

# REGULAR CITY COUNCIL SESSION

MALDEN CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 — 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL—201 SOUTH MADISON

Mayor Denton Kooyman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Roger Fowler with Voice of Zion Church conducting the opening prayer.

## ROLL CALL:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Council Member Wilkerson	X	
Council Member Jenkins (President Pro Tem)	X	
Council Member Lefler	X	
Council Member House	X	
Council Member Joyce	X	
Council Member Jones	X	
Council Member Beckett	X	
Council Member Coleman		X
Members Present		<u>7</u>

**Others Attending:** City Clerk Mandy Lewis, Airport Administrative Assistant Patty Smith, Public Safety Department Director/Chief of Police Jeff Mitchell, City Treasurer Angela Earnheart and City Administrator Ivone Smith.

## 15 MINUTE OPEN FORUM

Ms. Angeline Jones (405 N Kimball, Malden, MO) addresses the City Council regarding 402 and 404 N. Kimball. She states the properties are adjacent to her property and her husband has been maintaining them for approximately five years. City Administrator Smith informs the properties are owned by Betty Manning and are available for back taxes through the Dunklin County Collector's Office. She understands there are City of Malden taxes in the amount of \$192.29 and City of Malden liens in the amount of \$6,883.00 currently due. She would like to request the City Council waive both the liens and taxes. Mayor Kooyman states this matter can be placed upon the October 16, 2023 meeting for discussion of the Council. He requests Ms. Jones provide the City Clerk a written request prior to the next City Council Meeting.

Council Member Jenkins arrives at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Chester Harvell (309 S Taylor St., Malden, MO) addresses the City Council about a property near his residence. He stated the property owners do not like to mow their yard and at this time the back yard is taller than the fence. He stated he has spoken to Code Enforcement who have informed him they can't go into the back yard without permission. Director Mitchell stated he will investigate the property. Mr. Harvell also requests the alley behind his house be graded due to "goat heads."

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**MOTION:** By Council Member House to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 21, 2023.

**SECOND:** By Council Member Lefler.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

Council Member Joyce clarifies that Ordinance 3279 – Animal Regulations passed at the August meeting states that the Malden Humane Department can euthanize dogs after five days but will not do so unless the dog is a danger to the public. He states the pound is a no-kill shelter and that has not changed. He understands people have been posting on Facebook regarding this Ordinance and he wanted to clarify.

**MOTION:** By Council Member Jones to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of August 28, 2023.

**SECOND:** By Council Member Jenkins.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

**MOTION:** By Council Member Jones to approve the Special Called Session Minutes of August 28, 2023.

**SECOND:** By Council Member Jenkins.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JOINT CITY COUNCIL/DUNKLIN COUNTY REORGANIZED SEWER DISTRICT #1 BOARD**

**MOTION:** By Council Member Jenkins to approve the Dunklin County Sewer District #1 Special Called Session Minutes of September 6, 2023.

**SECOND:** By Council Member House.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

**MOTION:** By Council Member House to approve the Closed Session Minutes of August 28, 2023.

**SECOND:** By Council Member Jenkins.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

**TREASURERS REPORT**

**a. Financial Report**

City Treasurer Earnheart reported for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month of the Fiscal Year August 2023, the General Fund had \$827,535.15, COVID Federal Funding has \$547,934.66, Cemetery Fund has \$163,785.25, Park Fund \$0.00, Frisco Park Splashpad Fund has \$351,487.15, Malden Department of Economic Development Fund has \$40,917.59, Street Capital Projects Fund \$365,957.36, Solid Waste Management Fund \$5,746.98, Capital Improvement Fund has \$216,950.37. Total cash and cash equivalents \$2,585,760.62 and long-term loan obligations is \$2,431,239.55.

City Treasurer Earnheart states the process of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 audit has begun and will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

**MALDEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE DIVISION:**

**a. Recommendation from Public Safety Committee**

**b. Recommendation from Budget & Finance Committee**

City Administrator Smith states Director Mitchell reached out to her this past month regarding the pay rate of Malden Department of Public Safety – Police Division. She informs that several cities, counties, and the State Highway Patrol have raised pay rates recently and there is a concern regarding the City's ability to retain officers. On September 5, 2023 the Public Safety Committee met to discuss the potential of a \$1.50 an hour pay increase for officers. The \$1.50 an hour increase would not increase the MDPS – Police Division budget as the most recent opening for a Patrol Officer would not be filled. Also discussed with the Public Safety Committee was the potential of a \$2.00 per hour increase for officers. The Public Safety Committee voted in favor of a \$2.00 per hour increase and sent the recommendation to the Budget & Finance Committee for an amendment of the MDPS - Police Division budget.

