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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, July 22, 2024 - Carpet in Courtroom Needs Replacing

JULY 26TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - Monday, July 22, 2024 - Carpet in Courtroom Needs Replacing

The Stoddard County Commission held their regularly scheduled Monday morning, July 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

New Business

Missouri Veteran's Cemetery via the Bloomfield Assistance League of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Inc. gave the County easement to the 40 acres owned by the County. A document was filed by Mr. James R. Tweedy, Attorney, Bloomfield for a Deed for Easement. The letter of the Deed for Easement was received by the Commission to be filed.

"The Dexter Veterinary Clinic has not received a check for the treatment of the K9 officer for the Sheriff's Dept and I would like approval to reissue the check," stated Presiding Commissioner Greg Mathis. Motion made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commission C.D. Stewart. The amount of the check was \$950.81 which included a prior balance.

There was some discussion on the Districts and how they are divided in Stoddard County. In a township form of government the districts have to be divided by townships and not a line by population.

District 2 includes Elk Township and Liberty Township. District 1 is all other townships in Stoddard County, Missouri.

Board of Appeals opened last week and will close next week by state statute according to Mathis.

No Excuse Absentee Voting begins on Wednesday, July 23, 2024 at the Stoddard County Clerk's Office from 8:30 - 4:30 Monday - Friday and the only Saturday before the election from 8 a.m.- Noon.

Judge Brad Jarrell Requesting Some Updates to Courtrooms

Judge Jarrell stated a lady in the courtroom slipped and fell from a chair with casters in Courtroom C where they do not have carpet. "This courtroom is not conducive for rolling chairs," commented Jarrell. "It would be good to have carpet in that courtroom."

Also the carpet is in bad shape and ripping in Courtroom A and Courtroom B and needs to be replaced. "We could go ahead and add carpet to Courtroom C," commented Jarrell. "We will take the casters off the chairs and put them in the jury boxes. and take those chairs and move to the courtroom areas. That will help keep the chairs from moving and prevent future issues."

Other Business

Motion to accept the minutes from July 15, 2024 made by Commissioner C.D. Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Carol Jarrell. All three voted yes and motion passed.

Motion to accept the minutes from Tuesday, July 16, 2024 of the Board of Equalization made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell, seconded by Commissioner Greg Mathis. All three voted yes and motion passed.

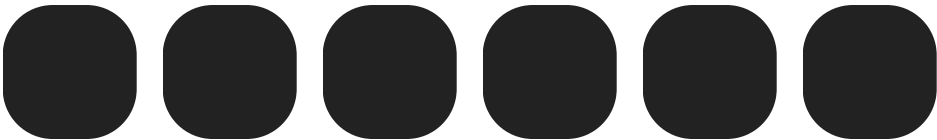
"There was a meeting set for August 5th to discuss the Scenic Byway and I don't think we are at this point yet and no need for the meeting yet," stated Commissioner Mathis.

The Commission has decided not to publish the three Johnson Board openings in the local newspaper. "I will contact those and see if they want to stay on the board," stated Mathis. "There is no need at this time to publish the board opening." The three people on the Johnson Board terms expired on December 31, 2023.

Motion to enter into Closed session for personnel issues at 11:03 a.m. made by Commissioner Carol Jarrell at 11:03 a.m., seconded by Commissioner C.D. Stewart. All three voted yes and motion passed.

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City of Dexter Sewer Rates to Increase Beginning August 1, 2024

City of Dexter Sewer Rates to Increase Beginning August 1, 2024

Customers using the city of Dexter sewer service will see a planned rate increase beginning August 1, 2024, in order to pay for the replacement of the city's non-compliant sewer treatment system.

A new wastewater treatment plant is being designed to replace the two aerated lagoon systems currently being used by the city. This new treatment plant is necessary to remain in compliance with federal Clean Water Act regulations and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The city of Dexter contracts with Continental utility Solutions, Inc. for sanitary sewer services billing. Customers will start to notice a change on their August bills.

Sewer rates are based on a combination of a flat fee plus a component of water consumption calculated each month from the water meters located at each tap into the water supply system. This is because most of the residents water goes down drains and toilets and ends up in the wastewater system.

On April 2, 2024, the voters of Dexter approved a proposition for the issuance of bonds for this improvement with a 72.7% approval rate. During the July meeting, the Dexter City Council approved the sewer rate increase. The city continues to work with USDA Rural Development to secure the best funding package available for the planned improvement.

