

**MINUTES  
OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Notice of this regular meeting of the City Council was given in the Daily American Republic, a newspaper of general circulation located in the City of Poplar Bluff. A copy of the agenda of this meeting was posted on a bulletin board located in the City Municipal building at 501 Vine Street in the City of Poplar Bluff, twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert L. Smith at 7:00 p.m.

The invocation was given by Reverend Brian Sharp of Grace Christian Fellowship Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Smith.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager Matt Winters City Clerk Nevada J. Young who performed the duties of their respective offices.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST** Each member of the City Council was given the opportunity to disclose any possible conflict of interest dealing either with any item on the printed agenda or with any matter discussed at a previous meeting.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed.

**CITIZENS' INPUT** Each person in the audience was given the opportunity to address the City Council on any matter not on the printed agenda.

Mr. Michael Barrett, who gave his address as 1415 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council. He stated some time ago he appeared before the Council and requested additional police presence in his neighborhood and Chief Whiteley and the department stepped up and provided that and he appreciates it. Mr. Barrett expressed his concern regarding the litter problem in the City. He stated he has adopted his street and he is an educator and his students have adopted Oak Grove Road. He stated he also drives a school bus and it bothers him greatly that some of the houses the kids live in are unfit. Mr. Barrett gave a handout to the Council with various ideas relative to cleaning up Poplar Bluff.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Barrett for his time and his suggestions and stated the

Council will take them under advisement.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes  
for the Month of  
December, 2020**

The minutes of the City Council meetings held December 7, 2020 and December 21, 2020 were presented to the City Council for their approval.

**CITY CLERK'S  
REPORT**

**Report on Fund  
Balances,  
Investments &  
Collections as of  
December 31, 2020**

The City Clerk reported that each Councilperson had before them a report on fund balances, investments and collections as of December 31, 2020. She reported on funds on deposit in the Commerce Bank in the amount of \$1,946,873.02; in the Peoples Community State Bank \$568,401.70; in the First Midwest Bank \$23,139,507.38; in Sterling Bank \$13,573.96 and in the First Missouri State Bank \$1,072,071.76. She stated this reflects a grand total of all funds in all banks in the amount of \$26,740,427.82. She stated of this amount, total funds on deposit for the account of City Hall is \$5,823,403.02, total amount on deposit for the Coliseum is \$13,573.96, total amount on deposit for the Park Department accounts is \$700,301.48 and total funds on deposit for the account of the Municipal Utilities Department is \$20,203,149.36.

The City Clerk reported that each member of the City Council had before them the following reports for the month of December, 2020: a list of Bills Paid, a report from Downtown Poplar Bluff, Inc., a report from the Fire Department, a Municipal Court report, a Payroll report by departments, a report from the Planning Department, a Police Department/Animal Control/Code Enforcement report, a Street Department report and a list of payments from the Police and Fire Pension Fund for the month of December, 2020.

After discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Parson and carried to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**WORKSHOP  
ITEMS FOR  
DISCUSSION**

**Request for  
Reinstatement of a  
Taxicab Business  
License**

The City Council considered a request for reinstatement of a taxicab business license.

City Manager Matt Winters addressed the Council and stated Jay-Jay's Cab Service has had their business license revoked and they have requested the Council reinstate the license. He stated there was an incident New Year's Eve where one of Jay-Jay's cabs backed into a City police car. Mr. Winters stated the driver was not licensed with the City and was not listed on the business's commercial insurance as a driver.

Mayor Smith stated he has received several complaints on this cab company. He stated he is in favor of leaving the suspension in place for at least 90 days. Mayor Smith stated they need to be in compliance with City ordinances.

Councilwoman Parson stated she feels they need to report monthly to City Hall verifying their proof of insurance.

Mr. Joshua Counts, who gave his address as 415 Midland Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and stated he owns Jay-Jay's Cab Service. He stated if they are suspended 90 days they will be out of business. He stated they are open 24/7 and people need their services. Mr. Counts stated he knows he has made mistakes and has not done things properly relative to insurance, drivers and registration. He asked the Council to allow him to continue to operate.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis stated these violations are very serious and there are some very serious liability issues here. He asked if there were any other previous

violations.

City Clerk Nevada Young stated Mr. Counts' insurance has lapsed several times in the past putting his passengers at risk.

Mr. Counts stated he has always gotten the insurance reinstated within 24 hours.

