



6:00 p.m.-Mayor Flannigan calls the meeting to order. Steve Aston, Alderman Ward I, Amy Vollmer, Alderman Ward I; Jerry Green, Alderman Ward II; and Cody Quist, Alderman Ward II are present. Also in attendance is Linda Haynes, City Clerk and Terry Foster, Chief of Police. There are no guests in attendance.

**In re: Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**-Mayor Flannigan leads the Pledge of Allegiance and then a moment of silence is held.

**In re: 2023 3rd Quarter Budget Review**-Mayor Flannigan states that the purpose of the quarterly budget amendment is to include any expenses that were voted on at meetings that were not included in the original budget. If it looked like an adjustment was needed for other revenue and expense items, that change was made as well. Following a short discussion, Cody Quist makes a motion to draw up the changes presented into an ordinance for presentation at the November meeting. Jerry Green seconds the motion. All are in favor.

**In re: 2024 Budget draft**-Mayor Flannigan states that the loss of the concrete plant sales tax has taken its toll on the general revenue fund. In addition, the cost of everything is going up. Water and sewer line installation costs have increased by 500%, the cost of groceries has gone up. Mayor Flannigan states that laying off police department employees is not the answer. The Moscow Mills Police Department is already operating with less officers than is recommended for the size of our city. The cuts need to come from all departments. The first draft of the 2024 budget indicated that there was over \$376,000 more in expenses than receipts for general revenue. Water and sewer are also having some difficulty operating within their current year revenues. After the departments were asked to eliminate items that were not necessary, the shortage in general revenue is down to \$237,000. This figure includes a 2% cost of living increase and 1% merit increase for the employees. Part of the beginning checking balances in these funds will assist in covering the 2024 expenses that are in excess of 2024 revenues. At the end of 2024 the City should still be holding around \$160,000 in general revenue, prior to all of the cuts that were made it would have been zero. Mayor Flannigan points out that part of the \$160,000 that was cut was because Chief Foster and Deb Freise have volunteered to cut their schedules back. Chief Foster has volunteered to take off a couple days a month without pay. He will be building his consulting business for when he retires. Deb Freise volunteered to go down to 32 hours per week, as long as she doesn't lose her benefits. These two items resulted in just under \$23,000 in savings. The City needs to actively pursue annexation of the businesses along Hwy 61 so they will have to charge the City's portion of sales tax. Part of that is just getting back what the City lost when the concrete plant moved there. Approximately \$240,000 has been lost since the concrete plant moved. The 2024 budget looks kind of bleak, but it has been polished up as best as we can. Linda Haynes states that one of the proposed cuts is to not publish the semi-annual financial statement in the Lincoln County Journal, it costs \$1,200 each time. It will still be published in the legal newspaper, which is the Troy Free Press, and posted on the City's website. The Board is in agreement to discontinue publishing the semi-annual



financial statement in the Lincoln County Journal. Linda Haynes states that she will ask Cindy Davenport if the use tax can be put back on the ballot again. Mayor Flannigan states that is a lot of sales tax the City is missing. Mayor Flannigan mentions some of the other cuts and changes that were made, which include the cleaning at city hall and the social media services. Chief Foster states that Lincoln County is probably going to put Prop P back on the ballot in 2024. If that passes, it will mean a good chunk of revenue for the police department. Mayor Flannigan states that the solar tower issue is back on the radar. With solar power at the water and sewer treatment plants the City could save some money. If anything seems like it is worth pursuing, he will let the Board know. Cody Quist makes a motion to approve the draft of the 2024 budget, and to prepare it for passage at the December meeting. Amy Vollmer seconds the motion. All are in favor.

**In re: Resolution #1052-Changing pay date to Thursdays**-Mayor Flannigan states that the Public Works Superintendent asked if the payday could be moved to Fridays so he would have more time to prepare and approve time sheets for the office. This was discussed at the department head meeting, and it was decided that moving payroll to Thursdays will be sufficient for the extra time needed. It is being presented tonight to see if the Board would be in favor of the change. Linda Haynes reads the title of Resolution #1052. Cody Quist makes a motion to approve Resolution #1052. Jerry Green seconds the motion. All are in favor.

**In re: Ratify email vote to do a survey and accept dedication of land from Scott Heibert**-Mayor Flannigan states that a vote is needed to ratify the email decision to accept the donation of the land from Scott Heibert and to pay the cost of the survey and closing, which shouldn't be over \$2,500 total. Cody Quist makes a motion to ratify the email vote to accept the land, spend up to \$2,500 on the survey and closing costs, and to allow the Mayor to sign the necessary paperwork. Steve Aston seconds the motion. All are in favor.

Cody Quist makes a motion to adjourn. Jerry Green seconds the motion. All are in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda Haynes, City Clerk

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Patrick Flannigan, Mayor