

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2022

The Council of the City of Fulton, Missouri, met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 18 E. 4th Street. Present and presiding were: Mayor Lowe Cannell; Darrell Dunlap, Interim Director of Administration/Superintendent of Utilities; Courtney L. Doyle, City Clerk; and William Ladwig, 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, Combs, Nelson, Rehklau, Simmons, Stone, Washington, and West. Also present were: Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer; Clay Caswell, Parks & Recreation Director; Kevin Coffelt, Fire Chief; Robert Boone, Assistant Director of Administration; Michelle Maupin, Human Resources Director; Rev. Bruce Williamson; Darin Wernig and Mike Haldeman, Audio/Video; Michael Shine of *The Fulton Sun*; and visitors: Valerie Sebacher, Brad Leuther, Tamara Tateosian, and Garry Vaught.

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 February 22, 2022.
- b. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of February 26, 2022 (morning).
- c. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of February 26, 2022 (afternoon).
- d. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of February 28, 2022.
- e. Approval of the City Council meeting minutes of March 8, 2022.
- f. Approval of the Director of Administration report of February 2022.
- g. Reappointment of Tim Wilkerson to the Fulton Housing Authority Commission for a four-year term (exp. May 2026).

- i. Appointment of Charles Williams to the Fulton Housing Authority Commission for a four-year term (exp. May 2026).

Motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Simmons to approve 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 stated there was not much to report for the month of February outside of normally-occurring business. The first month of sales tax has been recorded, and figures appear comparable to the first month recorded in 2021. As additional sales tax collections are received and recorded, Holschlag stated there will be a truer picture of where the city stands in comparison to last year.

Holschlag also reported all utility funds were in in the black for the month. It was noted that Administration has utilized 34% of its budget already; Holschlag noted there are a number of contract payments that are due in the first quarter, and expenses are proportionately higher as a result.

Following brief discussion, motion was offered by Councilman West and seconded by Councilwoman Rehlau 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.

Holschlag reported new handheld meter reading software has been installed, and staff is now able to electronically pull every route with digital meters. This effort has streamlined the process for meter readers.

Darrell Dunlap, Interim Director of Administration/Superintendent of Utilities stated the city has ordered some new meters and equipment. Dunlap stated that if the Council is happy with the progress being made, staff will not provide a monthly update; there will be little change until the new meters and equipment are deployed.

Councilman West asked that Holschlag provide a written smart grid update in her monthly Finance Department report. This sentiment was echoed by a number of the other members of the Council.

- b. Legends Rec-Plex update.

Clay Caswell, Parks & Recreation Director, stated February revenue is down in comparison January. He believes this stems from the shorter calendar month and the number of closures due to inclement weather. Memberships continue to rise, and there have been 4,300 visits logged since January 1, 2022. Patrons appear to be appreciating and using the online registration program.

Caswell noted there are issues with the HVAC system, and the city is working to have them resolved. There continues to be issues with the WIFI in the building, and staff hope to find solutions soon. Caswell also noted the department is looking for volunteer coaches and part-time staff for the facility and programs.

Councilman Braun asked if Caswell feels confident he will be able to hit the budgeted revenues for 2022. Caswell stated he is still confident in the projections he has put forward, and staff will continue to push ahead in the months to come.

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 7, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in downtown Fulton.
 - i. This request includes the closure of Court Street from Fifth to Seventh Street along with additional portions of Fifth and Sixth Street to be closed as well.

Vaught noted the event has now taken place for ten years and provided an overview of the history of the event and the benefits it provides to the Brick District and businesses therein. Vaught noted there will not be a change in the layout or footprint of the event; food trucks will be set up along the west side of Fifth Street across from the farmer's market. Vaught requested that dumpsters be dropped off the day before the event.

Following some discussion, motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman West to approve the request and included the necessary dumpsters. Motion carried with seven members of the Council voting in favor, and one member (Washington) opposed.

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

Tateosian gave a brief synopsis of the work the Callaway Chamber has done in the community thus far in 2022. Tateosian noted the organization is streamlining their workforce to include the following positions: Executive Director, Small Business Liaison, Marketing/Special Events Coordinator, Workforce Development and Training Coordinator, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. Tateosian also provided a list of upcoming events and noted she would like to host a presentation in June for both the Council and Chamber Board members on the topic of economic development.

Councilman Washington asked if Tateosian has considered using Legends Rec-Plex to host some of the Chamber's many events. Tateosian stated she is considering the location for future events.

- c. K-9-unit discussion.

Chief Ladwig provided an overview of the demonstration and information provided earlier this evening. The Fulton Police Department's last canine officer retired in 2008, and there is a funding source in place to obtain a new unit. Chief Ladwig noted there has been an uptick in dangerous drug activity, and there were nine overdose deaths in the past twelve months.

According to Chief Ladwig, the Callaway County Sheriff's Department has had success with their program, and the city could provide relief to the county when necessary. The dog will be used to track lost/missing persons and articles along with drug detection, and Diamond Pet Food has agreed to donate the first year of dog food to the city's program.

Mayor Cannell stated he was initially concerned about liability, but the city's insurance provider is on board with the proposal.

Following brief discussion, motion was offered by Councilman West and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to pursue and acquire the dog and appropriate items to establish the unit. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Councilman Simmons noted the work on Second Street is disruptive, and because it is a high-traffic area, there needs to be ongoing communication to the citizens.

Councilman Braun also expressed concerns with the work on Second Street and the need for consistent traffic controls.

Councilman Combs noted increased walkers, traffic, and children along Cote Sans Dessein, and asked that sidewalks in that area be considered and addressed.

Councilman Washington noted water markers near water meters have been left in people's yards for quite some time and asked if they could be pulled. Dunlap noted that people could remove the markers; they were used as a visual aid during snowy months so meter readers could find the meters.

Councilwoman Nelson expressed concerns with a number of broken curbs in Tanglewood and inquired about the city's sidewalk repair program.

Councilman Washington also expressed concerns with busted and broken concrete near the roundabout.

RESOLUTIONS:

There were no Resolutions for consideration at this meeting.

ORDINANCES:

There were no Ordinances for consideration at this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Election Day is Tuesday, April 5, 2022. (Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- b. The 21st Annual Clean Sweep will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022. To register, please contact Parks & Recreation at 573-592-3190.
- c. The next City Council meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. (No Work Session due to the installation of newly-elected officials).
- d. Spring Cleanup Week will take place April 11-15th along regular pick-up routes (no construction debris or tires). Contact the Solid Waste Department with questions at 573-592-3176.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, motion was offered by Councilman Braun and seconded by Councilman Simmons to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried with eight members of the Council voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Lowe Cannell, Mayor

Courtney L. Doyle, CMC/MRCC
City Clerk