

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGETON CITY HALL
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
APRIL 21st, 2021
7:00 P.M.

The regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Briggs on Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Abram, Grimmer, Hein, Luke, Norris, Purcell, Webb, Zimmer
Absent:

Mayor Briggs noted a quorum present.

Mayor Briggs announced that prior to the meeting a swearing in ceremony took place. Mayor Briggs welcomed Councilmember Webb, as the new Councilmember representing Ward One.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Hein moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Councilmember Luke. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC PORTION - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Abram moved to approve the April 7th, 2021, City Council Meeting Minutes as presented, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Briggs requested that the Council review and consider the following appointments:

Kathy Coerver, Ward 4	-	Historical Commission
Cathy Schlag, Ward 2	-	Parks & Recreation Board
Connie Vogler, Ward 4	-	Beautification Commission (reappointment)
Matt Dewitt, Ward 4	-	Special Events Commission (reappointment)

Councilmember Abram moved to approve the appointments as presented, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by voice vote.

PERMITS, WAIVERS AND APPEAL REQUESTS

- A. Sign Variance Request for a Sign Variance
Five Guys – 12294 St. Charles Rock Road
(Councilmember Zimmer)**

Councilmember Zimmer stated that the Design & Review Board recommended approval of the request with a 5-0 vote.

Councilmember Norris stated that the request was for two signs, similar to what was approved for Smoothie King.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to approve the request for a sign variance at 12294 St. Charles Rock Road, second by Councilmember Purcell. A roll call vote was then taken on the third reading with the following results: Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE. Motion passed 6-2.

EMERGENCY LEGLISATION, CONTRACTS AND BIDS

- A. Preliminary Plan Request for Motion to Approve a Preliminary Plan for a major residential subdivision “The Enclave at Parkwood”, to subdivide 2.25 acres of land into six (6) lots, zoned “R-3” Single Family Dwelling District located at 3145 Smiley Road (Lot 2 of 3145 Smiley Road Subdivision)
(Councilmember Grimmer)**

Councilmember Grimmer stated the preliminary plan received unanimous approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Councilmember Grimmer moved to approve the request to approve a preliminary plan for a major residential subdivision for “The Enclave at Parkwood”, second by Councilmember Purcell. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

PERFECTION OF BILLS

- A. Bill 6271 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri Rezoning approximately 6.31 acres of land located at 3641, 3655 and 3657 Pennridge Drive from “B-3” Travel/Entertainment Services District to “M-3” Planned Manufacturing District. (Second Reading; Councilmember Grimmer)**

Councilmember Grimmer moved to allow for the second reading of Bill 6271, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Grimmer read Bill 6271 for the second time.

Councilmember Norris stated that she believed that this was an appropriate land use for the site.

Councilmember Grimmer moved for Bill 6271 to become Ordinance 21-12, second by Councilmember Purcell. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

- B. Bill 6272 An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bridgeton, Missouri, Authorizing The Mayor And The City Clerk to Execute a Services Agreement Order Form and Government Agency Customer Agreement, Substantially in the Form Attached Hereto, Between the City of Bridgeton and Flock Group Inc., Wherein Flock Group Inc. Agrees to Provide for the Installation and Maintenance of an Automatic License Plate Detection System and Related Software and Hardware Services in Connection Therewith (*Second Reading; Councilmember Abram*)**

Councilmember Abram moved to allow for the second reading of Bill 6272, second by Councilmember Norris. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Abram read Bill 6272 for a second time.

Chief Hood stated that equipment was a tool that would provide objective evidence and give law enforcement a time stamp and location on vehicles that have been connected to serious crimes, such as carjacking. Chief Hood stated that the system was stationery, non-stream, and solar equipped.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that he was concerned with the cost initially, until learning that the equipment would be purchased through funds available in asset forfeiture.

Councilmember Grimmer stated that he recently attended the Police Commission Meeting where this item was discussed, and believes this system and software to be an excellent tool, and has been proven effective.

Councilmember Purcell asked if the equipment could be moved. Chief Hood stated that there is a cost associated with each move, but added that the equipment was not noticeable and not intrusive.

Councilmember Hein asked Chief Hood if the department was actively enforcing expired plates. Chief Hood stated that the police department is actively enforcing all traffic laws.

Councilmember Luke asked what the main purpose of the tool was. Chief Hood stated that the system would be used as an investigative tool to assist with problematic issues.