Councilwoman Parson commented even just a 24 hour lapse is a huge liability.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilman Cornman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and carried to reinstate Jay-Jay's Cab Service with the stipulation of a six-month probationary period where Mr. Counts will bring monthly documentation relative to drivers, insurance and anything additionally required by the City Clerk to City Hall to verify the business is in compliance with City Code and if there are any violations during the six-month period the business license will be permanently suspended. Councilman Cornman included in the motion proof that Mr. Counts' insurance company is going to pay the claim regarding the incident with the police car on New Year's Day will need to be presented to City Hall and the City Council.

City Clerk Young stated she and Chief Whiteley have implemented requirements that all cab companies will come to City Hall monthly and bring proof of insurance and a list of current drivers. She stated the Code of Ordinances currently calls for stickers to be placed on licensed taxicabs and those have been printed up and will now be placed on vehicles properly licensed as taxicabs with the City of Poplar Bluff.

Councilwoman Horton stated the service is needed but she knows people sometimes wait hours to be picked up.

Mayor Smith stated it is not the Council's intention to place any hardship on Mr. Counts but he must be in compliance to operate his taxicab business.

The City Council reviewed the updated Poplar Bluff ADA Section 504 self-evaluation plan.

City Manager Winters addressed the Council and stated the Community Development Block Grant Program has a grading system for grant applications. He stated for the City to work toward a higher grant score this self-evaluation plan needs to be approved. He stated this is actually a compilation of policies the City already has in place.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson, seconded by Councilman DeGaris, and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held tonight.

The City Council considered a request to submit a grant application for the Wolf Creek TAP Project.

Mr. Andrew Murphy with the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, 3019 Fair Street, Poplar Buff, Missouri, appeared before the Council and stated he is working on this grant application with the Park Department and the Chamber of Commerce. He stated the Missouri Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternative Program provides funding for projects such as trails and sidewalks. Mr. Murphy stated if awarded this grant will connect Shelby Road/Kanell Boulevard to

**ADA Section 504  
Self-Evaluation  
Plan**

**Wolf Creek TAP  
Project Grant  
Application**

the Wolf Creek trail system. He stated the total amount of the project is \$500,364 with a 25 percent match commitment required of which \$100,091 will be paid for by the Chamber of Commerce and \$25,000 will be paid for by the Park Department. He stated the remaining \$375,273 will be covered by the grant. Mr. Murphy stated the City is simply the applicant as required by the grant and will not be contributing any funds to the project. He stated the deadline is January 29, 2021 and is why it needs to be voted on tonight.

After further discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor, seconded by Councilman DeGaris and carried to move this item to the voting session to be held tonight.

**ACTION**  
**REQUIRED ITEMS**

**Poplar Bluff ADA  
Section 504 Self-  
Evaluation Plan**

The City Council took action on an ordinance approving the Poplar Bluff ADA Section 504 Self-Evaluation Plan. Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilman Cornman that Bill No. 8286, **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE POPLAR BLUFF ADA SECTION 504 SELF-EVALUATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI**, be read for the first time by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its first reading, was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Bill No. 8286 be placed upon its second and final reading whereupon such bill was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this bill. There being no discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor that Bill No. 8286 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: Parson, DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such ordinance adopted and the bill was thereupon duly numbered Ordinance No. 21 - 01.

**Wolf Creek TAP  
Project Grant  
Application**

The City Council took action on a resolution authorizing the City to submit a grant application for the Wolf Creek TAP project. Motion was made by Councilman DeGaris and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Resolution No. 1940, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TAP PROGRAM FOR THE WOLF CREEK CONNECTOR TRAIL PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF**, be read by caption only. Said bill was then placed upon its reading and was read by caption only and duly passed by unanimous vote. At this time Mayor Smith asked if there was any discussion of this resolution. There being no discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis and seconded by Councilwoman Parson that Resolution No. 1940 be adopted. A roll call vote was as follows: Yes: DeGaris, Horton, Cornman, Taylor, Parson, Davis, Smith; No: None; Absent: None; Abstained: None. There being a favorable vote the Mayor thereupon declared such resolution duly adopted and was thereupon duly numbered Resolution No. 1940 and was thereupon duly signed and approved by the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

**City Manager's  
Report**

City Manager Winters addressed the Council and stated he had nothing further to report at this time.

There being no further business to come before this meeting of the City Council, motion was made by Councilwoman Parson, seconded by Councilwoman Horton and carried to adjourn this regular session of the City Council.

Mayor Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nevada J. Young

City Clerk

**APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

**OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF,**

**MISSOURI, THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY**

**OF February, 2020.**