

October 14, 2020
St. James Municipal Center
City Council Meeting
7:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor Krawiecki called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Wagnon, Smith, Boulware and Gray were in attendance, Councilmembers Edwards and Marston attended via Zoom. Councilmembers Anslem and Swanson were absent.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Agenda

Councilwoman Wagnon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes

Councilman Gray asked to amend the minutes where it read that he made a motion and a second. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

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

AGENDA ITEM: Budget

Administrator Fleming reviewed year to date budget numbers with the city council. He mentioned that department heads were being very mindful of their budgets this year and therefore most were ahead of where they were projected to be this time of year.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

Allen Copeland spoke to the council about donating money to the city to build a pickle ball court and basketball court. Allen and the other donors had committed in writing \$150,000. Administrator Fleming discussed the different locations where these courts could be built but mentioned that Allen thought the Washington Street location would be his choice. Councilwoman Edwards asked him about expanding the current basketball court at the pool if there was remaining money? John Cutsinger, Parks Director asked if they would consider putting restrooms at the court. Allen mentioned that they were just at the planning

stages, so this was the kind of feedback he was looking for. Councilman Boulware and Smith thought the Washington Street location sounded like a great place. It was close to other businesses and could help encourage tourism. Billy Bowers with Alliance stated that there was no sewer main in that area so he thought this would be an opportunity to work together to expand it for this project.

Lorri Waldron spoke to the council about the Phelps County Route 66 Museum. She stated that the group was in the process of purchasing a building located at 303 W James Blvd. They would be also be putting together a fundraising committee to get the museum going. Their goal is to get Phelps County on the map to promote tourism in the area.

Rachael Buenemann with the MU Extension spoke to the council last. Rachael discussed the program and the opportunities it provides in the area. The goal of the extension is to improve lives and communities by teaching youth development, health, agriculture and economic development. She stated that their 4H program in St. James had 228 current members which was a great number but only 3% of the youth. They would like to work to get more kids involved and grow that number to 10% like most surrounding communities.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1180 – Utility Deposit

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1180 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1181 – TEAP Grant

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1181 aloud for the first reading. Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1181 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Wagnon seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

Ordinance No. 20-1181 was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1182 - Annexation

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1182 aloud for the first reading. Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 20-307 – Phelps County Tax Collection

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 20-307 aloud for the first and only reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 20-308 – Walmart Chapter 100

Administrator Fleming discussed with the council the new agreement for the Walmart Distribution Center. The city is proposing that Walmart would pay a \$150,000 PILOT that would be distributed between each entity per their normal property tax schedule and then the schools would get an additional contribution of \$250,000. This would lock Walmart and the city into a deal for 10 years and Walmart would still be saving \$72,000 per year from if they were just to pay normal property taxes based on their assessed valuation. Administrator Fleming mentioned that passing the resolution would allow Walmart to move forward with bond counsel so that we can pass the final agreement by ordinance next month.

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 20-308 aloud. Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilwoman Edwards seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Comp Time Policy – Employee Handbook

Administrator Fleming let the council know that we have currently had a comp time policy, but it had not been in writing. We were passing the policy so that we would have something in writing going forward per the request of the auditors.

Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the Comp Time policy. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: MODOT Speed Limit Change Request

Administrator Fleming stated that MODOT is requesting to increase and change the speed limits in certain parts of town. He reviewed their request with the council and got their thoughts. Mayor Krawiecki stated that he was concerned with raising the speed limit close to the school where lots of children walk, it could be dangerous. Councilman Smith stated that he did not see a problem if it was transitional going from 55 to 45 to 35 rather than just 55 to 35 mph. Councilwoman Edwards said that maybe we need to add more signage before you get to town so that drivers know the speed limit will drop. Chief Jones stated he also worried about the safety of the children that walk to school.

AGENDA ITEM: Huff Street

Administrator Fleming mentioned that Huff Street was the last gravel road in St. James. The street department has plans to pave the road next year, however, the easements are an issue on that road. A citizen has their porch going onto the city easement. In order to make this a two-lane road the city would have to require the homeowner to remove the porch, then this would create the problem when he walks out of his front door it would be right on to the road. The better solution would be to make Huff Street a one-way road. Fleming asked the council if they agreed with this solution and which way, they would prefer the one-way to run. Councilwoman Marston stated that she lived on this road and suggested running the one-way South to North because this is the flow of most of the traffic currently. The council agreed.

AGENDA ITEM: Police Board Appointments

Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that he needed to appoint four councilmembers to the Police Board. He asked to appoint, Councilman Boulware – Ward 1; Councilman Gray – Ward 2; Councilman Anselm – Ward 3 and Councilman Smith, Police Liaison – Ward 4. Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the appointments. Councilwoman Marson seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Alliance – Billy reviewed the numbers for the month in his report and explained to the council what each of them meant. Please see attached.

Public Works – Lyle was absent from the meeting. Administrator Fleming read his report. Please see attached.

Schools – Councilwoman Edward had no report for this month. Billy Bowers stated that the intersection of Hardy and Seymour by the school would be closed most of the day tomorrow. He said they will open up for the school buses but asked everyone else to try and find an alternate route.

Parks – John Cutsinger read his report. Please see attached.

Library – Councilwoman Wagnon read the Library report. Please see attached.

Police – Councilman Smith stated that the department had hired a new officer. He will start on the 25th of this month. The police department had responded to 750 calls this month.

Street – no report.

Sanitation – no report.

Animal Shelter – Councilman Boulware read his report. Please see attached. Boulware also commented on Lisa Parks and how well the pool was running this summer. He said she did an excellent job.

Chamber – Councilman Marston read the Chamber report. Please see attached.

IDA – Councilman Gray read the IDA report. Please see attached.

City Administrator – Administrator Fleming stated that Harold had received confirmation that the city had received the \$25,000 DNR grant for restrooms at the bike trail. He also stated that the Forestry Board had met, and they would be planting the tree nursery at the bike trail. They would be receiving about 480 trees next spring. The city is applying for another grant through DNR that would allow us to extend the bike trail from Boys and Girls Town to Meramec Springs.

Mayor – Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that the Chamber is trying to put together a Christmas parade for this year and still follow COVID social distancing. He also stated that there were still a lot of questions about the service availability fees and so the utilities department would be putting information in with the bills going out this month. He discussed the Use Tax numbers and how much had been spent on the Animal Shelter and the Police Department. Mayor Krawiecki mentioned the Animal Shelter and that they hoped to open by November with an open house. He also mentioned that he had a citizen concerned about people not wearing masks in public, he reminded everyone to please be mindful when you are in public places of social distancing and mask requirements. Finally, Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that Clerk Wheeler had received a request for a food truck to sell food on Cohen’s property just during their lunch hour and asked the council their feelings on allowing this. It was agreed since it was private property that they did not see any issues.

Special Report – Councilman Boulware made mentioned of Lowell Tonding passing away from COVID. He mentioned that Lowell had been a former councilmember, veteran and long-time citizen of St. James. He asked everyone to keep Lowell’s family along with all the other members of the veteran’s home where COVID was spreading in their thoughts and prayers.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date