

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF EXCELSIOR SPRINGS
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MISSOURI
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

The City Council of the City of Excelsior Springs, Missouri met in Regular Session at 6:00 PM, Monday, February 20, 2007 in the Council Chambers of the Hall of Waters Building. The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Nelson.

The opening prayer was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nelson.

Roll Call of Members: Present: Mayor Nelson, Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor, Councilman Fousek, Councilman Parker and Councilwoman Schutte

Absent: None

VISITORS:

There were no visitors at this meeting who wished to address the Council.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2007: (Tape A30-38)

Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 5, 2007. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fousek.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Parker, Schutte, Fousek, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: None, motion carried.

Minutes of February 5, 2007 passed and approved February 20, 2007.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA: (Tape A39-57)

Mayor Nelson stated he wished to remove Item #1 "Police Recognition" from the Agenda. Due to illness, this backup material was unable to be done.

Councilman Fousek made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. Motion was seconded by Councilman Parker.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Schutte, Fousek, Parker, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: None, motion carried.

Amended agenda passed and approved February 20, 2007.

RESOLUTION #731, MARC SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL: (Tape A58-104)

Roy Gray, Construction Services Foreman, informed the Council that he has served on this Council for the last four years and he is asking the Council to re-nominate him so he can be put back on the Council officially.

Councilman Fousek made a motion to approve Resolution #731, authorizing the Mayor to appoint Roy Gray to represent the City of Excelsior Springs on the MARC Solid Waste Management District's Management Council. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Fousek, Parker, Schutte, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: None, motion carried.

Roy Gray appointed to MARC Solid Waste Management Council on February 20, 2007.

PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE: (Tape A105-154)

John McGovern, Police Chief, addressed the Council. He stated that three police vehicles have been budgeted for this fiscal year and two of them have already been purchased. He has been advised by Chuck Anderson Ford that any police packaged vehicles has to be purchased by March, 2007. Therefore; he is asking the Council to approve the purchase of the third vehicle now.

Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the purchase of one police vehicle from Chuck Anderson Ford at a cost of \$22,126.45. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fousek.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Parker, Schutte, Fousek, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: None, motion carried.

Purchase of Police vehicle passed and approved February 20, 2007.

AUDIT PRESENTATION: (Tape A155-417)

Two representatives of McGladrey and Pullen Auditing Firm reported to the Council on the audit of the City's financial records for fiscal year 2005-2006. Official audit reports were distributed to the Council and the audit team apologized for not getting the reports to the Council before the Council Meeting. They advised the Council that they had given the City of Excelsior Springs a "clean opinion" on the audit. They also informed the Council that after they have a chance to review the entire audit report, they will be available to answer any questions the Council has.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY MANAGER: (Tape A418-620)

Mayor Nelson stated this subject has been bantered around and so he decided to put it on the Agenda for consideration. Councilwoman Schutte stated she believes the City needs an interim City Manager...staff meetings are not being held and employees are needing some guidance. She advised that there are persons available who could come in and serve the City during the time it takes to find a City Manager.

Mayor Nelson stated if the Council nominated someone from within, that person would already be familiar with the way the City is run and could hit the ground running. It would be time wasted to bring in someone from outside.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor stated he has spent a lot of time going over all the handouts and a lot of time talking with Councilwoman Schutte and Councilman Fousek. An interim person should be familiar with the duties and powers of the City Manager, familiar with the budget process and familiar with the financial reports. We should appoint someone within.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor stated that after careful consideration, he will make a motion to nominate Steve Marriott, Finance Director, to the position of Interim City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fousek.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Fousek, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: Parker and Schutte. Motion carried.

Steve Marriott appointed Interim City Manager on February 20, 2007.

REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CITY MANAGER: (Tape A621-A2000, B1-B700)

John McClelland, City Attorney, advised the Council that he has received three proposals from firms wishing to recruit a City Manager for the City. John stated that representatives from two of the firms are present tonight and

wish to address the Council.

The first to address the Council was Steve Bernard of the PAR Group. Mr. Bernard stated his first step would be to sit down with the Council, the City Staff and local citizens and determine what issues over the last three to five years they would like addressed, and the quality and qualifications they expect from the next City Manager. The cost of the PAR Group's search would be \$14,500 plus professional fees of \$4,500.

