

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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. Doyle, 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, Pace-Snook, Rehklau, Shiverdecker, Simmons, Stone, and Washington. Absent was Councilwoman Sebacher. Also present were: Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer; Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; Kyle Bruemmer, 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; Rev. Bruce Williamson; Helen Wilbers of *THE FULTON SUN*; and Darin Wernig and Mike Haldeman, Audio/Video; and visitors: Beth Snyder, Madi Doyle, Mike West, Tamara Tateosian, and Gary Tateosian.

INVOCATION:

Invocation was given by Rev. Williamson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rev. Williamson.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Mayor Cannell asked any attendees not listed on tonight's agenda, but whom wished to address the Council, to please come to the podium, state their name, address and area of concern, and to keep comments under five (5) minutes. A digital timer was administered and monitored by the City Clerk.

There were none.

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 the City Council meeting minutes of January 26, 2021.
- b. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of February 9, 2021.
- c. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of February 16, 2021.
- d. Approval of the Director of Administration Report of January.
- e. Acknowledgement of the following the Board and Commission Reports:
 - i. Public Utility Board – October 26, 2020.
 - ii. Planning & Zoning Commission – December 29, 2020.

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

and one member (Sebacher) absent.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report for the month of January was presented for acceptance, and Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer, was present to answer any questions from the Council.

Holschlag reported the city has recorded twelve months of 2020 sales tax collections, and numbers lie 2.25% ahead of 2019 figures. Of note, the January payroll includes four days of work accrued back to December.

Motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilman Stone to accept the Financial Report for the month of January, as presented. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Sebacher) absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Smart Grid update.

Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities, stated the city has focused efforts on a single route, and the route appears to be in “pretty good shape”. Dunlap reported that city staff recently met with Anixter, the smart grid distributor for this area, and as a result, the group would like to create a new database and scan meters in remotely. Dunlap stated this would essentially start the city over with a clean, fresh database with connected meters. Some discussion followed.

- b. Natural Gas and Electric Wholesale cost fluctuation update.

Mayor Cannell reported the price of natural gas has returned to normal, expected ranges.

Dunlap thanked the city utilities employees for their diligent work throughout the recent cold spell and period of time when natural gas costs skyrocketed. There were no major electric outages, no major water issues, and Dunlap attributed this to the hard work by each department.

Johnson stated Fulton was fortunate to have reserves to cover the increased costs charged by natural gas providers in early February. Johnson noted that if State or Federal relief is offered, Fulton will do whatever is necessary to secure assistance in recovering the millions of dollars spent to obtain natural gas during the coldest period of the year.

Johnson provided the Council with possible items that may be cut from the city’s 2021 capital budget in order to offset the loss of reserves. Johnson will meet with the Department Heads in the coming weeks and may look to modify the city’s spending plan.

Councilman Braun stated he doesn’t believe it is a good idea to make a knee-jerk reaction, and he feels it is too soon to know the true impact.

Johnson stated the Public Utility Board made a recommendation at their meeting yesterday afternoon to restore the utility reserves within a three-year period and noted it would require a rate increase to accomplish this task. Johnson stated a catastrophe could happen again in a month or a year, and the Public Utility Board feels it is imperative to rebuild the reserves.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Tamara Tateosian, Executive Director of Callaway Chamber of Commerce, will be present to provide a quarterly update of the organization’s efforts.

Tateosian thanked the Council for having her at tonight’s meeting and provided a PowerPoint presentation of the organization’s efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the various webinars, programs, and developments in 2020. Tateosian noted the Chamber assisted Callaway County in the distribution of CARES Act funds, and 436 businesses received funding.

Following Tateosian’s presentation, Councilman Simmons asked if the welding training program was still in use. Tateosian noted that the program is not currently active, and she is seeking funding.

Councilman Braun noted that Tateosian’s presentation combined numbers for both city/county businesses and asked for a focus on Fulton-specific information. Tateosian stated she could follow up with this information.

Councilman Washington asked if there has been the same amount of interest and communication regarding economic development since Bruce Hackmann’s retirement in late 2019. Tateosian stated that she believes the interest and efforts have not been affected as she is now handling the economic development functions.

Tateosian reported she is working to recruit a handful of businesses to come to Fulton. Councilman Braun asked for a timeline as to when the businesses may be ready to bring their businesses to Fulton. Tateosian stated there is not a timeline.

Councilman Braun asked if there is anything the city can do to help a business come to Fulton. Tateosian stated that it is helpful to be able to show incentives and information regarding building permits, sales tax, and utility assistance, but noted she is not aware if the city currently has any incentives available.

Johnson stated the city offers the same incentives as in years past and makes a determination based on the number of jobs a new business will bring as well as other economic factors.

Mayor Cannell stated Tateosian has come to him and Johnson in the past when an opportunity has arisen, but this information has not been communicated to the City Council.

- b. City-owned land pasture discussion.

Johnson stated he has been approached by someone with interest in running cattle on a portion of the land near the landfill. Johnson stated the city will not build fences and would include this as a requirement for the successful bidder in the contract.

Johnson clarified that this venture will not affect the surface of the landfill or the butterfly/native pollinator area. Brief discussion followed.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Councilman Braun asked for an update on the Personnel review committee. Councilman Stone noted that he owes Johnson some information and has caused the project to be delayed.

Councilman Stone thanked the city workers and crews for their hard work during the recent cold spell.

Councilwoman Pace-Snook echoed this statement and thanked the citizens for conserving energy.

Councilman Washington noted he recently toured the Legends Rec Plex, and the facility looks very nice.

RESOLUTIONS:

There were no Resolutions for consideration at this meeting.

ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING

Bill No. 1608 was presented for First Reading by Councilman Simmons.

- a. Bill No. 1608: An Ordinance re-enacting Sec. 2-9 through 2-13 of the Fulton City Code pertaining to the Annual Financial Disclosure Requirement, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilman Simmons and seconded by Councilman Braun to place Bill No. 1608 for Second Reading at the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. City Clerk Courtney Doyle noted the city has a conflict-of-interest ordinance on file with the Missouri Ethics Commission that requires elected officials and some city administrative and financial staff to file annual financial disclosures. This ordinance must be passed and refiled biennially. The carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Sebacher) absent.

THIRD READING

Bill No. 1606 was presented for Third Reading by Councilman Braun.

- a. Bill No. 1606: An Ordinance re-classifying, under the Zoning Ordinance, an unimproved tract of land located northwest of Jamestown Drive and adjoining thereto in Fulton, Missouri, and establishing an effective date.

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Shiverdecker to place Bill No. 1606 for Final Passage at tonight's Council meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Sebacher) absent.

Roll call vote of the members of the Council was as follows: Pace-Snook, YES; Rehklaue, YES; Shiverdecker, YES; Simmons, YES; Stone, YES; Washington, YES; Braun, YES. Absent: Sebacher. Bill No. 1606, having received the affirmative vote of seven members of the Council, was declared passed by the President of the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. The next meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2021. A Work Session will commence at 6:30 p.m. with Regular Session to follow at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Cannell stated there was not a need for an Executive Session at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilman Stone to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Sebacher) absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Lowe Cannell, Mayor

Courtney L. Doyle, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk