

July 13, 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 and Gray were in attendance. Councilmember Wagnon was absent. Councilmember Swanson attended via Zoom. The following other members attended via Zoom: Public Works Director, Lyle Thomas; Chief Police, Ron Jones; and City 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. Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilman Boulware seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes – June 8th & June 16th, 2020

Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the minutes for both the June 8th regular and June 16th special city council meetings. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills – June 2020

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

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

Lou Lehmer asked to speak with the council about the Derby Station. Lou mentioned that he’s been coming to meetings for several years now and nothing is still done about the station. He was told that they would be going to city court on June 17th and that it would be cleaned up after that.

Mayor Krawiecki mentioned to Lou that it had in fact went to court and that we were now working on getting bids from a contractor to get it cleaned up. We would hopefully have more information next month.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1170 – Code Book Update

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1170 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilwoman Edwards made a motion to approve the ordinance 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 “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1171 – Conflict of Interest

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1171 aloud for the first 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: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”; Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”.

The ordinance was approved for the first reading.

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1171 aloud for the second and final reading. Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the ordinance 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 “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”.

The ordinance was approved as read.

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

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1172 aloud for the first reading.

Mayor Krawiecki opened the floor up for discussion. He mentioned that he would like to see the time slot to replace a tree changed from one year to six months. Councilman Smith stated that he was concerned about the safety of removing an old tree. He wanted to make sure that the work would be done by a licensed/insured professional. Councilwoman Edwards mentioned her concern was the same as Councilman Smith’s and asked that we add to the permit that a certificate of insurance must be shown by the person/company cutting down any tree.

Attorney Head will work on the amendments to the ordinance for next month’s meeting.

Councilman Gray made a motion to approve the first reading with the amendments recommended. Councilwoman Edwards seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilmember Keyes “aye”; Boulware “aye”; Smith “aye”; Anselm “aye”; Edwards “aye”; Gray “aye”; Swanson “aye”.

Ordinance No. 20-1172 was approved with amendments for the first reading.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 20-304 – Maggi Sewer Project

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 20-304 aloud. Administrator Fleming stated that this was the second half of the project that was approved at the June 16, 2020 special meeting.

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

Resolution No. 20-304 was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1173 – School Resource Officer

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1173 for the first reading.

Mayor Krawiecki opened the floor for discussion.

Councilman Smith stated that he would like to ask Chief Jones to come to the front and explain to the council the continued need for the School Resource Officer.

Chief Jones explained that the SRO's had answered 1,049 calls for service this past school year. These calls were anything from juvenile reports, health calls, etc. He stated that his officers were also trained in crisis intervention training, so, the SRO's are playing lots of roles. Chief explained that there were many positives to having the officers in the schools, one of them being they can build the relationships with the kids.

Councilwoman Edwards asked who the SRO reports to? Chief Jones stated it was between himself and Superintendent Merlyn Johnson. Edwards explained that she is for an SRO, however she is not for the city paying for it. She believes we should table until January and look at our budget then to see if we can afford it. Edwards explained she doesn't think we can afford to pay for an SRO right now with the way the budget looks and therefore the decision should be pushed off until the beginning of the year. Edwards explained that schools are going more towards counselors rather than police officers.

Councilwoman Keyes asked to clarify that the agreement was that the city would pay \$19,501.68 and the school would pay \$45,503.93?

Mayor Krawiecki asked if the officer would be able to be hands on this year since COVID regulations required the school to do things differently now? The mayor stated that his concern was the budget and per Administrator Fleming we would have to use the Use Tax to pay for the SRO salary and he would like to see it go towards the animal control as promised.

Councilman Boulware spoke and stated that he does not see any reason we couldn't use the tax for both. He has two kids in school, and has seen how having an SRO at the schools has impacted the schools in a positive way. Boulware stated that he didn't believe that online shopping would slow down and that the Use Tax income would remain steady.

With no further discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to approve 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".

Ordinance No. 20-1173 was approved as read for the first reading.

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

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1174 for the first reading.

Administrator Fleming mentioned that this would extend the previous ordinance until the end of the year, December 31, 2020.

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

AGENDA ITEM: COVID Prevention Discussion

Mayor Krawiecki asked the council if they wanted to take further steps to prevent COVID, or if they thought current regulations were fine? Administrator Fleming mentioned that it was a big step for the Chamber to decide to cancel Grape & Fall Festival. The decision was based mostly off not being able to keep people social distanced and safe.

After discussion it was decided unanimously to continue following the advice of the governor and his guidelines.

AGENDA ITEM: Burn Permits

Administrator Fleming mentioned that the Fire Department no longer wants to handle burn permits and he asked the council if they felt like it was something that the city would like to take on?

After some discussion it was decided to draw up a burn ordinance and present it at the next council meeting to discuss further.

AGENDA ITEM: Just a Taste – Outside Dining

Administrator Fleming stated that one of the suggestions from the Downtown Revitalization Grant was to make more outdoor seating at restaurants in town. He had approached Just a Taste to see if this is something, they would be interested in. They had agreed that closing Eldon Street on Friday and Saturday evenings from Hwy 68 to the Just a Taste parking lot would allow them to do outside dining.

