

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 19, 2013

The regular scheduled meeting of the City Council, City of Audubon Park, was held on Monday, August 19, 2013, at Audubon Traditional Elementary with the following present: Mayor Michael Scalise, and Councilpersons Joanne Bader, Nancy Zinner, Vince Osbourn, Al Huber, Mark Stevens, and Cary Campbell. Also present was Jonathan Leachman, Charlie Veenaman and Robin Shouse.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Scalise called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Mayor Scalise advised that he sent out a letter last week addressing some errors made with last year's budget as it relates to the sanitation charge. He said it had not been resolved and it needed to be discussed. There would also be some cuts made to the budget and one would be cutting the full time city clerk to a part time clerk. The new office hours would be 9:30-3:30 pm and the office would be open Monday through Thursday. He also advised the clerk's office would not close during lunch.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Mayor Scalise stated he could not approve the minutes because they had not been completed. He apologized.

**Financial Report:** The Mayor advised that the city is now contracting with an accountant, Charlie Veenaman. Mr. Veenaman and his associates have been doing the city's financial reports and the Mayor gave the floor to him to explain this month's financials. Mr. Veenaman spoke to the council and to the audience and explained the last years "budget versus actual" comparison. He also discussed the proposed 2013-2014 budget and took questions from the council and audience. Mr. Veenaman then discussed last year's budget versus actual comparison again with the board and the board continued to question Veenaman about the budget.

Council members noted that the budget report should have been distributed to board members before tonight's meeting and Cary Campbell concurred. Ms. Bader questioned the budget numbers again and Mr. Veenaman responded to her concerns. Mr. Veenaman then discussed the city of Audubon Park's July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014 proposed budget. Mr. Campbell suggested that the Sanitation fees be taken out the general fund expenses and he wants Sanitation to be a separate fund, like the road fund. It was discussed to make a "Separate Revenue Account". Mr. Veenaman recommended that the city have three separate funds, a General Fund; Sanitation Fund, and Mutual aid Fund (Road Fund). Vince Osbourn made the motion and Cary Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Then Cary Campbell motioned to suspend the financial report, but the Mayor wanted to continue. Joanne Bader moved to table the discussion to the next meeting. Cary Campbell seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously to table the report.

Cary Campbell distributed his own budget and gave it to the council for review (attached to these minutes).

The audience clamored to begin the audience portion Mayor Scalise asked for the sign in sheet for audience members who want to speak.

Before comments from the audience, the police report was introduced.

**Police Report:** Captain Jim Curtis read the Police Report for the month of August at 8:06 pm. A copy for the said report is made a part of these minutes.

An audience member wanted to hear the crime statistics for the City of Audubon Park only, and Captain Curtis advised the crime stats were not separated in that manner. He also explained the "House Check" Program and explained to another concerned audience member about how mileage is recorded on the report. Mayor Scalise also explained to a concerned citizen about the contracts between the City of Audubon and Audubon Hospital and Parkway Village.

**New business:** The Mayor advised the audience of Chief Cox's recent hospitalization and apologized that he was not in attendance. He also explained about the extra vehicles owned by the city and advised that the city did not pay for the bus or the Durango and noted that the bus was for sale and the Durango was utilized by the City Code Enforcement Officer. He also advised that the city would probably be selling two patrol cars due to their age.

Audience questioned how much money was spent on the bus and it was explained that the bus and its equipment were paid for with Grant money and that the paint job was \$900.00.

**Public Comments:** the floor was opened to comments.

- Judith Basham of 3101 Chickadee Road wants to keep the benefits for the police department and works department.
- Tony Williams of 3220 Eagle Pass asked who on the council had a financial background and Mayor Scalise advised Charlie Veenaman does. Mr. Williams also expressed concern about the pending pension obligations and also wants to see the Police department patrol 85% inside the city and 15% on the perimeter of the city. He also expressed approval of the new accounting firm hired by the city and wants to keep full and part time police. He also questioned the police budget and Captain Curtis explained that the city gets grant money for increased street patrols and along the Preston and Poplar Level Road quarters and it is money that is not coming out of the city's budget.
- Patty Stinson of 3115 Sora Avenue stated she wants to see the budget become more transparent. Cary Campbell replied that he posts a lot of information on his website and on facebook for everyone's convenience. Ms. Stinson also wanted more information about regularly scheduled council meetings and the Mayor advised the audience that the council meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm and all are welcome to attend. Ms. Stinson also expressed that she does not want police officers who already draw a pension from another

agency to be able to receive one from Audubon Park. She then asked how much revenue citations bring into the city and Captain Curtis advised it was \$20.00 per citation.

