**Regular AUGUST City of Hopkins Board of Aldermen Meeting AUGUST 7, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

Matt Wray, or called the regular August aldermen meeting to order. The following officers were present or absent as indicated:

 **Present/Absent Present/Absent**

Matt Wray, or Present Allan Thompson, Alderman Present Richard Moore, Alderman Present

Rick Gladman, Alderman Present Theodore Phipps, City Clerk Present

Also present: Chris Bird, Water Operator, Kelly Morrison, Cynthia Powles, Tony O’Riley, Dee O’Riley, & Kathy Rice (Nodaway News Leader)

Minutes of the August Board of Aldermen meeting were presented. Rick Gladman made a motion for those minutes to be approved as written. Allan Thompson seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Rick Gladman—Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; No Votes–0.

At this time the current Expenses were discussed. Rick Gladman made a motion to approve expenses as presented. Allan Thompson seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Rick Gladman—Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; No Votes–0.

Update on building matters were discussed. Nothing further needs to be addressed.

Chris Bird told the Aldermen the software was adaptable for use with future equipment. The matter is tabled until the next meeting.

Theodore Phipps read Bill Number 277 Ordinance 477 in title to the Aldermen.

BILL NO. 277 ORDINANCE NO. 477

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HOPKINS, MISSOURI, TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS SHALL BE ELECTED AT LARGE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79.060.2 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, cities of the fourth classification with a population of one thousand (1,000) or less may elect by ordinance to elect alderpersons at large instead of electing alderpersons from wards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY OF HOPKINS, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Elections At Large. Election to the board of alderpersons shall be at large. The seats of current alderpersons shall be filled at large as soon as the current term expires. Each year thereafter, one-half (1/2) of the board of alderpersons shall stand for election at large for a two-year term.

SECTION 2: Wards Abolished. The election wards are hereby abolished.

SECTION 3: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

Bill NO. 277 Elections At Large. Election to the board of alderpersons shall be at large read in its entirety by Theodore Phipps.

Bill NO. 277 was placed on its second reading by title only by Theodore Phipps. Rick Gladman made the motion to accept Bill No. 277 Ordinance NO. 477 as read, Rickard Moore– seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; Rick Gladman -- Yes; No Votes–0.

Mayor declared Bill NO. 277 passed.

City Clerk assigns Ordinance NO. 477 to said Bill NO. 277.

Mayor signed BILL NO. 277 ORDINANCE NO. 477 at this time.

Theodore Phipps informed the Aldermen on the status of a financial audit. Theodore Phipps has a bid from Becker Accounting LLC for $20,000 to do a financial audit of the City of Hopkins. Theodore Phipps informed the Aldermen that the bid was higher than the bid that was briefly estimated when in contact with Becker Accounting LLC. Kathy Rice noticed a discrepancy in the bid that may reflect the increase in cost. The matter is tabled until later.

The Aldermen discussed possible replacements for the vacant Aldermen position. Names that were brought up in the discussion are Bryson Allen, Rusty Anderson, and Kelly Morrison.

The waiving of sewer rate for filling of pools was discussed by the Aldermen. The matter was decided previously to waive the rates. The matter is closed.

The hearing on the proposed tax levy was called to order with no public present. After estimating the amount of money necessary to defray the City’s expenses during the next ensuing year at $72,604.15, Allan Thompson made a motion to approve the levy on the taxable property of the City of Hopkins 1.7712 cents on the One Hundred ($100.00) Dollar. Rick Gladman seconded that motion. Mayor Matt Wray signed the approved Levy. Votes: Richard Moore–Yes; Rick Gladman–Yes; Allan Thompson–Yes; No Votes–0.

Kelly Morrison asked for a tube to be replaced. (NEED ADDRESS OR LOCATION) Rick Gladman made a motion to replace the tube at (NEED ADDRESS OR LOCATION). Allan Thompson Allan Thompson seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Richard Moore - Yes; Rick Gladman –Yes, Allan Thompson - Yes; No Votes – 0.

Dee O’Riley presented to the Aldermen her concerns of the professionalism and performance of duties as clerk and treasurer of the city of Hopkins. Dee O’Riley discussed the nature of Theodore Phipps interaction with the Missouri State Auditors office. Dee O’Riley asked for documentation from the Missouri State Auditor’s Office in which she was mentioned. Theodore Phipps told Aldermen there is contact information for the Missouri State Auditors Office for any communication any individual would like to make.

Rick Gladman made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Allan Thompson seconded the motion. Roll Call Votes: Richard Moore - Yes; Rick Gladman –Yes, Allan Thompson - Yes; No Votes – 0.

(CLOSED SESSION) Theodore Phipps discussed matters that were presented to the Aldermen by Dee O’Riley and offered resignation in response to the matter. The Aldermen tabled the matter until more information has been presented on the discussion.

(CLOSED SESSION) The Aldermen discussed the potential candidates for the Southward Aldermen vacancy. The candidates for the Aldermen vacancy are Bryson Allen, Rusty Anderson, and Kelly Morrison.

Allan Thompson made a motion to leave the closed session. Rick Gladman seconded the motion. Roll call votes: Rick Gladman – Yes; Richard Moore – Yes; Allan Thompson, No Votes – 0.

Discussion was held in connection with the vacancy of the Southward Alderman. Mayor Matt Wray provided the following possible replacements: Bryson Allen; Rusty Anderson; and Kelly Morrison. Discussion was held. Allan Thompson made a motion that Bryson Allen be approved to fill the open Southward Alderman position. Richard Moore seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson 0- Yes; Rick Gladman – Yes; Richard Moore – yes; No – 0.

Theodore Phipps discussed special permission for payment of August expenses for IRS Tax Payment, MO Lagers Payment, and United Electric Payment. Allan Thompson made a motion to approve payment of August expenses for IRS Tax Payment, MO Lagers Payment, and United Electric Payment. Richard Moore seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Rick Gladman—Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; No Votes–0.

The Aldermen discussed the decision to purchase a new city truck that was made on February 13, 2023 Aldermen meeting. The Aldermen decided to not cash out fund xxxxx9399 for the purchase of the truck Chris Bird priced. Allan Thompson made a motion to not cash out fund xxxxx9399 for the purchase of a truck. Richard Moore seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Rick Gladman—Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; No Votes–0.

The Aldermen returned to the discussion of the financial audit of the City of Hopkins. The Aldermen asked Theodore Phipps to reach out and get a correct updated bid for the financial audit of the City of Hopkins. The Aldermen said to accept a bid for an amount no greater than $10,000.00 for the audit of the City of Hopkins. Allan Thompson made a motion to accept a bid from Becker Accounting LLC only if the bid did not exceed $10,000.00. Rick Gladman seconded the motion. Votes: Allan Thompson–Yes; Rick Gladman—Yes; Richard Moore–Yes; No Votes–0.

Allan Thompson made a motion to adjourn the regular Board of Aldermen meeting. Rick Gladman seconded the motion. Votes: Rick Gladman – Yes; Richard Moore – Yes; Allan Thompson; No Votes – 0.

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Theodore Phipps Matt Wray, Mayor