

Council Meeting

July 8th 2025

Mayor Pat Walden called the meeting to order

Pledge

Roll Call: TJ Duncan, Ken Collins, Lindy Rhodes, and Debra Rice were all present.

Approval of the bills in the amount of \$74,059.18: TJ motioned to approve the bills, Lindy 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the minutes of the June meeting: Debra motioned to approve the minutes, Lindy 2nd, motion adjourned.

Treasurer's report was given by Liz Hart in Brenda Howard's absence.

TJ motioned to approve the report, Ken 2nd, motion carried.

Liz Hart was present to give the budget report. All funds are under 50%. They are running about where they were this time last year or less. Next month they will have the big sewer bond payment. She has been working on the 2026 budget. They will need to pass the Resolution to give notice to the county clerk of their intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate. They will need to have a special meeting to work on the budget. It was decided to meet July 30th at 5:30pm.

Ken motioned to approve Resolution 2025-08 to notify the county clerk of intent to exceed RNR, TJ 2nd, motion carried.

Liz has been trying to clean up old checks that never cleared the bank. They can find out if they need to void or reissue to clear up the books. The majority are old Fire Department checks that past members never

cashed. Jennifer Fullhart, the Fire Department secretary said she thought they could just be voided, but she would contact the members to find out for sure.

Agenda: Owners of 116 Walnut did not attend. Owners of 109 E 9th did not attend.

Pat says they have tried to work with the people about these properties, but it has been months now. He says they need to be issued citations. Lindy asks about the mess at the property on Military of Herb Spielman's. Police Chief Joey Adelman stated that it would be handled. Pat tells Joey to get on it. It's gone on far too long.

Unfinished Business: City Clerk says there have been no changes yet

Pat asks for a 10 minute executive session to discuss financial affairs, to include the City Clerk and the Accountant.

Lindy motions to go into executive session for 10 minutes, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Ken motioned to go out of executive session and back into regular, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

City Office: City Clerk Amy Tucker stated that the auditors would be coming July 22nd, and be there a few days. Representatives from USD 246 will be here July 17th from 5 to 8 at the Sr. Building. They will be getting stories from alumni and pictures from the Mulberry School to put in the Kiosk at the Northeast High School. Amy presented a proposal from TEXTMYGOV, a program where residents could text the city, and the city could text the resident's. It was decided that it was too

costly, and people can just call or look at the website or Facebook pages.

Lindy stated that they need to finish and adopt the personnel policy book. It's been a long time. It was decided to add that into the Special Meeting on July 30th.

Fire: Fire Chief Ernie Chase: They had multiple medical calls. He still needs to get to Springfield. He also still needs to take the other half of the air bottles to Joplin to be tested. They might be able to get a grant for new SCBA gear. The tractor pull will be July 27th. Pat stated that the Fire Dept. helps with a lot of city functions. They city should donate money to help them out with the tractor pull. Becky Walden stated the Homecoming Committee donated \$100. Ken motioned to give \$250 to the Fire Dept., Lindy 2nd, motion carried. Ernie needs to schedule a pump test for the Firetrucks. He is going to see if someone can come here, rather than try to take the trucks to Springfield.

City Plant: Ernie Chase Public Works Superintendent: Mason has moved on to another job. He didn't see a future here and needed more money. Dwayne was off for a couple weeks because of health issues. Jennifer came in and helped pick up the slack. He had to spend more money on weed killer because of all the rain. The lagoons have been sprayed now. He had to spend some money on mower parts and tires. The new tractor seat came in and has been installed. July 3rd, a roll off truck from Mid America Sanitation caught a cable wire and took down 4 poles. It held the Mediacom cable and the trigger wire for the storm siren, one line pole with a street light. It might be a fight between the insurance companies.

Lindy asked if the police made a report. Joey said yes they did. Lindy says the company should have to pay for all the damage. Ernie has ordered the trigger wire and poles. He also would like to buy more safety gear for the bucket truck. He needs the insulated rubber blankets and sleeves to put over the wires. He thinks it will be around \$2,000. TJ motions to buy the electrical safety equipment for around the \$2,000 price range, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Ernie would also like to start looking into getting a pole truck for the city. They must rely on other towns to come set poles. Some of them are too dangerous to try and set with the backhoe.

Ernie has some quotes for water meters, and he will be meeting with a few other representatives next week to get more prices. Liz would like to figure out what the price will be per year.

Pat stated that there is a pole by Marcus Campbell that is leaning. Ernie said he can try and put in a guide wire. Pat said the old storage building behind the SR. Building still needs to be moved. Craig Newport is going to be coming over soon to install the retractable awning at the chapel.

Police Dept: Chief Joey Adelman handed out his monthly report. He has spoken with the city attorney about getting some of the Ordinances updated. Pat says the people that have been in trouble for junking up their yards, need to be given a ticket the minute they start junking it back up again. Becky Walden stated that the vacant trailer on Elm is wide open again. Lindy asks if the County has a policy on high speed chases. Joey said that is a good question. They have had 2 incidents in a week. Pat says chases are unsafe. He doesn't want Mulberry police involved in chases. Lindy wants to find out the County's policy. Pat says he can talk with Commissioner Moody.

Lindy stated that they need to talk to Joey again about turning in receipts. They do not want to have to pull his card. He needs to do better. Lindy asks if the old city hall has utilities on to it. Amy said only electric.

Becky asks Joey how the ballpark is coming along. Joey says he has gotten the fence. He hopes to start working on it soon.

Council: No one had anything else

Mayor: He was sorry he didn't make it to the July 3rd celebration. He was ill. He wants to thank everyone. It's a lot of work for just a few people. They need to take notes and figure out better traffic flow and parking. The crowd was so big and gets bigger every year. Ernie would like to put out one way signs to help. It would be one way in and one way out. Becky says they also need a bigger water line out there for the kid's water toys. Ernie said he could get a booster pump. Becky says next year they hope to have a big inflatable water slide.

Ken asked if they have an estimate on the number of people. Ernie thinks close to 2,000. Traffic was backed up to 3rd street on both sides of the road as well as Stateline Road. Lindy thanks Mulberry PD for escorting her to the event.

Lindy motions to adjourn, Debra 2nd, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM