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## **CITY OF BRANSON**

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# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**August 10, 2010**

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## **Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen at August 10, 2010 meeting**

### **SECOND READING AND FINAL PASSAGE BILLS**

#### **Board allows private banners to promote shows**

Aldermen amended the city code to allow banners on private property to promote shows and events happening at their theater or attraction. Currently, the code only allows the name or logo of the business on banners, but does not allow for identifying any specific event or show that may be occurring at the business.

#### **Aldermen approve new lease agreement with Hughes Brothers and Mickey Gilley**

For years the city has leased about two acres where the Hughes Brothers Theater sets on Highway 76 to Hughes Entertainment. The lease with Hughes Brothers expires in 2012, and Hughes has requested an extension of an additional 35 years to 2046. Aldermen approved on first reading the following terms of the lease contract:

Up the percentage of all gross revenue paid to the city from 2% to 3% in addition to the base rent of \$25,000 annually. Currently, Hughes pays 2% on all gross revenues up to the first \$500,000 and then 3% on all gross revenues beyond that, plus the \$25,000.

A minimum of \$50,000 was placed on the annual rent due, and this minimum will increase every five years by \$5,000.

Mickey Gilley's lease with the city on four acres on Highway 76 expires in 2021, but Gilley has requested a new 35-year term ending in 2045. Gilley now pays a base rent of \$32,000 annually, plus 4% on all gross revenues. The new lease agreement would reduce the base rent to \$25,000 and reduce the percentage paid to 3% on gross revenues. This change will make the lease identical to the Hughes Brothers Theater. Also like the Hughes, a minimum of \$50,000 was placed on the annual rent due, and the minimum will increase by \$5,000 every five years.

#### **Board approves reimbursement agreement with county airport**

Final approval was given for a new five-year reimbursement agreement with the Taney County Airport. The current agreement ends in May 2011. The reimbursement amount will be \$10,000 per year for a total not to exceed \$50,000 during the term of the agreement.

### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (Presentations and 1<sup>st</sup> Readings)**

### **Presentation by auditors regarding the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (CAFR)**

The city received an unqualified or clean report on the most recent financial audit by Cochran Head Vick and Company of Kansas City. The auditors reported no illegal acts, no disagreements with management and full access to all financial books and records.

### **New development approved in north Branson**

Aldermen gave first round approval to a new development called St. Andrews in Branson Hills along north Highway 65 on the west side. The development will include multi-family units with time shares, recreational facilities, indoor swimming pool and a clubhouse replicating the historic clubhouse in St. Andrews, Scotland. The clubhouse will have a restaurant and meeting rooms.

### **Annual property tax levy set for next year**

Board has established a property tax rate of \$.5194 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation within the city limits of Branson. This tax rate will be collected in the 2011 budget year. It's an increase of 1.5% from the \$.4909 rate this year. The reason for the increase is due to the assessed valuation of property in the city decreasing. When the assessed valuation decreases, the city is allowed to increase its tax rate to offset the loss. This year's assessed valuation is \$485,111,380.

### **Board approves bill requiring deposits for new businesses paying tourism tax**

Board approved an amendment to the tourism tax ordinance that strengthens the city's ability to collect delinquent taxes. It would require all new tourism taxpaying businesses and any existing businesses that had their business licenses revoked to make a one month tax deposit with the finance department before their business licenses are issued. The deposit would be the business's estimated average monthly tax liability. The minimum deposit would be \$100. The one month tax deposit would be refunded after three years if the business has a satisfactory tax payment with the city. While the finance department is successful in collecting over 99% of tourism taxes, still about \$90,000 annually is not collected from businesses that close and don't pay.

### **Intergovernmental agreement approved with area county and cities to fund chemical collection facility**

Aldermen approved an intergovernmental agreement with the cities of Hollister and Forsyth and Taney County to help finance the household chemical collection facility at the Branson Recycle Center. It costs Branson about \$12,000 a year to remove the chemical waste, and that cost will now be divided between the other governmental entities. Taney County will pay 68% of the cost, Branson 18%, Hollister 9% and Forsyth 5%.

### **Speed limit increased on Francis Street**

Aldermen approved increasing the speed limit on Francis Street between Highway 76 and Gretna Road. The new speed limit will be 35 mph, up from the previous 25 mph

### **Contractor approved for police department remodeling**

An Ozark, MO contractor, Winslow Construction, has been selected for expanding the police department in city hall. Winslow was the low bid at \$52, 513.

### **City streets to get asphalt overlays**

APAC-Missouri, Inc of Springfield was the low bidder for resurfacing several city streets. The streets to be overlaid include Ellen, Sherry Lane, West Oklahoma to 3<sup>rd</sup> St, and Oklahoma at N. Walnut extension, Old County Road and Cliff Drive west of Hawthorn.

**Several streets to receive new pavement markings**

Aldermen awarded a Van Buren, Arkansas company, Time Striping Inc, the bid to restripe several city streets. They include Fall Creek; Gretna; Shepherd of the Hills Exp; James Epps Rd; Green Mountain Drive; North Francis; Glory Road and Rosalee St.

**Special Event Permit approved for K-Swiss Ironman in Branson**

Board has approved a Special Event Permit for the K-Swiss Ironman 70.3 competition to be held in Branson September 19. This is the first time Branson is hosting the event. The triathlon consists of a 1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike route and a 13.1 mile run. Ironman begins at Moonshine Beach on Table Rock Lake and ends at Branson Landing.