



City of Charleston, MO

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**City Council Special Call Meeting
December 19, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:50PM by Mayor Richard Toon. Also in attendance were Councilman Patrick Farmer, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, and Councilman Clark Dugan. Interim City Manager, Philip Halter, City Clerk Ali Morris, and the Director of Public Works, David Harris, were also present.

Recognition of Visitors: Mike Montgomery and Bob Summers with Heartland Engineering were the only visitors present.

Old Business: During the last council meeting, Interim City Manager, Philip Halter mentioned revenue bonds as an option for grant money to the council for possibly updating the lagoon. Mike Montgomery and Bob Summers were prepared with an agenda and documentation to present to the council on this subject.

Although we were not awarded the water and sewer grants through ARPA, we applied for recently, we were given \$200,000 to spend on lead inventory, but were not quite sure of how to use it. Mr. Summers began by informing the council that Charleston is under a Compliance Schedule with the EPA and that our systems are old and out of compliance. By October of 2024, DNR (Department of Natural Resources), will require us to be compliant. Although we are now aware of the situation, we are unsure of where to begin.

As Mr. Summers explained, we may have some gooseneck joints that contain lead, but we have no idea where or how many there are. In order to take proper inventory, we would basically have to break each residence and business down into a spreadsheet. Firstly, we would need to strategize a plan and inform citizens of the situation. As Summers explained, many old cities have lead issues. Mayor Toon asked what DNR can really do if we are attempting to work on the issue. Summers said that some towns are fined for not complying, but the \$200,000 we received can buy us some time and help begin the process. By taking inventory, we would need to remove as many of the "unknowns" as possible. Although we already test for lead and copper every three years and show very little evidence of lead, we would need to do some physical testing to gather real data, beginning with the oldest part of town. We know that we have some systems, or part of systems, containing transite. Transite, galvanized, and cast-iron materials are all bad.

To pay for all of the work to be done, we must pay out of pocket, or pass a bond and seek low-interest loans and grants. Mr. Summers described a bond as serving as collateral. A revenue bond would have to be placed on an election ballot and voted upon by citizens. Because the next election is coming up in April, we are a little pressed for time, and just recently had an increase on our water bills. Because we are unmetered, we would need to have another increase to help pay our portion of

the loan. Also, we would need to have time to explain this situation to the public to convey the importance and why we have such a need.

Mr. Summers suggested holding a townhall meeting where he and Mike Montgomery would come back and answer questions.

In order to become complaint with both our water and wastewater systems, we would need to plan for \$5.5 million for the project.

Summers explained that engineering companies get more money if they divide project up into smaller projects, but they suggest that we plan for one big project to save us money.

He then suggested us getting in touch with Whitney Watts out of Bloomfield, Missouri, who would ultimately be the person to give us the grant. He also recommended that instead of trying to rehab our existing lagoon system, we consider building an entire plant. This plant would essentially exist and fit within an area we already have, and it would only take up about an acre of land.

At this time, Mr. Halter told the engineers that because we are pressed for time, and this was a lot of information to take in, we may wait until sometime later into 2023 to place the revenue bonds on a ballot, and consider how we would increase the water bills and inform residents. Mr. Summers and Mr. Montgomery said they would love to come back at any time and further discuss whenever we are ready.

Next on the agenda, was to review a memorandum of understanding and payment agreement between the City of Charleston and Zachary Slipis, regarding employment and sponsorship to the SEMO Law Enforcement Academy. This was voted on and approved during the last council meeting, so the council gave Interim City Manager, Philip Halter permission to go ahead and sign the document.

Finally, under old business, Bill NO. 3921/Ordinance NO. 3062- an ordinance to approve the purchase of a new vehicle and equipment for the Department of Public Safety. A motion was made by Councilman Dugan to approve the ordinance and purchase. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business: Bill NO. 3922/Ordinance NO. 3063- an ordinance to approve the purchase of a 2022 John Deere utility tractor and loader for use by our Department of Public Works was the first item under new business. Councilman Dugan asked if we got bids for this equipment. Public Works Director, David Harris, said yes, we did, and this was the cheapest and was the state bid. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the ordinance and purchase. Councilman Dugan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

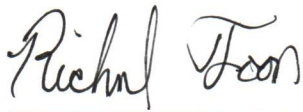
Lastly on the agenda was to review a memorandum of understanding of independent contracting for municipal court service between the City of East Prairie and the City of Charleston. The contract did not change from last year. It simply needed to be renewed. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the contract. Councilman Dugan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjourn: Councilman Dugan made a motion to close the meeting. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Ali Morris



Mayor, Richard Toon

Ali Morris

City Clerk, Ali Morris

Richard Toon

Presiding Officer, Richard Toon