

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BEE CREEK SEWER ISSUE  
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI, MAY 3, 2005**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri met in a special public session at the Council Chambers of the City Hall on May 3, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Schaefer presiding, Dick Gass, Stan Barker, Beverly Martin, Ron Huff and David Edie. Jack Purvis was absent.

Also in attendance from the City were: City Administrator Terry Dody, Assistant Administrator Frank Schoneboom, City Attorney Dan Wichmer, City Clerk Lisa Westfall, Director of Public Works Larry VanGilder, Director of Engineering David Miller, Director of Finance Deanna Schlegel and Director of Planning & Zoning Don Stephens.

Mayor Schaefer called the meeting to order with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and Larry VanGilder gave the invocation.

Mayor Schaefer asked Mayor Pro Tem Huff to make the introductory statement, which he read into the record (attached as exhibit “A”). Additionally in this Mayor Schaefer read a statement also included in exhibit “A”.

Mayor Schaefer explained that speakers would be allowed five minutes to address the Board with comments or questions. Responses to the questions will not count as the five minutes.

The floor was turned over to Larry VanGilder. He addressed issues that were written in the Letter to the Editor, May 1, 2005 by Ron Herschend. The editorial stated that Mr. Herschend had saved thousands of dollars on this project. Mr. VanGilder stated that it didn’t make a difference who takes the credit, but that the project moved forward. He then discussed the comments in the editorial concerning Table Rock Acres and stated that the correct actions have been taken by the city to rectify the situation.

David Miller read into the record exhibit “B”.

At this time approximately twenty citizens spoke and asked questions and aired their concerns about the Bee Creek Sewer project. The majority of the discussion was concern over the fact that the residents of the Bee Creek area would have to annex into the City of Branson once they attached to city sewer. The Council assured the residents that an amendment to the original Bee Creek Agreement removed the language in the agreement requiring annexation into the city.

The other concern discussed was the need for taxes from Bee Creek residents to pay for the Branson Landing project. The Council explained that the funding of the Branson Landing project

was t through the Tax Increment Financing Plan (TIF) and assured the residents that no other city revenues would be used for funding.

Additionally, concern was expressed for the environment and the need to keep the water in the area clean. This project needed to move forward in order to accomplish this. It was also explained how the agreement and project came about and what has transpired over the years to get the project to where it is today. Other voiced concerns were over building and sewer codes. The difference between the two was explained. It was discussed that sewer codes had to be followed when hooking up to the sewer line and also the need to cave in old septic tanks. Many of these requirements were required by the State of Missouri. There would be no requirement to follow city building codes.

There was discussion about the cost of sewer to non-residents at a rate of two and one-half times that of a Branson resident. It was explained that this was only fair to the citizens and taxpayers of Branson. It was also stated that the citizens of Branson pay the countywide sewer tax, which is funding the Bee Creek project.

Administrator Dody explained the benefits of being a resident of the City of Branson. These benefits include protection of property value by zoning and building codes, along with police and fire protection and upkeep of roads. Sometime in the future people will choose to want to be part of Branson for these benefits. These benefits will be the motivation to annex into the City of Branson. There is concern about the residents in Branson's future growth areas and that is what this project addresses.

Several residents pointed out that the negative comments did not apply to all of the Bee Creek residents. There were residents in the area who want the sewer project completed and that the statements being made did not reflect comments of everyone.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Schaefer then stated that concluded the Public Information section of the meeting and entertained a motion to adjourn to an emergency closed Executive Session pursuant to 610.110.21 RSMo for litigation. Alderman Huff moved to go into closed Executive Session, seconded by Alderwoman Martin. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff and Edie. Nays: none. Absent: Purvis. Motion carried. City Attorney Dan Wichmer stated that the meeting was called as an emergency do to the fact that he was just notified of the litigation issue today, and there was not enough time for notification of the meeting.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Mayor Schaefer entertained a motion to adjourn. Alderman Barker moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Edie. Voting aye: Gass, Barker, Martin, Huff and Edie. Nays: none. Absent: Purvis. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.