The second to address the Council was Art Davis of the Art Davis Group. Mr. Davis stated he would focus regionally for persons from Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. He would also work with the International City Manager's Association and the Missouri Municipal League. Mr. Davis stated that the more professional the City is in hiring a City Manager, the more qualified people are who respond. The cost of the Art Davis Group's search would be \$6,500 now and \$6,500 upon completion. With the expense of flying people in for interviews the total could run \$18,000 to \$20,000.

John McClelland advised the Council that if they hired a recruitment company, it would have to be done by City Ordinance.

After the two representatives finished their presentation, discussion was opened up within the Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor asked how much it would cost for the Council to do their own recruiting.

Councilwoman Schutte advised that with the assistance of the ICMA, MML and MARC the cost would run \$1,500 to \$2,000...including transportation of applicants it would be about \$5,000. She also stated the Council could meet the February 22nd deadline for getting an ad in the next ICMA's magazine.

Councilman Fousek stated that regarding neutrality, a candidate would be more comfortable sitting down with an interviewer. If a head hunter is used it would all be private until the City makes a decision.

Councilman Parker stated the City already has two applications for this position.

Mayor Nelson asked the Council about a Citizen's Review Board.

Councilwoman Schutte stated it is very important to have a Citizen's committee.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor stated he cannot justify spending \$20,000 for a recruitment firm.

Councilman Fousek stated he has a negative bias toward MARC.

Councilman Parker made a motion to do the search for a City Manager internally, have the Mayor appoint a Citizen's Committee to do the interviews, and handle the publicity ourselves. Councilwoman Schutte stated she would like to add that the City use MARC's assistance in this search. Councilwoman Schutte then seconded the motion.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Parker, Schutte, Taylor

Nays: Fousek, Nelson. Motion carried.

Motion to search for City Manager internally passed and approved, February 20, 2007.

APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE #07-2-4: (Tape B701-796)

Councilwoman Schutte made a motion to approve Appropriations Ordinance #07-2-4, in the amount of \$375,218.40. Motion was seconded by Councilman Fousek.

Roll Call of Votes: Ayes: Schutte, Fousek, Parker, Taylor, Nelson

Nays: None, motion carried.

Appropriations Ordinance #07-2-4 passed and approved February 20, 2007.

REMARKS – CITY MANAGER AND CITY COUNCIL: (Tape B797-1180)

Interim City Manager Marriott:

1. Would like the Council's guidance on the WalMart and Price Chopper TIF.
2. He and the Mayor had a meeting with the employees insurance committee this morning. Did not have time to get bids from other providers. Our current provider made a proposal of 15% increase and he was advised that was not acceptable. They are considering a base plan with a 13% savings and employees will have the option of upgrading with a secondary plan.
3. Employees bowling night will be March 2.

Councilman Parker:

1. Thank all the City employees who have sat through several meetings. The Council will get you a leader.

Mayor Pro-Tem Taylor:

1. Sorry this recruitment matter was so drawn out...this was the biggest decision the Council will make. Can't see paying that kind of money for a recruiter.

Councilwoman Schutte:

1. Stated she feels good about the decision made tonight...apprehensive-yes...will have to make some hard decisions. We have made this decision now lets get going. We have a really good "ad" and we need to get it in the magazine. We will need to work as a team.
2. Will not be here for the next Council Meeting...will be in St. Louis.

Councilman Fousek:

1. One sure thing throughout all of this is that every employee, to a man, has done his job. This shows that they are very well trained. John McGovern, John McClelland and Mayor Nelson have done an excellent job on the employee committee. All I can see is progress.
2. Today, I was at the Excelsior Springs Hospital and received the "best" care from the "best" employees. Asked Councilman Parker to inform the Hospital Board "Kudos", "Kudos", "Kudos".

Mayor Nelson:

1. We don't appreciate the hospital we do have. Our hospital is expanding while others are closing down. Was at the hospital today signing two loans for four million each. These were USDA loans for hospital expansion. The hospital staff and administration is under appreciated.

With no further business at hand, the Mayor adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 7:27 PM.

ATTEST:

JIM NELSON, MAYOR

FRANCES SMITH, CITY CLERK