- Laura Kelty of 3242 Cross Bill Road spoke. She advised that she went through the auditor's report and she handed each councilperson a packet of documents (a copy of this information is attached). She asked if the council had a subcommittee who discusses the budget. The Mayor advised that they do and those members included Al Huber, Cary Campbell and Vince Osborne. She then asked how long each council member has been on the board. All stated their tenure and Ms. Kelty and Al Huber began to bicker about his answer. The audience became enraged and Ms. Kelty and Mr. Huber exchanged more words. Ms. Kelty demanded to discuss her spread sheet. Ms. Kelty then asked the Council members whom had business experience; Al Huber and Cary Campbell raised their hands.
- Ms. Kelty switched gears and asked the Mayor who he claimed offered him "bad advice" regarding the sanitation charge and asked him specifically to give her a name. Mayor Scalise advised they all have made some mistakes and they are trying to remedy those mistakes.
- Ms. Kelty then asked to know which storm had added to the sanitation cost and wanted to know why the storm damage was never budgeted for.
- Ms. Kelty then wanted a vote for "No Competency" by the Council to oust Mayor Scalise and Councilperson Al Huber.
- Mr. Jerry Pack of 3308 Oriole spoke. He directed his question to Mr. Huber and asked why Mr. Huber carpeted City Hall? He also questioned the \$600,000 pension given to Mr. Reesor. He also wanted to know who negotiated with Mr. Reesor? The Mayor said the contract with Mr. Reesor was a pension and Mr. Pack then wanted to know who set up contract? Mayor Scalise said he didn't start Reesor's pension. Jerry Pack then demanded to know who was the City Manager? The Mayor responded that it had been Reesor.
- William Klump of 1155 Dove Road stated he has lived in Audubon for 11 years and is upset by what he saw on the news and he has received a copy of Laura Kelty's report. He is upset about the one million dollar overcharge for sanitation. He is upset by the high sanitation fee and how it was charged and stated that this problem was brought to the board's attention three years ago. Mr. Klump also stated that he is a CPA and he is concerned about the auditor's report. He wants to know if there is Liability towards the city auditor for never recognizing the sanitation issue? He also has a real issue with the city council and he wants a change! Joanne Bader said she has only been on the council for 8 months and she has been working really hard and the budget will be more transparent and they are trying to fix the problems. Vince Osbourn said he has contacted State Auditor Adam Edelen and wants his office to look into the situation and is waiting to see whether the state auditor will help the city of Audubon Park.
- Joanne Bader says she has contacted the KY League of Cities for advice about the Auditor and about getting a new auditor.
- Rose Mangino of 3102 Meadowlark Avenue spoke. She was a council person two years ago and didn't run this year because of past problems. She is upset about the \$10,000 spent on code enforcement. She is upset over the recent hiring of a cleaning crew for city hall. She is upset over why the city did away with one full time police officer and the Mayor spoke up and said the

officer left on his own. Ms. Mangino is also upset over the gas vouchers for the city's police cars and doesn't like the gas being used for the cars when they leave the city limits. She then applauded the new Council.

- John Mangino of 3102 Meadowlark Avenue spoke. He directed his question to Mayor Scalise and wanted to know why he waited so long to ask the citizens of Audubon Park what they wanted! He asked where has the transparency been for the last 14 years? He also asked the Mayor why the garbage contract was rushed through the last council? Mayor responded that he did it as a favor to the last board and so that tax bills could be prepared in a timely manner.
- John Wientjes stood up and told Mayor Scalise to run the meeting like he said he would. He was upset at everyone talking over each other and the length of time they were given to talk. The Mayor agreed.
- Janice Beatty of 3105 Widgeon Avenue was next to speak and said she wants her sanitation refund money now.
- Dan Eberenz of 1147 Dove Road spoke and said he looked through his tax bills and wants to know where his extra tax dollars were spent? He wants facts! Mayor Scalise could not give him an exact answer and advised the funds were spent on general expenses related to the city.
- Cary Campbell spoke and said he was proud of Audubon Park and there is a great council in place to take care of the city.
- Mike Gardner of 926 Audubon Parkway spoke and said he is upset with the council and noted that Councilperson Al Huber thinks he (Mike Gardner) is a troublemaker, but he wants to know, "Where's the Money?" Mr. Gardner addressed Al Huber and called Huber a criminal. He demanded to know about the road fund and he told a story about a resident named Sally who is on a fixed income and could no longer afford her sanitation bill and he accused of Al Huber of telling her, "too bad". Gardner and Huber began to argue over this incident and that is when Al Huber Made an obscene gesture towards Mr. Gardner. Mr. Huber then stood up and left the meeting without comment.
- Laura Kelty asked if this meant that Al Huber was resigning. The audience was visible upset and one unknown resident shouted, "Al Huber is just walking out of a city council meeting without the adjournment".
- The Mayor regained order and Mr. Pat McElhone walked to the front of the room and addressed the audience, the council members and the Mayor. He advised that he did not give the city bad advice; he gave good advice and didn't appreciate being blamed for the financial issues with the city.
- (Al Huber returns to the meeting) Cary Campbell spoke and defended Pat McElhone and said Mr. McElhone deserves some leniency.

