

**CITY OF WILLARD  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 25, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

Staff present: City Administrator, Brad Gray; City Clerk, Jennifer Rowe; Public Works Director, Dave O'Connor; Director of Finance, Carolyn Halverson; and Police Corporal Bob Bell.

The City Attorney Ken Reynolds was not present.

Citizens in attendance: Mindy Latham, Terry Kathcart, Jessica Albright, Jennifer Albright, Jim Cole, Gayer Dixon, Steve Gillaspay, J.D. Matthews, Missi Ferguson, Tyler Daniel, Craig Gargus, Laura Umphenour, Rosalinda Albright, Laurie Seastrom, Taylor Smith, Dillen Ramsey, Rob Church, Katie Smith, Kristi Spencer, Bret Daniel, Robert Huckey, Paula Farr, Bill Fellers.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Corey Hendrickson.

**Call to Order.**

Mayor Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call.**

The City Clerk conducted the roll call. Alderman Bond -present, Alderman Snider-present, Alderman Stewart-present, Alderman Whitman-present, Alderman Baird-present, Alderman Jones--- and Mayor Hendrickson- present. Student representative Bradley Cooper also present.

**Agenda Amendments/Agenda Approval.**

City Administrator Brad Gray stated that the Consent Agenda needed the Financial Summary, Financial Statements, Check Register and Adjustments added, and item 4 needed to be changed from February/March, to January/February. He also requested to remove the Fireworks bid. Motion was made by Alderman Stewart and seconded by Alderman Bond to approve the Agenda with changes. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**Consent Agenda.**

Motion was made by Alderman Baird and seconded by Alderman Stewart to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**Discussion/Vote to approve current January/February 2019 Outstanding Invoices, Check and Draft Paid Invoices.**

Motion was made by Alderman Bond and seconded by Alderman Whitman to approve the current January/February 2019 Outstanding Invoices, Check and Draft Paid Invoices. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**Citizen Input.**

Jessica Albright (804 Berry) discussed animal cruelty and compassion of Willard. She is requesting that the Board pass an ordinance prohibiting tethering during extreme temperatures.

Laura Umphenour (4224 Greenbrier Dr, Nixa, MO) She is with the Missouri Association for the protection of dogs and animals. She assisted in getting the puppy mill ban in Missouri. Has worked with Springfield to get

their tethering ordinance passed. She discussed anti-chaining laws and how it will help Willard. She also discussed statistics on tethering causing aggression in dogs.

Rosalinda Albright (804 Berry) stated that she started trying to pass this in 2016. Willard having rules against trespassing prohibits her from checking on dogs in backyards. She stated she does not want to see Willard as a hick town that is more interested in the trash being on the curb too long. There are more church's than restaurant, yet people are cruel. Willard should protect the dogs and not worry about the length of grass, trash, or nuisances.

Laurie Seastrom (616 S. Miller) 20-year resident, has worked for dog rescues and fostered animals. Discussed the condition of her last foster dog she took in. Discussed risks associated with dogs being tethered. She stated that she has no problem with hunting dogs on tethers, or others who are taken care of. Her issue is with those who neglect their dogs and leave them tethered through extreme heat and cold, and without water, food or shelter.

Karen Sinderman (5862 W. State Highway O), 30-year resident, stated Willard is a great community, and most are compassionate. She wishes the few she did see neglecting dogs would be stopped and the community would do something about it.

Zack Bishop (716 Sydney) stated that if people see animals being neglected, they need to say something and alert the authorities.

Michael Sterling stated that if you see tethering and don't agree with it, then look into it.

Jennifer Albright (804 Berry) 20-year resident, stated the tethering and neglect has bothered her for years. Many negative side effects to tethering. They are more aggressive and suffer when left on chains. They also cause emotional distress to community members that see them. She is only concerned with those always chained, not all dogs.

Gayer Dixon (Greene County Resident) is active in the Missouri Hunting and Working Dog Alliance. He has heard issues before, and while some may be true, it is a very small issue about a small number of dogs. More of an abuse/neglect issue than tethering and should be handled on an individual basis and not generalized. He stated that many years ago, dogs were not inside dogs. He asks that the Board use common sense and weigh all issues.

Laura Umphenour (4224 Greenbrier Dr, Nixa, MO) discussed animals being on Noah's ark, not people.

**Rosalinda and Laura began interrupting citizen input. Mayor Hendrickson gave the first warning that no one is allowed to interrupt and talk over anyone else that has the floor.**

Laura Umphenour discussed generalization and stated that the police have no standardization to know what is cruel and inhumane. She requests a standardized ordinance for police to follow.

Jim Cole (Walnut Grove, MO) stated that he has both hunting dogs outside, and inside dogs. He keeps them all healthy and is against abuse. If anyone sees it, they should be calling law enforcement. He stated his outside dogs are healthier than his inside dogs. He understands not everyone takes care, but not everyone can afford big fancy kennels either.

