

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 18 E. 4th Street. Present and presiding were: Mayor Lowe Cannell; William R. Johnson, Director of Administration; Courtney L. Crowson, City Clerk; and Steve Myers, Police Chief. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cannell at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by the City Clerk, and members of the council present were: Moore, Pace-Snook, Rehklau, Sebacher, Shiverdecker, Simmons, Stone, and Braun. Also present were: Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer; Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; Kyle Bruemmer, Interim City Engineer; Dennis Houchins, Planning & Protective Services Director; Kevin Coffelt, Fire Chief; Clay Caswell, Parks & Recreation Director; Robert Boone, Assistant Director of Administration; Michelle Maupin, Human Resources Director; Pastor Bruce Williamson; Helen Wilbers of THE FULTON SUN; Darin Wernig and Mike Haldeman, Audio/Video; and visitors: Gary Tateosian, Justis Smith, Steve Gibson, Tamara Tateosian, Janae Salmons, Bruce Hackman, Beth Snyder, Matt Gowin, Janae Danuser, Carolyn Perry, Garry Vaught, Jacque Cowherd, Dick Davis, Cindy Baker, Diana Ross, Gary Jungermann, Jackie Pritchett, and Kim Barnes.

INVOCATION:

Invocation was given by Pastor Williamson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pastor Williamson.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Beth Snyder, 825 Court Street, read a letter in support of the Chamber, and stated the city's decision to "substantially reduce" its contribution "seems counterintuitive" to the economic development efforts made by the Chamber. Snyder urged the Council to reinstate its contribution to \$88,000 from the currently-proposed rate of \$78,000 for 2020.

Matt Gowin, 1821 Ashley Court, thanked the City for its continued support of the Chamber throughout the years and provided some historical information on the organization. Gowin stated that this may be a small budget consideration for the City, but it is "significant for the Chamber". Gowin requested the City reinstate its annual support to \$88,000.

Janae Danuser, 500 E. 3rd Street, stated workforce development is a critical nationwide issue, and she is appreciative of the Chamber's work.

Chief Myers introduced Sgt. Reams of the Fulton Police Department and asked him to provide some information on the department's "No Shave November" fundraiser. Reams, chairman of the local Bright Futures organization, stated local law enforcement officers are each donating \$20 to have the privilege to grow facial hair throughout the month of November. Reams stated the organization's mission is to help children succeed by providing food, clothing, and other needs as they arise.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

The following items were distributed to each member of the City Council for review and study as a part of their council packet. Mayor Cannell presented each item and stated the council may choose to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for discussion at this time.

- a. Approval of a request from Kingdom Christian Academy for the Jingle Bell Run on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. on the Stinson Creek Trail.
 - i. This event request has been reviewed and approved by Chief Myers. Alternative Routes and Police assistance is requested in the event of water on the trail.

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Shiverdecker to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business for consideration at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Jacque Cowherd, Superintendent of Fulton Public Schools, will be present to discuss the upcoming bond election.

Dr. Cowherd stated Fulton Public Schools will have a bond issue on the April 7, 2020 ballot. The last bond issue was put forward in April 2010 for \$7,000,000, and was used for a baseball field, roof repairs, a media center, locker rooms, facility upgrades, and a parking lot at McIntire Elementary School.

Cowherd explained that the 2020 initiative does not increase taxes, but will be an extension of the 2010 bonds. Funds from "Proposition S" will be used for facility expansion and improvements as broken out in the following categories:

Space for Students

- 12 Kindergarten classrooms
- 8 Middle School classrooms
- High School competition gymnasium
- Additional parking at various facilities

Safety & Security

- Secure entrances
- IT Security enhancements
- Traffic Flow
- Camera upgrades
- Bus access

Sustainable Buildings

- Electric upgrades
- Plumbing upgrades
- Roof improvements
- General interior upgrades
- Pole Barn improvements
- Albritton Theater improvements

Cowherd noted the ballot language will request that the rate remain unchanged from the current assessed valuation.

