

# STATED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF GALENA, MO CITY COUNCIL ON JANUARY 16, 2023

## **1<sup>ST</sup> ON AGENDA: Roll Call**

MAYOR- John Arrington

COUNCILMEN PRESENT- Fred Barela, Vonda Barela, Tarena Dawson, Deana Despaw.

EMPLOYEES PRESENT – Kelly Wheeler, Rick McCrea

Mayor John Arrington calls meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**2<sup>ND</sup> ON AGENDA: Employee Handbook** – Edits are still in progress. Deana Despaw made a motion to table the subject until the next meeting. Vonda Barela 2<sup>nd</sup>. All agree, motion passed.

**3<sup>RD</sup> ON AGENDA: City Hall Pest Control Provider** – Two bids were discussed. Two council members suggested we get bids from the companies they used, as they thought their service provider's costs were less expensive.

**4<sup>TH</sup> ON AGENDA: Fireworks** – Mayor informed council that Carmen had talked to the city's fireworks pyrotech contractor who stated he could get \$5000 worth of fireworks for \$3500 through his supplier. Fred Barela suggested that Carmen get a quote, proof of insurance and availability dates from the fireworks pyrotech. Deana Despaw discussed moving the Fourth of July celebration to the square. However, Fred Barela reminded her there are no public bathrooms on the square, and the city would have to rent portable bathrooms. Celebration dates were discussed. Council decided on three date options. First choice date was 7/1/2023. Second choice date was 7/4/2023. Third choice date was 6/30/2023. Deana Despaw also stated she would work on getting more vendors for the event.

**5<sup>TH</sup> ON AGENDA: Social Media** – City Clerk, Kelly Wheeler, discussed social media ideas, including notices for local businesses and city history. Also discussed was the upcoming April election. She will do social media posts for voter registration drives closer to the election, as well as "know your ballot/meet the candidate" posts starting in March 2023. The aldermen candidates and mayoral candidate will need to provide a photo and a bio/mission statement for these upcoming postings.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> ON AGENDA: Old Business –**

Mayor John Arrington – No Old Business

Deana Despaw – No Old Business

Fred Barela – No Old Business

Tarena Dawson – No Old Business

Vonda Barela – No Old Business

Kelly Wheeler – Kelly Wheeler discussed with council the replacement insurance on the new city hall building. The council had asked for pricing for the insurance coverage at \$200 per square foot. Kelly obtained the price but was told the city would have to provide an appraisal or other documentation to explain the change from \$150 to \$200 per square foot. Council decided to keep the coverage at \$150 per square foot but asked Kelly to schedule the insurance company to visit with council before the policy renews in April.

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Kelly presented three comparative market analysis reports she had been tasked to get at the last meeting. Council reviewed the reports. Deana Despaw made a motion to have the mayor present a price of \$27,000 to the potential buyer for the land sale discussed at the last meeting.

Next, Kelly presented council with the Welcome Letter and Rental Contract for attorney Mark Rundel. Council approved both letter and contract to be mailed this week. Fred Barela did state the city needs to review the amount of the rent, as he feels this is too low due to the fact that utilities are included in the cost.

Lastly, Kelly presented council with the press release she had prepared to announce on social media the new city hall location. Council decided to hold off on the press release until Meridian Title had vacated the building, and it was also discussed that council should pose for a photo in front of the building as part of the press release.

Rick McCrae – Officer Rick McCrea informed council the new report-writing software for the police is installed but is not yet functioning.

**7<sup>TH</sup> ON AGENDA: New Business –**

Mayor John Arrington – Mayor Arrington informed council the maintenance man, Michael Hatcher's, mother had passed away over the weekend. Michael was coming in daily to pump out a lift station with a weak motor, and mayor has taken over that responsibility until Michael returns to work on Tuesday. The service provider for the sewer pumps will also be out on Tuesday to start the repair work.

Mayor also stated he had approved the purchase of a new pump for this lift station. The pump will cost \$2000. Deana Despaw asked Kelly Wheeler, City Clerk, to find out if the city could pull money from one of the sewer accounts to cover the expense. Kelly replied these accounts must maintain a certain balance due to the USDA sewer loan requirements, and she would check with the auditor to see if there was any room to pull from one of these accounts.

Next, Mayor informed council of some needed repairs for the new city hall location. There are a few windows that need replaced, and there is a water leak from rainwater drainage coming in the back wall at the new location. Michael in maintenance is getting quotes for the window repair/replacement, and the water leak is still being investigated for the best repair option.

Lastly, the Mayor discussed with council future plans for the current city hall location, whether renting or selling is the best option. It was noted during this discussion the city hall building and the storage garage behind city hall are on separate parcels/deeds. No decision was made at this meeting.

Deana Despaw – No New Business  
Fred Barela – No New Business  
Tarena Dawson – No New Business  
Vonda Barela – No New Business  
Kelly Wheeler – No New Business  
Rick McCrea – No New Business

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**8<sup>th</sup> ON AGENDA: Bills and Finances** – Tarena Dawson made a motion to approve and pay bills. Fred Barela 2<sup>nd</sup>. All agree, motion passed.

**9<sup>th</sup> ON AGENDA: Approve Minutes From January 5, 2023** – Deana Despaw made a motion to approve the 1/5/23, meeting minutes. Fred Barela 2<sup>nd</sup> with a roll call vote –

Deana Despaw – Yes

Fred Barela – Yes

Tarena Dawson – Yes

Vonda Barela – Abstain

Motion passed.

Tarena Dawson made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Deana Despaw 2<sup>nd</sup>. All agree, motion passed.