City Administrator Smith states the Budget & Finance Committee met on September 6, 2023 to discuss the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee. She explains the \$2.00 per hour increase in wages for the MDPS - Police Division would raise their budget \$24,514.29. It was her recommendation to the Budget & Finance Committee the \$2.00 per hour increase be approved and funds be taken from the General Fund.

**MOTION:** By Council Member Jones to approve the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee to move two Department of Public Safety Officers from the Fire Division to the Police Division and approve a \$2.00/hour increase in wages for the Malden Department of Public Safety – Police Division.

**SECOND:** By Council Member Jenkins.

**Motion Passed 7/0**

Council Member Jenkins inquires about the status of the MDPS – Fire Division. Mayor Kooyman states there is a Fire Division and many of the Police Division officers assist with fires. He also states most of the current volunteers are City employees.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

City Administrator Smith states the contract with Republic Services is up in December. She would like to discuss the possibility of putting the service out to bid or staying with Republic at the October 2023 City Council Meeting.

City Administrator Smith states the Community Center project is in full force. Asbestos is currently being removed inside and out. She informs the Council and public that the trees removed from the Community Center has been replanted at the Rosewood Cemetery on AB Highway.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS**

**Council Member Beckett** – None.

**Council Member Coleman** – Absent.

**Council Member Joyce** – Thanks Director Mitchell for taking action regarding police presence coming into town on J Hwy and City Administrator Smith for having the street sign at the Statute of Liberty installed. Council Member Joyce inquires about the Economic Development Director hired by Dunklin County earlier this year. He asks how often she has met with City of Malden officials and is she working with the City of Malden on any projects. City Administrator Smith states she has met with Melissa Combs but has not worked with her regarding any projects. Mayor Kooyman states he has spoken to Ms. Combs previously regarding the Chamber of Commerce but not as a City official. He states his understanding was because the City of Malden has an Economic Development Director, she was not wanting to step on anyone toes. Council Member Joyce states he feels that since Dunklin County is paying for her position, she needs to work towards the betterment of Dunklin County, not just Kennett.

**Council Member Jones** – None.

**Council Member Lefler** – Suggests the City look into hiring a grant writer. Mayor Kooyman states the city uses Bootheel Regional Planning Commission to write grants. The City pays dues for their assistance but hiring a grant writer may be something the City wants to look into.

**Council Member House** – Inquires about a pot hole around Graham and Howard Streets in Ward 2. City Administrator Smith states she will speak with the Public Works Superintendent regarding getting the hole filled.

**Council Member Jenkins** – None.

**Council Member Wilkerson** – Inquires about houses without electric or water continuing to receive trash services. She states there is a house near her that is empty but someone is still using the trash service. City Administrator Smith asks Council Member Wilkerson to provide an address so she can look into the situation.

**MAYOR REPORT**

Mayor Kooyman informs the October Council Meeting will be on October 16, 2023 at 6 pm at City Hall. Building Code Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 3 pm at City Hall. Planning & Zoning Board Meeting will not take place this month. Park Board Meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Board of Public Works Board Meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the BPW Conference Room.

Mayor Kooyman thanks the Malden American Legion for the donation of two P.O.W. flags to be displayed at the MDPS building and the Community Center. He reminds the Council and public of the City-Wide Yard Sale scheduled for September 28 – September 30 and the City-Wide Cleanup scheduled for October 2 – October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Kooyman reads a Thank You Note from the First Southern Baptist Church for the use of the Frisco Park for a Back-to-School event. He also relays thanks from First State Community Bank for the use of the Community Center parking lot for a food drive and mobile mammogram truck.

**OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED NECESSARY**

With no other business deemed necessary, a Motion to Adjourn was entertained.

**MOTION:** By Council Member Jenkins to adjourn the Regular Council Session of September 18, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

**SECOND:** By Council Member House.

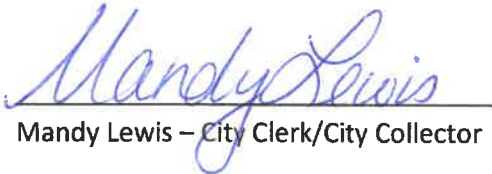
**POLL VOTE ----- MOTION PASSED**

**7 - YES**

**0 - NO**

Council Member Joyce	YES	Council Member Jones	YES
Council Member House	YES	Council Member Coleman	ABSENT
Council Member Wilkerson	YES	Council Member Beckett	YES
Council Member Lefler	YES	Council Member Jenkins	YES

ATTEST:

  
Mandy Lewis – City Clerk/City Collector

  
Denton Kooyman – Mayor