Councilman Boulware stated his concern was the safety of abruptly closing a street. He worried people traveling this road may not know it is closed a couple days of the week and turn down it and get hurt. Chief Jones stated this was a valid concern and we would need to advertise this a lot if the council decided it was something they wanted to do.

Public Works Director, Lyle Thomas asked that we require them to provide their own barricades. The city often has projects going on and does not have enough to give out every weekend.

Councilman Smith asked if this is something we would do for anybody or if this is just for this restaurant only? Administrator Fleming said that yes, we would do this for anyone as long as they were in a spot that it could be done.

Councilman Gray asked what the hours would be and if we could mark the road with a squad car or some type of flashing lights so that people would see before turning. Fleming mentioned that it would probably be from around 5:00 pm to midnight but that had not been set yet.

Mayor Krawiecki said his biggest concern was the safety. Councilman Anselm said that we need to get the Chamber involved with this. Councilwoman Keyes stated she would like to hear a presentation from Just A Taste on their exact plan.

Attorney Head said that before we moved forward, we would need to pin down an exact time and location because outside liquor laws were very strict and we needed to make sure we follow those laws.

It was decided at this time to table the discussion till we had more answers.

AGENDA ITEM: Animal Control Contract

Councilman Boulware stated that we had voted at the June 16th meeting to stop the contract with Tri-County and move forward with Phelps County Animal he would like to present the contract and get it all pinned down tonight.

Attorney Head stated that this would need to be done by ordinance and therefore we could not move forward tonight but he would get something written up for next month.

Councilman Boulware voiced his concern that the council had asked for that last month and nothing had been presented for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Boulware made a motion to give written notice to Tri-County Humane Society tomorrow, July 14, 2020 that they would have 45 days to vacate the building. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

Councilman Boulware than asked that an ordinance be put on next month's agenda to sign a new contract with Phelps County Animal Rescue to take over the building. The council agreed.

AGENDA ITEM: FFA Rodeo

Mayor Krawiecki asked the council if they wanted to allow the FFA to use the city arena for the rodeo this summer? After lots of discussion it was decided by all councilmembers to keep all events uniform at this time and not allow the rodeo since there was no way to control the social distancing.

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Public Works – Lyle mention there had been a power outage at the end of June for four hours due to a black snake. The electric department had changed out seven poles. He also stated that the street department was working on cleaning ditches this month.

Alliance – Billy mentioned that numbers looked good again this month. He also wanted to remind citizens to please be patient when a leak happens. They are required by law to call in the leak and then they have to wait at least two hours before they can do anything. He mentioned that they had been jetting sewer mains this month and that they had changed out 100 ft of a watermain.

Schools – Councilwoman Keyes mentioned the school had discussed the SRO position at their last meeting and how beneficial this position was. She stated that summer school had started at they had around 200 kids attending. Finally, she mentioned that the construction on the Early Childhood building and the practice gym were getting close to completion.

Parks – Councilwoman Swanson mentioned the Park Board had received one bid for the Community Hall remodel. The park employees had been busy clearing brush and raising canopy's on trees. The pool is going well and finally they would like to ask the council to consider passing an ordinance to make the park's smoke free. (The ordinance request was discussed by the council; however, it was agreed that we would not have a way to police this at this time and therefore they would not like to move forward.)

Library – Administrator Fleming mentioned that the construction was complete, and the library employees had been working hard to finish rearranging books so that they could reopen next Monday, July 20th.

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 he had been gone and hadn't had a chance to meet up with Danny for a report.

Sanitation – Councilman Anselm stated that the department was still down their sixth man and he wondered when they would be getting one? Administrator Fleming mentioned that they were working fine with five men and that he had not budgeted for a sixth crew member.

Humane Society – Councilman Boulware stated he would like to again state that he would like to award the contract to the Phelps County Animal Rescue next month to take over the city building.

Chamber – Councilwoman Edwards mentioned that the Tourist Center had seen 422 visitors this month and that they were looking at cutting back hours for next year due to their budget and COVID restrictions. She mentioned that the 4th of July fireworks show had gone great and that the Chamber received lots of positive feedback about the new location. The Farmers Market was still going strong and the quarterly luncheon would be held on July 23rd.

IDA – Councilman Gray mentioned that the IDA had met but had made no official decisions due to the lack of a quorum. Judy Cavender had resigned so they would need to fill her spot. Their next meeting would be August 17th.

City Administrator – Administrator Fleming stated that he would be looking for volunteers to serve on the Street Scape Project committee. The city had received a grant for an I and I project, another dump truck grant and a grant for the restrooms on the bike trail. He had also been receiving compliments on how well the park and cemetery has been looking and on the sanitation guys and how helpful they are with citizens and their trash.

Mayor – Mayor Krawiecki said that he appreciated all the council does and gave a kudos to the employees for handling city business and making sure the city ran smoothly.

AGENDA ITEM: Mayors Appointments

Mayor Krawiecki asked to appoint Hugh Davidson and Anne Freand to the IDA Board and Brittany Marston to the Park Board. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the appointments, Councilwoman Keyes seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Anselm made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date