Missy Ferguson (PO Box 714, Willard, MO) Director of Missouri Hunting and Working Dog Alliance. She stated she has members around Willard and one inside City Limits. She discussed what AKC and UKC rules about tethering and that they are against tethering laws. She discussed hunting dogs being tethered in groups, allowing for the group to feel like a pack. Laws would be far too overreaching and do more harm than good to dogs and dog owners. (She passed information out for the Board)

Taylor Smith (609 Daniel Lane) stated that his family has been here for 4 generations with coon hounds. Some have found ways to escape, so tethering has been used to keep them safe and off other property. He stated it also keeps them healthy and from creating unwanted litters. His dogs are tethered, but not neglected. They have daily interaction and care. He feels wasting tax money on another ordinance would be wrong as we already have an ordinance in place to protect from animal neglect.

Kristy Spencer has worked in Willard and been around for 48 years. She drives up and down the streets daily and has never seen a tethered dog.

Katie Smith (609 Daniel Lane) has a huge heart for animals. In the past, before she and Taylor tethered their dogs, she would have to leave work to find them when they got out. Tethering has saved him. She feels that actions speak louder than words and if you see an issue of neglect, go do something about it.

Laurie Seastrom (616 S. Miller) wanted to reiterate that she has no issue with hunting dogs and responsible owners. She has issues with those who neglect with tethering. She discussed her neighbors' dog that routinely has no water and lives under a trampoline for shade.

Dillen Ramsey (7985 W. Farm Road 88) Stated that he feels tethering is not the issue, but animals poorly taken care of is.

**Mayor Hendrickson gave Rosalinda Albright her second warning and asked her to stop speaking out of turn and interrupting others.**

Dillen Ramsey stated that tethering should not be brought up as it is a neglect issue. He has coon hounds and keeps one on a tether to keep it from escaping. His neighbors threatened to kill his dog if it was on their property again, so tethering has saved his life.

J.D. Matthews (Miller, MO) stated that a 10-foot tether has more square footage for the dogs to run than a 10 by 10 enclosure. Being on a tether teaches the dogs leading capabilities and allows for exercise.

Rosalinda Albright (804 Berry) stated that those condoning tethering only care about themselves, and they do not care about their animals.

Jessica Albright (804 Berry) begged everyone to use empathy. And to go outside on the next freezing night and stay for a while to see how the dogs feel.

Jim Cole (Walnut Grove, MO) stated that our Ordinances look good. A few dogs abused should not change the rules for everyone. He feels Willard has done a good job.

**Ordinance amending Chapter 710 Sewer Use and Sewer Rates. (1st Read) Discussion/Vote.**

Public Works Director Dave O'Connor discussed the changes in the Chapter being proposed. Discussion was made on calculating averages and how billing has been done in the past. He stated this will bring us in compliance with Springfield which is required according to our contract. We have to eventually adopt this.

Discussion was made on the rates in the Chapter, calculating the averages, permanence and land lords. Motion was made by Alderman Baird and seconded by Alderman Stewart to table the Ordinance amending Chapter 710 Sewer Use and Sewer Rates. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**Ordinance amending Chapter 340.260 Prohibited cruising of motor vehicles on public streets-regulations of motor vehicles on property (1st & 2nd Read) Discussion/Vote.**

City Administrator Brad Gray discussed the Fall Festival and the Cruise In being proposed. Discussion was made on current code prohibiting cruising on City streets. Discussion was then made on the time frame the cruising will be allowed. This amendment would add in verbiage to allow cruising only to Board Approved City sanctioned events.

The first read was conducted by the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Alderman Whitman and seconded by Alderman Baird to amend Chapter 340.260 Prohibited cruising of motor vehicles on public streets-regulations of motor vehicles on property. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

The second read was conducted by the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Alderman Stewart and seconded by Alderman Bond to amend Chapter 340.260 Prohibited cruising of motor vehicles on public streets-regulations of motor vehicles on property. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**New Business.**

Mr. O'Connor updated the Board on the status of the new 94 Lift Station and stated that it was turned on today and doing better than expected. Things are going well.

Jessica Albright (804 Berry) stated that she brought sample ordinances and would like to collaborate with Staff to draft an ordinance for tethering or one to amend animal cruelty.

**Unfinished Business.**

Laurie Seastrom (616 S. Miller) stated that she was waiting on feedback from Staff as she would like to bring a Dirt Day to Willard. She thinks teaching about recycling and learning about dirt, water waste and chemicals ending up the sewer would be good. Mr. Gray stated that he would have someone reach out.

Discussion was then made on the Memorial Bench for Roberts, the Mural downtown and the revisions to the Pool code.

Mayor Hendrickson agreed to take questions from the Albrights at this time. Jessica Albright asked what the process was to pass an ordinance on tethering. Mr. Gray outlined the steps and informed them that his door is always open if they have any questions.

Alderman Stewart asked for an update on the Keep Willard Clean initiative.

**Adjourn.**

Motion was made by Alderman Whitman and seconded by Alderman Baird to Adjourn. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Voting aye: Aldermen Bond, Snider, Stewart, Whitman and Baird. Student Representative Bradley Cooper also voted aye.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.**

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Jennifer Rowe, City Clerk

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Corey Hendrickson, Mayor of Willard