



September 1, 2015 \* RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

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**T**he 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: Mayor Palmore  
Alderman Filley  
Alderman Bates  
Alderman Myers  
Alderman Gass  
Alderman Johnson  
Alderman Pigg

A quorum was present.

Also present:  
Attorney Schroeder  
Chief Mansell  
Deputy City Clerk Hayden  
City Clerk Barfield

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Pastor Wilkens, Lighthouse Church of Pacific, offered prayer this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular meeting on August 18, 2015**

Motion made by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Filley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 18, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

**B. Executive Session on August 18, 2015**

Motion made by Alderman Myers, seconded by Alderman Filley to approve the minutes of Executive Session meeting on August 18, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor

Palmore declared the motion carried.

C. Special meeting on August 24, 2015

Motion made by Alderman Filley, seconded by Alderman Bates to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on August 24, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**MAYORS REPORT**

A. Certificate of Appreciation – Mike Vernaci

Mayor Palmore presented Mr. Vernaci with a Certificate of Appreciation. The Back to School Carnival was a success and Mike single handedly pulled this together and made it a success. The Park Board also helped coordinate this and thanked them all.

B. Jensen's Point Progress Report

Mayor Palmore stated we would talk about this later in the evening.

C. Cemetery Discussion

Mayor Palmore stated he wanted this to be part of the record (he read from a script). He read this before but it was not included with the minutes and stated he would give the City Clerk a copy. This script was in relation to the accusations that there was a conflict of interest with him being the Mayor and the funeral home. See attached as entered into the records verbatim.

D. Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Palmore stated this was placed under his report because he needed to know where we were going with it next. The changes were made from the Special Meeting, but he had no idea Todd was invited this evening. This item being listed under the Mayor's Report and actual Comprehensive Plan are two different things. He asked if this was a completed plan. Alderman Pigg thought that tonight's meeting was made and Todd was going to be here to finish it up. Mayor Palmore stated that was not his interpretation. He told Mr. Streiler last time that they need to discuss him being in attendance at a meeting before he comes to one, but we can check the minutes. He continued that at the last meeting Alderman Johnson invited him. Alderman Myers stated the last workshop was very successful, he would recommend that Mr. Streiler be present for any meeting where the Comprehensive Plan is discussed. Alderman Filley asked if we had discussion tonight then at the next board meeting on September 15, 2015 if he was available could we have him here. Mayor Palmore agreed this needed to be wrapped up and we needed to review the path we are on. Alderman Filley stated she did not need any more discussion on it. Alderman Bates agreed and thought it should be on the next meeting for the first reading. If there are any minor changes lets have Todd here so we can work those out. Alderman Myers agreed. Alderman Johnson stated this could have been worked out tonight if he would have been allowed to stay. Mayor Palmore stated he was surprised when Kim said she was including it with the agenda for discussion. He has a request, and that was for Mr. Streiler to call him before attending a meeting, if we all spoke more then maybe the process would go better.

**Motion made by Alderman Bates, seconded by Alderman Myers to have Attorney Schroeder draft**

**a bill to adopt the Comprehensive Plan and be on the next regular meeting. Mayor Palmore asked for any more discussion, there was none. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative response, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.**

#### E. Schatz Underground Request

Schatz Underground has requested permission to hook on an additional sewer line to the Brush Creek Sewer System. Their current office building is already attached to the system and they are looking to add another attachment because they added a new storage building. This would include installing a bathroom. **Motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Pigg to approve Schatz Underground to hook on an additional sewer line, contingent on them using all Schedule 40 pipe and the City does the inspection of the line before it is covered. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.**

