

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGETON CITY HALL
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
APRIL 15, 2020
7:00 P.M.

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Terry W. Briggs on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. (Due to the Coronavirus-19, the meeting was held virtually.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

AYES: Abram, Grimmer, Hein, Luke, Norris, Purcell, Saettele, Zimmer

NAYS: None

The Mayor noted a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mr. Grimmer, for approval of the agenda.

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Purcell, to table Item #4, Bill 6241, Authorizing an Agreement with J.M. Marschuetz Construction Company for the 2020 Slab Replacement project; and Item #5, Bill 6242, Authorizing as Agreement with Bi-State Utilities Company for the Bridgeport Place Drive Storm Water Improvement Project. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to remove Item #3, Sign Variance for BioLife Services. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mayor Briggs asked that Discussion Item #7, April 2020 Budget, be switched with Item #8, Short Term Rentals.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Briggs read comments that had been submitted by residents to be included in the Public Portion of this meeting.

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The first comment was from Mike Pinson, 11420 Old St. Charles Road, relative to the Police Department. He stated he has seen several police cars sitting at Target for long periods of time. If they are doing paperwork, why isn't it being done at any of the spots that need patrolling, i.e. Old St. Charles Road, Smiley, Harmon Estates Drive, Avery, Terry and others where there are complaints about traffic problems.

Mr. Dave Webb, 3827 Park Place Estates, acknowledged there are tough times ahead looking at potential budget shortfalls because of the impact the virus is having on retail sales.

He stated Bridgeton has 20-40 more full-time employees than several other municipalities with similar populations. He also stated that with over 300 acres in parks we have 2-3 times more acreage that must be maintained than other cities. He said the City should sell Matthews Park for more homes. What about eliminating or at the least limiting the senior tax rebates to those who need it. He suggested dropping the fireworks, maybe forever. This is the time to re-evaluate spending and revenue both short and long term.

There being no other comments submitted by the public, the Public Portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 1, 2020

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mrs. Norris, for approval of the Minutes of the April 1, 2020 Council meeting.

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to amend Page 4, second paragraph from the bottom to read:

“Mr. Grimmer stated Council’s concerns are logical and Mr. Kane was trying to look to the revenue needs of the Recreation Center; however as witnessed by former Councilman Ferd Fetsch and former Parks Board Chairman Tom Schlag, a promise was made to keep the track open to residents free of charge.”

Motion to approve the amendment carried by voice vote.

Motion to approve the Minutes as amended carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENT/SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Item 1 & Item 2

ANNOUNCEMENT IN EVENT OF ABSENCE – APPOINTMENTS

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Mayor Briggs stated he had no announcements or appointments this evening.

DISCUSSION

Item 7

SHORT TERM RENTAL

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mrs. Abram, for a temporary ban on short term rentals in Bridgeton.

Mr. Linenbroker stated he was not sure how this would be implemented without a change to our City Code. Currently, there is nothing in our Code that addresses short term rentals specifically.

He stated there is part of this that could be in the Zoning Code and, if so, that would require a public hearing before the Planning & Zoning Commission. At that time, the public could express their opinions on the subject. Mr. Linenbroker stated the only action you could this evening would be to direct the staff to develop an ordinance banning the short-term rentals.

Following further discussion, Mr. Zimmer withdrew his original motion and Mrs. Abram withdrew her second.

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mrs. Abram, to instruct staff and Mr. Linenbroker to develop an ordinance on the ban of short term rentals in the City of Bridgeton.

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mr. Saettele to call for the question.

Roll Call Vote to call for the question:

AYES: Hein, Luke, Norris, Purcell, Saettele, Zimmer, Abram, Grimmer

NAYS: None

Motion to instruct staff and Mr. Linenbroker to develop an ordinance on the ban of short term rentals in the City of Bridgeton carried by voice vote (Mrs. Luke and Mr. Purcell voted Nay).

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Item 8

APRIL 2020 BUDGET

Mayor Briggs began by referring to the memo from Kevin Bookout relative to “ Financial Impact/Recommendations due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Stay-At-Home Order.” sent to the Mayor and City Council Members on April 13, 2020. (Memo referred to is attached to these Minutes.)

