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CITY OF BRANSON

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NEWS RELEASE

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Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen at November 7, 2011 meeting

CONSENT AGENDA - SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE BILLS

Jefferson City lobbyist contract

Aldermen approved the final year of a five year contract with R. J. Scherr and Associates in Jefferson City for lobbyist services in the upcoming 2012 Missouri Legislative Session. Cost to the city is \$31,752.

Contract approved for starting repairs on flood damaged water plant equipment

During the spring floods, more than five feet of sand and gravel was deposited over the top of the intake structures in Lake Taneycomo for the Meadows Water Treatment Plant. Although water is still seeping through this sediment, it is reducing the capacity of the water treatment plant and causing damage to plant pumps. Aldermen approved a contract with Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City to study the problem and make recommendations for possible solutions. The contract is in the amount of \$28,700.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (1st Readings and public hearing)

Board approves bond refinancing to save city money

Aldermen approved advance refunding of 2003 revenue bonds totaling about \$38 million that will save the city about \$3 million in interest over the next 20 years. The bonds financed infrastructure at Branson Landing, Branson City Hall addition and fire station #3. The new interest rate will be 4.53%.

Public Forum on proposed ordinance to limit the sale of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine

The purpose of the forum was to allow citizens to share their views on the issue. No action was taken by Aldermen.

Seven people spoke in opposition and four spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. The main concerns of the opponents were the inconvenience, time and expense of obtaining a prescription for the cold and allergy over-the-counter medications. "Don't punish the law abiding citizens" was mentioned several times. It was also brought out by opponents that there are already laws where citizens have to sign for these medications and a statewide tracking system.

Supporters of the proposed ordinance said taking steps to curtail the purchase of these medications by meth manufacturers far outweigh any inconvenience on citizens who can use other over-the-counter medications that are just as effective. A representative from the Missouri Narcotics Officers Association said the tracking system has not stopped the increase in meth labs. Taney County Sheriff Jimmy Russell said his department's case load could be cut 80% if meth labs were eliminated. He said 100% of the members of the state sheriff's association support not only local bans, but a statewide ban on over-the-counter sales of medicines with ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. A statewide ban has been turned down by the legislature.

Mayor Raeanne Presley directed staff to draft an ordinance limiting the sale of products containing these ingredients, and that bill will be on the agenda for a future Board meeting (no date set) when more public hearings will be held.

(Audio of the entire Board of Aldermen meeting can be accessed by going to www.bransonmo.gov and clicking on the "Agenda & Minutes" link in the upper left hand corner of the website.)