

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
BRIDGETON CITY HALL  
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Terry W. Briggs on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**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. Motion carried by voice vote.

**.PUBLIC PORTION**

There being no one who wished to address Council at this time, the Public Portion was closed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 15, 2020**

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mrs. Norris, for approval of the Minutes of July 15, 2020 Council meeting.

Mr. Saettele moved, second by Mr. Grimmer, that on page 7 under Council Communications, in lieu of the Council Rules subcommittee meeting at 5:30 on August 5<sup>th</sup> prior to the Council meeting, they will meet on August 19<sup>th</sup> prior to the Council meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

**APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SET  
PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
PAGE TWO**

Item 2

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Briggs nominated the following individuals to the respective commissions:

Thomas M. Richardson (New Appointment)    Ward 1                      Historical Commission

Brad Eader (Re-appointment)                      Ward 4                      Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for approval of the nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

Item 3

**PRESENTATION BY MIKE WILLIAMS FROM HOCHSCHILD, BLOOM & COMPANY – 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Mike Williams from Hochschild, Bloom & Company, auditors for the City of Bridgeton, gave a brief summary of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year that ended December 31, 2019. His report included a profile of the City Economic Conditions and Outlook, Major Initiatives, Long Term Financial Planning, Accounting System and Budgetary Control, and Independent Audit. He also reported the City of Bridgeton has received a Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Item 4

**RESOLUTION R-20-06 SUPPORTING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL PARKS GRANT FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF MATTHEWS PARK**

Mrs. Norris moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for approval of Resolution R-20-06.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
PAGE THREE**

**EMERGENCY LEGISLATION/CONTRACTS, BIDS, ETC.**

Item 5

**FULL LIQUOR & SUNDAY LICENSE (PACKAGE) – LOVE’S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORES, INC.; 13945 MISSOURI BOTTOM ROAD; JEFF GAMM, MANAGING OFFICER. FINAL CONSIDERATION**

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mrs. Luke, for final approval of the above liquor license.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None

**DISCUSSION**

Item 6

**O’CONNOR PARK**

Mr. Kane referred to a memo sent to Council the end of July relative to information as to why the Park Department is recommending the closure of O’Connor Park. It involves minimal park usage (pavilion rentals and ballfield rentals) and costs involving personnel and grounds and equipment maintenance. The Park Board recommended closing O’Connor Park with the option to reevaluate potential reopening after one year.

Members of Council were in favor of just closing the park permanently. Mr. Kane did state that in that year, they would still have to maintain it. Decommissioning the park was also discussed.

Mr. Kane said the City’s request for a grant for Matthews Park could be helped if O’Connor was closed or decommissioned and no longer in use. The difference between decommissioning and closing was discussed. Mr. Kane will be in touch with the Park Board to see the best route to go in order to enhance the City’s chances to receive a grant for Matthews Park.

The subjects of locked gates, the continued use of the video cameras at the park as a deterrent, and what the City can do with O’Connor if the park is closed were all discussed.

Mayor Briggs stated he had been contacted by an individual from the Missouri Prairie Project. They had received a large grant to work with MoDOT to plant natural prairie grasses at the

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 5, 2020**

**PAGE FOUR**

intersection of Highways 270 and 70, but MoDOT backed out. They are looking for another location where they can plant these natural grasses. Mayor Briggs stated he, Mr. Bookout and Mr. Kane will be talking to this group on Friday and will find out exactly what this project involves. Mr. Kane said a decision about O'Connor Park can wait until the next Council meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Abram moved, second by Mrs. Norris, to table this item. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Linenbroker had nothing to report at this time.

### **COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Zimmer reported that at the Design and Review Board meeting Leonardo DRS asked for a fence to go around the building.

He has also been getting questions about the businesses that are to be going into the K-Mart building. Are they still coming? Also is Freddy's still planning on building? Is there any news about Fort McKay property?

Mr. Zimmer also noted that 65% of the City Budget is for Personnel Services and the normal should be around 50%. Eight years ago we were at about 50-52% but in those eight years it has risen to 65% and this is something we should be concerned about. In addition to whatever budget cuts are made, unless a plan is implemented to reduce this number he will be voting "no" on the 2021 Budget.

Mrs. Norris said we need to remember the downward spiral stores are experiencing now; downsizing, bankruptcy, etc.

Mr. Saettele asked if all furloughed personnel were due back on August 3<sup>rd</sup>; did any decide not to return to work?

Mrs. Abram stated that we have a staff that is well qualified in economic development.

Mr. Purcell stated that 65% for personnel services is high; if we adopt LAGERS, it will be even higher. We have to find a way to bring in more revenue; or respectfully cut employees.

## **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**AUGUST 5, 2020**

**PAGE FIVE**

Mrs. Luke stated she found out recently while on Lindbergh that MoDOT has a street sweeper. Could they sweep part of our City? Some of the interchanges that are so cluttered, could MoDOT help with that?

Mr. Grimmer reported that at the next Council meeting there will be two public hearings. One is rezoning from R-1 to R-3 and that has brought up several issues. Also some people on Smiley were angry they had not received a notice. The City only contacts residents within 185 feet of the project. Perhaps we should look at posting signs.

The second public hearing involves amending sections of the Bridgeton Zoning Ordinance relative to short-term rental of residential dwellings.

Mr. Grimmer stated that the McBride development (Arbor Gardens) is really moving along.

Mr. Hein said that when revenues go down, it is time to cut personnel.

Mrs. Abram asked if she could make a comment about the residents on Smiley. Most of those who have a problem are actually from Maryland Heights. The project would be off of Onondaga Drive in Maryland Heights. This lot is so far back from Smiley, most of the Bridgeton residents would not be able to see the development.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kane reported the Recreation Center hours were extended last Monday and all the furloughed staff has returned.

Chief Hood reported his Administrative Aide, Clarann Ray, retired as of last Friday and we had a nice reception for her.

He stated the Police Department treats O'Connor Park like any other park in Bridgeton. If it is gated, they will still have to get in to ensure everything is all right.

He reported that an officer who had tested positive for COVID-19 was doing well.

Mr. Gunn stated Freddy's Restaurant is still coming in but are still getting stormwater easements from their neighboring property.

Mr. Bookout reported the three retail stores going into the old K-Mart building are still coming in but the progress is slow.

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 5, 2020**  
**PAGE SIX**

The developer for the Fort Mackay property backed out but another developer, Fischer & Frichtel is very interested.

Mayor Briggs reported all the furloughed employees returned to work this past Monday, and no one was denied their jobs.

Mayor Briggs stated he worked the polls on Tuesday and people still consider Bridgeton a very good community. The only request he heard was that at the beginning of the year, the City take over the trash cost for the residents.

The 2020 budget was passed by this Council and we have to live within our means. We are not a bad city. There are many much worse off than we are at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for adjournment. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Carole A. Stahlhut, City Clerk