

## OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON

March 8, 2023 – 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the City of Hamilton board of Aldermen was held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:33 p.m. at City Hall, 200 S. Davis St., Hamilton, Missouri.

### **Present at the meeting were:**

Keith Gilbert, Mayor  
Cameron Fast, West Alderman  
Cole Crawford, East Alderman  
Robert Grant, West Alderman  
Danny Alexander, East Alderman

Five members of the board being present constitutes a quorum.

### **City staff present were:**

Blair Merrigan, City Attorney  
Rhabecca Boerkircher, City Administrator  
Leslie Bretz, City Clerk

**Call to Order:** Mayor Keith Gilbert called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Mayor Keith Gilbert made a motion to amend the Agenda of March 8, 2023, to have the Pledge of Allegiance held after the Call to Order and the board voted in favor.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Cole Crawford led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Cole Crawford made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Danny Alexander seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** February 8, 2023, regular meeting: Danny Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2023. Robert Grant seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Review and Approval of Bills:** Danny Alexander made a motion to approve the bills. Cole Crawford seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

### **Ameren – Mike Edwards:**

**EV Charging Station:** Mike Edwards, Regional Manager with Ameren, met with Rhabecca Boerkircher and Cole Crawford a couple weeks ago regarding EV charging stations. Mike Edwards stated that the City of Hamilton would be a good candidate for the EV charging stations due to the tourism in the City. Mike Edwards reported there are 3 types of chargers. Mike Edwards said that Ameren has a program where Ameren will pay up to one-half of the cost to install the EV charging stations. Cole Crawford asked how long the program will last and Mike Edwards said it was based on the amount of capital and that the program should be available through 2024.

**Streetlights:** Mike Edwards reported that he discussed streetlights with the prior administrator last May. Mike drove through the City of Hamilton and did a visual of the inventory of streetlights. It was discussed about adding a streetlights in alley's that do not have adequate lighting for public safety. Rhabecca Boerkircher reported she spoke with a representative from Scobee about replacing streetlight poles. There is a certain number of streetlights that are owned by Ameren and a certain number owned by the City. Currently 38 streetlights do not have LED lights on them.

**Smart Meters:** Mike Edwards reported that Ameren is in the process of upgrading electric meters in the City of Hamilton this year. By upgrading meters, Ameren will be able to monitor energy usage better with the more advanced meters. Mike Edwards said that currently there is only one rate class for customers. The upgraded meters will have 5 different rate classes for customers.

### **Project Updates:**

**Streets – Aaron Mort update for council:** Aaron Mort reported that he is trying to determine the best rock to run through the dura patcher. Washed aggregate rock costs \$21.00 a ton to be delivered and haydite costs \$100.00 a ton to be delivered. There is a difference between two rocks which is haydite is lighter. Cameron Fast asked if the City of Cameron has used haydite rock in their dura patcher. Aaron Mort said that the City of Cameron has not had any problems as long the aggregate rock is washed and cleaned. Aaron Mort said that the company that the dura patcher was purchased from plans on conducting a training on how to run the dura patcher at the end of March 2023. Aaron Mort also said that about 85% of the City equipment has been serviced and that the tractor and roller is the only equipment left to be serviced. Aaron Mort said that he would provide the council with a full report of all the City equipment and conditions at a later date. Cameron Fast asked Aaron if there is any equipment that he discovered that the City no longer needs and can be auctioned off. Aaron Mort said that at this time all equipment is still usable, but the backhoe and skid loader will need to be replaced at a later date.

Cameron Fast asked if the culverts in town are owned by the City or by the resident. The Mayor stated that if the culvert is under the street then the City owns it and if the culvert is under the driveway it is owned by the property owner. Aaron Mort said in order to get the water off the streets at this time the City will take care of cleaning the culverts that are under the street and under the property owner's driveway, thereafter it will be the responsibility of the property owner to take care of any culverts under their driveway. Keith Gilbert said that if a culvert collapses under a resident's driveway, then the City will pay for the installation of the culvert, but the property owner shall be responsible for the purchasing of the new culvert. Cole Crawford asked if there is an ordinance for culverts. Cole Crawford also asked if there was a preference between plastic and metal.

**Name for Pot Hole Patching Machine:** Cole Crawford reported that there was 64 entries submitted for the pot hole patching machine. Cole passed out a sheet with the top



contenders for the pot hole naming contest. The community still has until March 17, 2023 to chose the winner.