#### F. Old Gray Summit Road Phase 2

Mayor Palmore stated this project has to be closed out with the State. There is nothing else we can do. Alderman Pigg asked if him or the attorney was able to talk with Mr. McMillian, neither one had. He still thought that they should have responded to him. **Motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Bates to approve the Mayor closing out the project with the State. A voice vote was taken with affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Loyd Harris, 1934 Rose Lane, Pacific, MO* stated on behalf of the Partnership they offered their assistance to the City to help manage the **Iron Horse Rodeo** this year. He is chairing the event, and we are only four weeks away from it. A committee has been put together and they are trying to make it bigger than before. Tonight they are just looking for the official approval. Alderman Pigg asked about the contract, Mr. Harris stated none of that has changed. We approached the Mayor about two weeks ago about this and he just got back to us. Alderman Pigg was not against this, but it just seemed like the board didn't have any say about things until after it was already done. Alderman Pigg stated last year we had a hard time getting workers paid for the event, now it seems like he promised everything. Loyd stated 23 loads of sand have been brought in at no charge, and people that are in the rodeo are pulling together with them to pull this off. Mayor Palmore stated there is no charge for them and it is just more help. Alderman Johnson stated she was glad they were taking the lead on this event and had no problem with it; we just all need to know what is going on. Loyd stated they approached the Mayor first because they didn't want the town to lose it. Alderman Myers stated he heard the High School Rodeo pulled out because of conditions of the ring last year. He continued the first year the City was recognized with Rodeo of the Year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the person who took the lead before was alienated, he feels. He hopes to fix these conditions and appeal to them again. Loyd stated the Partnership needs the City's support in order to keep communication open. He was willing to reach out and take the leadership for the High School Rodeo also. Mayor Palmore stated he did not know what happened with the ring, there were people who automatically offered dirt this year and it's done. Alderman Myers stated again, when a community comes together great things can happen. Alderman Bates thanked him and the Partnership for taking the lead. Mayor Palmore asked if there was any more discussion, there being none, he asked for a voice vote of approval. **A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result.**

*Mike Vernaci, 421 Cypress, Pacific, MO* thanked everyone for all their help with the Carnival. It was a huge success, he reported the expenses were \$ 3,712.51 and the revenue was \$ 5,229.18. This left a \$ 1,516.67 profit for the bathrooms. This event was planned in eight weeks and did not cost the city anything. There were no major issues with the police. He continued that overall the Carnival Company

made \$ 17,000 and they would like to come back next year. He would like to add a 4<sup>th</sup> night to it and make it “family night” and there would be no alcohol that evening. He also said we could receive 10% of the weekend sales. Alderman Pigg thought that was a little low. Alderman Johnson asked if we were going to do this could we let the Eagles know right away because of the dates of their events. He continued that they asked for the same weekend in August next year. **Motion made by Alderman Gass, second by Alderman Myers to have Mr. Vernaci continue to work with them and bring back a contract for next year. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.**

*Matt Mansell, 708 Cypress, Pacific, MO* stated he was asking on behalf of the school district for permission for their annual parade on October 3<sup>rd</sup> this year and that the permit/fee be waived. Mayor Palmore stated the permit would need to be filled out but he did not believe there was a fee. Motion made by Alderman Pigg, seconded by Alderman Filley to approve the school district’s parade on October 3, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion approved.

*Jim Tucker, 201 Candlewick, Pacific, MO* stated he hasn’t heard anything about the truck routing signage and asked when they would be working on Candlewick. Mayor Palmore stated the truck signage is a whole new problem with the Denton Road Bridge and the limits. We have to post Denton Road. He is making plans for the non-attributable money for Candlewick and continue to move forward. Alderman Myers thought we agreed to have Cochran do a study for the sign problem, but we haven’t received any feedback. Chief Mansell stated he thought this was a major problem with the GPS. He thought that if you could close a road for one hour one day a year then it could be marked as “street not thru”. Attorney Schroeder asked if this affected state money, Engineer Rahn thought it could potentially.

