

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
BRIDGETON CITY HALL  
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD  
MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

The regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Briggs on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Briggs stated that an amended agenda was provided to the Council prior to the start of the meeting to add Election of Officers under item VII.

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 Norris moved to approve the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes as presented, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Abram requested that the minutes from the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting be amended to add her name to the roll call vote on page two, under Emergency Legislation, Contracts and Bids. The friendly amendment was approved by voice vote.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to approve the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes as amended, second by Councilmember Grimmer. Motion carried by voice vote.

**APPOINTMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ex-Officio Appointments

Mayor Briggs announced that a memo has been provided to the Council regarding the 2021 Ex-Officio Appointments. Those appointments are as follows:

Beautification	-	Councilmember Hein
Board of Adjustment	-	Councilmember Purcell
Design & Review	-	Councilmember Luke
Finance	-	Councilmember Webb
Historical	-	Councilmember Zimmer
Housing Board	-	Councilmember Purcell
Industrial Develop	-	Mayor Briggs
Parks & Recreation	-	Councilmember Norris
Pension	-	Councilmember Grimmer
Personnel	-	Councilmember Hein
Planning & Zoning	-	Councilmember Grimmer
Police	-	Councilmember Abram
Senior Citizens	-	Councilmember Norris
Special Events	-	Councilmember Luke
Streets	-	Councilmember Zimmer
Charter Review	-	Mayor Briggs

Appointments to Boards & Commissions

Mayor Briggs requested that the Council review and consider the following appointments to Boards & Commissions:

Design & Review	-	Rick Valli, Chairman (reappointment; last term) Ward 4
Design & Review	-	Kathy Luther (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Design & Review	-	Jeff Risinger (moving from alternate to full member) Ward 2
Finance Commission	-	Jim Kersting (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
Finance Commission	-	Judy Pickett (reappointment; second term) Ward 1
Finance Commission	-	Mike Goodall (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Finance Commission	-	Clark Grumke (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
Historical Commission	-	Angela Zimmer (new auxiliary member)
Parks & Recreation	-	Luke Bland (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
Parks & Recreation	-	Maribeth Esteeep (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Parks & Recreation	-	Nancy Haug, Chairman (reappointment; last term) Ward 3
Pension Commission	-	Dale Norgaarden (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
Pension Commission	-	Nancy Seamans (reappointment; second term) Ward 2
Pension Commission	-	Sean Riggs (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Pension Commission	-	Devin Linhardt (reappointment; second term) Ward 1
Personnel Commission	-	Scott Chaney (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Personnel Commission	-	Vickie Taylor Edwards (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
Planning & Zoning	-	Joy Bush (reappointment; second term) Ward 3
Planning & Zoning	-	Lyle Woodruff (reappointment; second term) Ward 4

- Planning & Zoning - Jim Gaston (reappointment; second term) Ward 4
- Planning & Zoning - Tim Barry (new appointment – previously on D&R) Ward 3
- Planning & Zoning - Claude Buchheit, Chairman (reappointment; second term) Ward 4

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

Proclamation

Councilmember Norris read a proclamation recognizing May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as the National Day of Prayer.

Councilmember Norris moved to accept the proclamation, second by Councilmember Purcell. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

Election of Officers

Councilmember Zimmer moved to open nominations for the Election of Council Officers, second by Councilmember Purcell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Abram nominated Councilmember Norris for Treasurer.

Councilmember Grimmer moved to close nominations for Treasurer, second by Councilmember Norris. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Abram moved to approve Councilmember Norris as Council Treasurer, second by Councilmember Zimmer. 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.

Councilmember Hein nominated Councilmember Zimmer for Council President.

Councilmember Grimmer moved to close nominations for Council President, second by Councilmember Hein. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Hein moved to approve Councilmember Zimmer as Council President, second by Councilmember Luke. 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.

## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution 21-1**      A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the St. Louis Area Insurance Trust Health Insurance Cooperative

Councilmember Norris read Resolution 21-1 by title.

Councilmember Grimmer stated that the insurance industry could be volatile, and that participation in the Trust could be a path to stabilization for the City of Bridgeton.

Councilmember Purcell asked if the resolution was binding. City Administrator Bookout stated that the Council has the authority to withdraw from the Trust if they desire.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that insurance matters such as these are typically not brought in front of the Council however; in this case, SLAIT is requesting Council approval.

Councilmember Hein stated that if the City were to remain with its current provider, there would be no increase in 2021. Councilmember Hein asked if it was correct, that under the SLAIT policy, the City would not incur any increase over 4%. City Administrator Bookout clarified that historically, municipalities within the Trust have seen increases between 0 and 4%.

Councilmember Norris stated that she liked the security that came along with a larger group plan.

