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CITY OF BRANSON

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NEWS RELEASE

February 9, 2010

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Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen at February 9, 2010 meeting

SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE BILLS

Aldermen approve contract with design firm for highways 248 and 65 interchange

The Board approved a contract with DRG Engineers of Kansas City for the design work of the Missouri 248 and US 65 interchange. The contract is split into a preliminary phase for \$41,529 and a final design phase for \$201,553. The interchange has been redesigned from a roundabout to a diverging diamond configuration. The diverging diamond will also reduce construction costs by \$600,000.

Board amends the Branson Landing TDD agreement

The original Branson Landing Transportation Development District (TDD) agreement five years ago required the city of Branson to collect the TDD one percent sales tax, which the city has been doing. However, the TDD Act was amended during the last Missouri legislative session requiring the state department of revenue to collect and enforce the sales tax. Aldermen approved an amendment to the Landing TDD allowing the state to take over the collection responsibilities.

Board approves new RV Park along Shepherd of the Hills Expressway

Aldermen gave preliminary approval to an amendment to a planned development that would allow the construction of an RV resort. The development is known as Audubon Place and is located on the north side of Shepherd of the Hills Expressway just west of Highway 248. Of the 169 acres in the development, half would be constructed into an RV resort for RVs and cabins that will meet all required building codes. The cabins will be permanent structures, 400-600 sq ft, and not allowed to be expanded or modified.

Board renews contracts with two septic companies to allow city to accept their waste

Aldermen approved contracts with Boerman's Septic and S & S Pumping Service to allow the city's utilities department to accept their septic waste into the wastewater treatment system.

Treatment of this waste has no adverse affect on the city's treatment system and is a benefit to the environment and local community. City does collect fees for this service.

Board approves funding for area non-profits

Christian Action Ministries received \$13,200 for the coming year.

Women's Crisis Center received \$7,500

Church Army Branson got \$10,000

Branson Arts Council received \$22,200.

Each year the city allocates funding for agencies that help the needy in our community and provide affordable cultural activities. Agencies seeking funds must present proposals before the Outside Agency Funding Committee, which then recommends the agency and funding to the full Board of Aldermen.

Contract approved for hauling recycled materials

Final approval was given on a 1-year contract with Greenway Recycling of Fordland, MO for transporting and marketing the recycled materials from the Branson Recycle Center. Greenway will not only transport but also reimburse the city for the value of the materials.

Board does first and second reading on bill to expedite bond sale

The city has an opportunity to refinance about \$8 million in 1998B Tourism Tax Bonds and save \$300,000 in debt expenditures over the remaining 8-year life of the bonds. US Bank is buying the entire offering at an interest rate of 3.85%. . However, due to the scheduled sales completion deadline of February 11, 2010, the Board approved the bond issue on both first and second reading.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (1st Reading)

Architect selected for city hall modifications

Approval was given on first reading to contract with Pellham-Phillips Architects of Springfield to design the remodeling of the police department and city clerk/municipal court offices in city hall. Both departments need more space and this remodeling would be a short term solution. The design contract would cost \$27,000. The actual construction cost is estimated to be \$273,000. Funds were budgeted for these projects.

Resolution passes to proceed with citywide curbside recycling

During a special Board of Aldermen meeting last month, city staff presented information about implementing curbside recycling in Branson. It was explained that state regulations require cities to notify solid waste collection companies of their intent to begin curbside recycling and then wait two years before actually starting the program. This resolution started the two-year timetable so the city can begin developing the curbside recycling program. Over the next two years, the city will look at all options for curbside recycling and conduct public meetings to keep residents and waste hauling companies fully informed and part of the process.

