

# MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI  
MAY 14, 2024

## CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on May 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Mayor Milton called the meeting to order.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## INVOCATION

Fire Chief Ted Martin provided the invocation.

## ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hillary Briand called roll. Present: Mayor Larry Milton, Alderman Ruth Denham, Alderman Clay Cooper, Alderman Ralph LeBlanc, Alderman Glenn Schulz. Absent: Alderman Artie Lucas and Alderman Marshall Howden.

**Alderman Howden joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:07 p.m.**

## AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS:

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:

- A. RECOGNIZING LYNN POWELL OF THE CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT AS THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY, 2024 TO BE PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR HILLARY BRIAND.

City Clerk Hillary Briand presented the Employee of the Month.

## PROCLAMATIONS:

- A. A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS "MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH" IN BRANSON PRESENTED BY MAYOR LARRY MILTON.

Mayor Milton presented the proclamation.

- B. A PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 10TH THROUGH 16TH, 2024 AS "NATIONAL POLICE WEEK" IN BRANSON PRESENTED BY MAYOR LARRY MILTON.

\*\*May 13, 2024 – 3:30 P.M. – This item was added.

Mayor Milton presented the proclamation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Milton began the Public Comments section of the Board of Aldermen meeting by stating the Board would hear citizens who signed up in the order they are listed.

Amber Thomsen discussed “Midwest Alqueda Hostage Units Enforced by Police on Illegal Medicare Fraud.” She expressed concerns for doctors falsely labeling people with mental disorders in order to detain them in mental facilities, nursing homes and prisons.

Deanna Slatton discussed “Smart cities agenda 2030.” She warned the Board about smart cities and explained they’re an entrapment to citizens in order to control the population. She voiced her concerns with them and urged the Board to keep Branson safe.

Bobbie Wydeen discussed “Shout out.” She gave a shout out to Parks and Recreation Director Cindy Shook and mentioned her organization had a great event at the RecPlex. She also gave a shout out to Kristie Holland of the Utilities Department for her customer service during a water leak that affected her organization’s water pressure.

Matt Kendrick discussed “Great time in Branson.” He mentioned attending the Fire Station #4 opening ceremony which had a great turnout and he thinks it speaks volumes about the community and trust they have in the Board. He gave a shout out to Public Works Director and City Engineer Michael Woods for listening to his ideas and for all he’s done.

Karl Finkenbinder discussed “Entertainment zone ordinance change.” He discussed the proposed ordinance change and requested it be brought off the Consent Agenda for further discussion. He expressed concerns about unintended consequences if the ordinance passes and requested an amendment or exception consistent with what’s utilized in the Entertainment Zone.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Milton asked if any member of the Board had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, the following items were read by title:

1. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 23, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING AND APRIL 23, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.
2. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 AND DECEMBER 7, 2023 REGULAR MEETINGS.
3. FINAL READING OF BILL NO. 6440 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 94 OF THE BRANSON MUNICIPAL CODE CLARIFYING THE EXCLUSION OF MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS IN THE ENTERTAINMENT ZONING DISTRICT.

Ordinance No. 2024-0043 was duly enacted.

The floor was opened for a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Alderman LeBlanc so moved, seconded by Alderman Denham.

Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays: none. Motion Carried.

## REGULAR AGENDA:

### 4. UPDATE ON LODGING SAFETY INITIATIVE.

A presentation was provided by Chief of Staff Alex Girard.

Speaker:

Matt Kendrick asked if there was any interest from the owners to become compliant of the eight establishments that were closed.

Discussion.

### 5. FIRST READING OF BILL NO. 6443 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING PAYMENT OF INCENTIVE FEES TO ASM GLOBAL, BRANSON CONVENTION CENTER'S MANAGEMENT COMPANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT.

The item was read by title. The floor was opened for a motion approving FIRST READING OF BILL NO. 6443 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING PAYMENT OF INCENTIVE FEES TO SMG, BRANSON CONVENTION CENTER'S MANAGEMENT COMPANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE MANAGEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT. Alderman Cooper so moved, seconded by Alderman Schulz.

Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays: none. Motion Carried.

Discussion.

### 6. FIRST READING OF BILL NO. 6444 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF LAND AND LIFT STATION TO THE CITY OF BRANSON FROM POINTE ROYALE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

The item was read by title. The floor was opened for a motion approving FIRST READING OF BILL NO. 6444 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF LAND AND LIFT STATION TO THE CITY OF BRANSON FROM POINTE ROYALE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC. Alderman LeBlanc so moved, seconded by Alderman Schulz.

Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays: none. Motion Carried.

Discussion.

## APPOINTMENTS:

### 7. APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADVISORY PARK BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION.

City Clerk Hillary Briand stated this appointment process is in accordance with the Board and Committee Appointments Procedure for Category 1, appointments made by the Mayor with approval by the Board of Aldermen. The Board will be voting on a slate of appointments. Mayor Milton announced his slate of appointments to be voted on:

Advisory Park Board

- Lane McConnell, Re-appointment to the Advisory Park Board with a term expiring June 2027.
- Jeremy Bluto, Appointment to the Advisory Park Board with a term expiring June 2027.
- Dacia Vigna, Appointment to the Advisory Park Board with a term expiring June 2027.

Planning Commission

- Chuck O'Day, Re-appointment to the Planning Commission with a term expiring April 2028.
- Tony Morreale, Appointment to the Planning Commission with a term expiring April 2028.

The floor was opened for a motion approving the slate of appointments for Category 1 as presented. Alderman LeBlanc so moved, seconded by Alderman Cooper. Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays none. Motion Carried.

**8. APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND BOARD OF APPEALS.**

City Clerk Hillary Briand stated this appointment process is in accordance with the Board and Committee Appointments Procedure for Category 2, appointments made by the Governing Body. There are three vacancies on the Board of Adjustment and two applications received. The two applicants will be voted on by slate first. In order to fill the remaining vacancy on the Board of Adjustment, qualified applicants not selected for the Planning Commission who expressed interest in serving on the Board of Adjustment will be voted on by the Board via ballot to fill the additional vacancy.

The floor was opened for a motion to approve the slate of appointments for the two vacancies for Board of Adjustment as presented:

Board of Adjustment

- Candace Cook, Appointment to the Board of Adjustment with a term expiring April 2029.
- Kelsey Schoelich, Appointment to the Board of Adjustment with a term expiring April 2029.

Alderman Schulz so moved, seconded by Alderman Cooper. Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays none. Motion Carried.

City Clerk Hillary Briand stated the following applicants will need to be voted on via ballot:

Board of Adjustment to fill the unexpired term of Jim Babcock until April 2026:

- Patricia McQueary
- Matthew Kendrick
- Scott Flaming

Board of Appeals with a term expiring April 2029:

- Scott Flaming
- Candace Cook

The floor was opened for a motion to vote by ballot for Board of Adjustment and Board of Appeals as

presented. Alderman Cooper so moved, seconded by Alderman Denham. The Board voted by ballot and City Clerk Hillary Briand read the results of the ballot vote for Board of Adjustment: Alderman Denham voted for Matthew Kendrick, Alderman Cooper voted for Matthew Kendrick, Alderman Howden voted for Matthew Kendrick, Alderman LeBlanc voted for Scott Flaming, Alderman Schulz voted for Patricia McQueary. The result of the vote for the Board of Adjustment is Patricia McQueary – 1 vote, Matthew Kendrick – 3 votes, Scott Flaming – 1 vote. Matthew Kendrick will be appointed to the Board of Adjustment.

City Clerk Hillary Briand read the results of the ballot vote for Board of Appeals: Alderman Denham voted for Candace Cook, Alderman Cooper voted for Candace Cook, Alderman Howden voted for Scott Flaming, Alderman LeBlanc voted for Scott Flaming, Alderman Schulz voted for Scott Flaming. The result of the vote for the Board of Appeals is Scott Flaming – 3 votes, Candace Cook – 2 votes. Scott Flaming will be appointed to the Board of Appeals.

#### 9. APPOINTMENTS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

City Clerk Hillary Briand stated the next item is Category 3 appointments. Due to the way Section 2-28 – Administrative/supervisory committees of the Branson Municipal Code is written, there is not an established number of positions on the Finance Committee or Human Resources Committee. The Code states “the mayor and the board may appoint citizens to serve on each of the committees.” The Mayor and Board will need to determine the number of positions they would like to have on these committees. We will first vote on the number of positions to fill for both Committees, then vote by ballot on the appointees.

Alderman Cooper moved to fill 3 positions on the Finance Committee and 3 positions on the Human Resources Committee, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc. Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays none. Motion Carried.

