

**March 14, 2022
Golden Age Center Building
Nelson Hart Park
Regular City Council Meeting
7:00 pm**

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Krawiecki

Councilmembers in attendance: Michael Gray, Mark Gray, Brittney Marston, Joe Boulware, Tyler Wagnon, Greg Edwards, David Watkins and Stephanie Swanson.

The Council said the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mark Gray and seconded by Michael Gray to adopt the agenda. Motion passed

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes

Councilman Mark Gray made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022 minutes seconded by Councilman Dave Watkins. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

Councilman Dave Watkins objected because the bills had already been paid and he didn't understand why the council was approving bills that had been paid. Councilman Watkins observed the 40 credit card purchases did not show the vendor these items were purchased from. Councilman Dr. Edwards noted there was a \$6.99 and \$17.99 charge without any information. Councilman Michael Gray commented a viewer asked if tax dollars were used to purchase the decorations for the Daddy Daughter dance held by the Parks Department. Jim explained the Recreation department of the Park used the registration fee to pay for all cost of the dance. Mayor Krawiecki stated one of the original conditions for hiring Kristy Rich was the Recreation programs must pay for themselves as well as her salary. Michael Gray made the motion to approve the bills both paid and pending, Mark Gray seconded.

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Update

City Administrator Jim Fleming showed almost all departments were ahead of budget for revenue vs. expenses vs the budget. Councilman Watkins asked why that is and Jim replied the main reason is the vacancies in most departments. Police are short two, Streets are short 3, parks are short two. The other

factors include the timing of the real estate tax receipts and sales and use taxes are ahead of last year and those numbers were used to develop the budget for this year.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Judge Tony Skouby addressed the Council during Citizen Comments about the proposed ordinance to transfer municipal court functions to the Circuit Court. He noted the first public notice was posted Friday at City Hall and listed on the agenda posted on the City's Facebook page that same day. The only notice to the public were these two notices and the Facebook agenda for the meeting was ambiguous and not clear this ordinance would eliminate the Municipal Court. Then Judge Skouby explained the only cases he hears are the tickets issued by the police for the Municipal Court. The police have the option of writing a ticket for the State courts or the Municipal Court. He then described how the number of cases on the docket has dropped over the years because the police were not writing violations to the Municipal Court. He further explained the State Supreme Court has set a fine schedule that all municipalities must use.

Judge Skouby also explained a judge cannot put someone in jail or file a warrant for not paying a fine. They can only issue a warrant if the person fails to appear or if the Prosecuting Attorney files a motion and presents evidence the individual is intentionally not paying the fine.

Judge Skouby presented copies of the dockets from 2016 showing it was 4-5 pages long. June of 2017 it was 6 pages long. June of 2018 it was 4 pages long, 2018 it was 4 pages long, October of 2019 it was three pages long, February of 2020 it was one and one half pages long. August of 2021 only 2 new tickets and in October of that year only 3 new tickets. He asked how can we make budget when we only have 2 or three new tickets per month? The question was asked about community service but the Judge replied that it has been difficult because it requires someone to supervise them and it takes staff away from other things. The community service has been painting or cleaning in the past and there are businesses that provide this supervision. Do not want someone working with power equipment, and they are not on probation, then our liability insurance has to cover that. Can't trust some of the people not walk into the middle of traffic.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY2023 Salaries and Budgets

The Council started to discuss the proposed salary schedules and decided to change from the budget discussion to the ordinance 22-1218. A motion to table the salaries and budgets was made by Councilman Greg Edwards and seconded by Councilman Joe Boulware. The vote was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE 22-1218 Replacing Chapter 125-Municipal Court

Councilman Joe Boulware made the motion to adopt the Ordinance 22-1218 which would replace the Municipal Court with the Circuit Court. Councilman Greg Edwards Seconded. No further discussion. Nays – Tyler Wagnon, Mark Gray, Michael Gray, and Dave Watkins. Yea votes were Greg Edwards, Joe Boulware, Brittney Marston, and Stephanie Swanson. Mayor Krawiecki then voted Yea for the first reading. It will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 22-1219 Transporting an open beer or liquor container

The discussion for ordinance 22-1219 to modify the current code to remove reference to transportation of an open container of alcohol. This was requested by a company wanting to start a shuttle service in St. James to take people to different wineries and eating establishments in town. Discussion about changing the ordinance to exclude a driver with a certain class rating such as a class C or higher or specific weight of vehicle. The City Attorney was asked for his opinion and felt to have an open container in a different vehicle for hire could encourage people to use a cheaper source of transportation than a large bus or trolley.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stephanie Swanson and seconded by Councilwoman Tyler Wagnon to approve Ordinance 22-1219. The vote was Tyler Wagnon, Britney Marston, Michael Gray and Stephanie Swanson YEA, Dave Watkins, Greg Edwards, and Mark Gray – Nay, Joe Boulware abstaining. Ordinance failed.

The ordinance was amended to read Section 210.234 A. A person commits the offense of transporting an open beer or liquor container if a container of malt liquor or intoxicating liquor is found to be open within a vehicle which that person has under his/her control or in which that person is a passenger, unless they are a passenger on a trolley bus.

A motion to approve was made by Council Member Greg Edwards and seconded by Councilman Michael Gray. The vote was Tyler Wagnon, Greg Edwards, Michael Gray, Brittney Marston and Mark Gray – Yea, Dave Watkins and Stephanie Swanson – Nay, with Joe Boulware abstaining.

There was discussion about the need to determine this in time for Sip N Savor, so a second reading was made. The motion made by Tyler Wagnon and seconded by Greg Edwards.

The vote was Tyler Wagnon, Greg Edwards, Brittney Marston, Michael Gray – Yea, Mark Gray, Dave Watkins, and Stephanie Swanson – Nay, Joe Boulware abstained. Ordinance failed.