"To avoid burdening the citizens of Dexter with a significant increase to their bill all at once, the city is taking a considerate approach to our citizens' finances by implementing the voter-approved increase gradually," said City of Dexter Administrator David Wyman.

The city has been struggling with a failing treatment system for several years. In 2009, the Department of Natural Resources notified the city that their current system was not providing an adequate level of treatment. In November 2021, the city was issued an Abated Order of Consent from the Department of Natural Resources and was referred to the Enforcement Division for possible daily fines. Since April 2023 the city has been working with engineering consultant Allgeier, Martin and Associates Inc. from Joplin, Missouri to evaluate the existing system and design a new one. The recommendation from the consultant was to construct a concentric basin mechanical plant on the west side of town and consolidate all treatment discharge at one location. The estimated construction cost for this improvement is \$32 million dollars.

For more information about city improvements, Dave Wyman can be reached at 573-624-5959 or visit www.cityofdexter.org

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Dexter License Office Contract Up For Bid	City of Dexter Board of Aldermen Approved Election Results; Vote on Resolutions

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Route 91 Reduced for Pavement Improvements

JULY 23RD 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Route 91 Reduced for Pavement Improvements

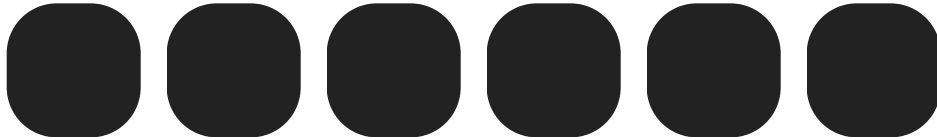
Route 91 in Stoddard and Scott Counties will be reduced to one lane with a 10-foot width restriction as contractor crews improve bridge approaches and resurface the roadway.

This section of roadway is located between Route P near Bell City in Stoddard County and Route 61 at Morley in Scott County. Pavement improvements will begin with the bridge approaches along this section of Route 91, with work following to resurface the roadway.

Weather permitting, work will take place from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Wednesday, July 24, through Tuesday, Oct. 1. Motorists should anticipate lane closures in various locations as work is completed along Route 91.

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Puxico Board of Aldermen Meeting - June 27, 2024

JULY 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Puxico Board of Aldermen Meeting - June 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of Puxico, Missouri, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on Thursday, June 27, 2024, by Mayor Rick McLean. The meeting had been postponed from Thursday, June 20, 2024, due to the absence of the mayor and an alderman. When the roll was called, the

following members were present: Peter Coutavas, Patti McLean Travis Stafford, and Candy Williams Alderman Stafford led the group in prayer and Mayor McLean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under announcements, Alderwoman Williams reported to the Board on what she had learned at the Missouri Municipal League's elected officials training conference that she had attended in Columbia, Missouri, the first part of June.

The agenda was discussed. After discussion, Coutavas moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. P. McLean seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The May 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes were reviewed. Coutavas moved that the minutes of the May 16, 2024, regular meeting be approved. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The May 21 2024, special meeting minutes were reviewed. Coutavas moved that the minutes of the May 21, 2024, regular meeting be approved. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The Board reviewed the bills. After discussion on the bills, Coutavas moved that all bills be paid. Williams seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

Joshua Speakman, Stoddard County Collector, was present to discuss the possibility of the County office collecting the City personal property and real estate taxes for the City. At this time, the County collects city taxes for Bloomfield, Bernie and Essex. They charge a 2% fee as collector and send a check for the remaining amount to the city on a monthly basis. Currently, the City pays the City Collector an hourly wage to collect the city taxes. The City also pays approximately \$300 yearly to have the tax bills generated and printed and another \$400 to mail out the tax bills. It is part of the City Collector's job to print, collate, and mail the tax bills in October and if the taxes aren't paid by March of next year, she prints, computes penalties and mails out delinquent tax bills in April. If the collection of city taxes were turned over to the County Collector, all of the above work would be done by the county office workers. The City's tax bill would be a part of the County tax bill and the tax payer would have to pay the City taxes at the same time he paid the County taxes. The tax payer could not just pay the County without paying the City taxes. The County Collector would have a list of delinquent city taxes and the County would collect those delinquent city taxes before it would accept current city taxes. The County Collector would charge a total of 3% collection fee on delinquent taxes.

