

Regular City Council Meeting  
December 11, 2012  
7:33 PM

**Call to Order:** The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order by Mayor Sheldon Snow.

**Council Members Present:** Mary Harris, Rick Weber, Verlin Springer, Mary Ann Platt and Claire Blackburn.

**Staff present:** Doyle Sobba, Jake Strobel and Marla Gadelman.

**Guests Present:** Officer Jerrod Fredricks, Donna Thompson, Don Poss, Sister Loretta Roeckers and Doug McIntosh.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes of Meetings:** Rick Weber made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2012, Regular Meeting. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

**Approval of Monthly Expenses:** Mary Ann Platt made a motion to approve the expenses paid since the November 13, 2012 meeting. Verlin Springer seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**1. R & B's Corporation- Renewal of Cereal Malt Beverage License.** Verlin Springer moved that we approve R & B's Corporation cereal malt beverage license renewal. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

**2. City Cleanup and Code Enforcement – Doug McIntosh.** Doug McIntosh addressed the Council with his concerns about the condition and disarray of the town and various houses throughout the town. He believes property values will decline due to the condition of the town. Mr. McIntosh wondered if the city could send letters to the property owners; could the city attorney issue summonses; could the city clean up the places and assess taxes? Mayor Snow explained that we are currently in the process of having the League of Kansas Municipalities recodify our ordinances. Mr. McIntosh asked whether there is a Code Enforcement Officer and it was explained that it was part of Jake Strobel's job description but that so far he had focused on the weeds and tall grass enforcement. Mr. McIntosh questioned whether anything can be done. Mayor Snow explained that a big part of the problem is the expense involved with cleaning up the houses and buildings.

Don Poss, Poss Real Estate, stated that he cannot get clients interested in buying property in town or moving here due to the condition of vacant homes and junk vehicles.

After further discussion it was determined that Mayor Snow would contact the City Attorney to find out what actions the city can take as far as condemning property and other major issues.

**3. Consider Federal Payments Agreement to accept debit, credit and e-checks.** Marla Gadelman, City Clerk, reported that she had been approached by many residents about accepting debit and credit cards for utility payments. Council was provided a copy of the Federal Payments Agreement. Through Federal Payments there will be no charge to the city and all charges will be paid by the person making the payment with a minimum charge of \$1.95 for debit and credit cards or 2.5% of the amount paid and a flat fee of \$1.50 for e-checks. The only cost to the city will be \$80.00 for a card swipe machine. A link will be provided on our city website to the Federal Payment system. At some point in the future, the city could consider absorbing the fee charged. A notice will be posted on the utility statements when we begin accepting electronic payments. After review of the agreement Mary Ann Platt made a motion to enter into the Federal Payments Agreement to allow us to accept debit and credit cards and e-checks. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed.

**4. Any other necessary city business.** None

5. Officer Jerrod Fredericks, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, announced that the Sheriff's Department has a job opening if we know anybody interested. A new deputy position will also be available after the first of the year. The Sheriff's Department will have a new website beginning in February.

Officer Fredericks encouraged citizens to contact the Sheriff's Department if they suspect illegal activity or have other concerns. The Drug Unit can be contacted at 785-242-6900. Crime Stoppers is available if people want to remain anonymous at 866-351-TIPS. Texting and Facebook options are also available.

A drop off box for unused prescription drugs is available at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. Officer Fredericks encouraged citizens to properly dispose of unused prescription drugs.

Seat belt programs will be implemented to encourage use of seat belts.

**Staff Reports:** Doyle Sobba reported that at the sewer plant a vacuum pump motor and electrical switch went out and Jake Strobel will be picking up the necessary parts. Jake Strobel will also be getting a few couplers and other necessary parts to get the new fire hydrants installed this week. KDHE will be conducting an annual inspection of the sewer and water plants.

Doyle Sobba reported that we have been unable to find any ordinance concerning new water and sewer hookups.

Jake Strobel reported that he had not located a dump truck at this time.

Marla Gadelman reported that the Clerk's conference she attended in November was very helpful and she obtained a lot of information.

We are currently doing a parallel test month with our current water billing program and the program she is testing. So far everything is going well.

As a heads up, Marla reported that she would be taking a week off in February, and that Jennifer Brenzikofer will be available to work at least part of the week.

**Council Comments and/or Reports.** Mayor Snow reported that the LMI survey has been tabulated and the city is at 46.5% of the 51% needed. There are 25 vacant households and 65 household that did not respond. Rita Clary will be going door-to-door to complete the survey.

Our City Attorney is having his Christmas Party on December 13, 2012, if anyone is interested.

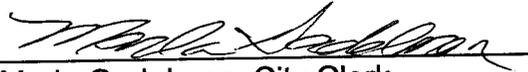
The K-State Extension Agent has notified us of a program to develop a community garden and possible grant money available. After discussion it was determined that Marla would contact Rebecca McFarland to invite her to attend a meeting to explain the program.

**Adjournment:** Claire Blackburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Harris seconded the motion. Vote 5-0, motion passed. 8:47 PM

APPROVED:

By:   
Shelden Snow, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Marla Gadelman, City Clerk