RESOLUTION 22-351 Contract for AMI Water Meter System

The discussion included the pay back, the benefits to consumers and the current labor used for data collection each month. Councilman Edwards objected to the annual increase of 3% for the software. Councilman Boulware felt the Utility Board is secretive and the Council's opinion doesn't matter. Mark Gray made the motion and Stephanie Swanson Seconded. The vote was Tyler Wagnon, Mark Gray and Stephanie Swanson – Yea, Joe Boulware, Greg Edwards, Britney Marston, Michael Gray and David Watkins- Nay, Resolution Failed.

PERSONAL POLICY CHANGE-Sick time benefits for year-round part-time personnel

City administrator Jim Fleming stated this is a policy change for part-time employees to earn sick time and would not affect the budget. Alderman Greg Edwards stated this would be a good incentive to possibly keep the employee turnover low. Alderman Mark Gray made a motion seconded by Dave Watkins to change the policy to allow sick time benefits for year-round part-time personnel. Upon roll call the votes were as follows: Councilwoman Wagnon "aye", Councilman Boulware "aye", Councilman Edwards "aye", Councilman Mark Gray "aye", Councilwoman Marston "aye", Councilman Michael Gray "aye", Councilman Watkins "aye" and Councilwoman Swanson "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

PUBLIC WORKS---Lyle Thomas (via Zoom)

Public Works Director Lyle Thomas gave a brief update on the Dollar Store/Family Dollar stating all utilities are complete on our side and scheduled for electric. He has heard some comments on stormwater issues and they are watching water retention. He also stated there is a metal pipe that is rusted and will be fixed. Pre-bid for bridge projects is March 23, 2022 and bid opening will be on April 6, 2022 at 1:00 and will be put on the agenda for the next City Council meeting April 11, 2022. The electric department has replaced 15 poles so far this year. Alderman Greg Edwards asked Mr. Thomas to explain the lighting situation for the new sign in town. Discussion followed.

ALLIANCE—BILLY BOWERS

Mr. Bowers stated meter readings are complete and repaired water mains on Ada St. and replaced leaking setters valve on S. Meramec and Rhoda. They replaced a blown fuse on football tower. Mr. Bowers stated at the treatment plant they replaced rotar belts in ditch 2 cleaned and started up UV system to get ready for the recreational season. Regarding the collection system, they replaced the pump at lift station #3 and jetted sewer mains on Seymour and St. Michael. He also stated lift station #2 is running beautifully.

SCHOOLS--BRITTNEY MARSTON

Councilwoman Marston stated the Lady Tigers made it to the final four and the Recreation Center will be having a watch party at no fee.

SENIOR CENTER—MICHAEL GRAY

Councilman Gray stated construction has begun in the resource center. He also gave update on birthday lunches for both February and March and stated Sarah Carney was hired as the Senior Center Event Coordinator. He also gave a list of the activities that will be going on and stated they are in need of volunteers in the kitchen.

POLICE—MARK GRAY

Councilman Gray spoke with Chief Jones and so far has had 773 calls in the last 30 days. They also met with Archer-Elgin to view a couple blueprints for repairs to the police department and they are working to narrow it down to one.

MO HUMANITIES—No Report

PARK—TYLER WAGNON

Councilwoman Wagnon stated lots of programs going on and gave a list of activities and dates . She stated that lots of repairs need to be done at the rec center causing flooding issues, She also stated that park maintenance is working on fields to get them ready including all the lights. Olivia Mitchell will be the Pool manager and they are working on getting the waterpark open. An update was given on the scoreboards and needing sponsors.

LIBRARY—GREG EDWARDS

Michael Lewis stated the library has been busy which included hosting the Dungeons and Dragons. They had 10 people this time and are hoping for more in the future. The next one will be in Bourbon at the Crawford County Library on March 25, 2022 from 12:00-2:00 pm. Gaelle Chapon held a self-care presentation last week and went great. Story time is every Wednesday at 10:30 am. Mr. Lewis stated the library has the State Historical Society coming April 19th for personal archiving and Earth Day celebration will be on April 21, 2022. School visits are still happening as well as trips to the St. James Living Center. They also visit homebound patrons for book deliveries. Friends of the Library is meeting April 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

STREET---DAVID WATKINS

Councilman Watkins stated the backhoe will not be delivered until June 6, 2022.

SANITATION—Michael Gray

Councilman Gray stated that everything was going well with sanitation.

PCAR---JOE BOULWARE

Councilman Boulware stated volunteers are doing work on the building to pass inspections. The weekend of March 26-March 27, 2022 they will be closed for family time. And, as always, they are looking for volunteers to help out.

CHAMBER-BRITTNEY MARSTON

Councilwoman Marston stated the city wide clean-up is March 26, 2022. They will be meeting at the Senior Center and going to clean both sides along I-44. The Farmers Market will be April 1 and April 2, 2022 at the Tourist Center and the annual awards dinner is at Just a Taste on April 23, 2022 from 5:30-8:30 and tickets are \$35.00 per person.

IDA---MICHAEL GRAY—No report

UTILITIES—STEPHANIE SWANSON—No Report

CITY ADMINISTRATION—JIM FLEMING

City Administrator Jim Fleming stated we did receive our construction permit from DNR for the wastewater project and will be advertising for bids for end of month with pre-bid meeting mid April 2022.

MAYOR----RICK KRAWIECKI

Mayor Krawiecki stated on April 2, 2022 there will be a meet the candidate at the recreation center and April 4-April 8, 2022 will be the city wide clean up. He also stated that April 5, 2022 is the municipal election.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss Mayor Rick Krawiecki made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Swanson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

ATTEST:

Jim Fleming, City Administrator

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

Date