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## **CITY OF BRANSON**

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# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**January 26, 2010**

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## **Action taken by Branson Board of Aldermen at January 26, 2010 meeting**

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

#### **City municipal judge gets a raise**

Due to the significant increase in the municipal court caseload, Aldermen approved a hike in compensation for Municipal Judge Tom Motley. His new pay will be \$1,200 per court session, a \$200 raise from the \$1,000 he was receiving. The Board also appointed Motley to an additional three year term ending in January 2013.

#### **More development in Branson Hills**

Aldermen approved a planned development in Branson Hills adjacent to the Payne Stewart Golf Club. HCW Development is planning to build multi-family and timeshare structures on about 14 acres along the west side of US 65 just south of the new Branson Ridge Winery now under construction.

#### **Speed limit increased on new Fall Creek Road extension**

Final approval was given to increase the speed limit from 35 to 45 mph on Fall Creek Road between Highway 76 and Roark Valley Road. That section of Fall Creek just opened in October.

#### **Highways 65 and 248 interchange discussed**

The Board gave final approval to a supplemental agreement with MoDOT regarding improvements to the Highway 65 and 248 interchange that will save money for the city. The new agreement states the city is responsible for the final design plans which will allow the city to pursue a lower cost alternative. The alternative right now appears to be a “diverging diamond” instead of a roundabout at the intersection. A diverging diamond is where both directions of traffic move to the opposite side of the road before crossing the overpass making it easier to access the exit ramps. The new agreement also states the city’s remaining 50-percent share of the costs, about \$5 million will be paid to the state next January. This project is scheduled for bidding in February 2011 with completion in 2012.

#### **Improvements to city’s sewer system**

Board postponed until March 9 accepting bids totaling about \$7.6 million to upgrade the Compton Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant and a sewer lift station at Stockstill Park to increase capacity and provide longer life for these facilities. These are capital improvement projects that the city hopes to fund through the issuance of bonds in early spring.

## **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

### **City Engineer David Miller made a presentation explaining the diverging diamond interchange concept at MO Highway 248 and US 65.**

Miller said there are currently six diverging diamonds scheduled to be built at highway intersections in Missouri. The only one operating now is in north Springfield at the interchange of Interstate 44 and Highway 13. With a diverging diamond, there will be traffic signals at each end of the Highway 248 overpass that move both directions of traffic to the opposite side of the road before crossing the overpass. Motorists are actually driving on the left side of the road across the overpass. This permits drivers to make left turns onto U.S. 65 without stopping at another red light.

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

The Board approved on first reading 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 on first reading 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 Park Model units. Park Model Homes are recreational homes primarily designed as temporary living quarters for seasonal use. These homes are built on a single chassis, mounted on wheels and are 400 square feet with a living room, kitchen, bath and bedroom.

### **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**

First reading 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.