

August 10, 2020
St. James Municipal Center
City Council Meeting
7:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor Krawiecki called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Boulware, Keyes, Smith, Anselm, Edwards, Wagnon and Gray were in attendance. Councilmember Swanson attended via Zoom. The following other members attended via Zoom: Public Works Director, Lyle Thomas; Attorney Justin Head.

Mayor Krawiecki led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator Fleming led in a word of prayer.

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Krawiecki asked for approval to adopt the agenda. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Tax Levy Public Hearing

Mayor Krawiecki opened the floor for the discussion of the Real Estate Tax Levy. He mentioned that the rates would be staying the same this year. With no one requesting to speak, Mayor Krawiecki closed the Public Hearing.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes July 13, 2020

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2020 regular council meeting. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills – July 2020

Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to approve the bills to be paid. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

David Watkins spoke to the council about the recycle program. He stated that they had started the program in the early 90’s to benefit the city and it saves money per ton from what is going in the transfer station. He also stated that the sanitation is an enterprise fund and cannot be used for any other city departments. He mentioned that the department had ended last fiscal year with a \$50,000 surplus. He encouraged the council to relook at the benefits of the recycle program. David also spoke about the Burn Permit ordinance that was on the agenda for this evening. He stated that he thought this should be the responsibility of the fire department because it is their job.

Bonnie Quick spoke with the council about high school students blocking her handicap driveway and also her mailbox. The mail no longer stops at her house if there is a car parked in front of the box, she has to chase them down to get her mail. Mayor Krawiecki told her the chief would look into the issue and help her get it fixed.

Lou Lehmer thanked the first responders. He stated that he was in a pretty serious car accident on July 15th and they were very quick to respond and help him out. Lou also thanked the council for finally getting the Derby Station cleaned up.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1172 – Tree Replacement

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1172 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1173 – SRO Officer

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1173 for the second and final reading.

Councilwoman Edwards commented that the council needed to be responsible for the city budget. She stated she thought the SRO was a good idea, however, the city cannot afford it financially. Edwards said that if the city continues to go the same path with spending this year we will end up with approximately \$3.2 million in expenses but only \$2.9 million in revenues, leaving the city with a pretty big shortfall.

Councilman Smith commented that he believed we should keep an eye on the budget, however, that we also need to look at the safety of the kids. He said this should be a year to year decision with the budget.

Councilman Gray questioned the pay of the officers working as SRO versus a patrolman position.

Councilman Boulware stated that he to believed we should be conscious of the budget, but believed that we could afford it for this year.

Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 20-1173 as read. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “no”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “abstain”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1174 – State of Emergency Extension

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1174 for the second and final reading. Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the

votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

Ordinance No. 20-1174 was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1175 – Phelps County Animal Contract

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1175 for the first reading. Mayor Krawiecki explained that we will do both readings for this ordinance tonight, because Tri-County Humane Society had vacated the building and Phelps County Animal Rescue needed to take over right away.

Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the ordinance for the first reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1175 for the second and final reading. Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the second reading. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 20-305 – Gerald Perry Tennis Co. Contract

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 20-305 aloud for the first and only reading.

Administrator Fleming mentioned that this was a contract to resurface the tennis courts and that a group led by Don Walker had raised \$18,000 to cover the complete cost of the project. Councilwoman Edwards said she wanted to thank Don and the committee for their hard work in raising the funds and that they hoped someday they would see a high school tennis team along with others be able to use the court. She also mentioned that the court would have a pickle ball section as well.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilwoman Edwards seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

Resolution No. 20-305 was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1176 – Tax Levy

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1176 for the first reading.

Mayor Krawiecki stated that both readings would need to be done this evening in order to meet the required state deadline. He mentioned that rates were staying the same this year, there would be no increase.

Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1176 for the second and final reading. Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

Ordinance No. 20-1176 was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1177 – Burn Permits

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1177 aloud for the first reading. Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilwoman Edwards seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

The ordinance was approved for the first reading.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1178 – No Smoking in Parks

Mayor Krawiecki explained that the Park Board had requested to have no smoking in the parks due to cigarette butts being left all over the parks. Councilman Anselm stated that he didn’t see a need for the ordinance because we did not have a way to enforce. Councilwoman Edwards agreed. Councilwoman Wagnon thought the fines for the ordinance were high and thought a better approach may be to have a designated no smoking area.

After there was no more discussion, Mayor Krawiecki called for a motion. No motion was made. The ordinance failed.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1179 – Food Trucks

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1179 aloud for the first reading.

Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that this ordinance was brought up because he felt that food trucks were only paying a \$35 business license fee like other businesses in town, but their sales tax was not going to our city. He felt that the trucks were taking away from the local businesses that were paying sales tax in our city and already having a hard time due to COVID.

Administrator Fleming stated that this ordinance would give the city more control over health inspections and fees so that we do not hurt our other businesses.

Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”, Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”, Wagnon “aye”.

The ordinance was approved for the first reading.

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Public Works – Lyle mention there had been 40 electric poles now replaced. Tree trimming was taking place, the street department was picking up yard waste and the DRA Project was set to be completed by September 23rd.

Alliance – Billy mentioned that numbers were good at the treatment plant. E.coli numbers were a bit higher than last month, however, they were still at half the limit. The department had been repairing water leaks and jetting sewer mains. He noted that he had received the water tower inspection report and that there were some issues that needed to be fixed, however, these would have to be bid out because it was beyond what alliance does. He also thanked the other city departments for helping out during the month of July while they were short staffed.

Schools – Councilwoman Keyes mentioned that school was set to start August 25th and that the school thanked the city for the SRO position this year.

Parks – Councilwoman Swanson mentioned that the pool would be closing August 24th except for weekends. Adult swim would still take place in the mornings and the annual puppy plunge was scheduled for September 12th. Swanson also mentioned the tennis court and community hall renovations that were getting ready to start.

Library – Councilwoman Wagon mentioned that the renovations for the library were done and they were opened back up. The library looks very nice! Wagon also stated that the library had received a CARES grant which would help spread WIFI throughout the community for those that may need it.

Police – Councilman Smith said that the police had done 100 investigations this month, they had received 3 out of the 7 new vests they ordered.

Street – Councilman Anselm mentioned that the street department was cleaning ditches and culverts.

Sanitation – Councilman Anselm stated that COVID had hit at the recycle center and therefore they would be closed for two weeks. During this time any recyclables set out would be mixed with regular trash.

Humane Society – Councilman Boulware said that the new group was excited to move in and get started. He also asked about giving the group an allowance of some sort so that they can purchase cleaning supplies and get started. Administrator Fleming said if the group would bring him a list the city would buy the supplies for them to get started.

Chamber – Councilwoman Edwards mentioned the Tourist Information Center had 677 visitors this month. They were continuing to take COVID precautions. The farmers market was still going strong. Robin was looking for suggestions for carnival companies for next years fair. The current company she had been with had went out of business.

IDA – Councilman Gray mentioned the IDA had their next meeting next week. He would have more to report after that.

City Administrator – Administrator Fleming stated that the city was applying for a grant through MRPC that would help buy bins for the recycling program and hopefully expand the program from 10% users to 25% users. Fleming also mentioned that we were having problems with the city website due to the software being out dated, so next year this would need to be something that would be worked into the budget.

Mayor – Mayor Krawiecki stated that the council had made some tough decisions this evening and that he can't thank everyone enough for their input and the work they put into the city. The mayor also gave a monthly update on the Use Tax. He stated that the city had received \$13,000 in August and so far the only expenses used have been police uniforms.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Edwards made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye". The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date