

**NOVEMBER 19, 2012**  
**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**ITEM # 1** – Mayor Dennis Wilson called the special meeting to order with councilpersons Josh Cahill, Lowell Tonding, Margaret Roberts, and Jim White. Jeff Davis, City Administrator, Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk and Brenda Allee-Bates, State Librarian was also in attendance.

**ITEM #2** – Mayor Wilson had asked Mrs. Allee-Bates to attend the meeting to speak to the Council concerning the different options for the Library. Mrs. Allee-Bates started off by stating that she had originally found that the city already had a library tax in place that was passed in 1936, however, upon further review she found that there was possibly an Ordinance (#116) passed at a later date where the Council had voted to rescind the tax. The City will need to look for the ordinance for further clarification. If this tax has been rescinded the city would need to put a new issue on the ballot and have it pass by the voters. The city last showed a tax of 1 mill, therefore in reviewing the 2011 assessed evaluation the tax would bring in approximately \$35,246.

Next she discussed the options for the boundaries of the library. Currently the library boundaries would fall in line with the city limits. Other options would be to have a Sub district, which would fall in line with the school district or a County District. Either of these options outside of city limits would need to go through the county clerk and then voted on.

Mrs. Allee-Bates discussed the cost of running the library. She stated that the current costs are \$165,000 per year. The city with the current library tax would bring in \$35,246, and would be eligible for state aid. The current rate for state aid is \$0.50 per capita which would bring in approximately an extra \$2500 for the library. There are other grants available such as the LSTA grant that can be used to upgrade equipment, etc, but not day-to-day operations. Morenet also provides internet connections at a lower rate to schools and libraries that would help cut costs there as well.

Mrs. Allee-Bates closed by letting the Council know if they thought of any other questions or needed her to come speak again she would be happy to help out in any way possible.

**ITEM #3** – Mayor Wilson mentioned that the first step the City was taking would be to put together a library board. They will have members ready to be voted on by the December 3, 2012 meeting.

**ITEM #4** – Jack Kearby Park Board President gave the Council a brief update on their part of the transfer and thoughts the Park Board had brought forward. Jack mentioned that the Park Board was in agreement that the extra park would be a great opportunity for the department. Some of the current concerns they had discussed was resurfacing the road at the park, having someone look at the dam for liability purposes, and the current salary to run the extra park and how they would fit it into their budget.

**ITEM #5** – In closing Mayor Wilson went over a list of conditions that the New York Trust Company had given to the city for taking over the properties.

- Transfer Ownership of properties to City of St. James
- Will provide grant to get library started of \$150,000-\$175,000
- Must take ownership of Library and Park by May 1, 2013
- Jobs at library must be offered to current library staff first
- City will receive Park, Parking Lot and James Lane
- No part of park can be transferred to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Can only have Park if Library is taken as well
- James Foundation will keep building on Park Property until new one is built at Meramec Springs
- James Foundation to keep house on property while James Foundation employee is living there.

Jeff also mentioned that the City had thrown out the idea to New York of setting aside the pool agreement and possibly putting an endowment in place to help the library stay open.

**ITEM #6** – Mayor Wilson asked if there were any questions or concerns from the audience at this time.

- Johanna Corn asked why the James Foundation was making these adjustments. Mayor Wilson mentioned that they wanted to be able to focus most of their time on Meramec Springs.
- Marg Huffman asked what happens if the city says no on accepting the properties? Mayor Wilson stated that we could lose the park and the library if the James Foundation decides that they want to close it down. It would also hurt the pool property since the pool parking lot is shared with the park property.

With no further information to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor, Dennis Ira Wilson

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Sarah Wheeler