

ITEM I: Call to Order

- The Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri, met in Regular Session on July 24, 2023, at 6:58 p.m. in the Board Chambers located at Grain Valley City Hall
- The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mike Todd

ITEM II: Roll Call

- Clerk Jamie Logan called roll
- *Present: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
- *Absent:*

-QUORUM PRESENT-

ITEM III: Invocation

- Invocation was given by Mike Cassidy of Faith United Methodist Church

ITEM IV: Pledge of Allegiance

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Ryan Skinner

ITEM V: Approval of Agenda

- Ms. Osenbaugh stated there has been a request to add Jackson County Assessments under new business
- *Motion to amend the agenda to include Jackson County Assessment Discussion to new business*
- *Alderman Skinner motioned to amend the agenda*
- *The motion was seconded by Alderman Mills*
 - *No discussion*
- *Motion to amend the agenda was voted on with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Motion Approved: 6-0-

ITEM VI: Proclamations

- None

ITEM VII: Public Comment

- Scott Shafer; 1006 SW Shorthorn: He stated he is speaking as a concerned citizen related to actions by Alderman Arnold; He shared on January 9th, there were some accusations made related to Mr. Shafer by Alderman Arnold. He emailed Alderman Arnold requesting information related to these accusations & stated Mr. Arnold did not give answers, but stated

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Mike Todd
Alderman Dale Arnold
Alderman Brian Bray
Alderman Tom Cleaver
Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
Alderman Ryan Skinner

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT

STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT

Deputy City Administrator Theresa Osenbaugh
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Community Development Director Mark Trosen
Finance Director Steven Craig
City Clerk Jamie Logan
City Attorney Joe Lauber

he felt it better if they move on; Mr. Shafer does not believe this is an appropriate response for an elected official; Mr. Shafer thanked the 5 Board members for approving his nomination to the P&Z Board he stated he likely would have filed a slander lawsuit; He feels staff was brought into what he felt was a personal attack on him. He said staff was weaponized- he said he is not employed by the city or an elected official so has no power over staff – he stated no one has ever done anything special or out of line for him – the city clerk and community development director treat him the same as any other citizen; Mr. Shafer feels Alderman Arnold is abusing his power as he put Mr. Trosen on the spot/uncomfortable situation during the January 9 meeting – he also feels for the first time since being on the planning and zoning commission, the comments made to citizens that upset them by Mr. Arnold made the commission feel they needed an officer present at their meeting. Mr. Shafer feels Alderman Arnold should have some kind of disciplinary action and owes Mr. Shafer an apology and the staff an apology as well as answers to his questions

ITEM VIII: Consent Agenda

- July 10, 2023 – Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Minutes
- July 24, 2023 – Accounts Payable
- *Alderman Skinner made a Motion to Accept the Consent Agenda*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Arnold*
 - *No discussion*
- *Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda was voted on with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Motion Approved: 6-0-

ITEM IX: Previous Business

- None

ITEM X: New Business

- Jackson County Assessments
 - Mayor Todd stated other cities have looked into joining the lawsuit against the Jackson County Assessor’s office and have done similar resolutions
 - Over 12% have appealed and the date was extended to allow for more appeals through July 31st
 - The city is required to submit their levy by October. The Mayor does not feel the information to set that levy is going to be accurate. At the current numbers that are being received, this would require a .40 cent decrease, but with the lawsuit if the 2022 valuations are frozen the levy may not be accurate
 - Alderman Arnold stated the concern over the Hancock rule and a rollback of taxes is a significant one especially with the legal challenges out there

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Alderman Tom Cleaver
Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
Alderman Ryan Skinner

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- Mayor Todd ask what happens if the decrease in levy happens and then the values are rolled back, what can a city do? Mr. Lauber stated due to lateness of notices going out and the lateness of the appeals has had a compounding affect – this is unprecedented so there is nothing that can be promised or found in the law on the situation
- Alderman Skinner stated he feels there are other unprecedented situations related to Jackson County and brought up the prior lawsuit with Jackson County
- Alderman Bray shared he’s been speaking with several citizens around town related to the 2023 Jackson County Assessments. He believes Jackson County has failed to properly assess properties according to state statute. This is causing stress and concerns all over Jackson county
- County makes it unnecessarily difficult to appeal and have hired Tyler Technologies to handle the assessments
- Feels the only hope is for the citizens to have a formal appeal in front of the BOE where he trusts a fair process will occur feeling the informal appeals are lacking and if necessary appealing to the State Tax Commission as a last resort
- Changing an unfounded 80% increase to an unfounded 20% increase is not the answer. Feels this burden to prove assessment values should not be on the citizens, but on the assessment office per the state statute
- He stated the appeal process is even more difficult with the impromptu changes in processes, overwhelmed phone systems and email addresses that are not getting answered – his personal sunshine request has not been answered except that it would be 30 days before he would receive a reply which is well beyond his appeal hearing.
- He feels there will be a financial impact on cities and schools
- He would encourage any legal actions possible to be brought to the Board at the next meeting
- Mayor Todd asked Mr. Lauber for lawsuit information related to the suit Independence is potentially filing from their resolution; Mr. Lauber is not at liberty to discuss that case
- Mayor Todd asked if it would include the late notices received by citizens; Mr. Lauber is unsure of the details
- Alderman Skinner would like to possibly join the same class action lawsuit as the citizens and the city could have some big financial burdens- he read Independence’s resolution
- *Alderman Skinner made a Motion to add Resolution R23-58 to the agenda tonight*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Mills*
 - *No discussion*
- *Motion to add Resolution R23-58 to the agenda tonight was voted on with the following voice vote:*

