

Georgetown City Council Meeting

Minutes for May 15, 2023

The Georgetown City Council met in regular session at the hour of 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on the above written day. City hall was set up with the Social Distancing in mind.

Invocation delivered by Alderman M. Scott
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

Present:	Dennis Davidson	Alder Ward 1
	Jack Morrison	Alder Ward 1
	Lucas Seilhymmer	Alder Ward 2
	Curt Gordon	Alder Ward 2
	Mike Scott	Alder Ward 3
	Randy Scott	Alder Ward 3
	Tim Waterman	Alder Ward 4
Also Present:	Darin Readnour	Mayor
	Jacqueline Wilson	City Clerk
	Amy Cavanaugh	Treasurer
Absent:	Nick Krabel	Alder Ward 4

The Mayor declared a quorum was present.
Clerk Wilson swore in Alderman Lucas Seilhymmer for Ward 2.

Public Comments:

- Wanda Shade discussed a town clean up day. She saw an advertisement for Westville's and had talked to the Mayor about it. Mayor Readnour asked her to find out some more information and bring it to the council. Wanda talked to Westville's City Clerk. She said they are getting 30 yard dumpsters from Bryant's for \$500. The location needs to be in a fenced in area. Westville is offering pick up for seniors, but will not go onto the property. There is a fee of \$15 per pickup load, with additional charges for certain items. The council asked that this be added to the next agenda to discuss.
- George Hill, 605 E 13th St. George had a list of houses he gave to Mr. Biggerstaff. There are many houses on 13th St that need cleaned up. He works hard to keep his property looking nice, and many around him are full of junk.
- Darren Alexander would like to thank Clerk Wilson for being vocal on Facebook and keeping everyone informed. He believes this helps when there are water leaks and issues to have someone to communicate with the town. Mr. Alexander would also like to thank Rusty and the streets and alley guys for working on the water leak on Pine St. over the weekend to get it fixed. Mr. Alexander would also like to know what we are doing to update our water system. The city received a loan to update the lines on the Northeast side of town but are we working on getting any grants to continue the work. The maps for the water lines also need to be updated. Mr. Alexander asked what plan b was for Ed. The mayor told him we have Will in training, he is able to answer the alarms, and is learning the computer programs. Mr. Alexander asked if Farnsworth is watching for grants for the city.
- Mr. Alexander also wanted to make sure the council was aware of the offer in the lawsuit. He said he is only asking for the fair market value of the property plus \$11,000 to cover his attorney fees. He doesn't think it is right he was forced to spend money on an attorney. He is still going to lose 10's of Thousand's of dollars he has put into his property. He says he came to the council 3 times before

lawyers were involved. If we continue this it will cost the city more money for depositions and lawyer fees, He has done everything he was supposed to, and it is all the city's fault that there is a lawsuit. Mr. Alexander wanted to the council to know that is going on.

- Mr. Alexander also mentioned that his neighbor, Mrs. Hawn should be credited for the \$40 Non payment fee she was charged last month. She was in the hospital and was not able to pay her bill.

1. Approval of Minutes.

a) Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated May 1, 2023.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented

Motion / Second: Alder Morrison / Alder Davidson,

Motion passed 6 – 0, with Alder Seilhymer abstaining.

2. Payment of Bills.

Action Taken: **Authorized payment** of bills as presented in List 831. There were payments to 49 vendors for a total of \$62,793.17 from April's Budget and \$44,242.66 from the new fiscal year's budget.

Motion / Second: Alder Seilhymer / Alder Gordon,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

3. Treasurer's Report.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder R. Scott / Alder Gordon,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

4. Clerk's Report:

Besides preparing the agendas, minutes, meeting packets and typing Streets & Alley reports, the clerk answered e-mails and phone calls, contacted Beardsley about the water rates ordinance, worked on creating a lead Service line survey, took surveys to DTI to be printed.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

5. Streets & Alleys Report: ran sewers on West Oak & Logan St, poured concrete on Woodland and Garfield Streets, pulled forms and backfilled with dirt. **Park:** worked on new playground area, worked on pickle ball court, installed Lion's Club sign at park. **Did Work Orders and J.U.L.I.E.'s**

Overtime Hours: 1.5 hours for April 20 – May 3, 2023

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented.

