

HOUSTON LAKER

SINCE MARCH 1957 - EDITION #67

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

City Council meetings have moved to the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30pm at City Hall

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month. Join us on Monday, May 20th at City Hall. Meeting starts at 6:30pm

CITY CODE - PARKING

No vehicle shall be parked on any street within the city limits of Houston Lake, MO. (Chapter 300 - Schedule II, Municipal Code)

The Peoples House

I was honored to be a friend of former Mayor Jean Hallauer. At the time I met her she was the Administrator for the City of Houston Lake. Jewel Head was the Mayor and Mary Head was the City Clerk. Jean was also a Master Gardener, so we attended many garden club events in different surrounding cities. Being the City Administrator we also visited many city council meetings in our area and I met many of their mayors and aldermen. One thing that they all had in common was the pride they had in their community, government and their city halls.

I learned a lot about that pride from listening and watching Jewel and Mary head. Mary always took special care of the city hall. She kept it as it were her own house. Jewel ran a tight ship on the garage and you could almost eat off the floor. They were outstanding caretakers. That same pride carried on through the next 4 administrations.

And so it it shocks and saddens me to see the city hall and garage in the condition it is in today. I certainly hope that the incoming administration corrects this situation and understands that the City Hall and the garage are "The Peoples House", owned by all in this community and only loaned to them during their tenure. Please take special care of it before you return it.

Marsha Duncan

GOOSE ADDLING UPDATE

In recent weeks the Goose Egg Addling volunteers have located more than 8 different nests with a total of 31 eggs. Upon revisiting the nests there were only two nests with geese sitting on them. Most of the nests were gone. It looked as if the raccoons had a feast. The volunteers are providing an important service to Houston Lake community. Residents should contact VGHA officers if they see any nests. Thank you.

VGHA DUES LIEN FILING

The 2024 member dues should have been paid by March 1, 2024. Thank you to those of you who have paid. For those of you who have not paid, you have a legal responsibility to pay. You also have a moral and ethical obligation to your Houston Lake friends and neighbors that do pay. The board has adopted a new lien policy. Any dues outstanding on August 31, 2024 will result in the filing of a lien against your property.

I repeat,
LEINS WILL BE FILED ON ANY
PROPERTY OWING DUES AT
AUGUST 31, 2024.

Susan K. Hodges, Treasurer
VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER IS COMING!

Fishing:

It shall be unlawful for any person to pursue, take, transport, ship, buy, sell, possess or use any fish from any body of water within the City without possessing a valid fishing permit issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This section shall not apply to any person 65 years of age or older or is 15 years of age or younger. (Section 210.690 Municipal Code)

All-Terrain Vehicles:

No person shall operate an All-Terrain Vehicle upon the streets of this city. (Section 340.110 Municipal Code)



PHOTO CREDIT: LUM3N PEXELS

PET REGISTRATION AND PROOF OF VACCINATIONS ARE DUE MAY 1ST

The owner or keeper of any dog or cat in the City of Houston Lake is hereby required to have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and to procure a certificate of such vaccination from the veterinarian and to present such certificate to the City Clerk on or before May first (1st) of each year; and the City Clerk shall register such certificate, which registration shall remain in force until the April thirtieth (30th) next following said registration. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog or cat to permit such animal to remain in the City of Houston Lake unless vaccinated as above provided. (Section 205.020: Vaccination)

Feral Cat - If you see a Feral Cat on the Lake that you are concerned is not spayed or neutered, please contact City Hall 816.741.0644 to be put in contact with our local vet. We will coordinate to set a trap for capture. Please note that this program is NOT for domestic cats. Any other animal concerns should go through the Platte County non-emergency line at 816-858-3521

Community Builder

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about”

Mother’s Day May 12th

Happy Mother’s Day to all the Mom’s in Houston Lake!

Yes! Youtodogmom,catmom,fishmomwhatevermomyoumaybe.

Memorial Day May 27th

Thank you to all the men and woman in Houston Lake who serve or have served in the military.

Each of the Patriots whom we remember on this day was first a beloved son or daughter, a brother or sister, or a spouse, friend, and neighbor.

George H. W. Bush

Houston Lake residents as we celebrate Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Graduation, and any other events on the lake PLEASE remind your guests our city does not permit parking on the streets. Extra parking is available at City Hall. Our streets are narrow, and we need to have them accessible at all times for emergency vehicles to get by on the streets for the safety of our community.

Building a better community!

Building a better you!

Feedback, comments, questions, concerns or add to this page email

Heartofhoustonlake@gmail.com

The Power of Positivity

LETTER FROM THE VGHA

Hello Members,

April was a busy month for your HOA Board. Lake Clean Up day was a huge success! We want to thank Lisa Shepard, Todd and Deena Legassie, Shelly Broll, Jake Strobbe, Ethan Dean, Drew Freese, Teena Walker Robin, Wendy Thompson, Victoria Grace and Sean Edwards for all their help. The 3 docks in Cowan's Cove that were in disrepair were removed and disposed of. Many bags of trash were collected to prevent trash from blowing into the water. The picnic table that was in pieces behind City Hall was removed and discarded. Trash was collected from the lake and discarded. An important note: there was much less trash removed from the lake this year. I believe this is due to continued efforts from residents throughout the year quietly making Houston Lake a better place to live. Thank you again to all who helped!

Thank you to our egg addling crew. It appears our goose population is at a sustainable level. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Wendy for running the semi-annual HOA meeting. If anyone has questions that weren't answered, please reach out to me directly.

Drew and I went on a long road trip and picked up the bio-pod pucks in Detroit. I'll be changing them out over the next week. If you look at Cowan's Cove when the water is still, you can see the circular area where the bio-health pods are working. I'm excited to see how much depth we gain this year as well as how the pods affect the vegetation.

Thank you to Sue Hodges for preparing and filing taxes. Mary Head and Sarah Schofield for their continued work with the Laker, Frank for all the many projects he's taken on and Wendy for all the work she puts in. A change in our committee representatives: Frank is moving onto the Oversight Committee and Wendy will move to Grants.

Hope you all have a wonderful May and look forward to seeing you out and enjoying the lake.

Warmly,

Pam Freese
VGHA President



**PHOTOS OF THE DREDGING PROGRESS
CREDIT: BRENDAN BROUSSEAU**

DON'T FEED THE DUCKS AND GEESE

Feeding geese and other waterfowl bread and crackers is a common pastime for many adults and children, but many people do not know that this can be harmful to the birds, as well as the environment. Here are several reasons why you should not feed geese and other birds.

Bread, crackers, popcorn, and other high-carbohydrate foods are like junk food to birds. They provide very little nutritional content, and birds that fill up on them will not seek out other, nutritious food. This can cause the birds to become malnourished, which can contribute to a host of health problems for both adults and babies.