This year, the City Collector collected approximately \$100,000 in taxes, 2% of which would be \$2,000. Speakman presented a contract that the City would sign if it wished to turn its tax collecting over to the County. As a side note, the County Collector does have a system where a tax payer can make monthly installment payments on his taxes rather than making one big payment in November.

Daniel Smith, a representative from Ditronics, the company who has given the City a quote on placing cameras at parks, library, and city hall, was not present to answer the Board's questions concerning the

tech service on the equipment.

Vinita Weidenbenner, a CPA from Jean & Company, the City accountants, was present to discuss the City budgets. The FY 2024 Amended Budget that had been prepared by Jean and Company was reviewed by the Board. Coutavas moved that the FY2024 Amended Budget be approved. P. McLean seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The FY 2025 Budget that had been prepared by Jean and Company using the financial decisions made at the May 21, 2024, special Board meeting was reviewed. Coutavas moved that the FY 2025 Budget be approved. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

Departmental reports were given:

David Hawthorne, maintenance supervisor, stated that Doug Solberg, city maintenance worker, had quit. At this time, Hawthorne has made the part-time summer maintenance worker full time to cover the work to be done. The Mayor asked that the maintenance workers rock the ground on east side of the stage in Veteran's Park to eliminate weeds growing at the top of the ditch. Alderwoman Williams stated that the Historical Museum would like to have the bushes/saplings in the front part of the museum pulled up.

Finally, the recycle trailer that has been placed on the museum parking lot was discussed. It was decided to move it back to the City Hall parking lot. Since the City is continually having problems with people placing trash and other items that are not recyclable in the trailer, it was decided that if this continues to happen, the City will discontinue having the trailer in the City.

Currently, a City employee must take the trailer with the recycle items to Dexter for recycling. The business which receives the items makes the employee return with any items that are not recyclable to be put in the City trash. The trailer belongs to the recycling business.

Rick Sheren, Marshal, gave the police report. Tickets had been given for speeding, no insurance, and displaying plates of another.

Larry Dublin, animal control officer, reported one of the dogs that was being fostered had been adopted.

Dublin also gave the fire department report. Dublin stated that there had been no fires but they had made medical calls. The fire station drains in the bathrooms were having problems and the roof had a leak.

Under the library, the library report was reviewed. The library's summer reading program is nearing completion. Prizes have been purchased using donated funds.

Alderman Williams stated that she was still searching for binders for the museum to use to put historical materials in.

Under unfinished business, Bill 24-01, a bill amending the city business license ordinance to include a vendor's license was read first by Coutavas and second by Williams. Williams moved that Bill 24-01 be approved to become Ordinance 24-01. Coutavas seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams This ordinance established a temporary vendor license at a cost of \$100 a year and required food vendors to have health certificate and insurance. The ordinance also increased the cost of a peddler's license for produce to \$25.00 a year.

Bill 24-02, a bill setting employee salary beginning July 1, 2024, was read first by Coutavas and second by Williams. P. McLean moved that Bill 24-02 be approved to become Ordinance 24-02. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams This ordinance gave all employees a \$1.00 an hour raise and increased the firefighter call rate from \$10 to \$15 a call.

The purchase of cameras for parks, library and city hall was next on the agenda. Since the representative from Dittronics was not present to answer the Board's questions concerning tech support for the cameras, Coutavas moved that the purchase be tabled until the next regular meeting. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The Board reviewed the City's Missouri Department of Natural Resources grant application that would use recycled materials for park benches and tables to be placed in Memorial (South) Park. The total funds requested was \$7,525.

Under new business, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) has asked the City if it would like to be a part of a paving project that it will be doing on PP Highway (Richardson Avenue) in FY2026.

The City's part would be to pay to have the parking area from Highway 51 to Hickman and the apron area from Hickman to Buena Vista.

The City's cost for doing the parking areas is approximately \$15,815 and adding the apron section would be an additional \$3,788. After discussion, Coutavas moved that the City enter into an agreement with MODOT in which the City would pay to have the parking and apron areas from Highway 51 to Buena Vista paved when MODOT paved Highway PP at a cost of approximately \$19,604. P. McLean seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams The City Board will need to approve an ordinance at its July regular Board meeting authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement with MODOT.

