

Westphalia Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2024

The Westphalia Board of Aldermen meeting was called to order by Mayor Tammy Massman. Roll call was taken. Aldermen present were Aldermen Delbert Wieberg, Stanley Heckman, Jake Plassmeyer and Caitlin Berhorst. Also present at the meeting were Aaron Lachowitz-sewer operator of Mid MO Operations; and UD reporter-Theresa Brandt.

The meeting minutes from the August Public Hearing (setting the 2024 tax rate levies) were reviewed first. A motion was made by Alderman Delbert Wieberg and was seconded by Alderman Stanley Heckman, to approve the August Public Hearing minutes. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, and Jake Plassmeyer-yes. Next, the meeting minutes from the August monthly meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer and was seconded by Alderman Stanley Heckman, to approve the August meetings minutes. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, and Jake Plassmeyer-yes. Alderman Caitlin Berhorst abstained both votes, given her absence during the August meeting.

The September monthly expense report was reviewed. The city expenses note the amount of \$14,985.90, sewer system expenses in the amount of \$13,452.82, ARPA expenses in the amount of \$0.00, special road district expenses in the amount of \$369.40. City receipts in the amount of \$12,122.29, sewer system receipts in the amount of \$8,777.06, and special road district receipts in the amount of \$12,387.23. Total city checking account balance of \$185,354.07, total sewer system checking account balance of \$76,053.31, total special road district checking account balance of \$123,042.14, ARPA checking account balance of \$54,513.37 and total special road district savings account balance of \$5,125.47. Total city CDs in the amount of \$455,625.03, total sewer system CDs in the amount of \$540,297.26, and total special road district CDs in the amount of \$544,998.70. A motion was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman, and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer to approve the September monthly expense report. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.

The sewer system report was next on the agenda. Mayor Massman acknowledged that a report was submitted by Mid MO Operations. Sewer operator-Aaron Lachowitz provided an update. Advanced Septic and Pumping hauled sludge. A larger amount of sludge was reported to have been hauled due to a rusted pipe break in the air header, while IEI contractors were performing contracted repairs/improvements. A total of 49,500 gallons was hauled. The bid of \$.12 per gallon was charged by Advanced Septic and Pumping, producing a total invoice of \$5,940.00. The lift stations were not able to be cleaned by Advanced Septic and Pumping as anticipated following sludge hauling, due to the extra time required for hauling services. The lift stations will be cleaned at a later time. Third quarter samples passed. Operators and Mayor Massman are working to complete 3rd quarter reports to submit to DNR prior to the October deadline. Fourth quarter samples will be collected in October. The UV light system is planned to be turned off after 10/31/2024 as allowed by permit. Additional UV bulbs will need to be ordered prior to reinitiating the system next year. Yearly manhole inspections will begin again next month. The manhole lid on the effluent line, that discharges into the Maries River noted by Alderman Delbert Wieberg last month, to be broken, has been repaired. Operators noted that it appeared that it was damaged after being hit by a brush hog. Lachowicz reported that IEI contractors are nearing completion of the scope of work at the treatment plant aside from a few loose ends. The new splitter box and air header are installed. It was unclear at this time if the repairs required to replace the rusted piping where the air header broke was going to be covered under the original scope of work. Alderman Wieberg said it was impossible to anticipate the problem as the area was under the water line. The city will have to await invoicing from IEI, as it was felt it would be up to IEI's discretion. Operators have obtained the DO caps for the DO (dissolved oxygen) probe. They have been installed and are working again properly. The plant and all lift stations are noted to be running without any issues. Alderman Wieberg questioned if the areas repaired and the overall treatment plant could be cleaned and pressure washed following completion of the project. Lachowicz agreed and indicated that operators could take care of the clean-up efforts.