*Jason Bingman, 323 W. St. Louis St., Pacific, MO* stated he had a personal experience with the water department. He went out of town and came back over the weekend, on Monday he noticed two public works employees in his yard, they said he was scheduled to be shut off and it was for two months’ worth of water. He told them he would run up and pay it and asked them not to shut it off. They told him that Rae didn’t like them to change the order of the list, they had to shut him off and he would be charged a \$ 25.00 turn on fee. His water is still off, and he continues to receive a bill that continues to increase, even though his water is still off. He looked at the code and does not feel that continuing to charge him every month is clear in the code and it also is not clear what the 10% penalty is based on. Mayor Palmore stated he spoke with him about this, and we have a fee as long as you are a customer, even if you are not disconnected. No different than Laclede Gas. Mr. Bingman stated there in the code it does not refer to a “continued charge” after shut off. After further discussion, **motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Johnson to review the code and if an additional ordinance is necessary to make this clear for that to be done. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried. Attorney Schroeder stated he would review the code and then contact Mr. Bingman.**

*Harry Engelhart, 2940 W. Osage, Pacific, MO* stated he would like to hear the Jensen’s Point report first. Mayor Palmore stated that there were bids opened on the masonry repairs and the asphalt paving parking lot. They range from \$ 72,000 to \$ 90,000. After the bids were opened Engineer Rahn contacted Bill McLaren. He questioned why the dirt work was in the bid and why the grant application requires 6” of asphalt on the parking lot but the bids came back with 4” of asphalt, the surveying was also taken out along with the fence removal etc. Then we received two bids back on the parking lot, one from Spencer without doing the dirt work for \$ 41,000. He continued we proposed a number of resolutions tonight to include some accepting original bids and some without the dirt work. We did get the grant application for the stairs and that bid was \$ 90,000 and the engineer estimated the stairs to cost \$ 49,000. Engineer Rahns package included several options and we suspected it would not cover everything. Also, contrary

to what some believe the contract reads that our time started on February 28, 2015 which means the park has to be completed by February 28, 2016. It does not state it has to be open until we seek reimbursement and then it opens and has to remain open for ten years. Alderman Myers stated the steps are what were included with the grant application; the other improvements could be done possibly with future grant money. We needed to just focus on the expenses that were included with the grant. Mayor Palmore agreed that some of the repairs were just for public safety. He continued that he attended a meeting last Monday to discuss options and St. Louis County has a lot of money. They explored giving the money back and reapply to be able to boost what we have, but we could also be turned down. Alderman Myers stated the original intent was to purchase the property and repair the parking lot. He continued that he visited Federal Parks recently in the Ozarks and there are dangerous parks open today that are in worse condition than Jensen Point. Mr. Engelhart stated that the park included a lot of iron work, and we needed to work on the things that were necessary. John Berra was here this evening, but had to leave, because he was going to add to this. He continued to get this project done; he thought more people were needed than just this board. He asked if the Mayor would have any objections to him and Alderman Myers meeting with him about what really needs to be done. He continued that Shaw's should have input on this, they are very passionate about what needs to be preserved, they can identify different species of plants etc., going up the steps before they are damaged. He don't come to a lot of meetings but he remembers "united we stand; divided we fall". He continued that this city has been divided, he considered Mayor Palmore a friend and he was proud to be his friend, he was an honest, good man, but he felt that when it came to being a Mayor he had an ax to grind and put everyone in a defensive mode. The past is water under the bridge; quit grinding on the board, and board needed to do the same. He continued that the board members get elected just as you and they have people to represent. He continued that he thought he was very compassionate in the funeral home, but not a very good mayor. To be a good leader you have to be strict, but not crabby. The best leaders do not do everything on their own. When you are acting as a full time mayor, and city administrator you cannot do everything. Good leaders have to trust people. He hopes the bickering stops because we are not getting important items accomplished and there is no future in it. He was sorry if he offended anyone. Alderman Johnson stated this was the second time he has offered his services, can we take action on that. Mayor Palmore stated we would look at all the volunteers after the basics are finished. Alderman Myers stated that he had a conversation with John Berra and his concern was the plants around the stairs that need to stay that could be damaged. If he could have access to them before the works begins to try to save them. Mayor Palmore thought that was a good idea, and to have Mr. Berra contact him.

*Kate Risenhoover, 691 Innisfree Drive, Pacific, MO* stated she has been reading the articles on Jensen's Point and they are very upsetting, but now she hears tonight that you are going to allow volunteers, is that right? She felt like a committee needed formed to lead to the completion of Jensen's Point and include Alderman Myers in this discussion. She hoped the negative discussion today does not shut down this project. Mayor Palmore stated when the project is done, we will explore a committee, and he thought it would be a sub-committee under the park board. Mayor Palmore stated he believed in his heart that this was a beautiful place and we needed to make a concerted effort to beautify it. He would love for anyone that could help with the masonry repairs, to step forward. Alderman Myers stated we were close to being in range for the repairs of the stairs and parking lot and that it what was asked for in the funding. Alderman Myers asked if anyone had asked West Paving for a donation towards the parking lot, if not that could have been a function of this committee. He continued that Kate is very resourceful.

*Debbie Kelley, 714 S. Third St., Pacific, MO* stated she would save her comments for the next board meeting when the Comprehensive Plan was discussed.

*Dave Myers, 316 W. Pacific, MO* stated there was nothing available for the public to review tonight on the Comprehensive Plan and the CRS section of the plan. He understood the CRS portion was going to be removed. Debbie Kelley stated she was contacted by Todd Streiler and he said he was not told to take

it out of the plan, and he tried to explain it to her. Mr. Myers continued that they have been trying to get the City to join this program for years and the CRS (Community Rating System) they set new rules, but they don't tell you what happens if you don't go with it, then the residents are left with increased premiums etc. He thought before another layer of regulations were put on us that they needed to talk to the 208 residents who have flood insurance. The citizens pay for this; eventually if the city does not comply they can be suspended. Right now there are people who can't even get flood insurance, and he doesn't believe it is a good program for us. There are 22,000 communities in the flood area and only 1,926 communities are participating in this program. He asked that the board consult their constituents before they include this in the Comprehensive Plan. Alderman Johnson stated that Todd Streiler was here, and asked why anybody didn't speak up. Mr. Myers also stated the part in the code about the disconnection of service was section 700.330.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**BILL NO. 2950      AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PACIFIC MUNICIPAL CODE TO COMPLY WITH MISSOURI SENATE BILL NO. 5 RELATING TO PENALTIES, COURT PROCEDURES, AND MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.***(1<sup>st</sup> reading)*

Motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Myers for the first reading of Bill No. 2950. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried. Mayor Palmore asked for any discussion. As posted pursuant to the ordinance, City Clerk Barfield read Bill No. 2950 for the first reading.

**BILL NO. 2951      AN ORDINANCE REPEALING PACIFIC ORDINANCE NO. 2536, CODIFIED IN ARTICLE III. SECTION 140.190-140.260, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC ESTABLISHING THE MERAMEC VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMMITTEE; AND ITS CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSFER OF ALL ITS DUTIES AND FUNDS TO THE GENEALOGY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC, COUNTIES OF FRANKLIN AND ST. LOUIS, STATE OF MISSOURI.**

Motion made by Alderman Filley, seconded by Alderman Bates for the first reading of Bill No. 2951. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried. Mayor Palmore asked for any discussion. As posted pursuant to the ordinance, City Clerk Barfield read Bill No. 2951 for the first reading.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BILLS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-50      A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE**

**MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE  
PACIFIC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FOR THE GO DADDY WEBSITE HOSTING  
AND DOMAIN.**

Motion made by Alderman Pigg, seconded by Alderman Myers to read Resolution No. 2015-50. Mayor Palmore asked for any discussion. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result. As posted pursuant to the ordinance, City Clerk Barfield read Resolution No. 2015-50. Motion made by Alderman Myers, seconded by Alderman Pigg to approve Resolution No. 2015-50. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-51**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE  
MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE  
PACIFIC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FOR THE YEARLY MAINTENANCE OF THE  
DISCOVERPACIFIC MO.COM WEBSITE.**

Motion made by Alderman Pigg, seconded by Alderman Filley to read Resolution No. 2015-51. Mayor Palmore asked for any discussion. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result. As posted pursuant to the ordinance, City Clerk Barfield read Resolution No. 2015-51. Motion made by Alderman Myers, seconded by Alderman Filley to approve Resolution No. 2015-51. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

Mayor Palmore asked if there were any questions for Engineer Rahn regarding the resolutions for Jensen's Point and the scope of work. Alderman Filley asked what the difference was with the excavating because it decreased 15 tons. Engineer Rahn stated he would like to start from the beginning. Originally the parking lot estimate was \$ 37,000 and the dirt work was fairly minimal. The bids came in from \$ 73,000-\$93,000. Now we have a bid of \$ 41,165 from Spencer because Bill McLaren has agreed to get the area "pad ready" for the rock. He would like to talk about four projects if they would hear him out: The first being the parking LOT, this could be done for \$ 41,165 the masonry repairs could be done with the steps being repaired as was planned on in the original grant with Resolution No. 2015-56 proposed this evening. The Chip & Seal job that was let out is \$ 141,000 approximately and the Candlewick project has non attributable funds of \$ 185,000. Totaling all these projects together is \$ 223,000 plus the city funds of \$ 61,000. Looking at the budget line items it seems all of these projects could be accomplished. MIRMA submitted their wish list to the city and have been to Jensen's Point. They want to minimize our risk. Discussion continued about the improvements and there are stones on site that might be able to be used. He continued that # 1, 3,4,5,7 of the masonry project would cost about \$ 22,000. Alderman Myers suggested asking West Paving for help with the project of the parking lot. Alderman Filley stated she would not vote for Spencer, they are behind schedule on Thornton Road. Mayor Palmore stated they believe there are only three slabs of sidewalk that need replaced from Pilot to the top, Alderman Filley stated there was more than that. Mayor Palmore agreed with asking West for help with the paving, but how do we move forward tonight. Alderman Bates thought we should just focus on the grant improvements for Jensen's Point for now, and he agreed with Alderman Filley about not voting for Spencer.

**Motion made by Alderman Filley, seconded by Alderman Gass to table Resolution No. 2015-52, 2015-53, 2015-54, 2015-55, 2015-57 and contact West Asphalt and then call a meeting as soon as possible when we have more information, but not to schedule a meeting for Friday September 4<sup>th</sup> or Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.** Mayor Palmore asked about the curbing. He also stated we needed to go to St. Louis County and explain our dilemma to make sure we can move money around from the parking lot to the masonry project. Motion made by Alderman Gass to just approve the steps as part of that project for Area # 1 for \$ 47,000. Board members agreed to have Engineer Rahn contact St. Louis County.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-56**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PACIFIC AND INNOVATIVE MASONRY RESTORATION FOR THE JENSEN POINT MASONRY REPAIRS PROJECT.**

Motion made by Alderman Gass, seconded by Alderman Bates to read resolution No. 2015-56. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried. As posted pursuant to the ordinance, City Clerk Barfield read Resolution No. 2015-56. Mayor Palmore asked for any discussion. Alderman Gass stated he thought we should move forward with just Area # 1 in the amount of \$ 47,000. **Motion made by Alderman Filley, seconded by Alderman Pigg to approve Resolution No. 2015-56 in the amount of \$ 47,000 for just Area # 1 to repair the stairs. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion approved.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. Approve resignation of Meghan Grellner as police dispatcher

Motion made by Alderman Pigg, seconded by Alderman Gass to approve the resignation of Meghan Grellner as police dispatcher. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion carried.

- b. Approve Special Permit-Temporary permit intoxicating liquor for sale by the drink to Knights of Columbus, Bruce Johnson, 206 W. Union St., for the Iron Horse Rodeo on October 2-3, 2015 at Liberty Field, Pacific, MO.

Motion made by Alderman Myers, seconded by Alderman Gass to approve the Special Permit-Temporary permit intoxicating liquor for sale by the drink to Knights of Columbus, Bruce Johnson, 206 W. Union St., for the Iron Horse Rodeo on October 2-3, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result.

- c. Approve use of the board meeting to Eagle View Homeowners Association on

Thursday, October 8, 2015.

Motion made by Alderman Pigg, seconded by Alderman Myers to approve use of the board meeting to Eagle View Homeowners Association on Thursday, October 8, 2015. A voice vote was taken with an affirmative result, and Mayor Palmore declared the motion approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Park Board Committee – No Report

Cemetery Committee – No Report

Industrial Development Committee – No Report.

