

May 1, 2015* RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF PACIFIC
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
300 HOVEN
PACIFIC, MISSOURI 63069

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Palmore.

A roll call was taken with the following results:

Present at Roll Call:

Alderman Myers
Alderman Gass
Alderman Johnson
Alderman Pigg

Also present:

Mayor Palmore
Attorney Matt Schroeder
City Clerk Barfield

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Bend Bridge Discussion

Mayor Palmore stated this discussion is regarding Bend Bridge and if the city wants to take ownership of it, this decision will not be made this evening, this is just an information meeting. He continued that anyone who wishes to speak to fill out a speaker card and speakers will be limited to three minutes.

Wayne Winchester, stated he has owned property in Pacific for 20 years and does not want to create any enemies over this. He does feel that the city should take over ownership. He continued he felt a trail through Pacific is a big boom for us, and hoped the fear of the cost of maintenance would not fool us. He asked what the county paid in maintenance of the bridge.

Matt Atnip, thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. He felt like the cost of maintenance was something that could be done. He has heard a guess was \$ 750,000 over a 20 year span for

maintenance but he felt like it would be more like \$ 10,000. Pacific is a good spot for a trail and an opportunity to draw traffic from Eureka, and was in favor of the bridge.

Gerald Pemberton, stated he was ok with trails but thought it was a problem for the city to take over the bridge, it is not in our city limits and we don't have the money now to take care of streets. He felt the city did not need the bridge.

Eric Reichert, thinks we should save the bridge, an engineer has said it was sound and there is no reason why we can't keep using it and just put a trail to the side of it. A new bridge will take away from the beauty of the scenic view. This is a want on Franklin County's end, not a need, the bridge does not need to be replaced, and it's been there for 90 years. He felt there was money to keep the old bridge, and build the trail.

Alderman Johnson suggested the address be stated for the record, but Mayor Palmore stated someone expressed displeasure in stating their name, and he could not find a requirement for this. Attorney Schroeder stated there was no requirement for the address.

Jo Schaper, 46 Cedar Drive, Pacific, MO 63069 submitted a letter to Mayor Palmore. She stated she grew up in this area and was approached by Harold Selby about a trail. The letter she was reading was addressed to Mike Pigg; she continued it was sent to two aldermen. She is in support of the bridge, and the responsibility of maintenance to the Magi Foundation and a trail section utilized. She thought it was worth the chance of taking title to Bend Bridge. She also mentioned the Katy Trail also being a 501C3.

Alderman Myers stated in Washington when Highway 47 closes for construction, they are making a temporary replacement trail.

Linda, Aycock, 1880 Tomahawk Lane, Pacific, MO stated she was against the bridge being left open. Their property includes a section of the bluff and ends in the river; the Ozark Trail Website refers to this as a road easement. She understands that once the bridge closes, the property reverts back to them and is private property. She is against the development and does not believe it is possible as presented.

Jane Doskal, 3823 Allenton Rd, Pacific, MO, Show Me Missouri Back County Horseman, stated she was hopeful the trail went through and suggested shares be sold for the maintenance of the bridge.

Becky Butler, 1880 Buffalo Bluff, Pacific, Mo asked why they can't use a trail over the new bridge. She is against the new bridge, the city has streets to take care of and maintain. She thought the new bridge could also be used for the trail.

Diane Almsteadt, 759 Bates Meadow Ln, Pacific, MO stated she is a former 20 year resident of St. Charles Co. and the Bend Bridge is a unique beautiful sight. This can be shared with others and used to draw people to Pacific.

John Hinkel, 2236 Hwy N., Pacific, MO stated he was not a resident but has concerns about the

new bridge crossing his property. He is concerned about people that will be wandering through his neighborhood with the trail. Where is the trail going and what provisions have been made?

Alderman Myers stated he would speak with anyone, and encouraged people to visit pacificriverwalktrail.com. He continued there was a discussion with the county, but they have a lack of desire to help in any way. This proposed trail will be twice the length of the Katy Trail and will draw people to Pacific. It is undetermined where the trail is going, if Bend Bridge is saved then that can be determined, if it is not saved the trail goes around Pacific. Franklin County will only sell to the City of Pacific for \$ 1.00 and they won't sell to a 501C3. The Ozark Trail and the Magi Foundations and other foundations are willing to help, and can maintain it without it being a burden on the taxpayers. He thought a letter was going to be available Monday on the criteria for taking ownership of the bridge.

Mayor Palmore suggested anybody that had questions for any other group other than the city to contact them directly.

Eugene Vale, 46 Cedar Drive, Pacific, MO stated he understood the maintenance part, but 12 tons is very little wear and tear by a cyclist. He thinks it is nerve wrecking to share a bridge with large vehicles, and this is why the Katy Trail is popular.

Sharon Wingron, 4925 Walnut Grove Drive, Villa Ridge, MO stated Pacific has struggled to thrive and people want to hold onto history. The trend is to connect trails and enjoy nature with multi-use. She has traveled to 24 different counties and people stay because of the beauty. She encouraged the leaders to stay open minded and do their due diligence.

Larry Bast, State President for Show Me Missouri Back Country Horseman, stated there was an economic advantage here, and doesn't think the whole design has been put together. This is an historic bridge, people save historic houses and move them down the highway. This could be a destination for another trail head and is a draw for Pacific.

Steve Flannery III, 305 W. Pacific St., Pacific, MO stated the trail system is positive for Pacific as well as improving the quality of life. His questions were, what was the cost to the city, what is the liability cost to the city, who is responsible for the maintenance, and the timeline if the bridge is saved how long until the trail is developed, and where do the funds come from to maintain? He did not feel the park was adequately funded at this time. His last question was does the city have the option of selling the bridge?

Susan Zerna, 2270 Brookview, Pacific, MO stated she is a property owner between where the new bridge went and the old bridge is in St. Clair, MO. The trouble she has with being a property owner is that people trespass all the time, they leave their trash, and young people try to make it a place to party. She asked and suggested how this was going to be maintained from these kinds of activities because she felt as a property owner; this brought her all kinds of trouble in St. Clair.

BJ Lawrence, asked if we had a cost analysis in wring yet? Alderman Myers stated we did not, but felt the costs could also be paid through from a 501C3. He continued he has received about

\$ 5,000 in donations to the Magi Foundation. BJ asked if the property owners do not agree will they use eminent domain, and Alderman Myers stated they absolutely would not. Next she asked if the residents would be able to vote on this, Mayor Palmore stated if this is a voluntary annexation they would not, but otherwise it would go to a vote of the people. Mayor Palmore continued they are still looking at the topo that has been done and not sure of the defined easements. Alderman Myers stated there were posters in the foyer and one of them is a map from Franklin County and the red line shows the city limits according to the county. She asked what happens after tonight. Mayor Palmore stated we are waiting for the county to send out the criteria.

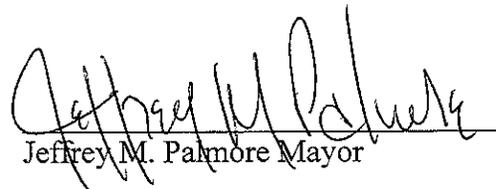
Henry Alt, 1701 Denton, Pacific, MO stated he had two separate issues. One was property rights, and one was liability and maintenance of the bridge. As far as the liability he thought we would need insurance. As far as the maintenance he asked who would maintain a 100 year old bridge, and who will pay for any other repairs it may need. He also has concerns about when it floods, and does not want the tax payers to foot the bill. His property may be affected by this, and there will not be any trail going through his property, he does not want to see the city take it over.

Mayor Palmore thanked everyone for their comments. He felt this was a productive meeting. Alderman Pigg agreed. Alderman Myers read two letters, one from Jim McHugh, Chairman of the Magi Foundation in support of the bridge, and the other was from John Behrer from MO. Botanical Gardens, also in support of the bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Pigg to adjourn. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Jeffrey M. Palmore Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

