

April 13,2020
St. James Municipal Center
Special City Council Meeting
6:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order

Mayor Krawiecki called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Edwards, Sachs, and Weatherly attended via Zoom. Councilmembers Boulware, Smith, Anselm and Keyes were in attendance. The meeting was held at the St. James Community Hall. Also, in attendance was Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk and Jim Fleming, City Administrator. Others in attendance via Zoom were Attorney, Justin Head; and Public Works Director, Lyle Thomas. Councilmember Swanson watched the meeting via Facebook live but was unable to vote.

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 amend the agenda to add Forestry Board appointments. Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes – March 9, 2020; March 20, 2020; April 2, 2020

Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2020 regular meeting; March 20, 2020 special meeting and April 2, 2020 special meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilman voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Bills – March 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

Administrator Fleming read a comment send in by Brandi Simpson. Brandi is concerned about the parking at the Crossfit gym. She asked if this was an essential business and mentioned that the parking was block the line of sight at the stop sign.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1162 – Utility Services

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1162 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware "aye"; Councilman Smith "aye"; Councilwoman Keyes "aye"; Councilman Anselm "aye"; Councilwoman Edwards "aye"; Councilwoman Weatherly "aye"

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1163 – Lot Consolidation West Washington

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1163 aloud for the second and final reading. Administrator Fleming mentioned that this would consolidate three lots into one. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Keyes “aye”; Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1164 – Public Use Zoning

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1164 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 Keyes “aye”; Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1165 – No Parking (Loading Zone)

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1165 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance as read. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilwoman Keyes “aye”; Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Edwards “aye”; Councilwoman Weatherly “aye”

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1166 – Cemetery Management

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1166 aloud for the first reading. Administrator Fleming mentioned that he and John Cutsinger, Parks Director researched shepherd hooks and were unable to find anything that would work in our cemetery. He also mentioned that he had looked at several other cemeteries and they had the same rules for shepherd hooks. Administrator Fleming mentioned that this ordinance would also raise the rates on plots sold, make rules for benches in the cemetery and help the city to reclaim plots that haven’t been used for seventy-five years.

Councilman Smith mentioned that he had received quite a few calls from people that want to keep the shepherd’s hooks. Can we make an amendment for the shepherd’s hooks?

Councilwoman Edwards stated that she agreed with Councilman Smith, she mentioned that we need to compromise in these situations. She stated we need rules but does not believe we need to go from one extreme to the next.

Councilwoman Edwards stated that we can amend the rules later if we see it is a problem. Councilman Anselm said that we need to hold people accountable to take care of their plots. Councilman Boulware asked if we can sell specific shepherds hooks as we sell plots? This would allow us to police the type of hooks that go in. Councilman Sachs stated he thought the Cemetery Board should have an idea of what is going on. He also agrees with Councilwoman Edwards that we would be opening a can of worms.

Councilman Smith made a motion to amend the ordinance to allow for shepherd’s hooks on the side. Attorney Head stated that since we are making an amendment it would be best to table the ordinance until the next meeting and then have a reading of the new amended ordinance twice at the May meeting.

Councilman Anselm made a motion to table the amended ordinance until the next meeting. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1167 – General Warranty Deed

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1167 for the first reading. Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware "aye"; Councilman Smith "aye"; Councilwoman Keyes "aye"; Councilman Anselm "aye"; Councilwoman Edwards "aye"; Councilwoman Weatherly "aye"

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1168 – Vacating Portion 604 N. Springfield

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1168 for the first reading. Councilman Boulware 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 Keyes "aye"; Councilman Anselm "aye"; Councilwoman Edwards "aye"; Councilwoman Weatherly "aye"

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1169 – Lynna Heights Subdivision

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1169 for the first reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware "aye"; Councilman Smith "aye"; Councilwoman Keyes "aye"; Councilman Anselm "aye"; Councilwoman Edwards "aye"; Councilwoman Weatherly "aye"

AGENDA ITEM: Forestry Board Appointment

Mayor Krawiecki asked the council to approve his appointments of Bill Kirgan & Wes Deluca to the Forestry Board. Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to approve the appointments. Councilman Anselm seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Public Works – Lyle mentioned that next Monday, April 20th would begin spring yard cleanup. The Street department would begin in Ward 1 and move through the ward picking up any yard waste. He reminded citizens that yard waste in plastic bags would not be picked up. He said the electric department was beginning the pole replacements again, they would begin on Anna & Olga street first. Finally, he mentioned that Sanitation will be operating with 5 employees next week, 2 on the truck, 1 on recycle and 2 on dumpsters and that Alliance was still working with Walmart to figure out the water leak.

