker seconded the motion. Starr stated that finding competent companies to provide the various elements of an event such as the City's annual picnic that requires tents, tables, chairs, entertainment for children, food, beverages and music, among other things was difficult and did not achieve a lower price during the past several years. He recommended that a professional event planner was likely better suited to find competent providers of these services at acceptable costs. City Attorney Andy Bramman then read the bill by title twice. The

motion to approve Bill # 970 passed by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Schwegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay. Bill # 970 became Ordinance # 970.

B. On City Administrator Starr's recommendation, Alderperson Lueker moved to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission the need to update the permitting language in Chapter 405.570 et seq. to coincide with the practice of using St. Louis County under contract to issue building and related permits.

C. On City Administrator Starr's recommendation, Alderperson Daake moved to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission the question of whether to update the fence permit language in Chapter 405.555 to add express provisions related to floodplain development and to consider whether to allow the finished side of a fence to face the property owner installing the fence in limited situations such as abutting an interstate highway right of way or industrial or commercial lots

D. Alderperson Heaton moved to approve an alternate bid for playground mulch at Backstoppers Park from low bidder Express Mulch Company for 120 cubic yards of certified wood playground mulch blown into the playground at a depth of 8 inches to bring the mulch level with the concrete border of the playground. Alderperson Daake seconded the motion, which then passed by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Schwegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay.

E. The discussion regarding replacement of a broken see-saw at Backstoppers Park was postponed due to the absence of Mayor Steuby, who was investigating options to repair or replace the item.

F. Alderperson Schwegmann moved to accept a proposal from Orlando's for catering the annual picnic on October 5, 2024, including a tent rental contract from Weinhardt Party Rentals, not to exceed a total of \$24,000. Alderperson Heaton seconded the motion. The motion then passed by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Schwegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay.

**OLD BUSINESS.** City Administrator Starr stated that he had participated in a demonstration of a website operated by Munibit, which has developed a standardized website for municipalities and school districts, and offers to host and support the website for \$119 per month, with all updates of substantive information carried out by City staff. Starr said Munibit offered to transfer all substantive information from the City's current website to the new site at no cost to the City. He also said that the Munibit website seemed intuitive and easy to use for purposes of updates. The Board expressed interest but preferred to wait until Starr's successor, Andrew Stewart had an opportunity to examine the Munibit services and website since Stewart would be responsible for making updates going forward.

**REPORTS OF CITY ENGINEER AND CODE OFFICIAL.** The written reports of the City Engineer and Code Official were accepted.

**REPORT OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR.** The City Administrator gave the following updates:

- A. On the East Madison Avenue reconstruction, he indicated that some landscaping, sodding and punch list items needed to be completed before final paving would be done by an anticipated date of mid-September;
- B. On Park Avenue, two residents have complained about basement flooding from Gravois Creek and the residents had been put in touch with the City Inspector and MSD to explore solutions;

- C. On the Minturn Park swales, he stated that they seemed to be functioning largely as designed during recent rain events, but ongoing maintenance will be required to insure that the gravel in the east-west swale has a negative grade towards the creek;
- D. He stated that Dan Wind had received a notification from MSD that MSD would be studying the area around Oakland and Trellis avenues regarding Gravois Creek flooding issues;
- E. He stated that the transition to Andrew Stewart as City Administrator/City Clerk was on pace for the September 1 target date and that Stewart would be prepared to take over by then. Starr said he would be available for consultations after September 1 as deemed necessary on an hourly rate as approved for Stewart during the transition period;
- F. He stated that the vast bulk of the City's funds had been transferred to the checking account at First Bank, with approximately \$50,000 remaining at PNC due largely to ACH deposits made by the State of Missouri for sales tax collections. He said the necessary forms had been provided several weeks ago to the Missouri Department of Revenue to enable the ACH deposits to be made directly to First Bank so that the PNC account could be closed;
- G. Starr said that he had revisited the necessary filings to be made with the Federal Railroad Administration in order to preserve the quiet zones through Oakland and that he would prepare and file the documents necessary without the need for a consultant and sometime in August 2024;
- H. Starr asked the Board whether it wished to cancel the August 2024 meeting as customary, and whether the Board would authorize him and the Mayor to sign checks for the City's regular monthly expenses and invoices for the month of August 2024 with that voucher to be ratified in September 2024. Alderperson Lueker moved for the cancellation of the August meeting and the approval for the City Administrator and Mayor to pay the regular August 2024 invoices. Alderperson Heaton seconded the motion. The motion then passed by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Schwegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay.

**REPORTS OF MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS.** Alderperson Heaton stated that a resident on Lennor complained that the curb work did not include an area around his property and whether the City could look into a quote to have that work done. Alderperson Lueker stated she would like to see such a quote also and maybe to include it in a second round of pothole repair in the Fall as suggested by Mayor Steuby. Alderperson Lueker had no other report. Alderperson Daake asked about elevation studies and BMPs at 800 Westwood, and was told that Dan Wind had reviewed and approved the design and work performed with the caveat that the City would again inspect after heavier rains in the Spring. Daake asked whether the broken sidewalk would be replaced and staff said he would be required to replace all broken slabs but not the entire sidewalk. Alderperson Schwegmann said he was asked about improving the safety at the Monroe and Sappington intersection and suggested that at the least, the lines where vehicles are to stop should be freshened up with new paint. Starr said he would contact the Kirkwood/Oakland Police Department for recommendations about the intersection.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION.** Alderperson Lueker moved for a closed session pursuant to Mo.Rev.Stat. Section 610.021(1) "Attorney-Client Communications" and Mo.Rev.Stat. Section 610.021(3) "Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees". Alderperson Schwegmann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and each of Alderpersons Daake, Lueker, Heaton and Stegmann voted Aye, and no one voted Nay.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Alderperson Heaton moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Alderperson Daake seconded the motion. The Board then passed the motion by a vote of 4-0 with Alderpersons Daake,

Lueker, Heaton, and Stegmann voting Aye, no one voting Nay.

These Minutes were approved by the Board of Aldermen this \_\_\_\_ day of September 2024.

**ATTESTED:**

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City Clerk Andrew Stewart

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