CITY OF MERIDEN
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PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2025

Regular City Council Meeting began at: 7:00pm

Roll Call
Those present: Jake Chess Brian Smith Andy Surritt BJ Whiteman
Dana Boyer Tom Barnes II
Not present: Keith Steele arrived at 7:42pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING
Nothing currently

NEW BUSINESS
Discussed the new rates for Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance premiums for Dawn Putnam, Jay Wellman and Matt Williams. Rates did increase by 40% from 2025. The new premium rates will be as follows: Matt Williams + dependents is $3053.19 per month; Jay Wellman and Dawn Putnam have single coverage, and their premium rate is $968.05 per month for a total of $4989.29 per month. Andy Surritt looked at the budget and stated there was enough money allocated for insurance.

Motion made by Brian Smith and seconded by Jake Chess to approve the BCBS premium rates for 2026. Motion passed 4-0. Keith Steele was not in attendance for this motion.

Jodi Barker and family will be installing a new mobile home at 206/208 N Owen and wanted clarification on the property line such as what is required when building a carport and removing a tree that is on the property line. Jodi indicated the neighbor had planted several trees along the properly line and Jodi wanted to know if there was a stipulation for trees to be planted on the property line. Jodi was advised by attorney Tom Barnes II that the tree limbs overhanging onto her property can be legally removed to prevent any future accidents. If the tree is disputed, that would become a civil court matter. Jodi wants to erect a carport on the backside of the property and inquired about the setbacks from the property line and if a building permit would be required. Paul Crawford, Building Inspector, addressed the setback questions.

OLD BUSINESS
Voluntary Short-term disability (VSTD) was discussed, bringing up a new policy that would start on day 1 (one) related to an injury and on day six related to an illness. The VSTD premium rate would be $123.09 per month.

Motion made by Brian Smith and seconded by BJ Whiteman for the City of Meriden to cover the $123.09 monthly premium of the Voluntary Short Term Disability plan. Motion passed 4-0. Keith Steele was not in attendance for this motion.

OLD BUSINESS CON'T

The discussion on how sick and vacation time would accrue as well as the amount of time that would be allowed to carry over to the following year, has been tabled until November 18, 2025 council meeting. Jake Chess will gather some additional information on accruing time and will present the findings at the next council meeting.

Jessica Schenkel, M.A.C.E, Meriden Association of Community Events, could not attend but Brayden Jernberg was in attendance for the council meeting and indicated the Movie Night scheduled for October 18th would be postponed due to inclement weather in the forecast.

Mike Heinen wanted to know about the proposal that was to be presented to Jerry Cozadd about taking the fence down that is over the property line at 111 E Main Street. Jerry Cozadd indicated he received a letter from his legal counsel and forwarded to Tom Barnes II, in which Tom indicated he had not received an email. Tom also addressed that this type of dispute is a Civil dispute. Fence is below the required height that a permit would be required. Tom asked Jerry "Are you asserting that you have adverse possession of the ground?". Jerry replied that is what his legal counsel stated. Tom again indicated that is between Mike and Jerry to work out and that the City of Meriden is not going to get in the middle of a property dispute.

BUILDING PERMIT ISSUES

Need to know how the council wants Claudia Wilson, Part-time Utility Clerk, and Dawn Putnam, City Clerk, to handle permits that are over 180 (one hundred eighty) days since issued. Permit packet indicates that the permit becomes null and void after 180 days if the project is not completed. Tom Barnes II suggested putting a reminder on the calendar to send a letter to citizens regarding that their permit is due to expire in 30 (thirty) days. Letter will read "We know you are beyond the six months and your construction is not completed, therefore we need you to come before Council to explain the status so that an extension can be made." Tom Barnes II will compose the letter. Matt Williams will send Mammoth a building permit for an extension.

SEWER/TRASH DELINQUINCIES

Linda Essman has brought her account current.
Sherry Atchison had been current until recently; letter mailed out October 9, 2025.
Kandice Stilley has not been able to be contacted by the City; letter mailed out October 9, 2025.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police, Jason Boyer, has meet with Council and suggested to allow public speaking with no interactions for a maximum of 3 (three) minutes.

The new 2026 Dodge Durango has arrived. Axon still needs to add some equipment which will be done in next couple of weeks. The police F150 truck is in Wichita getting a siren repaired.

POLICE DEPARTMENT CON'T

Homecoming was Friday the 10th and parking was a disaster. Jason has recruited some of the volunteer firefighters to assist with parking. Jason Boyer, Chief of Police, stated he will have the visitor buses park in the USD340 bus parking lot which will free up several spots. Jason proposed to pay the volunteers for Friday the 17th and Friday the 31st. Jason would like to pay each person $100.

Motion made by Andy Surritt, seconded by BJ Whiteman to approve to pay $100.00 person up to a maximum of $1000.00. Motion passed 5-0.

Fall Festival Cars & Guitars went very well. The car show brought in several patrons. Main Street was barricaded for the Beer Garden, hosted by The 1890 Ice House, the street was opened back up by 6:30pm.

City of Meriden Police Department was contacted by the Highway Patrol to assist in Hays with traffic control for the fallen Police Officer. Jason stated 4 police officers from our area went to assist.

Jason indicated there is a group in Jefferson County that will give USD 340 $10,000 to put up armor film on the windows and doors in all 3 schools. To do the Preschool, Elementary, Middle and High Schools will be roughly $30,000-35,000. We were able to acquire $10,000 of the 30-35 grand so the Preschool and Elementary schools will be done first. The Chamber of Commerce and Booster Club will cover the cost for the Middle school.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Backhoe had a breakdown. The condenser had lost the ability to hold air. Matt Williams, Maintenance Supervisor, fixed the issue in house. The Hightide, scale monitoring system on the Maintenance Department's phone, that controls the pumps has been causing some trouble, most times it is a battery issue. Matt has ordered a couple batteries to have on hand. Sand and salt equipment is up and running. Salt was ordered; price did not go up.

The 'MERIDEN' sign lights are not working. Matt and Jay will work on getting it working again.

Matt contacted Phil Hoffman at the county regarding Condray Street and to talk about the dust control. Matt indicated that it is best to spray dust control in the Spring. If sprayed a couple years in a row to where the road is firmed up, it would help eliminate dust.

Matt also contacted Spear Scapes to discuss the City Park and replacing the wood mulch with rubber mulch. The wood mulch seems to settle relatively quickly, and weeds always need to be pulled.

Matt had spent a day with Jerry Murphay hydro-excavating around the sewer valves. The valves are so old that they have silted in, making it hard to open or locate.

ATTORNEY TIME
Nothing to report currently.

MAYOR TIME
WIBW radio group sent an email offering special sponsorship packages for the October 24th broadcast.

Keith Steele addressed his health concerns and let the Mayor and Council know that he is turning in his resignation effective December 31, 2025

APPROVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Motion made by BJ Whiteman, seconded by Brian Smith to approve the September 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

APPROVE CURRENT EXPENDITURES
Motion made by BJ Whiteman, seconded by Jake Chess to approve current expenditures. Motion passed 5-0.

CONTINUE OR ADJOURN MEETING
Motion made by Jake Chess, seconded by Brian Smith to adjourn meeting. Motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted by:_____
Dawn Putnam, City Clerk