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Next on the agenda was the Republic Fall Clean-up event. Mayor Massman confirmed that the weekend of October 5th -6th was selected and approved for the clean-up weekend. Republic Services will be placing 2 large dumpsters on the Millard Funeral Home's upper parking lot along North Maries Avenue for the weekend. A flyer has been produced and mailed out to city residents. Mayor Massman provided a copy of the flyer to the Aldermen for review. The flyer was noted to include information about the fall clean-up event, a reminder about the location of the recycle bin, and a request for residents to review and update their contact information with city if an error was noted. Mayor Massman encouraged aldermen to assist with monitoring the dumpsters the weekend they are on-site, so that the dumpsters do not become over-filled and additional contractor services are not required to push in the overflow debris. Reminders were given that this service is ONLY for RESIDENTS living within the city limits.

Next in other business, housekeeping topics were addressed. Mayor Massman noted that street repairs continue. Contractors are currently working along South Maries Ave. on the off-street area. The street work on Main Street at the intersection of Main and Maries Ave will be completed last and at present is slated to occur mid-October, possibly during a couple of days when school will not be in session. This will allow contractors to perform the Main Street concrete work necessary with lessened interruptions from street traffic.

Alderman Wieberg noted he had received notification from resident, Mary Rakestraw that on the night of the car show, someone had driven around the barrier at the Mill Street entrance, next to their residence, through their flower bed and up over the curb. The incident broke off a big chunk of the sidewalk and curbing. It was noted that the incident was reported to the Osage County Sheriff's Department that evening, but understood that there was little that could be done given no one knew who had done it. Alderman Wieberg shared photos of the area of concern. Mayor Massman noted that the section of curbing was replaced approximately 3 years ago and was reinforced with steel, which was visible on the photos. Aldermen agreed that the repairs would be a small project to attend to, and questioned if Verslues Construction could perform the extra work while completing the other street projects. Mayor Massman voiced she would discuss the project with Verslues contractors. A motion was made by Alderman Delbert Wieberg and was seconded by Alderman Jake Plassmeyer, to approve Verslues Construction to perform repairs to the sidewalk and curbing area. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes. Mayor Massman will alert board members if Verslues Construction cannot perform the additional work.

Next, Alderman Wieberg voiced that he had received several other city complaints; and second-hand (hear-say) information that he was asked to share. First, it was questioned if a business was going in the old Schwartz-Kelse house, on the east end of town, across from the new superintendent's office building; second, whether the city maintenance building was being utilized for personal use; third, complaints that something needs to be done about critters crawling out of storm drains; fourth, abandoned vehicles are along city streets; fifth, some properties continue to have tall grass and weeds and there are rocks on Main Street that have fallen off the dump trucks. Mayor Massman questioned if aldermen had any response for Wieberg. Aldermen did not motion any proposals. It was noted by Mayor Massman that no one has formally requested a business license for the said (Schwartz-Kelse) property in question; that Verslues Construction has been utilizing the maintenance shed for ongoing street projects to store equipment, noting that is why it has been open more with workers going in and out of it. It was further noted that on several occasions, council members have discussed that if there were concerns about abandoned vehicles or personal vehicles sitting in the same spot for long periods of time, that anyone can report vehicles to the appropriate authorities, that it is not a sole responsibility of the city. Letters for lawn maintenance have been sent out, compliance continues to be an ongoing issue, and as far as critters and debris on the streets; there is not a critter control entity nor a sweeper or employee to clean the streets of the city.

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Alderman Wieberg continued with a concern from resident, Haley Rehagen that the drain near the city maintenance shed runs through a retaining wall onto her property, the water then drains onto her property that enters into her garage basement, into the floor drain that enters into the sewer system. Wieberg questioned if this was an area that the city could look at for placement of a drop box and divert the water to prevent it from entering into the sewer system. Council members will consider options and discuss at a later time.

Mayor Massman noted that the city's plow truck has 3 flat tires and will need to be serviced prior to the winter season.

The next city meeting date was set for Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Alderman Stanley Heckman and seconded by Alderman Caitlin Berhorst. Aldermen votes: Delbert Wieberg-yes, Stanley Heckman-yes, Jake Plassmeyer-yes and Caitlin Berhorst-yes.