**Sewer Project:** Rhabecca Boerkircher was sent a report from Allstate Consultants. It is the council's opinion to put the sewer project out to bid. Danny Alexander made a motion to put the sewer project out to bid. Cole Crawford seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Pool:**

**Rates:** Cameron Fast reported the pool rates were raised in 2022. Camron Fast said that he doesn't think the rates should be raised this year. He doesn't want the citizens of Hamilton to be unable to afford to send their kids to the pool due to raising the rates. Cameron Fast made a motion to not raise the pool rates for 2023. Cole Crawford seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Hiring:** Rhabecca Boerkircher reported that there has been several applications turned in. Several applications were from applicants that were hired in 2022. Robert Grant asked what the current minimum wage was for the State of Missouri and Blair Merrigan said it was \$12.00 per hour. Blair Merrigan said minimum wage went up from \$11.15 per hour in 2022.

**Maintenance:** Rhabecca Boerkircher stated that she had not heard back from Michael Fisher regarding the pool renovation. Danny Alexander asked about the painting of the pool. Aaron Mort stated that there are no real problems areas in the pool, but that the pool does need some caulking on top in a few spots and not sure if it is covered under the warranty from last years repainting of the pool. Rhabecca Boerkircher stated that she would check into the warranty.

**Certification:** Rhabecca Boerkircher stated that the City of Gallatin is going to open their pool this summer and that they agreed to split the cost of certifying lifeguards with the City of Hamilton.

**Bill Number 0302231 – Ordinance Amending the Sale and Distribution of Alcoholic**

**Beverages:** Cole Crawford read the first reading of proposed Bill Number 0302231. Mayor Keith Gilbert stated that there is a limit on the number of liquor license in the City of Hamilton and this bill would match the State and County laws. Cameron Fast asked if Section 1 of Bill Number 0302231 repeals previous ordinances. Cole Crawford stated yes it does and will remove the cap on the number of liquor license in the City of Hamilton. Robert Grant made a motion to approve Bill Number 0302231. Danny Alexander seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Bill Number 0308231 – Ordinance for a Contract with Laura's Cleaning Service for**

**Cleaning Services:** Rhabecca Boerkircher reported that a notice for bids for cleaning services was submitted to the public and the City received 3 proposals. Rhabecca Boerkircher said that the proposal she recommends is not the lowest, but it is the better bid. At this time, Danny Alexander recused himself from this discussion. Cole Crawford read the first reading of proposed Bill Number 0308231. Robert Grant reads the second reading of proposed Bill



Number 0308231. Cole Crawford made a motion to approve Bill Number 0308231. Robert Grant seconded the motion and the board voted in favor. Danny Alexander abstained.

**Bill Number 0303202 – Ordinance for the Possession of Domestic Fowl:** Cole Crawford read the first reading of proposed Bill Number 0303202. Danny Alexander said that there is an ordinance from 2018 within the City of Hamilton zoning rules regarding domestic fowl which states “no poultry within 100 feet of neighbors”. Robert Grant said that he does not agree with a city official being able to come onto property to inspect said property. Cameron Fast said that he thinks there are bigger issues with dogs and cats than with chickens. Robert Grant also said he is concerned about all the cats roaming the neighborhoods. Cole Crawford asked how many chickens would create a nuisance and what are the grounds for enforcement. Blair Merrigan said that chickens cannot be removed from a property without the City having an ordinance in place. A member of the public stated that he would be agreeable with the proposed ordinance if he could have 12 chicken and/or ducks. Mayor Keith Gilbert said the council would discuss the concerns of the board and public and would present something at the next board of aldermen meeting in April.

**Resolution Number 2023-03 – Resolution to Appoint Colleen Hardy to the Hamilton Planning and Zoning Board:** Cole Crawford made a motion to appoint Colleen Hardy to the Hamilton Planning and Zoning Board. Danny Alexander seconded the motion and the board voted in favor.

**Resolution Number 2023-04 – Resolution to Appoint Tiffany Provance to the Park Board:** Cole Crawford made a motion to appoint Colleen Hardy to the Park Board. Danny Alexander seconded the motion and the board voted in favor with the exception of Robert Grant who voted against the resolution.

**New Business:** Robert Grant and Rhabecca Boerkircher attended a meeting of the Wholesale Water Commission. Robert Grant said he had concerns and asked questions but didn't get any answers from the commission. Cameron Fast said there was previously an agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Wholesale Water Commission dated January 9, 2017, but that it had expired over six (6) years ago. Blair Merrigan said the contact should be reviewed every five (5) years prior to expiration. Rhabecca Boerkircher said she would locate the signed contact and make it available to all the aldermen for their review prior to the next board of aldermen meeting. Robert Grant was concerned by the lack of certain organization of the commission. Robert Grant stated he did not know the rates or distribution or who was going to buy water. Robert Grant also said that the City of Braymer was going to update their water facility so that they didn't have to purchase water from the Wholesale Water Commission. Rhabecca Boerkircher said that the Wholesale Water Commission currently has a \$68,000.00 attorney bill. Rhabecca asked the board who has a preliminary plan for the water treatment program. The Mayor said that he would like the council to review a copy of the preliminary plan prior to the next board of aldermen meeting in April.