

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MAY 12, 2020**

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 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 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken by the City Clerk, and members of the Council present were: Braun, Moore, Pace-Snook, Rehklau, Sebacher, Shiverdecker, Simmons, and Stone. 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; Helen Wilbers of *THE FULTON SUN*; Darin Wernig and Mike Haldeman, Audio/Video; and visitor: Bob Washington.

Mayor Cannell noted the need to amend tonight's agenda by adding Item E. "FHS 2020 Senior Parade" under New Business. Motion was offered accordingly by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Stone. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Health Inspection discussion.

Dennis Houchins, Planning & Protective Service Director, noted the Council previously discussed moving health inspections to the Callaway County Health Department. The Health Department appears to be on board with this proposal, as this is a common state-wide standard.

Bill Johnson, Director of Administration, asked if there is any opposition to city staff moving forward with discussions with the Health Department to establish a plan and clear timelines.

Councilman Simmons asked if the efforts are currently duplicated. Johnson stated the Health Department will conduct the same (or nearly the same) inspection that the city currently conducts. Johnson clarified that if the city currently inspects the establishment, the Health Department does not. This will change should operations go to the Health Department, meaning they will conduct all inspections. Johnson also noted the Health Department charges a \$100 inspection fee directly to each establishment which the city currently does not charge.

Following some brief discussion, Johnson noted there was no dissention regarding this topic and city staff will move forward with pursuing discussions with the Health Department.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Curbside Recycling and Spring Cleanup discussion.

Johnson noted that if the city wants to provide two bulk trash pick-up opportunities in 2020, the spring pick-up could be rescheduled for mid/late June.

Johnson then addressed the concerns regarding continuing curbside recycling. Currently, the city pays \$140/ton, although this price could fluctuate at any time without prior warning. Additional costs to the city include: a separate truck and truck maintenance, additional staff, and fuel costs. Johnson also noted there is not currently a market for recycling which has contributed to the inflated price per ton, and a majority of

the items placed in recycling bins are considered “contaminated” and are subsequently taken to the landfill by the recycling provider anyhow.

Councilman Stone stated regardless of the costs associated with providing recycling services, both he and the community want the service back. Councilwoman Pace-Snook echoed this sentiment.

Mayor Cannell asked how quickly the city could resume recycling services. Johnson stated the services could start again May 18, 2020.

Councilman Shiverdecker stated he believes the city needs to educate the public and look to either phase out the program or begin charging those who wish to continue recycling.

Councilman Moore stated he would like to see a survey to the businesses and residents to better gauge willingness to continue recycling if a charge is implemented.

Councilman Braun said he believes people are willing to pay, and he believes we should all do our best to conserve the planet.

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilwoman Rehklau to resume curbside recycling and to reschedule the spring bulk trash pick-up for mid/late June. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

b. COVID-19 Utility Payment Policy update and discussion.

Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the cost-to-date revenue loss of utility payments, penalties, and card processing fees due to COVID-19. At this time, \$325,000 is owed to the city.

Johnson stated he doesn't know that he is looking for any action on this item tonight, but this issue is and will continue to have a large fiscal impact.

Holschlag stated the city will need to take a hard look at a plan moving forward as many customers appear to be months behind and may need a repayment plan to bring their account current. Currently, if a customer is unable to pay the total amount of their past due balance, they must contact the utility department prior to shutoff in order to set up an arrangement. Historically, the procedure requires the customer to pay ½ of the total amount due, and the city allocates the remaining balance to the following three months. During this time, the customer must continue to pay their balance down per the agreement, in addition to their current utility bill. Some discussion followed.

Councilwoman Rehklau suggested giving utility customers until mid-June to set up a payment arrangement. Councilman Braun suggested reimplementing credit card processing fees immediately. Johnson stated that with the national average of 14-15% unemployment, the city is trying to assist those with little to no income and want to be reasonable in the contract terms for repayment.

Mayor Cannell asked the Council and Staff to continue brainstorming options and noted that utility customers may also sign up for level billing during this time.

Councilman Stone stated that many communities only suspended shutoffs for the months of March and April due to COVID-19, and he believes shut offs should resume in June.

Councilman Braun expressed concern with starting shut offs again in June, but agreed that arrangements and communication about customer's options need to begin now.

c. Parks & Recreation Community Center funding update and discussion.

Mayor Cannell noted the city currently has three financing options for the Parks & Recreation Community Center. Holschlag stated the options on the table are:

1. 3.1% interest from local lending institution
2. 3.03% interest utilizing the new P&R building as collateral for life of lease
3. 2.75% interest utilizing the new P&R building as collateral for the life of the lease and using city hall as collateral until the P&R building is completed.

Councilman Simmons stated he has broken down the numbers, and it appears there is a \$10,000 annual difference between the local option and the out-of-state alternative with the local option being more costly.

Mayor Cannell stated he is concerned with having to refinance at the ten-year mark as interest rates will undoubtedly be higher. Councilman Stone stated he believes the opportunity to work with local banking institutions is worth the cost difference, and the city will have the opportunity to renegotiate the final five years if there is a concern nearer to that time.

Holschlag and Johnson noted it may be possible to place a cap on the maximum-allowed interest rate for the local option. Councilwoman Sebacher stated it would be beneficial to know the allowable interest cap before the Council makes a decision. Johnson stated he and Holschlag will proceed with further investigation to gather more-concrete details and information regarding a cap.

d. Parks & Recreation Summer Activities/COVID-19 discussion.

Clay Caswell, Parks & Recreation Director, stated his department reviewed their planned programs. While most decisions are easy and straightforward, two issues are more complex.

Caswell stated the Youth Baseball/Softball program has received 200 registrants piling in comparison to the 450 registrants the department usually sees every year. Caswell believes the numbers are lower as many families have concerns about enrolling their children in programs where it is difficult to ensure social distancing and where children may come into contact with others who may be exposed to or carry COVID-19.

Caswell also noted the other looming issue is whether or not to open the municipal pool. The Parks & Recreation Department has put together preliminary plans to ensure distance and safety as best as

possible. Caswell is concerned with staffing the pool, as only 1-2 of the annual, returning lifeguards plan to return this year, and twelve guards are needed.

Caswell noted the pool takes time and a great deal of effort to prepare for the opening season, and there is not a great concern with leaving the pool unused for a season if the Council should choose to go in that direction. Caswell also noted that he does not recommend opening the Splash Pad in Memorial Park as there is no supervision or method to ensure social distancing or safety measures during the current pandemic.

Discussions shifted back to Youth Baseball/Softball. Councilman Braun suggested allowing a registration extension and notifying the public of the plans Parks & Recreation has in place for the league.

There has also been concern surrounding whether or not park restrooms will be available throughout the games. Caswell clarified that restrooms can be opened up, but the department does not have staff to constantly clean or sanitize the restrooms throughout the day. Mayor Cannell stated he believes the public must also take some responsibility to protect themselves.

Councilman Stone stated he would like to see the restrooms opened immediately and a sign on the doors to notify the public of the cleaning schedule so that they can be made aware that the facility may not be cleaned/sanitized as frequently as may be expected.

Motion was offered by Councilman Stone and seconded by Councilman Simmons to open the park restrooms as soon as staff are able to facilitate the opening, and to place signs on the doors notifying the public of the cleaning schedule. Caswell stated his staff could have the restrooms opened in a day or two. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

Some discussion was held on the department's scholarship program to assist families in need. Additionally, discussion followed on the department's reservation schedule and fall program opportunities.

Following much discussion, Johnson stated Caswell will provide additional information at the next Council meeting regarding whether or not to open the pool. Caswell noted park playground equipment will remain closed per the Governor's order.

Motion was offered by Councilman Simmons and seconded by Councilwoman Pace-Snook to move ahead with extending the Youth Baseball/Softball deadline in the hopes to receive more participants. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

e. FHS 2020 Senior Parade

Chief Myers stated he has been working with Fulton High School and Jacque Cowherd, Superintendent of Fulton Public Schools, to establish a parade honoring the 2020 graduating class, as their academic year and festivities were cut short by COVID-19. Chief Myers stated the parade will take place Friday, May 22, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., and will begin near the William Woods University Campus, head down Court Street, and end at Second Street (near Memorial Park).

Chief Myers stated the seniors will ride in their vehicles, and officers will assist with traffic throughout the event.

Motion was offered by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Stone to approve the request, as presented. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

**ORDINANCES:**

**SECOND READING**

Bill No. 1581 was presented for Second Reading by Councilwoman Sebacher.

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Sebacher and seconded by Councilman Shiverdecker to place Bill No. 1581 for Third Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. Johnson requested that the Council vote to table this bill, as the developer would like to move a couple lot lines, and this will affect the drawing.

Motion to table Bill No. 1581 was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilman Braun. Motion to table carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilwoman Rehlau to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Lowe Cannell, Mayor

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Courtney L. Crowson, CMC/MRCC  
City Clerk