Councilmember Abram moved to for Bill 6272 to become Ordinance 21-13, second by Councilmember Norris. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Luke, NAY;

Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, NAY.
Motion passed 6-2.

**C. Bill 6275 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri
Establishing an Investment Policy for the City of Bridgeton
(Second Reading; Councilmember Zimmer)**

Councilmember Zimmer moved to allow for the second reading of Bill 6275, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Zimmer read Bill 6275 for a second time.

Councilmember Zimmer moved for Bill 6275 to become Ordinance 21-14, second by Councilmember Purcell. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BILLS

**A. Bill 6273 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri
Authorizing and Directing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of Special
Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021a, of the City of Bridgeton,
Missouri; Prescribing the Forms and Details of The Bonds; and
Authorizing Certain Other Documents and Actions in Connection
Therewith (First Reading; Councilmember Zimmer)**

Councilmember Zimmer moved to allow for the first reading of Bill 6273, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Zimmer read Bill 6273.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to suspend Council Rules to allow representatives from Stifel & Gilmore Bell to provide an update, second by Councilmember Norris. Motion carried by voice vote.

Martin Ghafoori, Stifel, stated that the 2021a series would refinance the existing certificate of participation bonds and move them to special obligation bonds. Mr. Ghafoori stated that the final maturity dates would be maintained, and with interest rates as of today there would be savings of \$465,000.00 and an estimated savings of around \$100,000.00 per year as well. Mr. Ghafoori stated that the final rates would be set the morning of May 5th, and those numbers would be distributed to the Council immediately.

Mr. Ghafoori stated that the 2021b series related to the pension liability. Mr. Ghafoori reported that once the City has received its updated bond rating the projected numbers will change, but it is estimated that there will be a savings of \$23,000,000.00 over the course of term.

Mark Grimm, Gilmore Bell, stated that a redline version of Bills 6273 and 6274 will be provided on May 5th, and the City would commit to those rates at their May 5th meeting.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to table Bill 6273, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. Bill 6274 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri Authorizing and Directing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of Taxable Special Obligation Bonds, Series 2021b, of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri; Prescribing the Forms and Details of the Bonds; and Authorizing Certain Other Documents and Actions in Connection Therewith (First Reading; Councilmember Zimmer)**

Councilmember Zimmer moved to allow for the first reading of Bill 6274, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Zimmer read Bill 6274.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to table Bill 6274, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

- C. Bill 6276 An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Bridgeton, Missouri, Authorizing The Mayor And The City Clerk To Execute An Agreement With Gateway Pyrotechnic Productions, LLC, In The Form Substantially Attached Hereto, In The Amount Of Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$32,500.00) For Fireworks For The City's 2021 Fourth of July Celebration (First Reading; Councilmember Luke)**

Councilmember Luke moved to allow for the first reading of Bill 6276, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Councilmember Luke read Bill 6276.

Councilmember Luke moved to waive the rules to allow a second reading of Bill 6276, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Councilmember moved to allow for a second reading of Bill 6276, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Councilmember Luke read Bill 6276 for a second time.

Councilmember Grimmer pointed out that there was a cancellation fee of 25% if the event did not take place.

Mayor Briggs informed Council that the Department of Health has allowed the City to proceed with the event with precautions put in place.

Councilmember Luke moved for Bill 6276 to become Ordinance 21-15, second by Councilmember Hein. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

DISCUSSION

City Administrator Bookout stated that Administration requested earlier in the month that the City of Bridgeton be accepted into the St. Louis Area Insurance Trust (SLAIT) Health Insurance Plan, in order to take advantage of the benefits that come with a larger employer in terms of negotiating rates and spreading the risk of loss across a broader spectrum. Mr. Bookout reported that at the last SLAIT Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted in favor of the City of Bridgeton joining the program.

Mr. Bookout stated that the SLAIT Health Plan consists of 18 municipalities with over 2,200 employees and qualifying dependents. Mr. Bookout explained that the City had budgeted for a 10% increase for health insurance, and the options provided through SLAIT would decrease the current deductible which is at \$4,000.00 down to \$2,500.00, and would result in a 6% increase in premiums. Mr. Bookout stated that if the deductible were to decrease to \$1,500.00, the City could eliminate the budgeted HRA funds and apply that to the increase, which would result in a 7% increase in premiums.

