**March 28, 2016**

Mayor Jan Lehmkuhl called the budget meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 28, 2016.

Board members present: Jan Lehmkuhl, Mayor; Troy Watts, Jerry Kane, William Wagner and Deanna Monnig, Aldermen.  Also in attendance: City Clerk, Deborah Cox.

Board of Aldermen met to discuss the 2015-2016 budget.

No further business: motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Jerry Kane to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.  Vote taken.  Kane, Watts, Wagner and Monnig aye.

No other business was conducted.

*Deborah A. Cox, City Clerk*

**March 21, 2016**

Special Training Meeting on March 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. located at Ash Grove City Hall.

Liz Grove from Missouri Rural Water Association presented a special Board Training Workshop for the Ash Grove Board of Aldermen and the Bois D’Arc Water District.  The training included Board Roles and Responsibilities, Water System Basics, Asset Management and Utility Finances.

No other business was conducted.

*Deborah A. Cox, City Clerk*

**March 14, 2016**

Mayor Jan Lehmkuhl called the budget meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 14, 2016.

Board members present:  Jan Lehmkuhl, Mayor; Troy Watts, Jerry Kane, William Wagner and Deanna Monnig, Aldermen.  Also in attendance: Frank Babcock, Charlie Jones and Chief Bruce Belin.

Board of Aldermen met to discuss the 2015-2016 budget with the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

No further business: motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Jerry Kane to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.  Vote taken.  Kane, Watts, Wagner and Monnig aye.

*Deborah A. Cox, City Clerk*

**March 7, 2016**

Mayor Jan Lehmkuhl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 7, 2016.

Members present:  Jan Lehmkuhl, Mayor; Troy Watts, Jerry Kane, Sharon Anderson, and Deanna Monnig Alderman. Bruce Belin, Chief of Police, Melissa Mau, Assistant City Clerk, William Wagner, Inez Fry, Chuck Fry, Ryan Squibb, Marc Schwenn, Les Gardner, Barb Gardner and Brenda Ellsworth were also present.

Sharon Anderson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Jerry Kane to approve the consent agenda. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Jan Lehmkuhl recommended that the City allow the Ash Grove Branch of the Springfield Greene County Library to post their story book pages along the trails at the city park for the Summer Reading Program. Jerry Kane made a motion to approve the request, Troy Watts seconded. Vote was unanimous.

***DNR RESOLUTION #2016-1:*** Motion made by Troy Watts to approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor to file, on behalf of Ash Grove, an application with the DNR, Small Community Engineering Assistance Program under the Missouri Clean Water Law, seconded by Jerry Kane. Roll call vote, Anderson, Kane, Monnig and Watts aye.

***ORDINANCE #1018 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GAP ENGINEERING:*** Motion made by Jerry Kane and seconded by Deanna Monnig to add maintenance of property responsibilities to agreement if Option to Purchase Agreement changes to Lease with Option to Purchase prior to the April 1, 2019. Vote unanimous. Motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Jerry Kane to place Bill No. 2016-9 authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract/agreement with Gap Engineering for Option to Purchase Agreement on its first reading. Roll call vote: Anderson, Kane, Monnig and Watts aye.  Read by Assistant City Clerk. Motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Deanna Monnig to accept first reading of Bill No. 2016-9.  Roll call vote: Anderson, Kane, Monnig and Watts aye. Motion made by Troy Watts and seconded by Jerry Kane to place Bill No. 2016-9 on its final reading.  Roll call vote: Anderson, Kane, Monnig and Watts aye.  Read by Assistant City Clerk. Motion made by Jerry Kane and seconded by Troy Watts to accept the final reading of Bill No. 2016-9. Roll call vote: Anderson, Kane, Monnig and Watts aye.  Ordinance #1018 approved and passed.

***NEW POLICE VEHICLE:*** Police Chief, Bruce Belin presented his vehicle recommendations to the Board of Alderman. The three options were a Ford Explorer 4WD, Chevrolet Tahoe 2 WD & 4 WD. If a vehicle is to be purchased this fiscal year, a purchase would need to be made no later than March 10, 2016 as the production of 2016 models are due to shut down at that time. Per State contract, delivery would be within 90 days. Chief stated that all vehicle options were amicable. After much discussion about mileage, safety, preparedness in the case of an emergency and resale values, Sharon Anderson made a motion to go with a 4WD instead of a 2WD for safety reasons with Deanna Monnig seconding. Vote taken, Kane and Watts voted against it and Anderson and Monnig voted aye. Mayor Lehmkuhl was the tie breaker voting aye. After narrowing the choices down to two, Anderson made a motion to choose the Ford Explorer 4WD with Monnig seconding. Vote was taken, Anderson, Monnig and Kane aye. Watts nay.

***BROWNFIELDS:*** Mayor Lehmkuhl stated we have been working with the DNR and have utilized the Brownfields Voluntary Clean-up Program to determine all of the property issues of the old nursing home structure located on Meadowview. The Phase I Environmental Study indicates there is no soil contamination, but there is asbestos, lead paint and mold.  In addition, the roof is badly deteriorated and there are other damages which have been caused by vandalism.  Mayor Lehmkuhl stated that she has spoken with multiple realtors and with the mentioned property issues, it would be nearly impossible to sell the property.  In addition, it cannot be demolished until the asbestos has been abated. We have begun to work with SMCOG on writing a grant to help with the cleanup costs. The deadline for the grant is May 1, 2016. There was an open discussion between Brenda Ellsworth and Mayor Lehmkuhl regarding conversations between the city and a potential buyer two years ago. Mayor Lehmkuhl stated that the potential buyer gave her a final offer, with multiple conditions.  The conditions were not in the best interest of the City and could not be met.  Mayor Lehmkuhl stated that is when negotiations ended.

***CONDEMNATION HEARING:*** Mayor Lehmkuhl stated that a hearing needed to be set for condemnation of a burned out home at 405 E Washington. There was a house fire in 2014 and as of now, the owner has not proceeded with any cleanup. The hearing is set for March 21, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, all involved parties will be able to speak their case.  Sharon Anderson made a motion to set hearing date, seconded by Troy Watts. Vote taken. Unanimous.

Motion made by Jerry Kane to pay the bills after they are reviewed and signed, seconded by Troy Watts. Vote was unanimous.

Liz Grove with MRWA will be conducting a training session for the Board of Alderman on March 21, 2016 at 6:30April p.m. Topics of training will be water system basics, utility rates and finance, and asset management.

An Open House was set up for March 15, 2016 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. to introduce the new Chief of Police, Bruce Belin to the community.

There will be a sculpture placed on the east side of City Hall. An art dedication is scheduled for March 22, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

As of February 22, 2016, Officer Derek Langford has resigned from our employment.

Mayor Lehmkuhl reported that this would be the last council meeting for Alderman Sharon Anderson as she is moving on to Oklahoma with her family. She thanked Anderson for her services and wished her the best in her future endeavors. Mayor then announced that she would like to appointment William Wagner as Anderson’s replacement as Alderman of the 2nd Ward. Wagner will be sworn in at the April 4 council meeting. Motion made by Troy Watts, seconded by Deanna Monnig. Vote taken, unanimous.

Mayor stated that we would not be going into closed session and with no further business; motion made by Sharon Anderson and seconded by Troy Watts to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:13 p.m. Vote was unanimous.

*Melissa Mau, Assistant City Clerk*