(Noticing that Huber has returned to the Meeting, several unknown audience members shout out that they want an apology from Mr. Huber. Huber proceeds to apologize, but in doing so, he refers to Mike Gardner as a "Horse's Ass")

- Jennifer Ward of 3244 Cross Bill had the floor and after stating she has lived in the city for three years, she begins to cry. She wanted to address the legal issues and wants to know a plan “in writing” to move forward into the future, so that tonight’s meeting won’t happen again.
- Margaret Tanguay of 1129 Cardinal Drive spoke. She is worried about the stop sign by the dogwood tree by the county club. She can cut the limbs blocking the sign herself and the Mayor said he would look into it, but he doesn’t believe it is in Audubon Park.
- John Wientjes took the floor and told the audience about KRS 134.590 and said by using this KRS, they could get a refund on the over paid taxes paid to the city. He also wants an audit of the city.
- Jennifer Clements of 3124 Sora took the floor and said she has lived in the city for one year and she wants the city to acknowledge that mistakes were made and move forward. She also is concerned about what is going to fund the \$600,000 pension. She also wants to simplify the junk pick up and two day trash pickup.
- Charlie Veenaman took the floor and said the pension was paid this month and the city still had a surplus and if every year is like the present year, funding the pension of retired Chief Reesor should not be an issue.

Mayor Scalise began to discuss the sanitation process. Cary Campbell asked why the garbage contract was rushed by the last council and Pat Kehoe stood up and said he was on the last council and voted NO on the garbage contract because the company they chose was \$27,000 higher than the competitors.

- James Young of 3129 Meadowlark stood up and said he wants to reduce garbage pickup to one day a week.
- Ellie Kerstetter, of 1144 Dove Road spoke and said she likes the garbage pick up the way it is because they pick up her garbage from the back yard. She also wants to know why the meeting minutes and city ordinances are not on line. The Mayor advised her that was being addressed and will be done by interim Clerk Robin Shouse. Ms. Kerstetter also advised she is against taking benefits away from any employee and the Mayor advised it had to be done.
- James Palazzo of 3210 Thrush Road spoke and asked why a pension was given to Mr. Reesor and wanted to know who gave it to him? Mayor Scalise could not answer the question. Then James Palazzo said, “No one can answer that question!” He then asked if Reesor was holding down three jobs and was he getting three salaries? The Mayor advised he was only getting one salary. Palazzo is upset because Reesor was making the same salary as the Chief of the Louisville Metro Police Department and only had 15 officers compared to the size of LMPD. Laura Kelty confirmed Chief Reesor's salary as \$101,000. Palazzo shouted that Reesor’s salary was enormous and it was inflated to give Reesor a good pension and he wants Mayor Scalise to resign!
- Brian Hayes of 1229 Valley Drive said he wants to know about the road budget and how much it is? He also wants to know how much it would cost to pave all of the roads in the city? He also is demanding an investigation into Reesor’s pension. Hayes also asked if the city is keeping full time staff or making everyone part time. He wants a city attorney to look into Reesor’s retirement.

- Andrew Kelty of 3242 Cross Bill spoke and said he has confidence in the majority of the council. He then began to read a letter regarding the retirement of Carl Reesor to make it public knowledge.
- Sue Grawemeyer of 3120 Meadowlark wants to keep the police and will miss the current City Clerk and loves her and reiterates that everyone needs to start coming to meetings so that they are better informed.
- Joe Bell of 3314 Chickadee Road took the floor and wants to hire a management company to runs city government. He wants to get advice from an outsider on what can be done to cut expenses. He says we may have to cut police and says that Blue Ridge Manor hires an outside police agency and maybe an expert management company can be of assistance to Audubon Park.

The Mayor introduced the Council members to the audience and reiterated that the next meeting will be a "working" budget meeting and will be at 7pm on 08-26-13 at City Hall and all are invited to attend.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm by the Council.

ATTESTED Janice B. Boden APPROVED [Signature]