



City Council Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2020
7:15 p.m.

Mayor: John McTaggart (not present)
Councilmember Chuck Adams Carolyn Caiharr Garrett Mellott
Margaret Shriver Chuck Stites

This meeting was held virtually using the GoToMeeting online and call-in software. Residents were provided instructions on how to participate in the meeting. Additionally, Mayor McTaggart noted that, in order for those taking part in the meeting, the executive session would be moved to the end of the meeting, after comments from the City Council and City staff.

1. Approve minutes of April 14, 2020

- **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2020 with a clarification to her comments noted on page 3.
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

2. Statement of Bills paid \$152,119.85

- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve the statement of bills paid in the amount of \$152,119.85
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-0

3. Requests or Comments from the public

Note: No public comments were taken at the Council meeting. However, staff solicited comments from residents online. These comments were read verbatim at the Council meeting and are provided below in their entirety for the record.

- Connie Henry of 1123, S. 102nd Terrace: As a resident of Edwardsville, I am greatly concerned at the lack of work being completed in the Edwardsville cemetery. I understand that the PW director position and the additional PW worker position have not been filled. I understand that the coronavirus has made it difficult to conduct meetings. What I don't understand is why work has not been completed in the cemetery: it is easy to practice social distancing in the open air. Why aren't the leaves removed? Why hasn't the brush pile been burned? Why haven't the ornamental grasses been cut down? Why haven't the peonies been raked and weeded? Why hasn't the broken trucking system on the flag pole been repaired? These are not beautification issues--these are tasks which lie within the scope of the public works staff's responsibilities. I request a full explanation detailing the reasons why nothing is happening in the cemetery.
- Thurman Gardner: To our Mayor, City Council and those serving with you, I just want to say a simple thank you for your steadfast work during this challenging time. You have managed to keep the wheels on the bus moving forward despite the orders to shelter-in-place. Thank you for your creative leadership and thank you for executing your duties with grace and class. You represent our community very well.
- Following the comments from the public, City Manager Michael Webb provided additional information about the recent maintenance being done at the Cemetery. Both the Public Works and Fire Departments have been on the site and Public

Works continues to provide regular maintenance. He noted that some of the items brought up in Ms. Henry's comments have already been addressed and that staff will work to complete all necessary work in the Cemetery prior to Memorial Day.

4. Discussion of the MARC Call for Projects for the Federal Fiscal Years 2023-2024

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed the call for projects issued by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for the fiscal years 2023-2024.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the project submittal and review timeline, as it has changed from previous years.
- Mr. Webb then provided a summary of the proposed project along Blake St., which involves the development of a trail/sidewalk from the Towne Center project site to the City Park. This would provide greater connectivity with the existing trail project. There may also be a possibility for a bike lane along Blake St.
- Roughly a third of the total project cost would be the responsibility of the City were this project accepted.
- Councilmember Adams voiced his support for the proposed project as it is a concept that the City has been discussing for a number of years.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked if 94th St. and 98th St. improvements would qualify for the MARC projects. Mr. Webb responded that there is money included in the recent bonded project for engineering of 98th St. and that this project could be submitted at the same time.
- No action was taken as a result of this presentation.

5. Advisory Reports

City Manager: City Manager Michael Webb provided an update on City activity in response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis. He also summarized the upcoming court dates scheduled to tackle the backlog of cases due to March and April cancellations. He closed by updating the group on the property acquisition process that is ongoing and the search for the Public Works Director

Chiefs: Police Chief Mark Mathies thanked the Fire Department for their deep disinfection efforts in City vehicles and facilities. He noted that there are upticks in aggressive driving and domestic cases.

Fire Chief Whitham: Updated the Council on the department's newest paramedic and the department's efforts to assist with cemetery maintenance. He closed with providing data related to call volume to assist Bonner Springs

6. City Council and Mayor Comments

Shriver: Councilmember Shriver stressed that the cemetery needs to remain a top priority for maintenance, though she recognizes the challenges due to the public health situation. She closed by thanking the Fire Department for their decontamination efforts.

Mellott: Councilmember Mellott provided some notes on the Cemetery maintenance and that he would share concerns with staff. He also stated that he hopes people are patient while the new board develops and implements policies. He also added that he agreed that 98th and 94th streets should be considered for street repair in the new future. He asked public safety about Edwardsville's exposure to the COVID-19 situation. Deputy Fire Chief responded that while staff remains prepared and the situation is under control, Edwardsville has not been hit at a high level and resources are not strained as of this date.

Caiharr: Councilmember Caiharr asked that the burn pile and leaf accumulation be taken care of at the Cemetery prior to Memorial Day. She asked if there would be a City Wide Clean Up, which Mr. Daniel noted that by request of Waste Management that event has been pushed later into the summer. A date will be finalized for mid-summer. Councilmember Caiharr closed by voicing her displeasure that Edwardsville is not represented in the ReStart WyCo taskforce. She noted that she voiced this concern with KCK Mayor Alvey.

Adams: Councilmember Adams praised the teamwork the City has demonstrated to keep business running as usual in light of the public health situation. He also praised the community as a whole during the crisis.

Stites: Councilmember Stites thanked the citizens who joined in the meeting both online and via call-ins. He encouraged them to continue to have a presence when normal meetings resume.

7. Consider a motion to recess into Executive Session in accordance with 4319(b)(2) for consultation with the City Attorney which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship related to the Village South at Edwardsville project.

- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to enter into executive session with the regular meeting to resume at 8:40 p.m.
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- **Council exits to conduct the executive session and returns at the time noted**
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to return to regular meeting.
- **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0
- No action was taken as a result of the executive session and Mayor McTaggart closed the meeting shortly thereafter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Zachary Daniel
City Clerk