Mr. Bookout added that it would appear that this program would be the most beneficial to the City long term.

Councilmember Grimmer stated that this plan would spread out the risk, and was a more sustainable plan.

Councilmember Hein asked what the City currently provided through the HRA. Mr. Bookout stated that the individual deductible was \$4,000.00, and \$2,000.00 was eligible for reimbursement through the HRA.

Councilmember Norris stated that City has been a member of SLAIT as it related to workers compensation and liability for over forty years, and that on average SLAIT Health members have only seen increases between 0-4% since its inception, which is far lower than the increases the City has experienced in the past.

Mayor Briggs stated that while the current provider, AETNA, has agreed to renew the premium at the current rate, the City has budgeted for an increase, and this program appears to be more advantageous to the City.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Linnenbroker stated that he will be prepared to provide a revised policy regarding Social Media at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Webb thanked the voters, and stated that he had a great experience while out campaigning.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that the Board of Adjustment approved the fence at Mackay Vista.

Councilmember Purcell thanked the Special Events Commission for the installation reception ceremony, and Mayor Briggs and Councilmember Luke on their work with the Fourth of July events. Councilmember Purcell stated that he was pleased to provide the police department with new tools at zero cost. Councilmember Purcell stated that the SLAIT program appeared to be a great program, but wanted to ensure that the program was equally advantageous to the employees as well as the City.

Councilmember Grimmer stated that he has been working with Bill Dempski and Robert Gunn on identifying areas that need attention in the sign code, and will begin developing some recommendations shortly. Councilmember Grimmer reported that Bridgeway Park is near completion.

Councilmember Hein thanked Former Councilmember Saettele for his service to the City, and welcomed new Councilmember Webb. Councilmember Hein thanked everyone for reaching out with condolences regarding the death of his mother.

Councilmember Luke thanked Former Councilmember Saettele for his service to the City, and welcomed new Councilmember Webb. Councilmember Luke stated that the Ward 3 meeting would take place on April 28th at 7pm.

Councilmember Abram expressed her condolences to Councilmember Hein on the passing of his mother. Councilmember Abram welcomed the new council and Judge Larrew back. Councilmember Abram thanked the Special Events Commission for their hard work.

Councilmember Norris thanked the Special Events Commission, employees and staff, as well as Former Councilmember Saettele on his years of service to the City. Councilmember Norris stated that she supported the proposed SLAIT program, adding that she believed it added more security.

STAFF REPORT

Brendan Kane, Director of Parks & Recreation, stated that the plant giveaway/canned food donation will be held on April 24th at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Kane provided an update on the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and stated that they will begin work soon at the retention basin near the recreation center.

Chief Hood stated that the drug take back event will be held on April 24th. Chief Hood reported that a burglary suspect was identified with the help of a Ring camera. Chief Hood announced that there would be an appreciation day on June 12th.

Councilmember Zimmer requested a 20 mph sign on Fee Fee near the park.

Robert Gunn, Director of Public Works, stated the storm water bids were opened last week and a bill will be prepared for Council to review by the next meeting. Mr. Gunn stated that the department has begun working on the tall grass list. Mr. Gunn stated that in regards to the street lights, the lights on Majella would be installed in the next 3-4 weeks, and the other lights the Department was working with the residents to get an easement completed. Mr. Gunn reported that a demolition permit has been applied for at 12131 Old St. Charles Rock Rd. Mr. Gunn provided pictures of the updates underway at Bridgeway Park.

Kevin Bookout, City Administrator, stated the SLAIT Health Program would be an improvement to the existing plan for employees.

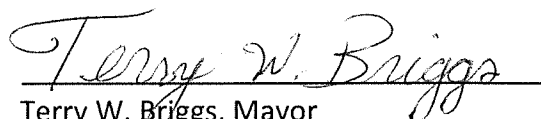
MAYORS REPORT

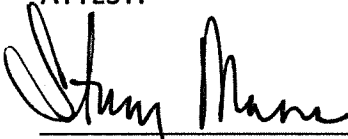
Mayor Briggs reported that assignments and election of officers would take place at the next Council meeting. Mayor Briggs expressed his condolences to Councilman Hein on the passing of his mother.

CLOSED SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before the regular session of the City Council, Councilmember Hein moved to adjourn, second by Councilmember Purcell at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.


Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacey Mann, City Clerk