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Mayor Mike Todd
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Alderman Brian Bray
Alderman Tom Cleaver
Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
Alderman Ryan Skinner

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- *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
- *Nay:*
- *Abstain:*

-Motion Approved: 6-0-

- *Alderman Skinner motioned to direct staff to look into joining the lawsuit against Jackson County and other possible legal remedies to protect the citizens and the City*
- *The motion was seconded by Alderman Bray*
 - *No Discussion*
- *Motion to direct staff to look into joining the lawsuit against Jackson County and other possible legal remedies to protect the citizens and the City was voted on with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Motion Approved: 6-0-

ITEM XI: Presentations

- None

ITEM XII: Public Hearing

- None

ITEM XIII: Resolutions

Resolution No. R23-55 A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Appointing Mike McCurdy to the Grain Valley Parks and Recreation Board for a Three-Year Term

- *Alderman Arnold moved to approve Resolution No. R23-55*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Bray*
 - This is a standard appointment and would fill the Parks and Recreation Board vacancy
- *Motion to approve Resolution No. R23-55 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Resolution No. R23-55 Approved: 6-0-

Resolution No. R23-56 A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley,

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mayor Mike Todd
Alderman Dale Arnold
Alderman Brian Bray
Alderman Tom Cleaver
Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
Alderman Ryan Skinner

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Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute Tas Agreement No. 2023-2 With Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. For Design Update of the Downtown Improvements Phase II-B Front Street Subject to All Provisions Included in the On-Call Professional Engineering Services Agreement

- *Alderman Bray moved to approve Resolution No. R23-56*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Skinner*
 - Update a design previously completed for downtown improvements; Mr. Trosen stated this would be phase 2 Front Street plan in 2011 was the last plan- this would bring up to date to current standards
- *Motion to approve Resolution No. R23-56 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Resolution No. R23-56 Approved: 6-0-

Resolution No. R23-57 A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute Task Agreement No. 2023-3 With Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc. For Design of Intersection Improvements at Buckner Tarsney Road and Duncan Road Subject to All Provisions Included in the On-Call Professional Engineering Services Agreement

- *Alderman Cleaver moved to approve Resolution No. R23-57*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Knox*
 - This is an opportunity to potentially partner with MODOT for Buckner Tarsney and Duncan Road; Mr. Trosen stated asking to look at two possible options of leave the existing light and add turn lanes or to potentially put in a round-a-bout; MODOT have a 50/50 grant (this would be 2025); Alderman Bray asked if turn lanes would be in all 4 directions; yes
 - Mayor Todd stated the round-a-bout would take up less space and reduces the cost of a light and fewer people runs red lights
 - Alderman Bray asked if the round-a-bout would be a single lane; not known at this point- types of vehicles that use the roads, traffic count, etc.
 - Julie from CMT is here to answer questions; preliminary on both options would be done then would come to the board for approval
- *Motion to approve Resolution No. R23-57 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

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Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
Alderman Ryan Skinner

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-Resolution No. R23-57 Approved: 6-0-

Resolution No. R23-58 A Resolution Encouraging the Jackson County Executive to Maintain Assessed Valuations for Real Property in Jackson County at Their 2022 Levels for Calendar Year 2023

- *Alderman Knox moved to approve Resolution No. R23-58*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Mills*
 - This refers back to the new business section from tonight
- *Motion to approve Resolution No. R23-58 was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Resolution No. R23-58 Approved: 6-0-

ITEM XIV: Ordinances

- None

ITEM XV: City Attorney Report

- None

ITEM XVI: City Administrator & Staff Reports

- City Administrator Ken Murphy
 - Absent
- Deputy City Administrator Theresa Osenbaugh
 - None
- Police Chief Ed Turner
 - Absent
- Finance Director Steven Craig
 - None
- Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Davies
 - None
- Community Development Director Mark Trosen
 - None
- City Clerk Jamie Logan
 - None

ITEM XVII: Board of Aldermen Reports & Comments

- Alderman Dale Arnold

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Mayor Mike Todd
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Alderman Rick Knox
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- None
- Alderman Brian Bray
 - None
- Alderman Tom Cleaver
 - None
- Alderman Rick Knox
 - He was looking at the new Police Station and asked if there was a flat roof; Ms. Osenbaugh stated she'd have Mr. Murphy get back to him on this
- Alderman Darren Mills
 - None
- Alderman Ryan Skinner
 - None

ITEM XVIII: Mayor Report

- He stated every year he hears from people asking why Grain Valley does not have a City fireworks display – He stated he's looking at ways to improve the events the city puts on for the community; he thought there could potentially be a fireworks display at the Halloween event – Downtown Spooktacular. With the change from the Partnership to the Chamber there is \$15,000 in the budget that could only be used for tourism. He said he will raise funds and would like up to \$7,000 from the \$15,000.
- Alderman Arnold asked if a drone display could be entertained; Ms. Osenbaugh shared she has looked at that and it is costly & didn't receive any replies from those that put them on
- The mayor requested a motion to approve up to \$7000 max of city funds for a fireworks display.
- *Alderman Knox motioned to approve up to \$7000 max of city funds for a fireworks display*
- *The Motion was Seconded by Alderman Mills*
 - None
- *Motion to approve up to \$7000 max of city funds for a fireworks display was voted upon with the following voice vote:*
 - *Aye: Arnold, Bray, Cleaver, Knox, Mills, Skinner*
 - *Nay:*
 - *Abstain:*

-Motion Approved: 6-0-

IX: Executive Session

- None

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Alderman Rick Knox
Alderman Darren Mills
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ITEM XX: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Jamie Logan
City Clerk

Date

Minutes approved by:

Mike Todd
Mayor

Date

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