

November 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 Wagon, Boulware, Marston and Anselm attended via Zoom. Councilmembers Smith and Gray attended in person. Also, in attendance via Zoom were: Joy Howard with WM Financial Strategies, Code Enforcer Nathan Browne, Public Works Direction Lyle Thomas, and City Attorney Justin Head. Clerk Wheeler and Administrator Fleming attended in person. Councilwoman Edwards 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

Mayor Krawiecki asked to amend the agenda to add employee bonuses under new business. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes

Councilman Boulware made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Bills

Clerk Wheeler mentioned that she forgot to include the bills in the packet. She stated she will include the October bills with next month’s packets.

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Review

Administrator Fleming reviewed year to date budget numbers with the city council.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1182 - Annexation

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1182 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”; Councilman Gray “aye” Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”. The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution No. 20-309 – Sewer Bond Refinancing

Joy Howard discussed the refinance of the sewer bond. She said the city went out for bid and received three bids. The lowest bid came in with an interest rate of 1.8% from First State Community Bank. This would be an overall savings of \$270,000. The utility board had voted earlier in the day to pay the closing costs out of pocket in order to save interest on that portion of the loan. Joy stated that by approving the next resolution it would allow her to move forward with the bank. Final approval will be on December 14, 2020

Clerk Wheeler read Resolution No. 20-309 aloud for the first and only reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the voting was as follows: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye” Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”. The resolution was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 20-1183 – Animal Control Amendment

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 20-1183 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: Councilman Boulware “aye”; Councilman Smith “aye”; Councilman Gray “aye” Councilman Anselm “aye”; Councilwoman Wagnon “aye”; Councilwoman Marston “aye”. The ordinance was approved as read.

AGENDA ITEM: City Website Update

Nathan Browne presented the council with bids for a new city website. He mentioned that himself and Officer Chris Pigg had viewed and researched several companies that handle websites. He stated that the current city website was very out of date and was no longer running efficiently. Nathan recommended using the company Revize. He said that after reviewing all the sites, they had the most options and were used by several cities. The process would take around four to five months to complete. The council agreed to move forward with the new website.

AGENDA ITEM: Employee Holiday Bonuses

Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that last year the city gave a holiday bonus in the amount of \$150 and also held a dinner. Due to COVID the city will not be holding a dinner this year and requested the council approve a bonus in the amount of \$170 for the employees to be given out with the last paycheck in November.

Councilman Anselm made a motion to approve the bonuses. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Department Reports

Alliance – Billy was absent from the meeting, however, included his report in the council packets for review.

Public Works – Lyle stated that the electric department had changed 71 poles this calendar year, tree trimming would need to be done about another 2-3 years and then the city should be able to slow down and put the money more towards maintenance of the electric lines, the utilities portion of the school expansion is complete and the DRA project was completed. The street department was working on finalizing a leaf pick up schedule by ward and they would be getting that out to the public soon.

Schools – Councilwoman Edwards was absent, but her report was included in the packet. Administrator Fleming mentioned that Walmart had accepted the Chapter 100 tax abatement proposal and the city would be moving forward with that. We would likely hold a special meeting in December to finish that up.

Parks – the park report was included in the packet. Administrator Fleming did mention that the department did purchase a dump truck today.

Library – Councilwoman Wagnon stated that the library had began offering hot spots for rent and chrome books. Also, the library was changing their hours to better suit the needs of their patrons during the shutdown.

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 – Councilman Anselm mentioned that Lyle covered everything for the streets.

Sanitation – Councilman Anselm mentioned that sanitation was keeping up.

Animal Shelter – Councilman Boulware stated the Animal Shelter had a ribbon cutting on the 29th, renovations had been completed, the city spent around \$25,000 from the Use Tax. The shelter does have their license now and has passed all inspections with the state. They held their grand opening over the weekend and had around 600 visitors. Monday, they adopted out their first pet.

Chamber – Councilman Marston stated that the Chamber has formed a Christmas Parade committee. They were working to put together contracts for the Grape & Fall Festival, dinner on the greens has been cancelled due to COVID and the ribbon cutting for Ashley’s Furniture store would be Tuesday at 7:30.

IDA – Councilman Gray stated that he had no new information but that they would be having their next meeting on November 23rd.

City Administrator – Administrator Fleming stated that Gary Underwood had decided on a location for the pickle ball court. He would like to go with the Washington Street location. He will be working with Corkey Stack and another engineer to begin the design process. They would be meeting Thursday at 1:00 pm. Gary had donated \$150,000 towards the project through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks

and the city would use this money for all costs on the project. Administrator Fleming also mentioned that he had spoken with the Phelps County Health Department and that in the last 2 weeks cases of COVID had doubled, the Phelps Health ICU is now diverting people because they do not have the room, he stated at this rate we could see 100 cases a day in our near future. He reminded everyone that we need to wear masks, stay at home if possible, do not gather in big groups to try and help slow the virus down.

Mayor – Mayor Krawiecki mentioned that it was very positive to hear about the \$270,000 savings on the sewer bond refinance, City Hall will be closed for Veterans Day tomorrow, he thanked the public again for the approval of the Use Tax last year. He mentioned that we had budgeted around \$35,000 but had already brought in around \$100,000. This money was going to good use on the Animal Shelter. He reminded everyone to stay safe and wear masks when out in the public.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Gray seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Rick Krawiecki, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah Wheeler, City Clerk

Date