



# CITY OF GERALD

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### June 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM



#### CALL TO ORDER

The City Board of Aldermen convened on June 13, 2024, at 6:31 PM at the Gerald City Hall, 106 East Fitzgerald Avenue, Gerald, Missouri. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Angela Koepke.

Upon roll call, Board members present:

Mayor Angela Koepke
Alderman Corey Novotney, Board Pres
Ward I Alderman Kyle Guerrant
Ward I Alderman Rudy Via
Ward II Alderman Cary Parker

Also, present:

Terris Cates – City Engineer
Jim Helton – Police Chief
Nick Grube – City Administrator
Davey DeFrenne-Public Works Director
Shelley Smythe – City Clerk
Phil Pilgram – City Inspector
Kevin Richardson – City Attorney

#### AGENDA APPROVAL

Alderman Novotney motioned to move Item No. 10 to after Item No. 16. Alderman Parker seconded the motion. All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Alderman Via motioned to accept the amended agenda. Alderman Guerrant seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “aye”. Motion carried.

#### MINUTES

The minutes for the May 09, 2024, Regular and May 23, 2024 Workshop and Special Meeting were reviewed. Alderman Parker motioned to accept the minutes as is. Alderman Novotney seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “aye”. Motion carried.

#### BILLS

The May bills were reviewed. Alderman Parker motioned to accept the bills provided. Alderman Via seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted “aye”. Motion carried.



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### MAYOR ADDRESSING THE CITIZENS

Mayor Koepke stated that she was not advised to address the citizens and the Aldermen were uninformed of her plan to address the citizens of Gerald. She stated that she was glad to see a lot of people at the hearing. She stated there was an impressive amount of professionalism and questions being asked by the citizens of Gerald and those that adjoin the proposed annexation. She stated that she did answer some questions on social media, but she will no longer be answering anymore questions on social media. She stated that social media attacks on businesses, corporations, or others are uncalled for. She addressed the intersection of Highway H (South Bernhardt) and Highway 50 (West Fitzgerald), and she has been and will be in touch with MODOT addressing a few concerns with the town's highway safety. She addressed the AARPA funds and where the funds have been and are being allocated. She stated the City is currently working with Hoods & Associates on an audit. She stated that she would like to see more citizens at the city meetings and relayed information on how to find the agendas. She stated she is impressed with the City's progress in cleaning up the town. She asked each department head to address the upgrades in the past years.

### EXECUTIVE/CLOSED MEETING

Alderman Parker motioned to enter closed session pursuant to Section 610.021(01) RSMo for discussion between a public governmental body concerning confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorney. Alderman Novotney seconded the motion. Roll call vote was done in the order of Alderman Guerrant "aye", Alderman Novotney "aye", Alderman Parker "aye", and Alderman Via "aye". Motion carried.

Entered Executive/Closed session at 6:47 PM.  
Returned to Regular/Open session at 6:56 PM.

Alderman Parker made a motion to reenter regular open session. Alderman Novotney seconded the motion. All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

Mayor Koepke stated that regarding the annexation, the board has reviewed all comments and concerns from citizens, and they are now looking at alternative routes for the annexation plan. Alderman Parker stated that there has never been any discussion regarding forcibly taking any property owner's land, police ticketing, or any ill intent.

Alderman Parker made a motion to drop annexation proceedings. Alderman Novotney seconded the motion. All aldermen votes "aye". Motion carried.

### INTRO TO ORDINANCES

Bill No. 2024-02, Ordinance 944: An Ordinance to Amend City of Gerald Municipal Code Section 210.560 Regarding Sale and Discharge of Fireworks

Two readings were completed.

Alderman Novotney motioned to accept Bill No. 2024-02, Ordinance 944. Alderman Guerrant seconded the motion. Roll call vote was done in the order of Alderman Guerrant "aye", Alderman Novotney "aye", Alderman Parker "aye", and Alderman Via "aye". Motion carried.

Mayor Koepke announced that this ordinance will not go into effect until 2025 due to it needing to be updated in the online e-codes.



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### PLANNING & ZONING

*Linda Trest, Planning & Zoning Representative* – Discussed Planning & Zoning Minutes should be printed on letterhead, and they have not been. Discussed digital billboards and zoning ordinances and variances. Discussed the code book and stated the small code book given to Planning and Zoning should be updated so they can stay consistent with their recommendations.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

*Phil Pilgram, City Inspector* – Stated Jack Flash is moving right along with getting completed. Stated the plans for the townhouses were sent back to the architect to be rereviewed and their permit application has been denied until new plans are submitted and approved.

*Terris Cates, City Engineer* – No discussion or updates.

*Nick Grube, City Administrator* – Discussed the Water Towers and AARPA funds used. Discussed new public works equipment and AARPA funds used. Stated AARPA funds have their own account and other ways the funds have been spent. Discussed going out for street asphalt per ton, sealing, chip and seal, and concrete bids.

Alderman Parker made a motion to allow City Administrator Grube and Public Works Director DeFrenne to work with Terris to get bids for street work including asphalt per ton, sealing, chip and seal, and concrete. Alderman Guerrant seconded the motion. All aldermen voted “aye”. Motion carried.

*Davey DeFrenne, Public Works Director* - Discussed fixing some streets and getting a list together of streets that need work done.

*Kevin Richardson, City Attorney* – No discussion or updates.

*Shelley Smythe, City Clerk* – Discussed updates including office phones, aldermen laptops, postage meter, and utility billing software. Stated she is still looking into a new website host. Discussed the Municipal League quarterly meeting and asked for approval for City Hall to be closed a few hours on June 17. Mayor Koepke granted approval for City Hall to close for a few hours on June 17 as long as it is posted.

*Chief Jim Helton* – Discussed the police departments fleet. Stated all but one vehicle was bought used and they are all paid off. Stated grant money has been received for new equipment. Stated AED’s will be donated to be used in each car and in the office. Stated he will have a grant proposal next month.

### OLD BUSINESS

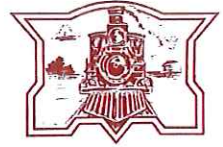
Planning & Zoning – Linda Trest’s term is ending. Mayor Koepke asked Trest if she would be interested in another term to which Trest agreed to.

Alderman Via made a motion to grant Linda Trest approval to stay on Planning & Zoning. Alderman Parker seconded the motion. All aldermen voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Planning & Zoning Representative Linda Trest stated Planning & Zoning has a recommendation to rezone the property at 611 Lincoln Dr from Commercial to R-2.



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Alderman Parker made a motion to move forward with the recommendation of rezoning the property at 611 Lincoln Dr from Commercial to R-2. Alderman Via seconded the motion. All aldermen voted "aye". Motion carried.

**ALDERMAN REPORTS**

- Ward I Alderman Via* – No discussion or updates.
- Ward II Alderman Cary Parker* – No discussion or updates.
- Ward I Alderman Guerrant*- Discussed working on bids for soccer fields.
- Ward II Alderman Novotney* – No discussion or updates.

**MAYOR REPORTS**

*Mayor Angela Koepke* – Stated she wanted to discuss the cost and attorney fees. Stated that she is working to bring attorney fees down.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Hackstedt – Stated he came to address the administration and wanted to thank the board for having a public hearing regarding the annexation and stated the information was presented well. Stated that Missourian and the Gasconade County Republican both published articles regarding the annexation public hearing and stated they were two very different articles. Discussed open property with potential for new business.

Steve Grgurich – Discussed citizen involvement and stated the citizens should have been contacted earlier. Discussed concerns addressed in the newspaper articles.

**NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**

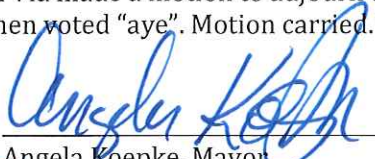
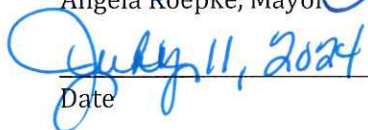
Public Hearing regarding Rezoning on July 11, 2024 at 6:15PM followed by the  
Regular Meeting on July 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Alderman Via made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Alderman Guerrant seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted "aye". Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Shelley Smythe, City Clerk

  
Angela Koepke, Mayor  
  
Date