City Clerk Hillary Briand stated the Mayor and Board will now be voting by ballot on the following applicants and the 3 applicants receiving the most votes will be appointed to the Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee with terms expiring April 2025.

##### Finance Committee with terms expiring April 2025:

- Marcus Harmon
- Alex Williams
- Clarke McBratney
- Michael Pinkley

##### Human Resources Committee with terms expiring April 2025:

- Moxie Black
- Candace Cook
- Scott Flaming
- Lane McConnell

Alderman Cooper so moved, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc. The Board voted by ballot for Finance

Committee and Human Resources Committee.

City Clerk Hillary Briand read the results of the vote for Finance Committee: Alderman Denham voted for Alex Williams, Clarke McBratney and Michael Pinkley, Alderman Cooper voted for Alex Williams, Clarke McBratney and Michael Pinkley, Mayor Milton voted for Alex Williams, Clarke McBratney and Michael Pinkley, Alderman Howden voted for Alex Williams, Clarke McBratney and Michael Pinkley, Alderman LeBlanc voted for Marcus Harmon, Alex Williams and Michael Pinkley, Alderman Schulz voted for Marcus Harmon, Alex Williams and Clarke McBratney. The result of the vote for the Finance Committee is Marcus Harmon – 2 votes, Alex Williams – 6 votes, Clarke McBratney – 5 votes, Michael Pinkley – 5 votes. Alex Williams, Clarke McBratney and Michael Pinkley will be appointed to the Finance Committee.

City Clerk Hillary Briand read the results of the vote for Human Resources Committee: Alderman Denham voted for Moxie Black, Candace Cook and Scott Flaming, Alderman Cooper voted for Candace Cook, Scott Flaming and Lane McConnell, Mayor Milton voted for Moxie Black, Candace Cook, and Lane McConnell, Alderman Howden voted for Moxie Black, Candace Cook and Lane McConnell, Alderman LeBlanc voted for Moxie Black, Scott Flaming and Lane McConnell, Alderman Schulz voted for Moxie Black, Candace Cook and Lane McConnell. The result of the vote for the Human resources Committee is Moxie Black – 5 votes, Candace Cook – 5 votes, Scott Flaming – 3 votes, Lane McConnell – 5 votes. Moxie Black, Candace Cook and Lane McConnell will be appointed to the Human Resources Committee.

## **REPORTS**

Alderman Denham mentioned she was unable to attend the opening ceremony for Fire Station #4, but thanked the Fire Department for the Ceremony and for her tour of the Fire Station. She expressed appreciation for all life safety and law enforcement officers.

Alderman Howden commended Mayor Milton for the way he listens to Aldermen and citizens regarding Board and Committee appointments and Ward II Alderman appointment of Artie Lucas. He feels he's done a great job and he thanked him.

Alderman LeBlanc complimented Fire Chief Ted Martin for the opening ceremony of Fire Station #4. He expressed appreciation for City Administrator Cathy Stepp's leadership and he feels the City is moving at the speed of business. He gave accolades to every City Department and thanked them.

Alderman Schulz said it was great to see all the veterans here this evening and felt it was nice to honor them. He mentioned attending his first M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport meeting and reported the airport posted a slight profit last month. He announced the airport is undergoing a major project of redoing the lighting package for the whole airport and it will be closed June 12<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>.

City Administrator Cathy Stepp expressed appreciation for the team involved with the safe lodging initiative. She explained it's helping stop the victimization of some of the vulnerable in the community by using existing codes and authority to do the right thing by taxpayers, residents and visitors of Branson. She expressed appreciation for the City's partners and thanked Tracy Banks for her coordinating efforts with other non-profits on this initiative. She reminded everyone of the upcoming events at the airport involving military planes and helicopters and she feels it will show Branson's heartbeat is its appreciation for the military.

Mayor Milton was honored to welcome Purple Heart recipients to Branson and he feels the City really shows its appreciation for what they've done. He announced the grand opening for Disney Immersive Animation is tomorrow and he invited everyone to attend. He gave a shout out to State Representatives Brian Seitz and Brad Hudson for passing a bill where \$6.2 million from the State is being applied to the 76 Community Improvement District (CID) improvements.

## **ADJOURN**

The floor was opened for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Schulz so moved, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc. Voting aye: Denham, Cooper, Howden, LeBlanc, Schulz. Nays: none. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Larry D. Milton  
Mayor

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Hillary Briand  
City Clerk