

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
BRIDGETON CITY HALL
12355 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD
AUGUST 19, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

The regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Terry W. Briggs on Wednesday, August 19, 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 Mrs. Luke, 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-MID YEAR BUDGET SESSION – THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020; SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 5, 2020 (LAGERS) AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 5, 2020

Mr. Zimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for approval of the Minutes of the Mid-Year Budget Session – Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Special Council meeting on August 5, 2020, relative to Lagers, and the Regular Council meeting on August 5, 2020.

Mr. Saettele moved, second by Mr. Hein, to amend the Mid-Year Budget Session, Page 2 on July 23, 2020, the last paragraph should read “sometime after the August 2020” election and not the April 2021 election. Motion on the amendment carried by voice vote.

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Mr. Hein moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to amend the Minutes of the July 23 Mid-Year Budget Session by adding on page three prior to the adjournment the following:

“Councilman Hein asked that Administration in their cost saving measures not only include cutting certain expenses but that the list should include areas where personnel costs can be reduced.

He also offered to help Administration solicit new businesses and help the Parks Department obtain new memberships by personally calling on Bridgeton businesses. He offered to do this in his off-season at no cost to the City.”

Motion on the amendment carried by voice vote.

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 23, 2020 (Mid-Year Budget Meeting), as amended, August 5, 2020 (LAGERS) and August 5, 2020 Regular Council meeting was carried by voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Briggs made reference to a letter he laid on the table this evening about the announcement of the City Clerk that she will be retiring at the end of October.

Item 1

ANNOUNCEMENT IN EVENT OF ABSENCE

Mayor Briggs announced that all members of Council are present so an item introduced tonight could be acted on at the discretion of the Council.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED (Items No. 3 and 4 on the Agenda)

At this time the regular Council meeting recessed for the public hearings scheduled and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the rezoning at 3145 Smiley Road: Susan Nelson, Mary Schultz, Latisha Hull, Tammy Lippman, Sherry Schmidle.

Relative to short term rental, Mike Sondermann and Nancy Lupia spoke in opposition to an ordinance establishing rules for short-term rentals. Brian Witte spoke in favor of it.

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CONSIDERATION OF NEW BILLS

Item 3

BILL 6249 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, (APPLICATION #20-PZ-07) TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 2.252 ACRES OF LAND AT 3145 SMILEY ROAD (REAR) FROM “R-1” SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT TO “R-3” SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT TO ALLOW POTENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (AJM PROPERTIES, LLC)

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, for first reading of Bill 6249. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to table Bill 6249.

Item 4

BILL 6250 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, (APPLICATION #20-PZ-06) AMENDING CHAPTER 410 OF THE BRIDGETON CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 410.030 “RULES AND DEFINITIONS”, SECTION 410.050 “GENERAL PROVISIONS”, AND SECTION 410.120 “RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS” TO ALLOW SHORT-TERM RENTALS (CITY OF BRIDGETON)

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Purcell, for first consideration of Bill 6250. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mr. Grimmer moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to table Bill 6250. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION

O’CONNOR PARK

Mrs. Norris stated this park is really isolated and used only rarely. She stated there is nothing around this park – no housing or businesses. It’s time to move on with the property. If we want to move the name to another park that would be okay. But we need to close this location.

Mr. Kane said he spoke to the Municipal Grant Commission and they said we need to decommission the park. This is a more firm action than just closing it and then re-evaluating it.

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Mr. Grimmer stated Bridgeton has 11 parks and this is the most in the County per capita. O'Connor Park has become a liability for the City and he is favor of finding another use for the property.

Mr. Purcell stated he is opposed to decommissioning the park. There are some people who use the park. This would be a permanent closure of one of the parks for the City and it will still cost man-hours to maintain it. Also, how much will it cost to take down all the equipment, etc. in the park?

Mr. Zimmer and Mrs. Abram spoke in favor decommissioning the park. Can we salvage anything in the park?

Mayor Briggs stated he and Mr. Kane talked to someone from the Missouri Prairie Project who had expressed interest in using it to plant natural prairie grasses; however, they would want to use it for educational seminars and following our discussion they did not seem optimistic about using this location. However, they are looking at other Bridgeton sites.

Following further discussion, Mrs. Norris moved, second by Mr. Saettele, to decommission O'Connor Park, effective immediately, August 19, 2020, and included in this action would be shutting off and safely capping utilities, demolishing, removing and/or salvaging buildings, bathroom fixtures, playground equipment, ball field back stops, pavilion, tennis courts and signage, and provide any necessary maintenance after the closure of the park.

Mr. Purcell asked if we would be voting without knowing the cost involved. Mr. Kane indicated some of the work will be done by personnel.

A Roll Call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote on decommissioning O'Connor Park:

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

NAYS: Purcell

Motion to decommission O'Connor Park was approved.

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LAGERS FOLLOW UP

Mr. Bookout gave a brief summary of the Lagers presentation last week. It was brought up about allowing employees hired earlier than 2012 to become a part of the plan also. Right now the discussion is only on having employees hired after January 1, 2012 participate in the Lagers program. We are working on these plans as two different projects.

Mayor Briggs stated that the employees are the backbone of our City and we need to take care of them, but right now we have to very careful with finances. He assured the employees that we will continue to work on this and will get something done for them. It will be discussed at the budget meetings in the fall.

PRESENTATION RELATED TO PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGE

Mr. Bookout gave a presentation on the City's Budget Analysis, which examined personnel and non-personnel expenses from 2012-2020,

He provided amounts taken from the general fund reserve, the target pension contribution and the payment to the pension fund actually made for each of those years. He also gave the amounts and percentages spent for non-personnel and personnel over that time period. Copies of the report were provided to each member of Council. (A copy of the presentation is part of these minutes)

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Linenbroker had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Saettele reported they had their first subcommittee meeting prior to the Council meeting tonight on Council Rules.

He said Steak and Shake is doing really well since it opened. Cars are usually lined up around the building.

Mr. Grimmer reported that at the Planning and Zoning meeting the developer for Fort Mackay reported they will be building homes a little upscale from the McBride development and want to build on 30 lots in lieu of the 24 originally planned.

Mr. Hein asked if they could share with their constituents' news about new businesses coming in to the City.

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Councilmember Hein asked about talking to councilmen from Maryland Heights about the development proposed on Smiley.

Mrs. Luke said the outdoor pool has been great this year.

Mrs. Abram said she is in favor of the rezoning on Smiley Road.

Mrs. Norris reported that Home Depot, Walmart and Target are all reporting good numbers recently.

She thanked Council for the decision on “O’Connor Park. As mentioned by Mr. Kane some work will be done by in-house personnel.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Kane reported new restrictions have been handed down by the St. Louis County Health Department and they have had to close some events that had been scheduled. As far as O’Connor Park is concerned, they are planning to close the gate and lock it, and put up signs in addition to taking down the playground equipment.

Chief Hood reported two incidents where vehicles had been entered (one was stolen) that were left unlocked. Please remind everyone about keeping your vehicles locked and valuables out of sight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hein moved, second by Mrs. Luke, for adjournment. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Terry W. Briggs, Mayo

ATTEST:

Carole A. Stahlhut, City Clerk