Even though you may only choose to feed geese and other birds small amounts of bread or other foods, other families may be doing the same thing. The result could be that the birds' diet consists primarily of unhealthy foods.

If an abundant supply of food is readily available from humans, the geese population will grow because the birds will be attracted to the handouts. This can cause the area to become overcrowded. A supply of easy-to-acquire food will also lead the birds to lay more eggs, which can further contribute to overpopulation.

Feeding geese bread can also contribute to the spread of disease. A diet rich in carbohydrates will cause the birds to defecate more, which can spread bacteria that can contribute to disease. Moldy bread that is not eaten and left on the ground can cause aspergillosis, a lung infection that can be fatal to waterfowl. In addition, rotting bread can attract pests, such as rats, mice, and insects, which can spread disease.

Feeding geese can also pollute the environment. Uneaten bread is unsightly. It can rot and release noxious odors, and it can also lead to the growth of algae, which can clog natural waterways and endanger the health of fish and other wildlife.

Geese and other birds that rely on humans for food lose their natural fear and may place themselves in dangerous situations, such as crossing roads in search of food. They may also become aggressive toward humans who do not provide them with the food they want.

While you may think that you are helping geese by providing them with food, you can be jeopardizing the health of the birds, other animals, and humans, as well as polluting the environment. Wild geese have plenty of healthy food in their habitat to sustain them. Let the geese find food on their own so that they and other animals in the environment can stay healthy.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU FISH FOR

As I was taking my daily walk about the other day, I nearly tripped over a fishing line that was stretched taut across the road. It was nearly knee high and it hadn't been there earlier.

Looking to my right, I could see it went back to the water's edge. Looking to my left, I saw it was attached to a goose who looked absolutely miserable! I thought it was wrapped around its leg.

I called Shelly Broll, since it was close to her house, and she brought some scissors to cut the bird free. With a snip, the tension was relieved. However, that is when I realized that the bird had been attached to the line with the fishhook in its leg! It limped away from us as quickly as it could. So, we couldn't do anything else to help it. As she wrapped up the excess line, Shelly mentioned that recently her dog had become entangled in fishing line that had been cut and left in the lake near the shore!

Please, please use your fishing gear safely! Cutting your line loose and leaving long lengths of it in the water can harm our wildlife and our pets, especially if there is still a hook attached.

~ by Wendy Thompson

UN-CLASSIFIED ADS

Full Page \$20.00

1/2 Page \$10.00

1/4 Page \$5.00

1/8 Page \$2.50

Pricing is per month & includes a listing on the city website houstnlake.gov

To place an ad, email editor.houstonlaker@gmail.com

HOUSTON LAKE COOKBOOK

2nd Edition of the City Cookbook is available for \$3. Limited number of copies, contact Mary Head at maryjewel40@gmail.com

SAILBOATS FOR SALE

Two sunfish sailboats: one with rigging, sail, and rudder/daggerboard, the other (pictured) is just the hull. I'm selling the hull alone. It's in good shape. Call Chuck Stone at 816 305-3196.



Historical Epitaphs: Voices From the Past

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT UNION CEMETERY

Let some of Kansas City's founding citizens tell you their stories, including a Medal of Honor winner, a famous artist, and young slave who won her freedom.



Guided tours will take you on a journey back in time.

Tours begin at 12 pm, 12:30 pm, 1 pm, 1:30 pm

both Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th

Tickets are \$35 each, Visit Eventbrite.com for information.

EDITOR - MARY HEAD - MARYJEWEL40@GMAIL.COM 816-741-5639
CONTENT & LAYOUT - SARAH SCHOFIELD 816-394-8828
EDITOR.HOUSTONLAKER@GMAIL.COM

2024 TRASH & RECYCLING DATES

City trash and recycling services are handled by Republic Services. For assistance with your receptacles, issues with pick-up or questions about large items contact customer service at 816-254-1470 or RepublicServices.com.

Trash is picked up every Wednesday. Receptacles need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc.

2024 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday):

January 10
February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

2024 Holidays:

January 1st New Years Day - Pick up changed to Thursday January 4th

May 27th Memorial Day - Pick up changed to Thursday May 30th

July 4th Independence Day - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday July 3rd

September 2nd Labor Day - Pick up changed to Thursday September 5th

November 28th Thanksgiving - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday November 27th

December 25th Christmas - Pick up changed to Thursday December 26th

EMERGENCY -

In case of a Police, Fire or Medical Emergency - Dial 911

Platte County Sheriff Non-Emergency & Animal Control
816-858-3521

Riverside Fire Department Non-Emergency
816-372-9024

Grinder Pump Alarm or Backup
Text 816-305-3196 with Name & Address

HOA Officers -

President Pam Freese 816-726-4455
venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com

Vice President Wendy Thompson 816-225-1018

Secretary Frank Wilson 509-939-6811
lmua62@gmail.com

Treasurer/Lake Tags Susan Hodges 816-786-2377
hodges.susan@outlook.com

Board Member at Large Mary Head 816-741-5639
maryjewel40@gmail.com

City Officials -

Mayor
Mayor@houstonlake.gov

City Clerk Lisa Shepard
cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

South Ward Alderwomen

Ashley Fuglestad
sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Sarah Farsace 816-863-2412
sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

North Ward Alderwomen

Teena Walker-Robin 816-769-6082
nw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Keith Carey
nw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Codes Enforcement Open Position
codesenforcement@houstonlake.gov

As most of the HOA Officers and City Officials have full-time jobs as well, phone calls may not be answered or returned as quickly as a text or email.

City Hall is open during meetings, Listening Sessions, events and by appointment.

THE WORKS by MARLENE

a licensed Style Salon

816-587-1550

by appointment only

In Houston Lake!

Over 35 years of experience

Convenient hours

Haircuts Uniquely for You

Specializing in Haircolor

Color Correction

Grey Coverage

Enhancing the Grey

Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,
Marlene



VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

April 15, 2024, MEETING

6:30 pm City Hall

Board Members Present: Mary Head, Susan Hodges, and Wendy Thompson appeared in person, and Frank Wilson appeared via video hookup. Pam Freese had an excused absence.

Wendy Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Sue Hodges gave the Treasurer's report: The dues are slowly coming in with approximately \$38,900 left to receive. Liens will be filed after August 31, on all homeowners with unpaid dues. The VGHA tax return has been filed. We do not pay taxes on dues collected, but do pay taxes on bank interest received. This year we paid \$1,120.00 to the federal government, and \$127 to Missouri. There was no tax due for the grant received as the funds were spent in the same year. We should remember to spend any grant money received in the same taxable year.

Committee Reports:

Wendy - Sean reports that a piece of his equipment broke and work stopped while under repair. He moved the silt off the peninsula to the Barnes property.

Frank - Frank was appointed to the Oversight Committee. On March 27, 2024, The Oversight Committee met. VGHA board members were present to review the new proposed bylaws. After extended discussion it was determined that further refinement was necessary. The Board and the Oversight Committee decided that it might be useful to obtain copies of bylaws of other lake property HOAs. Thought will also be given to joining one of the several national HOA organizations to draw from their experience and resources. Because of scheduling conflicts the April Oversight Committee meeting is cancelled.

Mary - April 24 is the news deadline for the Houston Laker.

Wendy - Wrist bracelets are available for pickup from Susan Hodges. Wendy reported that while walking she came upon a goose tangled in fishing line as well as being hooked. Shelly also reported that her dog had become

entangled in fishing line. We are all reminded to use fishing rods and reels safely and not to discard fishing line into the lake.

Wendy reported that the City Directory is done and available. An update page will soon be printed to list the new City of Houston Lake officials and personnel, including Lisa Shepard who was recently hired as the next City Clerk. The Directory will be updated every two years. Any residents who want their directory information changed should submit the information to Wendy.

The clean-up day is April 20, 9 AM to Noon. Donuts and coffee at 9 and pizza at noon. Remember the dumpster can only be used for clean-up day. Large objects cannot be put in the dumpster. Tires and other large objects should be placed next to the dumpster. It was noted that in the past non-Houston Lake residents had put trash in the dumpster. We will see if we can get a dumpster with a locking lid. It was also noted that someone has been dumping concrete chunks and other building material waste on the other side of the footbridge.

There was discussion as to where the new docks should be placed because of the low lake levels in several places. One resident offered to take care of one of the new docks if it were put where an existing dock is located. Wendy stated that we will wait until the dredging is completed before making any final decision as to dock locations.

A resident asked about dredging the S curve. Wendy reported that it will be done after the main channel is dredged. A small number of the small trees will be removed to allow access to that side of the channel. Big rocks will not be removed but repositioned if they have become dislodged and fallen into the channel. We don't yet know how much dirt will remain on the HOA property on the north side of the main channel. Sean will have to measure so he can tell KC sewer the size the sewer manhole extensions have to be.

Frank reported that the minutes of the March 18, 2024, VGHA meeting had been de facto approved when each board member had been given the opportunity, and some did, make changes to the minutes before the final copy was presented.

The next VGHA meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.



City Council Meeting Minutes 11/13/23

Date: November 13, 2023, 7:30 pm

Location: City Hall

The regular meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Chuck Stone.

On roll call, the following members were **present:** Alderman Loring, Alderman Fuglestad, Alderman Walker-Robin, Mayor Stone

Absent: Alderman Murphy

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda for 11/13/2023 – Alderman Fuglestad motioned to approve with the addition of a burn permit for 5448 Venetian, Alderman Loring seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Minutes from 10/09/2023 – tabled
- Minutes from 09/11/2023 – tabled

Emergency Management

- Fire Department
- Sheriff Report

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report

Burn Permits: 5448 Venetian – Alderman Fuglestad motioned to approve, Alderman Loring seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Building Permits (None)

Treasurer's Report – Alderman Loring motioned to approve, Alderman Fuglestad seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Pay Bills Resolution Number 11.13.23 – Alderman Loring motioned to approve, Alderman Fuglestad seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment – Alderman Loring motioned, Alderman Fuglestad seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.



City Council Meeting Minutes 12/11/23

Date: Monday, the 11th day of December 2023

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The regular meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Chuck Stone at 8:08 pm.

On roll call, the following members were **present:** Alderman Loring, Alderman Fuglestad, Alderman Walker-Robin, Mayor Stone.

Absent: Alderman Murphy

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- Agenda for 12/11/2023 – Alderman Loring motioned to approve with the addition of a burn permit for 5448 Venetian, Alderman Fuglestad 2nd, Alderman Loring Aye, Alderman Fuglestad Aye, Alderman Walker-Robin Nay
- Minutes from 09/11/2023 – Alderman Walker-Robin motioned to approve, Alderman Loring 2nd, Voice vote resulted all ayes
- Minutes from 10/09/2023 – tabled
- Minutes from 11/03/2023 – tabled

Emergency Management

- Fire Department – No rep, no report
- Sheriff Report – No rep, Report included animal call, welfare check, citizen assist, civil matter twice, parking complaint, residents check, threats, threats

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report

Public Discussion

- Resident Pam Freese spoke on behalf of citizens who cannot now park on the paved area in front of city hall because of the now state mandated dedicated handicapped parking and also cannot access the city parking lot because of the high steep barrier curb preventing entry to small low vehicles who would be damaged by jumping this curb. She explained about really hilly homes are un-navigable in deep snows or freezing weather. Freese also spoke on Johnson Trail being the only road in Houston Lake that is not paved which means it is not plowed. She requested the city consider paving the road in their long term plan. It was clarified that this road is never plowed.
- Sharron Defleunte asked about the invoice for the repair of the Sire damaged sewer line that was finally addressed after complaining for a full year, Mayor Stone responded in the negative and speculated that Spire may have paid the bill directly. Sharron complimented the city on the pleasant Christmas event at city hall with Santa appearing for the first time since 2019. Sharron spoke on the lovely open house recently held by the Riverside Fire Dept. Finally she mentioned Mayor Rose of Riverside marking her mother's passing a year back and recommended a remembrance from the city.

Burn Permits (None)

Building Permit

- VGHA Erosion Permit related to the upcoming lake dredging was debated at length. VGHA President Freese requested that we waive fees in deference to the benefit provided from the dredging for the entire community. City Clerk customized the permit as indicated by council. Mayor Stone wanted more information on the plan to deliver fill dirt to residents on demand. Freese agreed to provide a written plan.
- Alderman Loring motioned to approve VGHA Erosion Permit waiving the fees. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded. Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

- Alderman Loring motioned to approve the Treasurer's report for 11/23. Alderman Fuglestad seconded. Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.



Pay Bills – Resolution #11.13.23

- Alderman Fuglestad motioned to approve the Paybill Resolution for #11.13.23. Alderman Loring seconded. Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Reports from Alderwomen

- Alderman Loring expressed gratitude to whomever wrapped the tree to try to save it from a beaver.
- Alderman Fuglestad Address the concern over the construction going on at her house. She indicated they are almost done, the silt fences is still in place. They are just waiting for the mud to dry enough to remove them and finish the grading and seed it. Mayor Stone
- Alderman Walker-Robin thanked the MoM Committee for the successful Christmas event, Sharron for all her help and MoM member Lori Scarborough for bringing a Barbie game from the 60's and serving as kid wrangler. Recommend games for kids for all future events.