Museum Committee – Alderman Johnson stated on September 17, 2015 there was going to be a joint meeting of Genealogy & Museum Committee's at the Senior Center at 6:30.

Tourism Committee – No Report.

Building Advisory – No Report

Planning & Zoning Committee

Genealogy Committee

Operations Committee

Administration Committee

### **REPORT OF CITY OFFICIALS**

Alderman Filley – congratulated Alderman Myers on the success of the Bluegrass Bash. She asked how the meeting with Cochran went in regards to Thornton Road. Mayor Palmore stated that they agreed there were about 100 items that needs addressed. She asked about liquidated damages, but Mayor Palmore stated the argument is over “substantially complete”.

Alderman Myers – asked about the progress on Mrs. McNabb's complaints. Mayor Palmore stated that they have spoken with the neighbors, the fence is being taken down, and the other neighbor is cleaning up. They responded immediately to verbal request, but the complaints about the vehicles are different. Attorney Schroeder stated we had to have permission to get on the property or a warrant. He will speak with Officer Anderson to see what he can see. Alderman Myers asked about the trial at Hawthorne, Mayor Palmore stated he was ready he just needed a day's notice. There was discussion about the sides of the pathway.

Alderman Gass - asked about when the contractor was starting on the streets. Mayor Palmore stated they are moving in on Thursday. He reminded the Mayor about the water coming off his street at the end and going under the asphalt. Alderman Gass passed out a spreadsheet that he was working on for the water rates; he asked the board to review it until the next meeting and then let him know if they want him to keep working on it.

Alderman Myers – thanked the volunteers with Operation Clean Stream. He stated there were twenty-two volunteers and they collected 8 cubic yards of trash and 15 tires on a 6 mile stretch. He continued that IESI donated a 20 yard container, Super Smokers and Filleys Sweet & Heat Sauce donated along with New Beginnings Church.

Alderman Johnson - asked about the progress on Congress & Hwy N as they have not been working. Mayor Palmore stated this is the same thing that is happening on Thornton, he has spoken to them but is just not having good luck. Mayor Palmore stated he also looked at Mary Miller's driveway and he did drag coming out but it was because his front tires went off the pavement. He thought when the pavement went in it would be ok. The big improvement in this area was the storm water, but this is what we had to do to keep the water out. Alderman Gass stated we may have to change the driveway. Alderman Johnson stated that Joan is here in the audience, and asked if her project was complete. Joan stated they haven't been back. Mayor Palmore thought this was finished.

Alderman Gass – stated the water line on Inez Lane needed dirt over it, from the cul-de-sac to Lyman Smiths house.

Alderman Johnson – asked for a schedule on the paving on Congress. Mayor Palmore stated it should all be in one day, and he would let her know if he was told about it. We talked about echelon paving in our contract, which shuts down the whole road.

Chief Mansell – stated he had the background on the next new hire, and he has research on the LifeScan. He has been told that State Law covers this and has asked Attorney Schroeder to check into it. If this is so, he would ask an alderman to sponsor a bill and there is a surcharge that is charged to the offender and that surcharge goes to the funding of this equipment. Matt Schroeder stated it would need to be coordinated with the court system.

Collector Kelley – stated in regards to the water department complaint this evening, she would like to have input with the attorney regarding looking into the procedures for billing. She then asked if the Comprehensive Plan was going back to Planning & Zoning. Mayor Palmore stated if need be it could, the next meeting is for the first reading. Chief Mansell stated there are few things that are not correct in regards to the police department. He has also received some comments from the school district. Alderman Gass suggested putting a copy at the library, but Mayor Palmore stated the public comment for this has come and gone. Alderman Filley stated this document was not the law, just suggestion, but Alderman Myers stated it needed to be used.

## 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 10:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lemberly Baiful  
City Clerk

Jeffrey M. Palmore  
Jeffrey M. Palmore, Mayor

## Item C - Mayor's Report

On Wednesday, July 22nd, 2015, the *Washington Missourian* carried an article titled "Mayor Accused of Using City Workers for Burial For His Funeral Home".