The Historical Museum Board requested that the Board place a portion of its restricted fund balance into a Certificate of Deposit with the museum department receiving the interest from the CD. According to the city clerk's calculations, approximately \$34,723 of the museum's fund balance as of April 30, 2024, is considered restricted and can only be spent by the museum. After discussion Williams moved that \$30,000 of the museum's restricted funds be placed in a CD with the museum fund receiving the interest from that CD. Coutavas seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The City Park Board which has been inactive for several years was reorganized. Mayor McLean appointed the following to be directors on the Park Board: Marsha Tompkins, Chelsea Gillock Brandon Woolard, Freida Phillips and Judy Richards. Also appointed as rural development members of the Park Board were Dakota Hancock, Madison Burge, Janell Neighbors and Taylor Trout. Alderwoman Patti McLean was appointed as Park Board Liaison. Coutavas moved that the appointments to the Park Board be approved. Williams seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

The terms of office for these appointees will be determined at the Park Board's first official meeting.

The Board discussed the transfer of City property tax collection to the Stoddard County Collector. The Board reviewed the information that had been given to it by Josh Speakman, the Stoddard County Tax Collector earlier in the meeting. Coutavas moved that the City enter into a contract with the Stoddard County Tax Collector to have his office collect the City's personal and real estate taxes at the same time it collected the County taxes. Stafford seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams

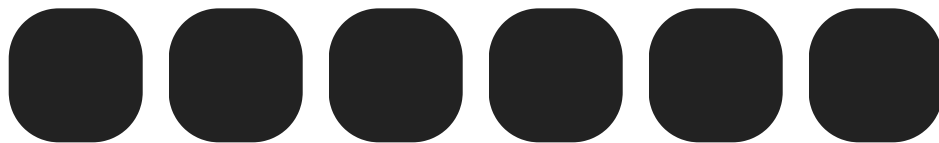
The city clerk will send the Stoddard County Tax Collector a signed contract transferring the collection of City taxes to the County. This contract will need to be approved by the Stoddard County Commissioners. The clerk will work with the County Collector to determine what information he will need for the collection of delinquent taxes.

Since there was no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Coutavas and seconded by Stafford. The motion carried on a roll call vote. AYES: Coutavas, P. McLean, Stafford, Williams Adjournment time was 7:50

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Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment - Route 114 Bridge Replacement

JULY 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment - Route 114 Bridge Replacement

Route 114 Bridge Replacement over Dexter Creek in Stoddard County

Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment

The Missouri Department of Transportation is seeking public input regarding a proposed project to replace the Route 114 bridge over Dexter Creek in Dexter, Missouri. Although the bridge is safe for travel, this 90-year-old structure is considered to be in poor condition. The bridge is in need of replacement, and the project is currently in the design phase.

The project will require acquisition of approximately 0.06 acres of new right-of-way from the northwest corner of the parcel associated with Dexter's East Park, in an area that does not contain any recreational features or uses.

This project is currently scheduled to go out for contractor bids as part of MoDOT's December 2026 letting with construction expected during the 2027 construction season. The road and bridge at the existing bridge location on Route 114 will be closed for approximately 70 days during construction. Local roads available for a short, 1-mile detour include Route 25, Stoddard Street and Clements Street in Dexter, Missouri. Using state routes, the detour would total approximately 13.5 miles and includes Route 25, U.S. 60, Route FF and Route 114.

Individuals and organizations wishing to comment on the project may do so by **Wednesday, July 24** the following ways:

- **Online:** modot.org/form/114DexterCreek
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/MoDOTSoutheast/
- **X/Twitter:** twitter.com/MoDOTSoutheast
- **Mail (postmarked by July 24):**

Missouri Department of Transportation

ATTN: Donna Philpot

2675 North Main Street

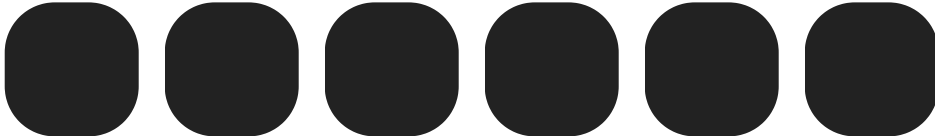
Sikeston, MO 63801

MoDOT is committed to providing equal access for all participants. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact MoDOT Customer Service at 888 ASK MODOT (1-888-275-6636) by Friday, July 19. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact MoDOT's External Civil Rights department through Relay Missouri Services at (800) 735-2966 or 7-1-1 (Toll Free – TTY).

For more information, please contact MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MoDOT (275-6636).

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