Report from Mayor

- Delivered a request from the Tax Collector to ask residents to ensure their city on bills is indicated as Houston Lake so the city gets the franchise fees.
- Update the ex-codes officer has agreed to train our grounds keeper as codes enforcer which he has agreed to do.
- City Council has accomplished a lot in the last year. It started with making an accountable Right of Way permit and I don't know if was that or that we were working with such a great company, that the project turned out to be such a great success.
- Reducing the real estate taxes to half of what they were without really affecting the budget because it was basically out of the fire suppression fund.
- Next meeting will be January 8th.

Adjournment

- Alderman Fuglestad motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Loring seconded. Voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm



City Council Special Meeting Minutes 12/11/23

Date: Monday, the 11th day of December 2023

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The special meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Chuck Stone at 7:30 pm

On roll call, the following members were **present:** Alderman Sarah Loring, Alderman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Mayor Chuck Stone. **Absent:** Alderman Annmarie Murphy

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda for 12/11/2023 Special Meeting
Alderman Loring made a motion to approve the agenda for December 11, 2023 Special Meeting. Alderman Fuglestad Seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO A MUTUAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

- Alderman Loring made a motion to approve the ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO A MUTUAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. Alderman Fuglestad Seconded. Roll call vote: Alderman Murphy, absent; Alderman Loring: Aye; Alderman Fuglestad: Aye; Alderman Walker-Robin: Aye.

Adjournment

- Alderman Loring made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Fuglestad Seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm



City Council Meeting Minutes 1/8/24

Date: Monday, the 8th day of January 2024, 7:30 pm

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The regular meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Chuck Stone.

On roll call, the following members were **present:** Alderman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderman Sarah Loring, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Mayor Chuck Stone. **Absent:** Alderman Annmarie Murphy

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- **Agenda for 01/08/2024**

A discussion of the agenda ensued regarding agenda items sent to the council via email by Alderman Walker-Robin. Mayor Stone declined to add any of Walker-Robin's agenda items, citing their receipt after the agenda was posted on Thursday, which he believed undermined the purpose of the 24-hour advance posting. Walker-Robin countered that 24 hours before the meeting on Monday at 7:30 pm, even accounting for the weekend, would be Friday at 7:30 pm. Mayor Stone maintained that business hours would make it Thursday.

Alderman Fuglestad made a motion to approve the agenda for January 8, 2024 with the removal of the 08/28/23 meeting minutes which had already been approved and the addition of two new business items walked in at meeting start by VGHA President and resident Pam Freese. Alderman Loring seconded. Alderman Loring: Aye, Alderman Fuglestad: Aye, Alderman Walker-Robin: Aye. Alderman Murphy: Absent.

- Alderman Fuglestad made a motion to not approve the minutes from 10/09/2023 and 1/12/2023 rather than tabling them at the insistence of the Mayor. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded. Roll call vote: Alderman Walker-Robin: Aye; Alderman Murphy: Absent; Alderman Fuglestad: Aye; Alderman Loring: Aye.

Emergency Management

- Fire Department – no report, no representative
- Sheriff Report – Report received; Representative not present due to the extreme cold. There were 5 calls for service. Call of fraud that was forwarded to investigations & No traffic stops in December.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report

- VGHA President Pam Freese provided an update on the dredging project, noting delays due to inclement weather and the contractor's injury. The contractor is scheduled for surgery on the tenth and will commence work on the silt pond as soon as he is able. However, weather conditions, including freezing of the pond, will impact progress. The project's timeline aligns with the contractor's off-season availability, prioritizing work during favorable weather conditions. Freese announced a meeting scheduled for February twenty-first.

Public Discussion

- Resident Pam Freese expressed gratitude for having her agenda items approved but raised concerns over Alderman Walker-Robin's repeated denial of agenda items. Mayor Stone clarified that Walker-Robin's submissions were received after the agenda had been posted. Freese questioned why her own requests had been accommodated, prompting discussion on timeline discrepancies and preferential treatment. Alderman Walker-Robin contested the timeline interpretation and expressed frustration with agenda workflow issues. Alderman Fuglestad proposed addressing the matter in the next meeting, with Mayor Stone agreeing. Freese opted to continue with her agenda item and expressed hope for resolution in the next meeting.

Burn Permits – none.

Building Permits

- 5409 Northwest Venetian Drive, originally denied for lack of a survey, survey was provided and the permit was approved. The permit is now being amended to include the addition of a second story. The building inspector has not had completed his review and no valuation has been determined. No motion was made, the permit was not approved.



Treasurer's Report 12.31.23

- Resident Pam Freese queried the expenditure of \$5,000 to Arbor Masters for tree maintenance, seeking clarification on the specific services rendered. Mayor Stone explained that the funds were used for clearing roads for emergency access and roadside clearing. He estimated \$3,500 for brush pickup and \$5,000 for street clearing, below the initial \$14,000 proposal. Freese expressed satisfaction with the work done.
- Freese also inquired about the Grinder Pump Fund's status, noting its absence from the financial records. Ashley Fuglestad raised concerns about discrepancies in the treasurer's report, including an unaccounted \$240 check. It was suggested to table approval until corrections were made. Alderman Walker-Robin proposed approving pending correction to the Grinder Pump Fund entry, which was seconded by Fuglestad. Alderman Loring suggested approving with the amount from the treasurer's report recorded. The motion was made and seconded, contingent on the correct amount being reflected in the records.
- Alderman Fuglestad made a motion to approve the treasurer's report for 12.31.23. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded it. Roll call vote: Alderman Murphy, absent; Alderman Loring: Aye; Alderman Fuglestad: Aye; Alderman Walker-Robin: Aye.

Old Business

- **VGHA plans to distribute fill on-demand**
 - At the December meeting, VGHA President Pam Freese submitted a permit application, later found to be unnecessary, and offered to provide a plan regarding fill distribution. Freese stated the plan was incomplete due to the holidays and contractor's hospitalization, requesting the item be tabled to the next month for further discussion.

New Business

- **Formalizing the grass-cutting agreement to include the Barnes property**
 - The discussion revolved around formalizing a grass-cutting agreement, including the Barnes property. Mayor Stone inquired about writing the resolution. VGHA President Pam Freese agreed to draft the resolution for next month's board approval, with Alderman Walker-Robin expressing interest in being involved to gain experience in resolution writing. They discussed the content, ensuring it addresses the cost-sharing arrangement and specifies maintenance responsibilities for the Barnes property. Freese agreed to provide the necessary agreement document for drafting the resolution, and Alderman Walker-Robin offered to work with her on it, aiming for completion by the February meeting. Freese confirmed she would share the agreement document with the board as needed.
- **Parking for residents who cannot get to their homes during inclement weather now that the paved spots in front of city hall are reserved for disabled parking as required by state law**
 - The discussion involved replacing the barrier curb in front of the parking lot at city hall with a lazy back curb or installing a paved parking lot at the park that would serve both the parking for inclement weather and additional parking for residence, trying to attend meetings, who have low cars as well as other potential solutions. The discussion did not come to a conclusion

Reports from Council Members

Adjournment

- Alderman Loring made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Fuglestad seconded it. Roll call vote: Alderman Fuglestad: Aye; Alderman Loring: Aye; Alderman Walker-Robin: Aye; Alderman Murphy, absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am



City Council Meeting Minutes 2/12/24

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

Location: Houston Lake City Hall

The regular meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Chuck Stone at 7:39 p.m.

On roll call, the following members were **present**: Alderman Sarah Loring, Alderman Annmarie Murphy, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Mayor Chuck Stone

Absent: Alderman Ashley Fuglestad

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Alderman Loring motioned to approve the agenda for February 12, 2024. A voice vote passed with all Ayes.
- Minutes for 10/09/2023 were tabled again for lack of a printout due to the continuing wifi issue although they were available on the Gdrive.
- Alderman Murphy was absent from the November, December, and January meetings and abstained from voting on those minutes. Alderman Fuglestad was absent from this meeting so a voting quorum could not be achieved. Consequently, approval of the November, December, and January minutes was tabled to the next month's meeting.

Emergency Management

- **Fire Department**: No representative was present, and no report was provided.
- **Sheriff's Report**: During the discussion, an update on January's service calls was provided, noting six incidents, including an Amazon driver bitten by a dog and the apprehension of a suspicious individual with an outstanding warrant at the park. Concerns were raised about the lack of progress in acquiring a new animal control officer or alternative measures due to funding constraints. Efforts to address rabies checks and stray animal incidents were emphasized, with a need for additional chip readers highlighted. An offer was made to connect with relevant resources or individuals to obtain chip readers.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report

- President Pam Freese of VGHA announced that the upcoming meeting is set for Wednesday, February 21st, at 6:00 pm.

Public Discussion

- Resident Pam Freese brought attention to the necessity of resurfacing the only remaining public gravel road in Houston Lake, Johnson Trail, proposing its inclusion in the upcoming budget for the following year. She highlighted challenges related to truck access caused by overhead power lines.
- Resident Lisa Shepard voiced apprehensions regarding suspected criminal activities occurring near her home. Sergeant Dougherty recommended vigilant monitoring of the situation and encouraged homeowners to report instances of trespassing, potentially leading to towing.
- Resident Lisa Shepard questioned the need for a printed city directory, advocating for an online alternative. Mayor Stone responded that there are currently no plans for an online directory due to privacy concerns and the absence of digital access among some city residents.

Burn Permits

- 5444 NW Venetian Dr., 5509 & 5523 N Adrian Ave – Alderman Murphy motioned for approval. Alderman Loring seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Building Permits

- 5417 Venetian Dr. – Alderman Murphy motioned for approval. Alderman Loring seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- 5409 NW Venetian Dr. – Alderman Loring motioned for approval, Alderman Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report

- Approval of the February 2024 report – Alderman Murphy motioned for approval. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Pay Bills

- Approval of the January 2024 report tabled from the January Meeting
 - Alderman Murphy had to abstain due to absence last month and a quorum couldn't be achieved because Alderman Fuglestad was absent from this meeting so approval was tabled.
- Approval of the February 2024 report
 - Alderman Loring motioned for approval. Alderman Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Old Business

1. **VGHA distribution plan for distributing fill dirt to residents by request**
 - The written plan presented by VGHA President Pam Freese was accepted by the council with no questions.
2. **Resolution to formalize the arrangement whereby the Venetian Gardens Homes Assoc (VGHA) and the City split grass-cutting expenses**
 - The revised resolution was distributed and the issue was tabled for discussion at the March meeting.



3. Jumping the curb at City Hall

- The continued deliberation centered on parking challenges faced by residents encountering difficulties navigating the barrier curb at City Hall, especially during meetings or inclement weather. Important aspects discussed included the height and steepness of the barrier curb, its role in directing stormwater to the 2-foot-wide flume, and the suggestion to substitute it with a lazy-back curb rising to the same height at an angle suitable for vehicular passage. Furthermore, there was a proposal to integrate the issue of expanding the flume and altering the curb into the forthcoming dialogue on Road funds and Stormwater grants, particularly in light of the flooding incident on that road section last August.

4. Informational update on the 2023 Outreach Grant

- The Platte County Parks Board has asked us to present in person and answer any questions they may have. We have agreed. The discussion included a suggestion that the grant be directed to a new park by the bridge and private beach, perhaps the bridge itself as a park. The grant deadline has passed, it's far too late to begin work on a totally new project. Additionally placing a second public park in a city this small is going to be hard to justify or maintain, and placing it next to private amenities is going to be problematic.
- Resolution to fund the 2024 replacement grant – Alderman Loring motioned for approval. Alderman Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

5. Update on the Holiday Street Decorations

- The update revealed that new decorations were funded, purchased, and assembled in 2023. Complications arose during the implementation phase of the project concerning the selection of 17 poles out of >80 across the city, along with finalizing a mounting strategy. Consequently, the debut of the street decorations is planned for the holiday season of 2024.

6. Email address to be used when posting ads for the City Clerk position

- During the discussion regarding the email address for posting ads for the City Clerk position, it was proposed to direct respondents to the city council distribution list email address for purposes of transparency. Clarification was sought and confirmed on the City Clerk position being a board hire, and the significance of using the city council distribution email address was emphasized. It was requested that the mayor agree to this. The mayor declined to comment. It was suggested that utilizing the city council address would provide documentation and safeguard the interests of the city and the mayor. The mayor confirmed that all ads he had posted utilized his mayor@ email address. There was a suggestion that if the mayor refused to involve the Board in recruitment efforts for this board hire, he should reconsider posting ads for the position. The mayor reiterated his decision to not address the matter further.

New Business

1. **Proposal from HOA for funding to assist with the printing of the city directory** – The HOA Vice President presented three funding proposals for the printing of the city directory. Wendy clarified that the HOA's contribution would be the covers that are being donated by a member, valued at \$425. The proposals consisted of an estimate from Office Depot amounting to \$525, which included donated cover pages and coupons, a \$575 proposal from Linda Word, and an option for in-house printing at City Hall over several months, costing \$363.20 with a \$135 out-of-pocket expense. Wendy expressed concern about the delay in delivery associated with the in-house printing option. Following discussion, the council decided to proceed with the Linda Word proposal.
– Alderman Loring motioned for approval of the proposal. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
2. **Discussion on the best way to spend road funds in 2024, including listing and prioritizing opportunities to work with the Platte County Stormwater Grant to address flooding issues** – The discussion focused on prioritizing efforts to tackle flooding issues. With the looming March 29th, 2024 deadline for grant applications, it was underscored that utilizing road funds for stormwater remediation could fulfill the city's required 20% commitment for the grants. A proposed Stormwater Grant workflow outlined various steps, including identifying and prioritizing challenge areas, exploring opportunities for utilizing free fill-dirt from upcoming VGHA dredging to combat erosion, consulting with engineers, establishing budgets and long-term goals, earmarking funds, and collaborating on grant writing. Suggestions were made to consult an engineer to devise effective solutions, learn from past experiences, and focus efforts on addressing problem areas identified in 2021. There was also a suggestion to seek consultation from a County engineer instead of hiring a consultant. Additionally, specific issues such as flooding in front of City Hall, parking solutions during inclement weather, and improvements to curb design were highlighted. Areas like Adrian and Venetian Circle, designated flood plains, were noted as requiring attention to address flooding issues.
3. **Discussion on the upcoming board vote to abandon the ward system** – The discussion noted that critics argue the ward system restricts voter options and limits potential council members in a small community like ours. They emphasize the importance of competence and dedication over geographic considerations when selecting council members, highlighting the need for a motivated workforce to address community needs. It was mentioned that in our city, distinctions between the Northside and Southside are minimal, with the entire city covering less than one square mile. Additionally, it was highlighted that two seats are open in the next election with no announced candidates, underscoring the importance of expanding the candidate pool to ensure representation.
4. **Discussion on the workflow for drafting and posting City Council Meeting agendas** – The discussion concerned discrepancies regarding agenda management practices. There was a suggestion to establish a collaborative process for agenda management. It was proposed to postpone further discussion on this matter to the March agenda to ensure Alderman Fuglestad's participation, given her expertise in digital publishing and project management. In the interim, it was recommended to continue the current process of carrying forward unresolved old business from the current month to the next to ensure continued attention. The intention was expressed to continue managing the creation and publication of agendas and minutes using digital publishing and Google Docs.
5. **Discussion on the location of signed contracts related to the Missouri American Water Infrastructure Improvements project** – The council discussed an outstanding sunshine request for a copy of the signed contract between the City of Houston Lake and Missouri American Water. It was noted that the signed contract has not been located. The availability of a signed copy of the Right of Way (ROW) application, completed and submitted by Missouri American Water representatives, was mentioned. Mayor Stone confirmed that he had signed the ROW permit but stated that contracts are typically sent to the attorney for review. The need to locate the document to fulfill the sunshine request was reiterated. It was suggested to reach out to the city clerk from that period to inquire about where the contract would have been filed. Mayor Stone confirmed that the ROW permit was the only document he signed with American Water.
6. **Discussion of the location of signed and sealed ordinances passed during the current administration** – During the discussion, it was noted that there is a sunshine request for copies of these ordinances, but they cannot be located in the city clerk files or the ORD book. Additionally, the ordinances do not adhere to a numbering system, making it difficult to determine how many are missing. The previous city clerk indicated that the originals would be in the city council



meeting files, and the mayor has copies because he wanted them altered before codification. It was mentioned that the majority of the ordinances were administrative and would not need to be codified into the city code. There was discussion about the natural chain of custody for ordinances, from proposal to signing and sealing, with uncertainty about the repercussions of ordinances passed without retaining the signed and sealed originals. There was a suggestion to initiate a numbering system accounting for the missing ordinances and consult legal counsel about the repercussions of missing documents. It was decided to contact the attorney to inquire about any copies she may have and the potential repercussions

7. **Legal grounds for the Mayor's assertion via email on Dec 21, 2023, that a new permit could be approved without a vote since the city council had approved a prior permit on the same issue** – During the discussion on the legal grounds for the Mayor's assertion made via email on Dec 21, 2023, regarding the approval of a new permit without a vote, it was noted that there is a need to clarify the statement. The Mayor provided a backstory, stating concerns about an erosion control permit for a lake dredging project. The board expressed concerns about the Mayor's assertion, and there were attempts to refocus the discussion on the specific statement addressed in this agenda item. The Mayor did not provide a clear response, leading to frustration among council members. The discussion veered off-topic at times, with individuals expressing their opinions and grievances. Ultimately, the issue was not resolved, and there was a sense of frustration over the lack of clarity and resolution. The meeting moved on to other agenda items, but the matter remains unresolved.
8. **Legal grounds for the Mayor's refusal to sign a permit approved by the Board of Aldermen** – During the discussion, it was emphasized that once a document is approved, refusal to sign it without legal basis is not appropriate. The permit in question was associated with a dredging project previously discussed. Concerns were raised about the Mayor's refusal to sign and the legal implications of such actions. There were differing opinions regarding the Mayor's authority to refuse to sign an approved document. Some argued that if the Mayor believes the action is wrong, he has the duty not to sign it, while others emphasized the administrative technicality of his signature making the document legal. It was acknowledged that communication and clarity are essential, particularly in email exchanges between meetings. However, the discussion did not lead to a clear resolution, and the meeting moved on to other agenda items.
9. **Legal grounds for the Mayor's assertion during the November City Council Meeting that resolutions are required for discussions of workflow** – During the discussion Alderman Walker-Robin highlighted that there is no requirement for resolutions to establish workflow or policy. She pointed out that there are a plethora of instances in the record of this fourth class city demonstrating that policies have been historically established through board votes without a requirement for writing a resolution before having a discussion. Furthermore, she noted a flaw in the Mayor's logic, mentioning a recent incident where the Mayor sought assistance on building permit workflows shortly after refusing to discuss workflow for drafting agendas without a resolution. This inconsistency highlights the impracticality of requiring resolutions for every policy discussion. Mayor Stone referred to a section in the MML City Clerk manual stating that resolutions are for deciding policy while ordinances are for legislative matters. Alderman Walker-Robin clarified that while resolutions can be used for policy, it is not a mandatory requirement. The Mayor acknowledged this and indicated that he was paraphrasing the manual. In conclusion, it was agreed that discussions on workflow and policy will proceed without the necessity of writing resolutions in advance.

Reports from Councilmembers

- During Alderman Loring's report, she highlighted the recent weather changes, noting warmer days and increased rainfall, suggesting that it's time to consider cleaning out ditches, particularly those on individual properties. The responsibility for cleaning ditches on one's property was clarified, emphasizing that there is no easement covering roadside ditches, but if a ditch crosses the road, it falls under the city's responsibility. Alderman Loring shared her observation of choked ditches near her property, prompting a reminder to rake them out in the spring. Additionally, she mentioned the availability of a property tax freeze for seniors in Houston Lake, encouraging interested individuals to apply. Resident Lisa Shepard inquired about where she could find more information on the property tax freeze. Alderman Walker-Robin directed her to Resident Sharron Delafuente for more information, mentioning that Sharron has been tracking the issue for months and has excellent information on the subject. Resident Sharron Delafuente provided updates on the property tax freeze, indicating ongoing efforts to make it available to more people. The discussion expanded to include details about the eligibility criteria, including age and occupation, and the process of applying for the tax freeze, which requires proactive action from eligible individuals.
- Alderman Walker-Robin had no report.
- Alderman Murphy – "It's overwhelming to be back. I missed a lot of the ... I tried to keep up on the email but not all of this was in all of the emails I receive anyway. ... A lot has happened over my time out. It's nice to be back."
- During the council member reports section, Resident Frank Wilson raised concerns about the city's contract with Republic, particularly regarding missed trash pickups and the associated charges. He emphasized the need for clauses in the contract to address situations where services are not delivered as agreed upon. Mayor Stone highlighted the difficulty in altering Republic's standard contract and likened it to negotiating terms of use policies with large corporations like T-Mobile. Frank expressed willingness to assist during contract renegotiations. Resident Sharron Delafuente shared her experience calling Republic's customer service during a missed trash pickup, noting their responsiveness and explanation for the delay due to equipment issues. Frank mentioned his experience with Republic's customer service, highlighting difficulties in reaching a live person during a similar situation.
- During Mayor Stone's report, he addressed several issues. Firstly, he mentioned a resident's complaint about missed trash pickups on Wagon Trail Circle, stating that he provided additional trash cans to assist with the situation. He also discussed the city clerk position, expressing concerns about the low pay and lack of interest in the role. The mayor proposed offering sign-on bonuses or separating the duties of the city clerk and records manager to make the position more appealing. Additionally, Mayor Stone shared his plans to attend the mayor's prayer breakfast and participate in the Northland mayor's meeting, which had been on hold for the past two months but was expected to resume in March.
- After the last council member report, Alderman Loring queried the Council about the upcoming election and the potential absence of two aldermen, including herself and Alderman Murphy, at future meetings. She questioned how the city would proceed if there was no quorum. Alderman Walker-Robin clarified that they wouldn't be released until the new person is sworn in, but Alderman Loring pointed out that they would potentially have only two months left. Mayor Stone explained that he would appoint replacements, subject to approval by the city council. Resident Pam Freese inquired about potential replacements, to which the mayor mentioned having a few people in mind but not having taken action yet. Alderman Loring's expressed concerns about the functioning of the city government in the absence of a quorum. Alderman Walker-Robin suggested Alderman Loring could consider the possibility of staying on, and asked if she would serve if written in. Alderman Loring remarked on the this being a hard sell based on the current meeting's ambitious agenda.

Adjournment

- The next meeting will be held on March 11th.
- Alderman Loring motioned to adjourn. Alderman Murphy seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm



City Council Meeting Minutes 3/11/24

Date: Monday, the 11th day of March 2024

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The regular meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor pro tem Ashley Fuglestad.

On roll call, the following members were present: Alderman Sarah Loring, Alderman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Alderman AnnMarie Murphy. Absent: Mayor Chuck Stone

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Agenda for 03/11/2024 – Alderman Walker-Robin motioned to approve the agenda with the move of the final new business item to the top of the agenda. Alderman Loring seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Mayor's resignation
Alderman Walker-Robin read Mayor Stone's letter of resignation into the record. Alderman Walker-Robin made a motion to accept the mayor's resignation, Alderman Murphy seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Minutes for 10/09/2023 – Alderman Walker-Robin motioned for approval of the city council meeting minutes from 10.09.2023, Alderman Murphy seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Minutes for 11/12/2023, 12/11/2023, 01/08/2023 and 02/12/2024 were tabled for review in the April meeting.

Emergency Management

- Fire Department – none
- Sheriff Report – Deputy reports one traffic stop, one animal call, a missing person that was located, a welfare check and a trespass. It was clarified that the animal call was the same dogs that we have been dealing with. Sergeant Dougherty reports the information passed on last month about activity was dispersed and it doesn't look like we've had any calls related to that.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report

- VGHA board member Mary Head announced a change in their meeting date to the third Monday at 6:60 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for the 18th. Alderman Loring expressed amazement at the amount of silt removed from the silt pond. VGHA President Pam Freese provided an update on the dredging project, mentioning the smoothing out of the silt pond and creation of a berm, replacement of the silt fence, and upcoming work on the S curve and peninsula. Refuse from the S curve will be trucked to the Barnes property for hay and seeding once dry. Freese also answered a question with the information that volunteers from both sides of the lake contributed to honeysuckle removal and announced the HOA's annual Lake Cleanup scheduled for April 20th.

Public Discussion

- Resident / HOA Vice-President Wendy Thompson spoke on the city directory being printed and available for pickup and delivery.
- Resident Pam Freese expressed her appreciation for the board, acknowledging that it has been less than smooth sailing.

Burn Permits

- 5275 NW Edgewood Trail (2) – Alderman Loring motioned to approve the two burn permits for 5275 NW Edgewood Trail. Alderman Murphy seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Building Permits – None

Treasurer's Report – Tabled due to illness

Pay Bills – Tabled due to illness

Old Business

1. Resolution to formalize the arrangement whereby the Venetian Gardens Homes Assoc. (VGHA) and the City split grass-cutting expenses.
 - The city and HOA have decided to investigate alternative document options to formalize their arrangement, prompted by the objection of the city's legal counsel to using a resolution for this purpose.



2. Update on the 2023 Platte County Outreach Grant
 - Our grant application was delivered to the Platte County Park Board on Tuesday, February 27th. As of now, there has been no communication regarding approval status.
3. Discussion on filling the City Clerk position
 - Alderman Walker-Robin presented a revised city clerk job description for consideration during candidate interviews. No vote was requested, but consensus was sought on the proposed description. The description provides detailed duties before, during, and after meetings. Walker-Robin mentioned ongoing discussions with a potential candidate who may require a change in meeting day due to prior commitments. In addition, consideration was given to adjusting the meeting time to accommodate an early-rising council member. The remaining council members agreed to move the meeting day to secure a city clerk and to consider the earlier meeting time slot.
4. Discussion on the workflow for drafting and posting City Council Meeting agendas & minutes
 - The discussion covered the use of templates on the HoustonLake.gov website for creating and posting agendas, acknowledging some challenges in fitting them on a letter-size paper for physical posting at City Hall but expecting improvement over time. Changes to the agenda can be recorded in real-time during the meeting and then duplicated for minutes after approval. Digital copies of meetings were suggested for accessibility, with plans to resolve file access issues among council members and explore Intranet links for easing file access. While use of records was proposed for meeting records, legal requirements for written minutes were emphasized, albeit they could be digital. Consideration was given to optimizing subscription tiers to cut costs. Council agreed to await new board members before revisiting this issue and to identify users not utilizing the workspace effectively to adjust subscriptions accordingly.
5. Discussion on the best way to spend road funds in 2024, including listing and prioritizing opportunities to work with the Platte County Stormwater Grant to address flooding issues / Continued discussion on parking for residents whose vehicles cannot jump the barrier curb at City Hall during meetings and/or inclement weather
 - Previous stormwater work documents have been retrieved but the city has yet to communicate with the county engineer. Additionally, work is ongoing on a proposal concerning the lazy back curb, including the addition of an additional flume. Discussions have commenced with the HOA regarding the property across the street, initially considered for parking to serve both the playground and residents during inclement weather, as it actually belongs to the HOA. Discussions with the HOA are ongoing to explore potential alternatives moving forward.
6. Follow up on missing signed Ordinances & MOAW documents
 - A volunteer is retrieving missing minutes from the Laker archive to identify any absent resolutions and ordinances. This will help determine the current numbering system and facilitate its implementation for future ordinances. The city's legal counsel has been contacted to inquire about any available copies, with a date range pending clarification. It's unlikely that signed and sealed copies, which are primarily sought, will be found, though unsigned and unsealed copies may be located. No progress has been made regarding legal recommendations regarding the repercussions of missing original signed and sealed ordinances.
7. Follow up on costs and status of the city directory
 - The city directory exceeded its printing budget, and the tax-exempt status was not accepted. A city official paid for the report covers and will seek reimbursement. The overage in expenses was deemed reasonable by the individual.
8. Discussion of next steps on the upcoming board vote to abandon the ward system
 - It was decided that the process will involve calendarizing the necessary steps. This includes determining the timeline for the next election and planning an awareness campaign in advance to ensure constituent approval. Additionally, an ordinance will be drafted, reviewed by the city's legal counsel, and submitted to the board of elections before their deadline for implementing the change.

New Business

1. Discussion of enforcement of City Code on parking
 - Discussion centered on the enforcement of City Code regarding street parking, specifically [HLCC Section 355.010](#). It was noted that this regulation is not currently being enforced, leading to a suggestion to either enforce it consistently or eliminate it altogether. The conversation delved into how enforcement would be carried out, with the proposal that violations would be reported to the non-emergency Sheriff's department number. Sergeant Dougherty indicated that decisions regarding parking enforcement on patrol would involve higher-level discussions. It was agreed that enforcement, if pursued, would focus on specific ticketable instances. Suggestions were made advise the public through an awareness campaign including signage, a series of informative articles on the city website, and a notice in the local monthly newsletter prior to initiating ticketing.



2. Discussion of options for WiFi at City Hall

- Alderman Fuglestad reported exploring internet service options, with Spectrum identified as the most cost-effective choice. Alderman Walker-Robin expressed surprise, noting previous information from Spectrum indicating the current rate was non-negotiable for government entities. Fuglestad clarified that she was quoted a lower rate of \$70 with wifi on a month-to-month basis. It was agreed that Walker-Robin would provide Fuglestad with the current contract information to facilitate installation.

3. Discussion of proposed change to requirement for building permits for replacing existing driveways

- Discussion focused on how Platte County does not require building permits but the city of Houston Lake did the proposed change may or may not be defined. Additionally, there was talk about defining the current permit process for officials and residents as well as enhancing the workflow and process concerning the calculation, processing, and refunding of bonds.

Reports from Council members

- Alderman Walker-Robin's report included information that the next city Council meeting would be held on the day of the solar eclipse. She mentioned intending to be here at City Hall and holding a viewing event, providing 10 pairs of solar eclipse glasses for anyone who is interested and shows up, hoping there's an excellent view from the city park or the parking lot. Walker-Robin mentioned having finally completed the exMayors photos and showed the photos and the frames.
- Alderman Murphy reported that Weezy will still do the sign. He's already secured the material and would like to use the garage to finish up the sign.
- Alderman Loring expressed gratitude towards those involved in honeysuckle removal and excitement for improved views as the landscape greens up. She stressed the importance of hiring a codes enforcement officer, feeling handicapped in addressing issues without one. Alderman Murphy offered to explore options for hiring a part-time codes enforcement officer from other cities, with HOA President Pam Freese offering assistance. Concerns were raised about a garbage situation, prompting discussion on issuing citations and potential involvement of law enforcement. Sergeant Dougherty offered to investigate further. Loring thanked the board for addressing street parking issues and expressed willingness to continue serving another term. There was a discussion regarding the process of her continuation, with unanimous appreciation for her willingness to serve.
- Alderman Fuglestad had no report.
- Alderman Walker-Robin requested Mayor Pro Tem to allow late-arriving resident Terry Deister an opportunity to speak with Sergeant Dougherty on the matter of pet chip scanners. This was prompted by a previous request for information on obtaining scanners made in the February meeting. Sergeant Dougherty explained that there is only one scanner, currently in possession of the day shift supervisor. Terry Deister provided the requested information.

Adjournment

- Alderman Loring motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Fuglestad seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm



City Council Special Meeting Minutes 3/28/24

Date: Monday, the 28th day of March 2024

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

The special meeting of the City Council Meeting of Houston Lake, Missouri, was called to order at 7:49 p.m. by Mayor pro tem Ashley Fuglestad.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin, Alderman AnnMarie Murphy. Absent: Alderman Sarah Loring

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda for 03/28/2024 – Alderman Walker-Robin motioned to approve the agenda. Alderman Murphy seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

City Council discussion and vote on confirming City Clerk candidate

- Candidate Lisa A. Shepard was introduced to the council by Alderman Walker-Robin, who emphasized her attention to detail, community passion, pursuit of certification from the National Association of Parliamentarians, and dedication to multiple civic obligations. The meeting day was agreed to be moved from Monday to Wednesday to accommodate Shepard's schedule due to a long standing board membership with an organization meeting monthly on Wednesdays, reflecting her commitment. Council discussed the removal of grinder pump repair management from city clerk responsibilities. In response to a question from the council about her interest in the position, Shepard highlighted her intention to bring neutrality and continuity to the role of city clerk, facilitating positive council work and community involvement.
- Alderman Walker-Robin motioned to approve appointment of Lisa Shepard to the position of city clerk. Alderman Murphy Seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Lisa A. Shepard was sworn in as City Clerk for the City of Houston Lake.

Building permit for 5457 NW Adrian Ave

- Discussion covered the Building Inspector's positive review of the permit and of the resident being ready to write checks for bonds and fees upon notice of amounts.
- Alderman Murphy made a motion to approve the building permit for 5457 NW Adrian Ave contingent upon receiving payment of the performance bond and fees. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded the motion. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

Adjournment

- Alderman Murphy made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Walker-Robin seconded. A voice vote resulted in unanimous approval.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm