

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2021

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 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, Sebacher, Shiverdecker, Simmons, Stone, and Washington. 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; Ryan Boland of *THE FULTON SUN*; and Darin Wernig and Mike Haldeman, Audio/Video; and visitors: Mike West, Garry Vaught, and Angela Weeks.

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.

Angela Weeks, 298 Claymine Dr., expressed concerns with Carver Park and the need to clean up the area.

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 February 23, 2021.
- b. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of March 9, 2021.
- c. Approval of the Director of Administration Report of February.
- d. Acknowledgement of the following the Board and Commission Reports:
 - i. Public Utility Board – January 25, 2021.
- e. Approval of a request from Sarah Painter on behalf of Fulton Public Schools for a "Senior Parade" on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. down Court Street.
 - i. This request has been reviewed and approved by Chief Myers and Administration. Police assistance will be needed.

Councilman Braun requested to remove the February Director of Administration Report for discussion.

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

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Holschlag noted significant increases in purchased power for both electric and natural gas due to the recent cold spell and wholesale cost fluctuation. For the month, the electric fund's expenses were approximately \$250,000 higher than usual, and the gas fund's expenses were \$3.8 million higher leading to a significant loss in the gas fund.

Holschlag reported the city has recorded one month of sales tax collection, and it is too early to compare the figures to 2020 figures. Additionally, the city recorded one month of use tax collection at approximately \$45,000.00.

Following brief discussion, motion was offered by Councilman Shiverdecker and seconded by Councilwoman Rehkla to accept the Financial Report for the month of February, as presented. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Smart Grid update.

Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities, stated the city is focusing efforts on reading two routes electronically. The city received a quote from Anixter, the area smart grid distributor, to use their meter scanning machines; this estimated cost was higher than expected. The city's Utility IT Coordinator has built a scanner to read the meters, and it is currently being tested in the field.

- b. Legends Rec Plex facility update.

Clay Caswell, Parks & Recreation Director, stated the facility is very close to completion. City staff has finished pulling wire, and connections will take place later this week.

A Facility Manager has been hired and will start on April 12th. Caswell noted the cardio equipment should arrive next week, and the remaining equipment is anticipated to follow shortly thereafter. Membership efforts will begin April 1st, and Caswell hopes the facility will be able to open mid-April.

Bill Johnson, Director of Administration, noted there are issues with cellular service inside the building in various locations, and city staff is reviewing possible solutions.

Kyle Bruemmer, City Engineer, noted Socket will be bringing phone and internet service to the building, and the new flooring is completed in the banquet center.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Garry Vaught, on behalf of the Brick District, will be present to request permission for the annual Morels and Microbrews event to be held Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Vaught stated he and his committee are focused on making the annual event as safe as possible. There will be a limit of 600 tickets sold for alcohol, and people must pre-purchase their tickets in order to participate. The layout of the event will be extended to include East Fifth Street between Court and Nichols, and the Fulton Farmer's Market will also open the same day.

Much discussion followed. Vaught will need additional trash receptacles and electric drops, as in years past. It was noted that while alcohol ticket sales will be limited, the number of people who may attend to buy morels or walk through the area is unknown. Councilman Stone requested that the committee notify the area business owners and tenants prior to the event.

Following some discussion, motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Shiverdecker to approve the event, as requested. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Washington) opposed.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Councilman Stone reported he is still actively involved with the Safe & Affordable Housing Task Force in the community. Councilman Stone noted 2020 was a difficult year for the homeless population.

Councilman Stone also reported SSM (Audrain) has transitioned to Noble Health recently, and he stated Noble Health is a great hospital partner for the community.

Councilman Washington expressed concerns with getting vaccines to minority or underprivileged members in the community.

Councilman Braun asked for a list of chip seal and asphalt streets for the upcoming 2021 overlay project. Johnson noted the budget had been cut to \$250,000 due to the unforeseen natural gas expenditures. Councilman Braun expressed concern with cutting the budget by \$350,000 and stated he does not believe this is a long-term solution. Councilman Stone echoed this statement.

Councilman Simmons noted the Public Utility Board is working on a plan to require a minimum amount of reserves, and the information should come in the future.

Councilman Braun stated the Council budgeted money to maintain the streets, and he believes more discussion needs to take place before Administration begins cutting or minimizing projects.

Johnson will provide the proposed chip seal and asphalt list to the Council in the next few days.

Councilman Simmons stated he is the Airport Advisory Board liaison, and there have been issues with hangar tenants using their hangars for storage purposes. Bruemmer stated that letters are being sent to these tenants, and the Airport Advisory Board will be kept aware of the situation moving forward.

Councilwoman Sebacher noted the Fulton Housing Authority is hosting a blood drive on April 13th and encouraged people to sign up to donate.

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilwoman Sebacher stated she would be abstaining from discussion and vote on Resolution No. 3396 as she works for the Fulton Housing Authority.

Resolution No. 3396 was presented for adoption by Councilman Braun.

- a. Resolution No. 3396: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Fulton, Missouri, to execute a Contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Fulton, Missouri, for the provision of supplemental police services.

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Stone to adopt Resolution No. 3396 at tonight's Council meeting.

Councilman Washington stated he was on the FHA Board for twenty-six years, and this agreement is very beneficial to both organizations. Police Chief Myers stated he has reviewed the contract with FHA Executive Director Sebacher, and there are no changes from last year's contract. Chief Myers stated the city and FHA have developed a good relationship over many years, and this agreement is important for both organizations.

Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Sebacher) abstaining.

ORDINANCES:

There were no Ordinances for consideration at this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Election Day is Tuesday, April 6, 2021. (Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- b. The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. (No Work Session due to the installation of newly-elected officials)
- c. The 20th Annual Clean Sweep will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2021. To register, please contact Parks & Recreation at 573-592-3190.

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 Councilwoman Sebacher to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Lowe Cannell, Mayor

Courtney L. Doyle, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk