



Weekly Record
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241-800
**(City passes
Bill revising
current
“Sunshine
Law”**

By Ed Thomason

The city council in New Madrid recently revised how they will comply with the Sunshine law. Taking some of the suggestions made by Public Education Director for the Attorney General’s office Tom Durkin given at a public meeting in August, the administration chose to make some revisions in it’s current policy. Bill No. 09-1156 ORDINANCE NO. 1156 was passed Monday night by the city council to comply with three specific sections of the law.

Section 610.023.1, RSMo, of the Sunshine law requires that a public governmental body is to appoint a custodian to maintain that body’s records and the identity and location of the custodian is to be made available upon request; and

Section 610.026, RSMo, sets forth that a public governmental body shall provide access to and, upon request, furnish copies of public records; and

Section 610.028.2, RSMo, provides that a public governmental body shall provide a reasonable written policy in

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Sunshine Law

compliance with sections 610.010 to 610.030, RSMo, commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, regarding the release of information on any meeting, record or vote.

In compliance, the new ordinance specifies that the City Clerk is the appointed custodian of the records of the City of New Madrid and that such custodian is located at City Hall, 560 Mott Street, New Madrid, Missouri. That the custodian shall respond to all requests for access to or copies of a public record within the time period provided by statute except in those circumstances authorized by statute.

In addition, the ordinance states that there will be fees charged for access to or furnish-

ing copies of records. For example: Copies are \$.10 per page for pages 8 1/2 x 14 or smaller. All other copies are charged at actual cost.

Additionally, the clerical time involved will also be charged at the lowest hourly rate of full-time office staff employed by the City. If research time is required it will be charged at the hourly rate of the employee performing the research.

The ordinance continues to state that it is the public policy of The City of New Madrid, Missouri that meetings, records, votes, actions and deliberations of this body shall be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law and that the City of New Madrid, Missouri shall comply with sections 610.010 to 610.030, RSMo, the Sunshine Law, as now existing or hereafter amended.