



City Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Mayor: John McTaggart
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.

1. Approve minutes of April 27, 2020

- **Motion:** Councilmember Stites made the motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2020
- **Second:** Councilmember Caiharr seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 4-0 (note: Councilmember Adams arrived late to the meeting and was not present for this vote)

2. Statement of Bills paid \$132,150.14

- **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott 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 (note: Councilmember Adams arrived late to the meeting and was not present for this vote)

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: I watched the video of the April 27 council meeting and read the minutes with great interest. I would like to add a note of clarification regarding the cemetery: the fire department did not burn the brush pile in the cemetery until Saturday, May 2, after I raised concerns about the condition of the cemetery. Since that meeting, I have seen Mike with PW working to clean up the planters and start the annual pruning and trimming—good job, Mike. I would also like to thank Gus and Samantha from the fire department for burning the brush pile and picking up limbs that the mowers left piled up. I would like to hear from Mr. Webb regarding the research he has conducted concerning leaf removal in the cemetery. The ditch running along the east fence line has three years' worth of leaves piled up from the pavilion to the south fence. When will those leaves be removed? This matter needs to be addressed promptly. I know that the CPPS board will meet this week, but it is the city's responsibility to see that the necessary work is completed in a timely manner.
- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that some of the items Ms. Henry brought up have been addressed and that staff will continue to work to get the site prepared in time for Memorial Day.

4. Consider recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission regarding a Special Use Permit for excavation and material extraction at 9920 Kaw Dr. and adopting Resolution 2020-03 finalizing the same

- City Planner Dave Knopick reviewed this item and summarized the public hearing that took place at the April 15, 2020
- The site is currently used for excavation purposes and the application would extend the existing special use permit for that activity. Mr. Knopick reviewed the conditions associated with the approval recommendation. There were no protest petitions associated with this recommendation.
- To approve the special use permit, Council would adopt Resolution 2020-03 finalizing the same.
- Councilmember Adams asked for the background on the site, specifically about previous structures and current excavation activity. Mr. Knopick provided that information, noting that the building was removed a number of years ago and that the group is anticipating closing out this site by year's end.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked about signage. City Manager Michael Webb noted there are temporary signs in place when excavation services are taking place.
- There was discussion about the incidents of mud on the highway after heavy rains in the summer of 2019 and the actions to remedy that situation.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve the SUP with the stated conditions as well as Resolution 2020-03 finalizing the same
- **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 6-0 with the Mayor voting

5. Consider recommendation of approval from the Planning Commission regarding a Special Use Permit for drinking establishment/microbrewery purposes with an outdoor seating area at 10953 Kaw Dr. and adopting Resolution 2020-04 finalizing the same

- City Planner Dave Knopick reviewed this item as well, summarizing the recent Planning Commission public hearing and noting there were no protest petitions filed
- The applicant wishes to renew a previously approved Special Use Permit for a drinking establishment/microbrewery at their Kaw Dr. location. The renewal is also an expansion of the previous SUP, granting the owners more flexibility as it relates to hours of operation. These are included in the conditions of approval.
- Councilmember Shriver asked if there were any parking challenges associated with the application. Mr. Knopick noted that there have been no issues with parking over the last year
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve the SUP with the stated conditions as well as Resolution 2020-04 finalizing the same
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 6-0 with the Mayor voting.
- Mr. Knopick also noted there have been recent inquiries regarding use of outdoor space that staff will be reviewing soon.

6. Consider submittals Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects for the federal fiscal years 2023-2024

- City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, noting it was in response to comments from previous meeting related to STP projects, specifically the inclusion of 98th St. improvements.
- Mr. Webb provided background information the previously submitted project and its scoring history at STP but also noted that the City can submit multiple projects if the City Council so requests. Scoring considerations would need to be reviewed, especially considering the recent STP project the City was awarded.

- After some additional discussion, Council came to the consensus that submitting 98th St. for project consideration was appropriate.
- There was no Council action required at this time and the City Manager indicated he will move forward with an STP application related to 98th St.

7. Hear a presentation regarding the Quarter 1 Budget Review for 2020

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed this item beginning with an unaudited review of the 2019 financials. In short, the City performed within 1% of budgeted revenues and 1.2% in budgeted expenditures when you compare end-of-year actual figures and the original budget.
- Mr. Daniel provided a revenue summary for major areas in the General Fund, noting that in most cases revenues are performing higher than the previous 4-year average and are exceeded expectations for this period of the year.
- Mr. Daniel noted that sales tax revenue and gaming revenue both are distributed to communities on a two-month lag, meaning the most recent distributions are actually from sales that took place earlier in the year and late last year.
- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, many stores and businesses have shut down temporarily or altered their procedures. Mr. Daniel noted that the city would start seeing the effects of the various stay-at-home orders with its May distribution, showing March figures. Mr. Daniel emphasized that it still early in the year and thus hard to gauge the overall effects the public health orders will have on some revenue streams (especially considering Edwardsville's unique commercial makeup), but that staff was preparing for a possible 5-7% reduction of overall budgeted revenues. The current model predicts a significant slump in revenue in the early parts of the summer prior to slowly beginning to recover later in the year.
- Mr. Daniel then reviewed General Fund expenditures, which are currently performing on par with previous years at this point in the calendar.
- Mr. Daniel closed by reviewing the other funds, noting that at this point all of them are performing generally as expected.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked what the impacts were to the budget being that two approved positions (Public Works Director and Parks & Rec Groundskeeper) have not been filled. Mr. Daniel noted that the budget assumes these positions are being funded for an entire year (including a certain amount of health benefit costs) so the fact that they have been vacant for the first five months will help offset losses in revenue.
- Mr. Webb reviewed some of the structural advantages Edwardsville had over other communities who may be more reliant on sales taxes in their General Fund.
- Councilmember Shriver asked about the possibility for the City-Wide Clean Up, which Mr. Daniel noted that it would likely take place later in the summer.
- There was no action taken as a result of this presentation.

8. Advisory Reports

City Manager: City Manager Michael Webb provided some additional information about expected revenue areas. He also noted the audit report would be presented at a future meeting. He also confirmed the hiring of Dustin Zenger as the new Public Works Director.

Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel thanked all the departments for their role in relocating the court to the Community Center.

Chiefs: Police Chief Mark Mathies noted that all staff is currently healthy and safe and he provided information on a recent arrest.

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

9. City Council and Mayor Comments

Adams: Councilmember asked about an Edwardsville pop-up COVID testing site, which Mr. Webb responded that he anticipated an Edwardsville site to be announced soon. He also asked when we would be going out for bid for trash/recycling services. Councilmember Adams also voiced his concerns regarding the makeup of the ReStart Wyco plan, specifically the lack of representation from Edwardsville and other communities in the western part of the state. Councilmember Adams was clear in his dissatisfaction with Wyandotte County's committee process to date as well as the apparent lack of transparency in their processes. Mayor McTaggart stated his opinion that it may be too late to raise these concerns at this time. Councilmember Adams also expressed his concern with the lack of data and hard dates associated with the current version of the ReStart WyCo plan. The City Manager and Mayor committed to sending the County a letter expressing these concerns, addressed to Mayor Alvey as well as the larger Unified Government Board of Commissioners.

Caiharr: Councilmember Caiharr echoed Councilmember Adams frustrations regarding the ReStart Wyco process. She also called for a special meeting to take place on May 18 to review the City's response to the ongoing COVID-19 issue, and asks if there were some kind of document that could be drafted establishing the City's autonomy when it comes to public health decisions as it relates to the economic reopening of the community. Mr. Webb provided some information on the process to call for a special meeting. Mayor McTaggart voiced some concerns regarding the potential liability the City would enter into but staff noted they would look into the possibility of a special meeting to discuss these concerns. Councilmember Caiharr also asked for an update on the cemetery maintenance, which staff noted that the leaves would be taken care of prior to the end of the week along with other issues that were brought up previously. There was additional discussion on the need for long-term policies related to maintenance of the cemetery.

Mellott: Councilmember Mellott asked about local COVID-19 questions, which Mr. Webb responded to, noting that there would be no direct cost to the City but that we have committed to helping with the logistics in setting up local sites.

Shriver: Councilmember Shriver asked about EPD staffing and Chief Mathies confirmed that the EPD is currently recruiting for a position due to a recent departure. She also thanked staff and community members for working to keep the residents informed on the ongoing situation. She also expressed concerns with the lack of communication on the part of Wyandotte County.

Stites: Councilmember Stites voiced his support for a digital signboard announcing testing sites. He also voiced his complaints about the historical lack of representation from the County as it relates to the City of Edwardsville. He closed by echoing earlier commitments to continue to maintain the Cemetery at an appropriate level.

Mayor McTaggart: Mayor McTaggart provided some background on the previous interactions with the County as it relates to the ReStart WyCo committee formations. He noted he has not stated his displeasure publicly, but that he is disappointed. That said, he claimed it may be too late to pursue these options but that he will voice the concerns

voiced earlier by the City Council. He also noted that he and the City Manager and City Attorney would be crafting a statement to that effect. Councilmember Stites asked about the format of the correspondence, which the Mayor noted that he would review available and appropriate options with City staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Zachary Daniel

City Clerk