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

6. Water & Sewer Reports: Ed: daily chores, water/sewer reports, water usage report, mowing, cleaned trickling filter, cleaned final's, washed truck, did Julie calls in Indiana with Rusty, cleaned out bed 1 and drained digester into sand beds, did zoom calls with Home Field Energy, cleaned sludge pump bowls, finished rebuilding yard hydrants and took stream samples to Danville sanitary for fecal. **Will:** chores both sewer and water, weekly test and sampling, security awareness training, cleaned chlorine injector, filled chlorine at Cayuga, filled and topped off all chemicals in Georgetown sewer plant, mow and weeded and blown both water and sewer building and both wells, cut all trees out of lagoons and around property line, rebuilt both water hydrants at Georgetown waste treatment plant, decanted, cleaned rake and grit wash, drained digester into drying beds, stream samples, sharpened blades on push mower.

Overtime hours: 8 hours for April 20 – May 3, 2023.

Action Taken: **Approved** as presented

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

7. CILBA Report: 135 Initial contacts have been made; 39 second notices have been sent.

Action Taken: **Approved**

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / R. Scott,

Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

Old Business:

1. Consider appointment for City Superintendent
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder M. Scott / Alder R. Scott
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

Committee Briefs:

- Chairman Waterman would like to have a Business District meeting on Monday at 6 pm.

New Business:

1. Consider Poppy Collection at the square May 20.
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder M. Scott,
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
2. Consider Marine Core League Collectiona at the square July 8.
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder R. Scott / Alder M. Scott
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
3. Consider Ordinance matters with Biggerstaff.
 - a. IPMC 302.4 Add vegetation violation height to 8” (same as city ordinance)
Action Taken: **Approved to change IPMC 302.4 to 8”** to match the current city ordinance.
Motion / Second: Alder Seilhymer / Alder Morrison
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
 - b. IPMC 303.2 Swimming pools: Remove enclosure requirements (same as city ordinance)
Action Taken: **Approved to remove the fence requirement from IPMC 303.2** to match the current city ordinance.
Motion / Second: Alder Seilhymer / Alder R. Scott
 - c. Approval to discuss processing abandoned/vacant buildings with attorney. Dave would like to meet with the attorney to see what steps can be taken on abandoned/vacant houses. On burned, abandoned houses, what steps can the city take if insurance has not been paid out to require the insurance companies to take care of the property? Carol Hilts asked Dave about an update on 308 E. 9th. The credit union is seeing what paperwork needs to be done to donate it to the city. Dave asked if there was anything the city workers could do to start cleaning up the property without removing anything from it. Dave mentioned that if a property has unpaid taxes for 2 years, and no utilities, the city can buy the property for \$800 before it goes to the tax sale. This is another option that the city should consider. Alder Morrison asked about the Coleman house. The new owner had said he would be fixing it up and making it a children’s home. It is now for sale. The owner says he has no money to fix it up. Alder Morrison also mentioned that Dave is making progress on the ordinance violations. They have seen a difference.
Action Taken: **Approved** giving Dave Biggerstaff authority to meet with the attorney.
Motion / Second: Alder Seilhymer / Alder Morrison
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
 - d. Discussion of IPMC 302.8 Inoperable or unlicensed motor vehicles – “shall not be parked, kept, or stored on any premise and vehicles shall not at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Dave asked for clarification. The Mayor said the tag must be current and the vehicle must be able to start & move on its own.

4. Consider Appeals Board for Ordinance appeals. The appeals board cannot be made up of city employees. It should be made up of residents. The board would receive any appeals, look at the violations, and decide if it is a violation. It would then go to Municipal Court if not taken care of by owner.
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder Gordon
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
5. Consider Water Tower Bids – 3 bids were received to complete the water tower cleaning. National Wash Authority for \$10,560, Roger Kauffman for \$5-5500, and Judge Services for \$7979. The council would like to see the contracts, payment terms, and references for these companies.
Action Taken: **Tabled** for more information
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
6. Proclamation for National Police week May 14-20
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder Morrison
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
7. Proclamation for National Public Works week May 21-27
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Gordon / Alder R. Scott
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
8. Consider Ordinance 2023-126 Business Regulations
Action Taken: **Approved**
Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.

Announcements

- The clerk read an email from Ameren. They are kicking off the Streetlight Energy Efficiency Exchange project for 2023. This is where they replace Ameren-owned streetlights with LED bulbs at no cost to the respective communities. As part of this initiative, Georgetown will be receiving 352 new LED streetlights. They will be installed in the coming weeks by contractor Gerstner Electric throughout Georgetown.

Adjourn Meeting:

Motion / Second: Alder Waterman / Alder R. Scott,
Motion passed unanimously 7 – 0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

I, Jacqueline Wilson, Clerk for the City of Georgetown, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting which was held May 15, 2023.

Jacqueline Wilson, City Clerk