He stated that staff would much rather err on the side of caution and provided a compilation of Bridgeton revenue sources and the projected financial impact in Quarters 2 and 3 as a result.

Questions were asked by Council as to the furloughing of non-emergency staff which will be intended to last 12 weeks. They can apply for unemployment and will still receive their benefits including health insurance from the City.

Discussion ensued relative to having the residents pay for their trash pick-up for the remainder of the year. This will amount to about \$90 per household for the rest of the year (\$15 per month). The Mayor stated no one wants to do this, but we are in the middle of a serious pandemic and sacrifices have to be made in order to keep the City from going further in debt. The City has payments that need to be paid each month and they cannot be missed. The City of Bridgeton is one of only a few cities that pay for the trash pick-up for the residents.

Mr. Bookout also emphasized that Bridgeton’s General Fund Reserve is not a viable solution for weathering the financial storm the City will be facing for the remainder of the fiscal year. Bridgeton’s General Fund Reserve Balance at the end of 2019 was 15.5%; where a healthy one should be 25% or more. It was asked if Council could vote on the trash pick-up separately from the other items. Mayor Briggs stated no. Mr. Linenbroker verified it had been decided that the plan had to be accepted as a whole.

It was also stated that the 4th of July is not just fireworks. A very large percentage of employees have to be paid overtime for this event for everything to be carried out.

Mr. Zimmer stated he would vote for this on the condition the Council is kept apprised as to what the numbers are showing.

Administration agreed keeping Council informed of this would be no problem.

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mrs. Abram, that this plan as presented to Council be accepted.

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Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Norris, Zimmer, Abram, Grimmer

NAYS: Purcell, Saettele, Hein, Luke

Because of a tie, the Mayor stated he votes Aye.

Administration will move forward with the plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Linenbroker had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Abram stated that Mr. Webb who spoke in the Public Portion mentioned selling Matthews Park; he has been told numerous times that the City cannot do that.

Mrs. Luke stated she voted against the plan because she thinks there are more cuts that can be made.

She asked if Mr. Kane was aware that they are advertising for camp counselors on their webpage.

Mrs. Luke also reported the Ward 3 Face Book page is now up.

Mr. Purcell thanked the staff who made it possible for us to have this meeting tonight.

Mr. Saettele stated he voted no because of the trash collection. More cuts should be made in personnel.

Mr. Zimmer thanked the administration for doing a great job of putting this plan together. Also he asked about the MSD item we will be voting on later. It was on the absentee ballot he received.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kane stated they are still looking for camp counselors, life guards, etc. for summer camp. Parks has to have everything in place if by chance we are able to hold it and he hopes we can.

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Chief Hood spoke on the subject that some of the local restaurants are allowing mixed drinks for take-out. They can sell cocktails if they are in a closed container and if they are ordered with a food order.

.Chief Hood reported that Christian Reed, who has been on our force for over four years has accepted a position with another city. He has two officers who have been deployed and one is on maternity leave.

He then spoke to a comment made in the Public Portion. The officers sanitize their vehicles in the morning and after every shift. We are having to take roll call in their cars as we cannot gather in a room for it. They are doing all their paperwork and reports on their computers in their cars as well. That is why they are in their cars almost all day. They cannot do their reports while driving so they must go somewhere where they can concentrate. We are doing everything to keep ourselves and residents free from the virus and safe.

Mr. Bookout reiterated that the Administration will keep Council informed of the numbers.

Mayor Briggs thanked the Council for their diligence in reviewing the information that was sent to them.

This past week the City lost a resident to the virus. Lisa Steelman, on Smiley Road, was a wife and mother and very active in Pattonville School District as well as the community.

The Mayor also reported some cities have already closed their pool season. We will follow closely what the Health Department reports.

MoDOT has delayed the St. Charles Rock Road project for a couple months.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mr. Grimmer, for adjournment. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carole A. Stahlhut, City Clerk