



CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2024

The City has an on-line broadcast of Council Meetings available both live and recorded by going to https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/578973061

The Council of the City of Sedalia, Missouri duly met on October 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building in the Council Chambers with Mayor Andrew L. Dawson presiding. Mayor Dawson called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of legislative prayer led by Chaplain Byron Matson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Status, Name, Status. Rows include Jack Robinson, Thomas Oldham, Chris Marshall, Tina Boggess, Bob Hiller, Bob Cross, Rhiannon Foster, Steve Bloess.

SPECIAL/SERVICE/RETIREMENT AWARDS: None

MINUTES: The Council Meeting minutes of October 7, 2024 were approved on motion by Oldham, seconded by Foster. All in Favor.

The Special Council Meeting minutes of October 14, 2024 were approved on motion by Foster, seconded by Oldham. All in Favor.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

The Citizens Traffic Advisory Commission Minutes dated September 11, 2024 were accepted on motion by Oldham, seconded by Foster. All in favor

ROLL CALL OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION – Chairwoman Tina Boggess; Vice Chairman Thomas Oldham

Bothwell Regional Health Center – Annual Audit Report

Lori Wightman, CEO of Bothwell Regional Health Center, and Steve Davis, CFO of Bothwell Regional Health Center, presented the annual report on operations and financial conditions of the hospital and clinics.

In reviewing Fiscal Year 2024 by numbers, for every 50.8 patients in the clinics they have 1 admission; total number of unique patient encounters 51,446; Clinic Visits 146,090; ED visits 23,735; surgery totals 3,105 and donations from Bothwell Foundation totaled \$125,297.00.

The Audited Financial Statements show the following negative net margin totals for Fiscal Year 2019 thru Fiscal Year 2024:

- FY 2019 – (\$8,427,630)
FY 2020 – (\$5,531,276)
FY 2021 – (\$848,570)

- FY 2022 – (\$3,577,105)
- FY 2023 – (\$6,172,359)
- FY 2024 – (\$1,456,022)

In 2024, BRHC experienced a positive number for Earnings Before Interest, Depreciation and Amortization for the first time in the 6-year history. This is approximately an \$8.5 Million swing and is primarily related to BRHC's qualification for the 340 (B) program accounting for \$4.3 Million of the amount, a savings on contract labor of \$1.7 Million and changes in Health Insurance which saved \$1.2 Million. In looking at total net margin for FY 2024, there is a loss related to the decrease of Federal Funding programs through FEMA and COVID of \$1.5 Million.

Industry Benchmarks show that the hospital has enough cash to sustain itself for 50 days. Long-term debt is strong at less than 25% and net revenues are over 50%. Debt Service Coverage is stable at 1.5 – 3 times. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization shows lower than expected at less than 5%.

The 340 (B) program was put in place in the early 1990's to assist hospitals serving vulnerable communities to manage rising prescription drug costs. BRHC was one of 5 hospitals that had not qualified due to an aging population and the Medicaid and SSI population. Medicaid expansion assisted in increasing qualification for the Medicaid population. Closure of the hospital's 3rd floor also assisted in reducing Medicare days. Facilities must requalify each year and the hospital was successful in qualifying this year with a score of 12.1. The program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid to sell outpatient drugs at reduced pricing to healthcare organizations caring for uninsured or low-income patients. In the first year, BRHC saved \$7.2 Million in the program.

The hospital is currently working on improving patient experience with a goal to be a 5-star hospital. This is being done by engaging employees. The initiative is front line led and supported by management. Improvements have already been showing results. The hospital had been at 2 stars in several areas of patient experience but are already seeing improvements of a 4-star rating in many areas. The hospital is also offering programs to "grow their own" in caregiving through a nurse's aid to RN program which supports the individual during their training; a nursing intern and nursing residency program which supports those who are still in school or are new Grads. The hospital partners with State Fair Community College on a Surgical Scrub Tech program and with University of Missouri for the physician residency program.

The hospital recently received a National Rosy award for their Health Insurance plan based on plan design. The plan not only lowered facility costs but also decreased cost for those covered. BRHC continues to be the only rural family medicine residency program in the state. The 3-year program is full with the first class finishing their residency and graduating next summer. The hospital has also begun exploring population health by lowering cost for Medicare and Medicaid patients through the Accountable Care Organization and the TORCH pilot program.

BRHC has 35 Queen City CAP students from Smith-Cotton High School and the Airstream International Rally raised \$29,000.00 for the BRHC Foundation which sponsored the remodel of a room, a cancer program and purchases for pediatric patients. Community involvement and presence are also important to BRHC and they have participated in the United Way day of Action; Cole Camp Fair; a Fentanyl Forum; and conducted health fairs/flu shot clinics at several area employers.

New and expanded specialties and providers include Dermatology, Family Medicine, Sports Medicine, OMT, Neurology, ENT, Women’s Health and Walk-In care. Under Operational Excellence, the health center plans to work toward increasing days cash on hand to be in a better position to improve the facility; invest in people by being more competitive in keeping up with market salaries; make infrastructure updates; and invest in growth. The Hospital will begin their Three-Year Strategic planning process this winter.

Financial Update: Finance Director Jessica Pyle reported on Fiscal Year to Date financials for August. Net Sales, Use and Marijuana Taxes are up \$760,000 Fiscal Year to date or 7.1%. The City budgeted 4% and is over budget by \$330,000. Marijuana Sales tax was an additional 3% tax started at the registers in August of previous year and payments received January 2024 so a comparison will be available in January 2025. Franchise tax is down significantly primarily due to the Charter Settlement on the Streaming video class action suit of \$377,000.00 received in April 2023. The remainder of the \$125,000.00 is related to the decrease in gas tax which is down 42% Fiscal Year to Date. Transportation taxes are higher due to multiple factors. Gasoline tax is higher at 8.2% to date and Vehicle Sales up 8.3% Fiscal Year to Date. Vehicle Fees increased this month to 3.8% over last fiscal year. Property taxes collected are a bit higher fiscal year to date but the majority come in December and January.

PUBLIC WORKS – Chairman Bob Hiller; Vice Chairwoman Tina Boggess

- In connection with the new indoor arena the State Fair is building, there is a need to extend a sewer line to the facility. The extension will be from the fairgrounds along Clarendon, across the Katy Trail, to near Southwest Boulevard. In order to facilitate the construction, easements or license agreements are needed to grant access across the Katy Trail.

BILL NO. 2024-195, ORDINANCE NO. 12151 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SANITARY SEWER LINE LICENSE AGREEMENT was read once by title.

2nd Reading – Motion by Oldham, 2nd by Foster. All in Favor.

Final Passage – Motion by Oldham, 2nd by Foster. All in Favor.

Roll Call Vote: Voting “Yes” were Robinson, Oldham, Marshall, Boggess, Hiller, Cross, Foster and Bloess. No one voted “No”.

- The Citizen’s Traffic Advisory Commission received a request to establish a 3-way stop sign on West 10th Street and Mitchell Road. The Commission voted to recommend approval. Currently, there is a stop sign at the end of Mitchell where it makes a t-intersection with 10th Street. The traffic on 10th is not required to stop at this time.

BILL NO. 2024-196, ORDINANCE NO. 12152 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A 3-WAY STOP SIGN ON WEST 10TH STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF MITCHELL ROAD was read once by title.

2nd Reading – Motion by Oldham, 2nd by Foster. All in Favor.

Final Passage – Motion by Foster, 2nd by Oldham. All in Favor.

Roll Call Vote: Voting “Yes” were Robinson, Oldham, Marshall, Boggess, Hiller, Cross, Foster and Bloess. No one voted “No”.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Chairwoman Rhiannon M. Foster; Vice Chairman Bob Cross

- In reviewing State Statutes and City Codes regarding the formation of a Plumbing Board and the process to issue plumbing certificates, we noticed that State Statutes prescribe specific fees for certificates. Staff recommends setting City Code at amounts called for by the State at \$5.00 annually for a Master Plumber Certificate and \$1.00 annually for a Journeyman Plumber Certificate.

BILL NO. 2024-197, ORDINANCE NO. 12153 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR PLUMBING CERTIFICATES was read once by title.

2nd Reading – Motion by Oldham, 2nd by Foster. All in Favor.

Final Passage – Motion by Oldham, 2nd by Foster. All in Favor.

Roll Call Vote: Voting “Yes” were Robinson, Oldham, Marshall, Boggess, Hiller, Cross, Foster and Bloess. No one voted “No”.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chairman Jack Robinson, Vice Chairman Steve Bloess

Discussion – SAFER Grant

Fire Chief Matt Irwin stated that in his strategic plan, discussion took place regarding the addition of 2 stations and two squads to the Fire Department. He stated that while the grant application scored well, it did not score high enough to be funded. Despite not being successful in obtaining funding, the City did budget for the addition of personnel and funds that the SAFER Grant would have covered. One squad is coming and one squad is already in place and has run over 145 service calls, or 25% of call volume, in the last 60 days. With both squads in place, it would take about 60% of the load of the Engine crew. Fire Chief Irwin asked Council’s approval to hire six additional personnel. Councilman Cross inquired if the City can reapply for the SAFER Grant and Fire Chief Irwin stated yes but it does not open up until December of this year and we will not know until October of 2025. Council consensus is to move forward with hiring the additional personnel.

APPOINTMENTS: None

BIDS: None

LIQUOR LICENSES: The following new and renewal Liquor Licenses were read and approved on motion by Oldham, seconded by Foster. All in Favor.

New:

*Kristy Long dba Wildlife Ridge Winery, 34751 Miller Road, Smithton, MO, Special Event (Central Bank Christmas Party – The Foundry – 324 W 2nd – 8:00 AM-11:59 PM)

*Stacy Barnes dba WAM KWBT LLC, 301 East Main Street, Cole Camp, MO, Special Event (Jammin Nuggets – Witches Night Out, 115 South Ohio – 5 PM-8:30 PM)

Renewals:

*Paul Beykirch dba County Distributing Co. Inc., 1800 Eagleview Drive, Wholesale Beer

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FROM MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATOR:

Councilwoman Boggess stated that she has received calls regarding the traffic load at Barrett and Beacon by Heber Hunt school at the release of school. To ensure safety for the school, she recommended monitoring due to reports of speeding in that area.

Councilman Bloess responded to the article in the Democrat on the 11th of October involving the Pettis County Commission. This started when the County Commission took the position that they did not have to follow permitting procedures inside City Limits. The City indicated that the County did need to follow permitting procedures. The City Council was presented with options by legal. One was to do nothing and the second was to have a declaratory judgement through the court system. The County delayed the process, filed for continuance, failed to appear and when summary judgement was submitted by the judge, the County hired a new lawyer and continued to fight. When final judgement was reached, all parties agreed that the Civil case cited in the beginning was good law, and the judge was convinced that the withholding of the road and bridge tax money was retaliatory. The City gained access to the County Jail

in order to train and prepare in the event of a fire emergency and the County participated in the 10 year annual structural inspection process. The County has withheld over \$500,000.00 in bridge and road tax funds from the City and if not resolved by January 2025 will climb to over \$730,400.00. The Road and Bridge tax was initiated in 2000 by a cooperative effort between the City and County. It is a ½ cent sales tax with a sunset provision requiring a continuation vote every 5 years. When passed, the tax generated approximately \$1.9 Million in revenue, last year \$4 Million yet the City has received the same amount over the last 20 years. The judge stated that funds withheld need to be returned to the City and ballot language for the sales tax on the upcoming ballot needs to be precise in how funds will be allocated and distributed. Councilman Bloess stated that he will be in the Council Chambers on Wednesday to go over the application the City submitted for the road and bridge funds.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Josh Nelson, 295 Deer Ridge Drive, speaking on behalf of Firefighters Local 103, expressed his gratitude to the Council for voting for additional personnel for the Sedalia Fire Department. His hope is that this is just the beginning of moving public safety forward by expansion of the Fire Department.

Cory City, 1804 South Park, asked Council to open up City Trash service to the free market. Citizens are constantly waiting for better service and there is no incentive for good service if given a monopoly, no accountability for poor service and no recourse for failure. Mr. City also commented on Open records law and stated from the Sunshine law book "all communications are records. The function and the content of the message will determine its retention period. A record is defined as any document, book, paper, photograph, map, recording or other material regardless of physical form or characteristic." So even personal text messages, emails and facebook messages from citizens should be considered a public record.

David Goodson, 1640 Hedge Apple Drive, stated that the issues with the County all started when the City decided to impose regulations and restrictions on County buildings. It is killing development and hurting business. He represents a group of business owners and stakeholders in the community and they are working on finding Candidates who will step up and do the job. Mr. Goodson inquired why his company is listed on a bad contractors list and he will be requesting it.

Christopher Birdsong, 22527 South Highway 65, stated he attended to see how City Council works. His concern is the homeless population and their treatment in this community. He is a former homeless person and ex drug user. It is difficult for those without resources to get the help they need. He encouraged Council to start a dialogue about how to help.


Debbie Covington, 2601 East 12th, stated she was approached about residents leaving "free" items in their yard to give away. The individual had placed a sign on it and the City picked it up and billed them \$80.00. She stated two different individuals stated this has happened to them. While she understands some of the reasoning, why send citizens bills without first communicating with them. Ms. Covington also had a discussion with Councilman Bloess regarding the need for communication and transparency regarding ordinances that are passed so fluidly during council meetings. She was told the public needs to attend committee meetings because that is where the information and discussion is shared. She attends as many as possible but when she came to attend a Public Works Committee meeting, it had been cancelled due to lack of quorum yet the public was not notified. She has also asked for Code to work with citizens to extend time to fix violations, provide a list of contractors and if finances are an issue, provide information for assistance.

Rene Vance, Box 691, Sedalia, stated she is addressing Council as a Candidate for Pettis County. She believes that our representatives need to be taking care of women, senior citizens and education. She feels she is the best candidate because she represents more of the constituents in the City and County. She would appreciate the votes and support.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on motion by Oldham, seconded by Foster to a closed-door meeting in the upstairs conference room pursuant to subsections 1 (Legal Advice), 2 (Real Estate) and 12 (Negotiated Contracts) of Section 610.021 RSMo. Roll Call Vote: Voting "Yes" were Robinson, Oldham, Marshall, Boggess, Hiller, Cross, Foster and Bloess. No one voted "No".

The regular meeting reopened and adjourned at 8:27 p.m. on motion by Oldham, seconded by Marshall. All in favor.

THE CITY OF SEDALIA, MISSOURI



Andrew L. Dawson, Mayor



Jason S. Myers, City Clerk