



**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF VALLEY PARK
SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
7:30 PM – AUGUST 24, 2023**

**CITY HALL
320 BENTON STREET
VALLEY PARK, MISSOURI 63088**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Chandra Webster called the special meeting of the Valley Park Board of Aldermen to order at 7:31 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken:

Mayor:	Chandra Webster	Present		
Aldermen:	Stephanie Reynolds	Present	Jon Young	Present
	Dave Rose	Present	Eddie Walker	Present
	Betty Halker	Present	Mike White	Present
	Randy Bowen	Present	Elijah Braswell	Present
Others present:	Tim Engelmeyer, City Attorney (via Zoom, arrived in-person at 8:02 pm) Nathan Schauf, City Administrator Officer Mike Castellano, St. Louis County Police Department			

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderman Walker made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Alderman Reynolds. The motion passed on a voice vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Becky Menley (807 Crescent Oaks Court) stated that she heard the meeting tonight was about the School District using the soccer fields. She said there has been a lot of discussion about the settlement agreement, there have been emails exchanged, and handshake agreements. She urged the Board of Aldermen to get this settled sooner rather than later. She said it would be a shame if the School District had to go to a different place to play soccer and stated the School District is a non-profit organization.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Walker made a motion to enter a closed meeting pursuant to RSMo Section 610.021, Paragraph 1 regarding confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.

Alderman Young stated that, in response to the last Regular Meeting, he thinks it is wrong that sitting aldermen cannot speak on topics.

Alderman Braswell stated that he voted in favor of repealing the five-day meeting notice and that he always votes best on his best judgment. He stated it is his stance to always vote in favor of the residents of Ward 4.

There was discussion regarding whether certain aldermen are instructing other aldermen how to vote, discussion regarding the TIF settlement, and discussion regarding social media activity. There was discussion regarding fairness between all school districts located in Valley Park and the financial requirements of operating and using the soccer fields at the Meramec Levee Recreation Park.

Alderman White stated that he has never instructed another alderman how to vote on any topic and would never do that. He stated that the field usage vote from the past meeting was not on the agenda, so he does not know how someone can accuse him of instructing another alderman how to vote on it.

Dr. Tim Dilg, the Superintendent of the Valley Park School District, stated that he found it ironic that the use of the soccer fields was not on the agenda. Dr. Dilg inquired about why someone from the City did not approach the School District before voting to kick the school district off the fields. He urged the Board to follow the policy about field rental prices for non-profit organizations.

Alderman Reynolds stated there was some confusion about the motion from the last Regular Board of Aldermen meeting regarding the field use. She stated that aldermen who have a stake in the game are not supposed to speak on the topic.

Alderman Walker stated that the City has had two or three City Administrators since 2018 and that the Board asked the City Administrator to do his job, but the Board jumped the gun by kicking the school district off the fields. He stated that he pays no more or less whether his children play soccer for the Valley Park School District or not.

There was discussion about procedure for following Robert's Rules of Order, the identified section of the Municipal Code pertaining to field rental fees for non-profit organizations, and the City's budget deficit. There was discussion about how the soccer fields at the Meramec Levee Recreation Park would need to be maintained whether or not the Valley Park School District used them.

Thomas Rauls, the Activities Director of the Valley Park School District, stated the School District only uses the fields for about 130 days per year for two hours per day. He stated that, as a tax-payer, he is interested in learning about the City's plan to make up the budget deficit.

Alderman Halker stated she was not in favor of the language of the motion and that she thought it was nonproductive.

Alderman White stated that he never used Brignole Park for free in his past as a coach. He stated that he has never used any City facility for free.

The motion to enter a closed meeting was seconded by Alderman Reynolds. The motion passed on a roll call vote:

Yes: Bowen, Braswell, Halker, Reynolds, Rose, Walker, White, Young

No: None
Absent: None

The Board of Aldermen entered the closed session at 8:00 pm.

Alderman Walker made a motion to resume open session. The motion was seconded by Alderman Halker. The motion passed on a roll call vote:

Yes: Bowen, Braswell, Halker, Reynolds, Rose, Walker, White, Young
No: None
Absent: None

The Board of Aldermen resumed open session at 9:27 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to consider, Alderman Walker made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Alderman Halker. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Minutes approved September 18, 2023.


Nathan Schauf
City Administrator