Following some brief discussion, Cowherd thanked the Council for their time and support of this measure.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Councilman Braun stated he would like to see a retreat for the proposed use tax the city will have on the April 2020 ballot.

Councilwoman Pace-Snook stated she appreciates the newly-repaved section of Westminster Avenue.

Councilman Moore stated he would like to see a Work Session in the future to address yard/property cleanup and feels the city should be more serious in enforcing its regulations.

Councilman Shiverdecker stated it may be beneficial to enact an ordinance to allow leaf burning.

Mayor Cannell thanked Fire Chief Coffelt for bringing the fire truck the city is looking to purchase from the City of Columbia for the Council to view.

Mayor Cannell asked Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer, to provide an update on the Parks & Recreation Community Center funding. Holschlag stated the city's loan was approved by both Central Bank and Callaway Bank (a 50/50 funding split) for \$5,000,000 for a fifteen year term with the first ten years at a fixed rate. Gilmore & Bell is currently working on the tax-free financing paperwork, and that process is estimated to take a couple months to complete.

The city has begun construction on the project with a \$4,000,000 draw from the utility reserves.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 3358 was presented for adoption by Councilwoman Sebacher.

- a. Resolution No. 3358: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to enter into an Agreement with the Callaway Chamber of Commerce of Fulton, Missouri, for services to be rendered in 2020, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Sebacher and seconded by Councilman Shiverdecker to adopt Resolution No. 3358 at tonight's Council meeting.

Councilman Braun stated he would like to make himself available as a liaison between the city and the Chamber if Mayor Cannell is in agreement. Councilman Braun also stated the city has no intention of not providing the \$20,000 for sponsorships to the Chamber. (Currently, the budgeted amount of \$78,000 is broken into two categories: \$58,000 to be divided into quarterly payments, and \$20,000 for additional event sponsorships throughout the year.)

Councilman Moore stated he feels every member of the Council believes the Chamber is a necessity in the community, and he appreciated the presentation this evening. Councilman Moore continued by saying the city has supported the Chamber for more than thirty years, and due to increased expenditures, the Council proposed to decrease the funding by \$10,000 in 2020. Councilman Moore said he hopes the county or other cities can step up to make up the difference.

Councilman Stone stated he recognizes the city is trying to provide a balanced budget with the recreation center and salary increases, but he would like to see the city close the \$10,000 gap.

Tamara Tateosian, Executive Director of The Callaway Chamber of Commerce, said she understands the city is planning to earmark \$20,000 for event sponsorships, but the city is already listed as a sponsor on the Chamber's events. Tateosian stated that when cuts are made, it will adversely affect economic development.

Councilman Braun expressed concerns with a stagnant population. Tateosian stated the city needs more rooftops.

Following some discussion, motion was offered by Councilman Stone and seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to table Resolution No. 3358. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Moore) opposed.

Resolution No. 3359 was presented for adoption by Councilman Simmons.

- b. Resolution No. 3359: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to apply for and sign all necessary documents in relation to the State Farm Good Citizenship Foundation Grant, and contingent upon receiving said grant monies, approving the city's monetary match.

Motion was offered by Councilman Simmons and seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to adopt Resolution No. 3359 at tonight's Council meeting.

Following some discussion, motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

Resolution No. 3360 was presented for adoption by Councilwoman Rehkla.

- c. Resolution No. 3360: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to accept the Stormwater Management Plan as presented, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Rehkla and seconded by Councilman Stone to adopt Resolution No. 3360 at tonight's Council meeting. Bill Johnson, Director of Administration, stated this plan is a Department of Natural Resources requirement based on the city's population, and can be considered a plan of "best practices" for the city.

Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

Resolution No. 3361 was presented for adoption by Councilman Stone.

- d. Resolution No. 3361: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to sign all necessary documents with Interstate Municipal Gas Agency (IMGA) in order to dispute the natural gas rate increase proposed by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company.

Motion was offered by Councilman Stone and seconded by Councilman Simmons to adopt Resolution No. 3361 at tonight's Council meeting.

Johnson stated Panhandle Eastern owns the gas pipeline the city uses in order to bring natural gas from Kansas to central Missouri. The proposed rate will result in an annual increase of approximately \$860,000 for the city, and Fulton's residential customers could see a \$30/month increase on their gas bill during heating months.

Johnson reported that legal intervention could lead to a settlement offer, likely at a lower rate than the one proposed by Panhandle Eastern. At this time, it is estimated the city will incur 50% of the legal cost (between \$100-250,000 for Fulton) due to our high volume of usage.

Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities, stated the Missouri Public Utility Alliance (MPUA) has done some research on the attorneys who will be handling the case, and they believe the attorneys are experienced in dealing with these matters.

Councilman Braun stated he believes the city has no choice but to fight the proposed increase.

Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING

Bill No. 1565 was presented for First Reading by Councilman Braun.

- a. Bill No. 1565: An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to declare certain tracts of land known as 607 Bluff Street and 609 Bluff Street to be surplus property, authorizing their distribution, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilwoman Pace-Snook to place Bill No. 1565 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting.

Johnson reported these houses have been on the city's radar for quite some time and thanked Dennis Houchins, Planning & Protective Services Director, for his efforts to take care of the properties. Johnson stated the houses will be demolished after the city declares them as surplus property and awards the demolition to the highest bidder.

Councilman Stone thanked Johnson and Houchins for their work to acquire the properties in a positive manner.

Councilman Braun stated he would like to see the city consider donating properties such as these to Habitat for Humanity in the future.

Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

Bill No. 1566 was presented for First Reading by Councilwoman Pace-Snook.

- b. Bill No. 1566: An Ordinance amending Appendix A, Zoning. Section One, Definitions. by removing certain language pertaining to Parking Space regulations and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Pace-Snook and seconded by Councilman Braun to place Bill No. 1566 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting.

Houchins stated this proposed change will not alter the number of parking spaces required, but the current code does not allow for a garage to be counted as a parking space. Houchins noted he had reviewed other city's codes, and the proposed amendment received a recommendation of approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Councilman Stone expressed concern that the amendment may lead to more street parking in residential areas.

Following some discussion, motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

Bill No. 1567 was presented for First Reading by Councilman Moore.

- c. Bill No. 1567: An Ordinance declaring city property to be surplus property, authorizing it to be sold, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilwoman Rehlau to place Bill No. 1567 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. Fire Chief Coffelt stated he hopes the city can get between \$30-40,000 for this fire truck.

Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

SECOND READING

Bill No. 1564 was presented for Second Reading by Councilwoman Sebacher.

- a. Bill No. 1564: An Ordinance declaring city property to be surplus property, authorizing it to be sold, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Sebacher and seconded by Councilman Moore to place Bill No. 1564 for Third Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

THIRD READING

Bill No. 1563 was presented for Third Reading by Councilman Shiverdecker.

- a. Bill No. 1563: An Ordinance adopting an official Budget and Capital Improvement Program and appropriating the funds of the City for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilwoman Pace-Snook to place Bill No. 1563 for Final Passage at tonight's Council meeting.

Councilman Shiverdecker asked if the Council should table this bill since the Chamber contract was also tabled this evening and any changes in the contract may affect the final budget numbers. Johnson stated the \$10,000 difference could be taken from the Council's fund rather than tabling the bill.

Councilman Braun stated he feels the bill should be tabled.

Motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilman Braun to table Bill No. 1563. Motion carried with six members of the Council voting in favor, and two members (Moore, Rehklau) opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. The remaining 2019 City Council meetings will be held November 26th and December 17th.
- b. Candidate packets for the offices of 1st – 4th Ward Councilmembers are available in the office of the City Clerk, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Candidate filing opens December 17, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. and closes January 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 573-592-3111.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Cannell said there was not a need for an Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilman Braun to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Lowe Cannell, Mayor

Courtney L. Crowson, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk