

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Portageville City Hall  
April 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the City of Portageville Board of Aldermen was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at City Hall, 301 E Main St. Mayor Dennis R. Walker II called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present

Alderman Adams  
Alderman Johnson  
Alderman Hollingshead

Council Members Absent

Alderman Estes

Following roll call, the City Clerk reported that a quorum was present. Also present were:

Rachel Wrather, City Clerk  
Mike Cook  
Edna Robinson

Gary Faulk

APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA

Moved by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Hollingshead and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as submitted.

ORDINANCES OR  
RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Walker asked if there were any visitors present who would like to address the Board of Alderman.  
There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

STATE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Mayor Walker stated that raising the City's minimum wage from \$12.00 per hour to \$12.30 per hour to match the state of Missouri's minimum wage had been discussed during a budget session. He asked the Board how they wanted to proceed. Discussion followed. Alderman Adams made a motion to raise the City of Portageville minimum wage to \$12.30 per hour for the next fiscal year. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### EMPLOYEE WAGES

Mayor Walker stated that Alderman Johnson had proposed several different ways to increase the salaries of our current employees for review. Discussion followed. Alderman Hollingshead made a motion to add an additional one-time salary adjustment in the amount of \$600 per full-time employee to be given in March 2025. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor. This additional one-time salary adjustment will follow the same guidelines as the one budgeted to be given in November 2024.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RADIO

Mayor Walker informed the Board that they had carried over the Emergency Management Radio purchase from the last meeting. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a state bid Kenwood Radio from Battles Communications Inc. in the amount of \$3600.00 to be paid through the Health Fund. Motion was made by Alderman Adams with the understanding that the radio is to stay at the Portageville Police Department. Alderman Johnson seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### TRAINING WORKSHOP- OFFICER HILL/ OFFICER REDDEN

Mayor Walker explained that the Board carried over the training opportunity for Officer Redden and Officer Hill until they reviewed the budget. Mayor Walker asked how the Board wanted to proceed. Discussion followed. Alderman Hollingshead made a motion to accept the training expense and register the two officers for the 3-day Criminal Interdiction Workshop in Nashville, Tennessee. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### BACKUP OPERATOR – SEWER

Mayor Walker informed everyone that he had met with Kevin Guthrie at the direction of the Board about the backup operator position in the Sewer department. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to appoint Kevin Guthrie as the backup operator for the sewer department with no salary increase. Motion was made by Alderman Adams and seconded by Alderman Hollingshead. All members voted in favor. Mayor Walker also stated he had discussed with Terry Wheeler, as directed by the Board, about him being promoted to the Director of Water and Sewer Departments which will allow him to oversee operations and schedule work orders for both departments. Discussion followed. Alderman Johnson made a motion to promote Terry Wheeler to Director of Water and Sewer Department with no salary increase. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Walker asked for a motion to promote Kevin Guthrie to Supervisor over the Sewer Department with an annual salary of \$46,800.00. Motion

was made by Alderman Johnson and seconded by Alderman Hollingshead. All members voted in favor.

#### BACKUP OPERATOR- WATER

Mayor Walker informed everyone that he had met with Larry Dooley at the direction of the Board about the backup operator position in the Water department. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to appoint Larry Dooley as the backup operator for the water department with no salary increase. Motion was made by Alderman Hollingshead and seconded by Alderman Adams. All members voted in favor.

#### CLOSING OF ROGERS BUILDING, SPLASH PAD DONATIONS, PORTAGEVILLE SUMMER BALL, PORTAGEVILLE YOUTH SOCCER AND PORTAGEVILLE CONCESSIONS FSB&T BANK ACCOUNTS

Mayor Walker explained that with the accounting procedures of the Park Board being modified, the following accounts at First State Bank and Trust that were opened with the City's EIN number needed to be closed. The accounts are as follows: Roger's Building, Splash Pad Donations, Portageville Baseball Commission, Portageville Youth Soccer and Portageville Concessions. Any funds remaining in the Portageville Baseball Commission when closed will have a cashier's check for the balance turned over to Aimee Hosford with the Portageville Summer Ball Program. Any fund's remaining in the Portageville Youth Soccer account when closed will have a cashier's check for the balance turned over to Todd Higgs with the Portageville Youth Soccer Program. Any funds remaining in the other closed accounts will be transferred to the Portageville Park Board and the amount of income will be itemized in the Park Board budget for each account. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to approve the closing of the listed accounts. Motion was made by Alderman Hollingshead and seconded by Alderman Adams. All members voted in favor.

#### CHANGING OF SIGNERS OF PORTAGEVILLE PARK BOARD ACCOUNT

Mayor Walker explained that the Portageville Park Board account will remain but the signers needed to be changed to reflect the signers for the City Treasury as with all other accounts, thus removing any current signers. The address listed on the account also needed to be changed to the City mailing address. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Johnson to remove any current signers and updating them to Dennis Walker II, Mayor; Patricia Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem; and Rachel Wrather, City Clerk/Treasurer as with all other accounts, as well as changing the address to reflect that of the City of Portageville. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### ELECTRIC FOR CAMERAS ON FOSTER AVE.

Mayor Walker explained that the electric pole on Foster Avenue had been damaged and the power had been removed. This operated the repeater for

some of the City cameras. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to restore electric service on Foster Avenue. Motion was made by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### PROPANE GENERATOR AT FOSTER AVE WATER TOWER

Mayor Walker explained that while the damage at Foster Park was being investigated, Randy Guest noticed a propane generator at Foster Water Tower that needed servicing. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Adams to contact Brett James, City electrician, to see if it even was salvageable and the cost needed to make it operable. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

#### MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Walker asked if there were any comments from any members of the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Walker stated that Alderman Hollingshead had been researching a grant for a new K9 unit and expenses. We received an application to be submitted from Bootheel Regional Planning Commission for a 75/25 grant through the City. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to pursue this grant opportunity for the K9 unit. Motion was made by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Walker presented a bill from Horner Shifrin in reference to the design portion of the project. The City will not receive funding through SRF before closure of the Loan/ Grant paperwork, and ARPA funds for this project are expected to run out before that happens. Mayor Walker stated that SRF had offered a no interest loan for the design phase until the loan/grant kicks in as an advance of funds. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Hollingshead to proceed with the SRF pre-design no interest loan. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Walker asked the Board if they would like to sponsor the Summer Ball Program. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Adams for a \$500 Gold Sponsorship for the Summer Ball program. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Walker stated that Badger meter had raised the technology fee on the auto-read meters from \$0.89 to \$0.90, but this increase would need to be reflected on the technology fee placed on water bills. Discussion followed. Mayor Walker asked for a motion to amend the technology fee ordinance from \$2.58 to \$2.59 to cover the increase. Motion was made by Alderman Johnson. Alderman Hollingshead seconded. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Walker stated that with the addition of the Director of Water & Sewer, the city needed to start looking for an additional vehicle for the fleet. All were in agreement.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

RETURN TO OPEN-  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

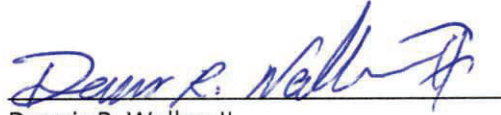
Monthly meeting will be held on May 6, 2024, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 301 E Main, Portageville.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Alderman Adams, seconded by Alderman Estes and unanimously carried, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.



Rachel Wrather  
City Clerk



Dennis R. Walker II  
Mayor