Councilmember Norris moved to approve Resolution 21-1, second by Councilmember Abram. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

## PERFECTION OF 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**  
*(Councilmember Zimmer)*

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

Councilmember Zimmer read Bill 6273 for the second time.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to suspend Council Rules to allow representatives from Stifel and Gilmore & Bell to provide the City with a summary of Bills 6273 and 6274, second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried by voice vote.

Martin Ghafoori, Stifel, announced that the City successfully sold \$13,585,000 of Series 2021A Special Obligation Refunding Bonds and \$13,635,000 of Series 2021B Taxable Special Obligation Bonds earlier in the day, with \$50,855,000.00 of orders. Mr. Ghafoori stated there was a strong

demand for the bonds, which allowed the City to lower interest rates from 5 to 8 basis points across tax-exempt maturities and 5 basis points across some taxable maturities.

Mr. Ghafoori reported that the City received orders from retail and a variety of Money Managers, Investment Advisors, Insurance Companies, Banks and Trust Departments.

Mr. Ghafoori stated that the City's bond rating improved to a rating of "A" from "A-".

Mayor Briggs announced that prior to the meeting an amendment to Bill 6273 was presented to the City Council that included updated figures and rates.

Councilmember Zimmer moved to amend Bill 6273, second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Zimmer moved for Bill 6273 as amended to become Ordinance 21-16, second by Councilmember Grimmer. 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.

**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  
(Councilmember Zimmer)**

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

Councilmember Zimmer read Bill 6274 for the second time.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that this Bill was in reference to the unfunded pension liability, and added that this was a result of the City not contributing the proper annual amount in the past.

Councilmember Grimmer thanked Stifel & Gilmore Bell for their work, adding that this would stabilize the fund.

Councilmember Norris stated that there was a possible savings of \$24 million dollars.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that with the new rating, the annual debt service cost would go from \$1.3 million dollars to approximately \$827,000.

Mayor Briggs announced that prior to the meeting an amendment to Bill 6274 was presented to the City Council that included updated figures and rates.

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

Councilmember Zimmer moved for Bill 6274 as amended to become Ordinance 21-17, second by Councilmember Abram. 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.

## **CONSIDERATION OF NEW BILLS**

- A. Bill 6277** An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri Authorizing an Agreement with Bi-State Utilities for the Bridgeport Place Drive Storm Sewer Improvement Project (Councilmember Hein)

Councilmember Hein moved to allow for a first reading of Bill 6277, second by Councilmember Luke. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Hein read Bill 6277.

Councilmember Hein moved to suspend Council Rules to allow for a second reading of Bill 6277, second by Councilmember Luke. Motion carried by voice vote.

Councilmember Hein read Bill 6277 for the second time.

Councilmember Purcell stated that he would like the record to reflect that Bi-State was not the low bid, however, Article II of Section 120.125, states that the City should give preference to local businesses in good standing, if the bid did not exceed the price by the non-Bridgeton business by more than the lesser of ten percent or \$5,000.00. Councilmember Purcell stated that Bi-State's bid was \$3,214.50 more than the lowest bid, but did not exceed the lowest bid by ten percent of \$5,000.00.

Councilmember Hein stated that the Public Works Department was requesting a contingency of 20% for a total project cost of \$105,202.00.

Mayor Briggs stated the contract should be provided to the City Clerk to attach to the Bill.

Councilmember Hein moved for Bill 6277 to become Ordinance 21-18, second by Councilmember Luke. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE; Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

## **DISCUSSION**

### 2015 Property Maintenance Code Update

Mr. Peterson, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided the Council with a memo on proposed changes to the existing residential code (Chapter 510), as well as the proposed 2015 International Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Peterson stated the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code would be added to the code and would include residential and commercial properties. Mr.

Peterson added that the 2015 Property Maintenance Code was easy to enforce, and has been adopted by other local municipalities. Mr. Peterson clarified that this proposed adoption would not affect new construction.

Mr. Peterson stated that a bill regarding these changes would be introduced at the next meeting.

Councilmember Norris stated that with the aging housing stock, these code updates may encourage homeowners to make necessary improvements.

#### Seasonal Worker Salaries

Brendan Kane, Director of Parks & Recreation, stated that due to lower than expected job applicants for part time seasonal work, and a number of past employees who have sought higher paying jobs elsewhere, he is requesting an increase to the starting hourly rate of \$9.75 from the current rate of \$9.00, as well as increasing pay for returning employees with more experience. Mr. Kane stated that the City was exempt from paying minimum wage however; to stay in competition with that pay, the City should be in striking distance of the rate. Mr. Kane estimated the increases to cost the city an additional \$45,000.00.

Councilmember Norris stated that finding personnel at this time was difficult for many businesses, and that the market continued to be competitive.

Councilmember Abram stated that a decision regarding these wages needed to be made quickly so the Parks Department could fill the positions.

Councilmember Zimmer stated that the wages were too low in his opinion.

Councilmember Purcell moved to increase the starting rate of pay from \$9.00 to \$10.30 to match the state minimum wage, and adjusting the steps thereafter, second by Councilmember Zimmer. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Zimmer, AYE; Abram, NAY; Grimmer, NAY; Hein, AYE; Luke, NAY; Norris, NAY; Purcell, AYE; Webb, NAY. Motion failed 3-5.

Councilmember Abram moved to accept the recommendation of the Director of Parks & Recreation and adjust the salaries as presented in the memo dated May 5, 2021, second by Councilmember Grimmer. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Abram, AYE; Grimmer, AYE; Hein, AYE; Luke, AYE; Norris, AYE; Purcell, AYE; Webb, AYE; Zimmer, AYE. Motion passed 8-0.

Mayor Briggs stated that by accepting the recommendation, the next step would be for staff to draft a proposed bill for Councils review, which would include budget appropriations.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None**

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Norris thanked the Council for selecting her as Treasurer. Councilmember Norris requested updates on the census, Matthews Park, and the demolition underway on Old St. Charles Rock Road. Councilmember Norris wished the women on the Board a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Grimmer stated that a recommendation from the street graphics committee has been submitted to the Mayor and City Administrator.

Councilmember Abram wished the women on the Board a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Purcell expressed his disappointment regarding the seasonal pay motion that failed earlier in the meeting, but stated that he was pleased that the City would be offering additional pay. Councilmember Purcell wished the women on the Board a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Luke stated the social media committee would be meeting next month to review the policy updates. Councilmember Luke stated that the Special Events Commission was still looking for businesses interested in being involved in the Fourth of July parade. Councilmember Luke wished the women on the Board a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Zimmer thanked the Council for this election as President.

Councilmember Hein thanked everyone for reaching out to him regarding his mother's passing, and for those who were able to attend the services. Councilmember Hein stated that the Ward 3 meeting held the week prior was well attended, but they did receive a complaint regarding the opening times of the public restrooms at the City parks. Councilmember Hein requested an update on the new job openings with the City.

Councilmember Webb had nothing to report.

## **STAFF REPORT**

Brian Peterson, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that a building permit had not yet been submitted for the home on Old St. Charles Rock Road that was demolished earlier in the day.

Chief Hood stated that earlier in the week there was a shooting at the Red Roof Inn, and a suspect has been identified. Chief Hood reported that the Drug Takeback event was successful, with 320 pounds of drugs received. Chief Hood stated that the City has recently advertised for the positions of two full time officers, a full time dispatcher and a part time dispatcher. Chief Hood stated that two full time officers have resigned to take positions with other agencies.

Brendan Kane, Director of Parks & Recreation, stated that park maintenance was responsible for the opening and cleaning of the restrooms and they typically have them open no later than



8:30AM, or 7:30AM during the summer. Mr. Kane stated that the bid opening for Matthews Park took place earlier in the week, and the Department was pleased with the outcome. Mr. Kane added that a recommendation would be before the Council at the next meeting. Mr. Kane reported that the golf course continued to have record breaking months. Mr. Kane stated that the vaccinations at the Recreation Center will end on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Bookout, City Administrator, stated that there was an opening in the Finance Department due to a resignation.

#### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Briggs stated that due to delays the census data would not be prepared until September. Mayor Briggs reported that hotel/motel figures were lower than anticipated due to the continued decrease in business travel. Mayor Briggs stated that he attended a meeting earlier in the day with Michael Regan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and reported that studies and soil testing was underway, with excavations still planned for 2023.

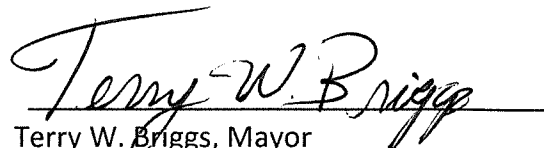
Mayor Briggs stated that a police appreciation event was being planned for June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Briggs stated that the Department of Revenue is in receipt of the necessary documents in order for the City to implement the use tax. Mayor Briggs reported that the funds received from the use tax is subject to the pool.

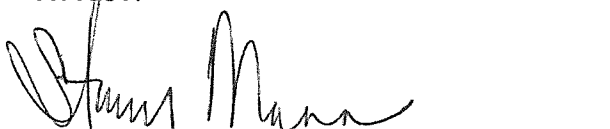
#### **CLOSED SESSION – None**

#### **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 8:48 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

  
Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Stacey Mann, City Clerk