The article states that several people, including two aldermen, made these and related accusations. Conveniently, however, the article stated that "The people making the accusations said they wish to remain anonymous because they fear reprisals."

First, I want to make something perfectly clear. If an employee fails to do their job or otherwise violates the requirements of the City of Pacific's Personnel Manual or the City's Code of Ordinances, they should fear reprisal. That reprisal will come in the form of approved disciplinary action. Doing the right thing and getting even are not the same thing. It's time people understand that concept.

Next I want to address the allegation of using City Workers for my funeral home. City workers are used to facilitate the burial of dead human remains in both of the City's cemeteries for any person that owns a grave space and pays the City's Grave Opening and City Fee. Public Works employees are used for this activity because the cemeteries belong to the City; this is no different than a City employee working in a City Park, on a City road or in a City well house.

Granted, the nature of the work performed in the cemeteries is somewhat different than other work performed by City workers, but, the actual work is no different than digging up and installing a piece of pipe in the ground. The only difference is, we hold the burial of our loved ones as more sacred than burying a piece of pipe; we treat the human burial with respect and compassion.

The job of City workers is interring human remains. Part of that process involves digging the grave to the specifications required to facilitate the lowering of the casket and vault into the grave. You might remember that we experienced much higher than normal rainfall in June. This was the month that the burials in question occurred. To facilitate a burial, a grave is around three feet wide by eight feet long. After the grave was dug, it collapsed several times and had to be re-dug at least two times to get the mud out of the bottom of the grave. This mud came from the collapsed walls of the grave. After the grave collapsed it was about six feet wide by about ten feet

long. The grave was so large and so dangerous, the family of the deceased was not able to actually have the committal service over the grave. In short, the ground was so wet it was collapsing and was unsafe for anyone to be around. The family, the funeral director and the vault company could not safely approach the collapsing hole. Because of this the tent, which is normally over the grave, was set up some distance away from the grave for safety reasons. The grave that City workers dug was not serviceable with vault company equipment. City workers lifted the casket into the grave with the backhoe so that no person was subjected to the hazard of the collapsing grave. It is interesting to note that I had two funerals that week and both funerals had the same problems due to the excess rainfall. It is also interesting to note that the problem was solved in the same manner at both funerals. The other funeral was in Catawissa at a church cemetery. No one complained except the anonymous City workers and aldermen. The family that paid six hundred and thirty five dollars for the grave opening didn't complain. Their loved one was buried as they had requested and paid for.

As the Mayor, I direct the Public Works Department to accomplish the tasks in the City Cemeteries for my funeral home, any other funeral home, or an individual family. Such was the case when I purportedly "dispatched" an employee to the cemetery to bury cremated remains. The truth of the matter is, the City, not Bell Funeral Home, was contacted by the family that is now living in Illinois. That family had several grave spaces and had family members buried in the City Cemetery. Someone at City Hall directed them to me. I arranged for the grave opening several days prior to the burial and arranged for a City Employee to close the grave. I dispatched no one. Except for having a City Employee instead of an outside contractor perform these tasks, the process is the same as we have done for over a hundred years. And, by the way, the only involvement that Jeff Palmore had in that burial was that I went to City Hall to pay in advance for the grave opening as our City Ordinance requires. My funeral home had nothing to do with that burial nor did I attend the burial. As a courtesy to a family coming a long distance to bury a loved one, I, out of my bank account, paid for the grave opening to ensure compliance with our City Ordinance. I guess my mother was right, *"No good deed goes unpunished."*

I assure all of you, unlike what was reported in the *Missourian*, I have no intention of keeping anyone in the dark about my activities. If any citizen, employee, newspaper reporter or alderman would like to witness what goes on in the cemeteries, please take a look at a current copy of Chapter 135 of

our City Code and a copy of the "Official" City Cemetery maps and I will be happy to enlighten you on the new way our cemeteries are being run. I will also show you how they were run in the past. In case you don't understand, that is a challenge and I would welcome anyone to take that challenge. All I ask is that you print the results of your inquiry in *The Missourian*.