Schools – Councilman Smith stated that the school wanted to thank the city for the ongoing relationship. Councilman Smith mentioned that he himself was worried that cutting an SRO from the budget could be a bad decision in the long run. Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that we can revisit this next school year when we see how the new budget is going.

Caring Center – Councilman Smith stated that commodities day would be the 3rd Thursday, he encouraged citizens to check out the center's Facebook page for directions during the COVID time.

Parks – Councilwoman Keyes said the parks department was working on trees and gumball cleanup. She said all playground equipment was closed due to the COVID pandemic, but the walking trails were still open. She said the department was also working on the new ticket booth and fine-tuning equipment repairs during their downtime.

Library – Councilwoman Keyes mentioned that even though the library was closed they were still taking orders for books and doing a curbside service. Niki was holding a Facebook story reading time a couple times a week, and the library wanted to remind everyone that their eBooks service was still running.

Sanitation – Councilman Anselm said that they would try and reschedule the spring cleanup for May.

Police – Councilman Sachs asked Chief Jones to speak. Chief stated that the department was still down two officers, but they were utilizing the SRO's to fill those positions while school was out.

Humane Society – Councilman Boulware stated that the Humane Society closed as of April 1st, however, they needed volunteers to help walk dogs while they were closed for adoptions. They are also in need of pet food donations.

Utilities – Councilman Boulware mentioned that they would be having a utility board meeting tomorrow night. They would discuss waving the fee for bills for 60-90 days but asked that people still try and pay these if they can so that they are not hit with several months of bills all at once when things did return to normal.

Chamber – Councilwoman Weatherly stated that there had been 228 visitors in March before the shutdown. The Farmers Market was still open from 7:30 am – 11:30 am for food and agriculture only. The Demo Derby has been rescheduled till June 19th, Sip N Savor has been rescheduled to July 11th and the Chamber would still try and hold their quarterly meeting on May 14th.

IDA – Councilwoman Edwards mentioned that they would be having a meeting later this month, but the date and time were still to be determined.

MO Humanities – Councilwoman Edwards mentioned there was nothing new at this time due to the COVID shutdown.

City Administrator – Jim mentioned budget numbers. He said that he was still estimating the city to be down 30% in revenues but thought that the street department would still come out with a surplus which would allow us to still push forward with the paving projects. The library was training a new director, but we did have to lay off two employees until the COVID stay at home orders are back to normal. The Sanitation budget was looking good, and the Utilities was looking at waving late fees and not moving forward with shut offs for this month. Administrator Fleming mentioned that he was still recommending we move forward with raises for the new fiscal year. He mentioned that because of the SRO negotiations we were able to free up money to allow for raises. He said it has also been difficult for the police department to find officers at this time because the academy has not been able to finish up their graduations. Jim mentioned the street, electric and gas department would begin working split shifts next week and that the city would be aggressive with the nuisance ordinance this year. Jim said that the fiber Wi-Fi project was still underway and once it was finished it would eliminate 6 connections saving the city money on our internet. We would have a backup with Fidelity though incase Charter went down. Jim mentioned that only 45 customers didn't make payments this month out of 1700 so this showed the citizens were still trying. Finally, he mentioned that he had received several complaints of non-essential businesses still being open or to many people inside a business at a time, however, with the governors orders the city did not have much power.

Mayor – Mayor Krawiecki read a thank you letter that he received from a St. James resident. He also thanked the council for all the tough decisions they were having to make during this time with the COVID pandemic.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye". The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST: