

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGETON CITY HALL
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
MAY 6, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Terry W. Briggs on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. (Due to the Coronavirus-19, the meeting was held virtually.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

The Mayor noted a quorum present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Purcell, to table Item #4, Bill No. 6241, Authorizing an Agreement with J. M. Marschuetz Construction Company for 2020 Slab Replacement project and Item #5, Bill No. 6243, Authorizing 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 #8, Short-Term Rentals, from the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mr. Purcell, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

The first comment was from Mr. David Webb, 3827 Park Place Estates Drive, relative to tall grass. Bridgeton cites owners when the grass is 10" high. He has found out that St. Ann's limit is 9" and Maryland Heights is 8" when it becomes in violation. The City should consider lowering the violation limit.

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Ms. Nancy Haug, 11733 Parish Drive, thanked the Mayor and City Council for making a very difficult decision at the last Council meeting to ensure our City remains financially solvent. Votes like this are hard and it takes courage to make these decisions which are necessary in the best interest of everyone.

The furloughed employees are fortunate that they will retain their medical benefits as well as unemployment, and the \$600 per week from the CARES Act funds. We have wonderful employees and should continue to take care of them when it's financially possible.

There being no other comments to be read before Council, the Public Portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Council Meeting – April 15, 2020.

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mrs. Norris, for approval of the Minutes of April 15, 2020.

Mr. Zimmer requested that his statement at the bottom of the page four should read as follows:

“Mr. Zimmer stated he would vote for this on the condition that Council is provided a current status of the updated budget prior to each Council meeting – preferably placed in Council’s meeting packets.”

Mr. Saettele stated that also on page four, the fifth paragraph, the sentence which begins “Mr. Hein” should read:

“Councilman Hein asked (moved) if Council could vote on the trash pick-up separately from the other items. Mr. Saettele seconded the motion. Mayor Briggs stated he did not accept the motion. “

Mr. Saettele stated this should have been voted on. Mayor Briggs will discuss this with the City Attorney to get his comment.

Mr. Saettele requested that his two page memo dated April 7, 2020, sent to the Mayor and Council relative to suggested recommendations to cut the budget be attached to the Minutes.

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mr. Zimmer, for approval of the amended Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENT/SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

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Item 1 and Item 2

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

PERMITS, WAIVERS AND APPEAL REQUESTS

Item 3

SIGN VARIANCE–BIO-LIFE PLASMA SERVICES; 3715 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for approval of a pylon sign for Bio-Life located at 3715 N. Lindbergh.

The proposal is to modify the existing pylon sign by removing the upper sign cabinet and replacing it with a new cabinet (10.5' W by 8'H). The existing posts will be used in place.

The entire sign proposal includes one ground sign, two wall signs and one pylon sign. The ground sign and two wall signs meet City requirements, but the pylon sign will require a Council approved sign variance. Bio-Life will submit a required landscaping plan in the near future.

The Design and Review Board forwarded this application with a favorable recommendation to City Council with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BILLS

BILL 6244 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, (APPLICATION #20-PZ-01) GRANTING THE MAJOR RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, KNOWN AS "ARBOR GARDENS" TO SUBDIVIDE 6.96 ACRES INTO THIRTY (30) LOTS, ZONED PLANNED SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) LOCATED AT 3416 FEE FEE ROAD (A FINAL PLAT) PETITIONER: ELITE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, LLC

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mrs. Norris, for first reading of Bill 6244. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mrs. to table Bill 6244. Motion carried by voice vote.

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DIISCUSSION

Item 9

BUDGET STATUS

Mr. Zimmer stated he had requested that Council receive the budget status before each meeting. Discussion continued and some members stated they did not know how many employees were going to furloughed until they heard it on TV or saw it on Facebook.

Mr. Bookout stated that we will not get the sales taxes from April until the middle or end of June. It will be difficult for staff to provide numbers prior to each meeting.

Employees from three departments were furloughed. There were none from the Police Department as they are down four anyway – two are deployed, one resigned for another position outside of the City and one is on maternity leave.

Mayor Briggs stated for the first quarter we are at about 20%, tax revenue at about 28.6% and 53% with our licenses and fees.

Mr. Bookout said it was put in their boxes Tuesday afternoon. However, Mr. Zimmer said they should be done in time to be in their Council packets so they can have them prior to the meeting. Council does not come up to City Hall that often, other than to get their packets.

Item 10

REPUBLIC TRASH PICK-UP

Mr. Saettele referred to the vote at the last meeting requiring residents to pay for their own trash pick-up (not quite \$15 per month). This does not take effect until July so there is still time to change the decision. He said he does not think we can just dump this on the residents without a Hancock amendment to be voted on by the citizens.

Mr. Linenbroker stated the Hancock amendmeent relates to taxes and trash bills do not qualify in this case. The City Code requires residents dispose of their trash with trash haulers approved by the City of Bridgeton.

Some members of Council stated they had not received any negative feedback on the Council's action to have residents pay for their trash. It was stated it was a luxury that we have to forgo at this time.

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ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Linenbroker had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hein asked about the PowerPlex project and also the windshear towers. Mr. George Koessel, a resident of Ward 3 and former City Bboard/Commission member died this past week.

Mrs. Luke reminded everyone of the "Mayors for Meals" food drive this weekend. The food pantries are really in need so she hopes everyone contributes to it.

She also stated that becoming a member of Council she expected more communication among all of us. We need as much information as possible to have a conversation and make decisions.

Mr. Saettele stated he has been helping people in his neighborhood who are unable to do some things on their own. We all need to be taking care of each other at this time.

Mr. Zimmer apologized for raising his voice earlier, but the updates are a big deal for him.

Also, if possible, the Design and Review Board and Planning and Zoning Commission need to be on the website so residents can see what's going on and not just read the minutes.

Mr. Grimmer stated he thinks the sales numbers will be good for Wal-Mart and Branney; their parking lots are always full. He also noted that several cities have already cancelled their pools for the year.

Mr. Purcell appreciated hearing about helping our neighbors during this time.

St. Charles County is opening up several restaurants, but residents should be very cautious, as the numbers are still going up.

Mr. Purcell also asked if the next meeting would be virtual again.

He also talked about being careful about how you are seen on Facebook and always be courteous.

Mrs. Abram stated the food drive on Saturday will be going to the Community Helping Ministry.

Mrs. Abram also stated if any members of Council need to talk to staff, they can call or email them. Our residents understand the cutbacks and are willing to do it. Let's give them credit for their understanding.

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Mrs. Norris stated she would like to recommend that Council work together and stop criticizing administrative decisions. This is a difficult and emotional time. This pandemic information changes from day to day, and we have no rules to follow as we are making judgements that apply for our City. All of us want the best for Bridgeton's survival.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gunn explained the very detailed process they have to follow when they are citing someone for tall grass. We have to post a sign on the property, send a classified letter to the address, and they have to have pictures. If there is still a problem we will send a summons to the house and that usually gets their attention.

Mr. Kane stated the Plant-Give-Away will be June 13th at the pool. It will be mums and it will be the only plant give-away this year.

Imos recently delivered 35 meals to the Meals on Wheels participants in Bridgeton.

They do have a plan for when and if they decide to open the pool. That should be available next week.

Chief Hood reported that St. Louis County has 54% of all the corona virus cases.

He has been advised the SLAPCA Memorial Prayer Breakfast has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at the St. Charles Convention Center. Please contact the Chief or Clarann if you still want to go.

Mr. Bookout stated that PowerPlex will be coming to extend their deadline in January 2020. They should be back to Council in June.

As Council knows a request was made for wind shear towers, one on the north side of the runway and the other near Long and Ann Mar roads. We recommended other sites on the latter location, but they did not react favorable to our suggestions. We have told them we have a Special Use Permit process but we have not heard anything from them.

The food donated to Mayors for Meals will go to the St. Louis Food Bank. Officer Quinlisk and his sons have been helping to coordinate this.

There was to be an item on the April ballot from MSD but they have requested that whatever votes cast should not be counted. It will be put on the ballot for next April, 2021.

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Relative to the reopening of the Council Chambers, the Mayor said he will see what is announced on May 18th and then make a decision. We will have our next meeting on ZOOM and then possibly go back to the Council Chambers in June.

Regarding Facebook, there has been a threat against a member of Council. Mr. Linenbroker is going to work on a plan and it will be out to you when it is ready. Facebook can be very dangerous and should be used wisely.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mr. Zimmer, for adjournment. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carole A. Stahlhut, City Clerk