



City Council Meeting

Regular Session Minutes
July 13, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Liberty, Missouri was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on July 13, 2020 with Mayor Lyndell Brenton presiding. Mayor Brenton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Council Member Jenness, who then led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Harold Phillips and Paul Jenness, Ward I
Greg Duncan, Ward II
Kevin Graham and Jeff Watt, Ward III
Michael Hagan, Ward IV

Council Members Absent: Rae Moore, Ward II
Gene Gentrup, Ward IV

Staff Present: Curt Wenson, City Administrator (via conference call)
Dan Estes, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director
Vicki McClure, Assistant Finance Director
Shawna Funderburk, Asst. to the City Administrator
Andy Noll, Utilities Director
James Simpson, Police Chief
Karan Johnson, Economic & Business Dev. Manager
Katherine Sharp, Planning Director
Sara Cooke, Assistant City Administrator/Communications
Janet Pittman, Deputy City Clerk

Public Present: 12 members of the public

IV. APPROVE MINUTES AND SUMMARIES

V. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

Katherine Moes, 448 E. Mississippi St., advised that a petition has been circulated to have the confederate monument removed from Fairview Cemetery and moved somewhere out of the public eye. She noted that the monument was erected 40 years after the war, honoring confederate soldiers (thereby supporting the confederate movement and what it stood for). The confederate monument brought fear to the nigros and their allies. The community is waking up at this moment and asking to remove the statue.

Jerilyn Whitsitt, 116 W. Franklin St., stated that the time is now to remove the confederate monument. It is a symbol of hate, meant to intimidate and bully black citizens of our community. There is absolutely no reason to keep this painful memory standing.

VI. MEETING SCHEDULE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director of the City of Liberty, Missouri to Sign Necessary Documents on behalf of the City of Liberty related to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Stormwater Grant for the Shoal Creek Storm Drainage Improvements Project

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Hagan, Graham, Watt, and Duncan

No: None

Abstain: None

Inscribed in Resolution No. 3121.

Boards and Commissions Appointments

1. Tax Increment Financing Commission
 - A. Appoint Kent Peterson to a term expiring October 31, 2023
2. Planning and Zoning Commission
 - A. Appoint Donald Summers to a term expiring January 1, 2024
3. Liberty Arts Commission
 - A. Appoint Garrett Brown to a term expiring 5/15/2024
4. Liberty Parks and Recreation Board
 - A. Appoint Anisa Wolfe to a term expiring 6/1/2022
5. Tree Board
 - A. Appoint Karen Roth Ridder to a term expiring 12/15/2022
6. Cemetery Committee
 - A. Appoint Michelle Harmon Cook to a term expiring 9/1/2021
 - B. Appoint Shelton Ponder to a term expiring 9/1/2021
 - C. Appoint Mary Cravens to a term expiring 9/1/2021
 - D. Appoint Landon Whitsitt to a term expiring 9/1/2022
 - E. Appoint Gieselle Fest to a term expiring 9/1/2022
7. Liberty Municipal Redevelopment Corp.
 - A. Appointment of Jerry White (no defined term)

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the appointments. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Resolution of the City of Liberty, Missouri, stating Intent to Seek Funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program and Authorizing the Mayor to Pursue Activities in an Attempt to Secure Funding

The CDBG application is for a Workforce Initiative Grant as a category of CDBG. If approved, funds will be used for components of work force training, mainly site improvements that will be needed in order for the KC Tech Academy training facility to be built. The Training Facility will be located on the City owned land in Heartland Meadows. It will take up approximately 4.3 acres at the south east corner of Heartland Drive and Shepherd Road.

The Planning Commission and City Council has previously approved a Final Development Plan and Plat for the property.

Several sources of funds will be used: this CDBG application, in-kind funds in the form of donation of land and some sewer work, additional funding from the state as part of Missouri One program, and proceeds from a land sale to OPUS as part of the development.

The application includes several forms and requires input on various topics. A public hearing is necessary to gain input from the public and City Council on the needs and opinions of City-wide public facilities.

Mayor Brenton opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak either in favor or in opposition of the resolution.

Lisa Danbury, the City's grant administrator from Mid-America Regional Council, provided an overview of the project and the environmental review process.

Project Description: The proposed project will construct supportive infrastructure for a new workforce training facility to be operated by Kansas City (KC) Tech Academy. A 17,380 sq. ft. building will be constructed at 3100 W Heartland Drive to provide flexible and customized high-tech workforce training to high school students and adults for careers in the manufacturing sector. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$3.16 million. The request for CDBG funds is \$500,000 with the city providing cash and in-kind match for the supportive infrastructure along with other grant funds of \$250,000 from Missouri One Start for the workforce training and private funds from Kansas City Tech Academy of \$1.5 million for construction of the building.

Timeline: The environmental review process is expected to take approximately three months. Construction of the project and supportive infrastructure will begin thereafter. The workforce training must meet its target of 51% trainees of low to moderate income. Completion of the project is approximately three years; however, the project can close once the required LMI threshold is met.

Identify all anticipated environmental impacts project activities could have on natural, human, and manmade environments: The project is undergoing a NEPA review and it has been determined that the project activities are not anticipated to have an adverse impact on Historic Properties; Floodplain management, Flood Insurance, Wetlands Protection, Airport Hazards, Endangered species, Wild & Scenic

Rivers, Farmland Protection, Noise Control, Explosive /Flammable Operations, Water Quality, Air Quality, Contamination/Toxic Materials, Coastal Zones, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Lead, Asbestos, and Radon.

The project anticipates potentially beneficial impacts regarding Environmental Justice, Land Development, Community Facilities & Services and Storm Water Drainage.

All required permitting: The project will require compliance with local regulations and building codes and state and federal permitting. A DNR construction permit will be required.

All mitigation, project modification, and conditions for approval anticipated during the project: N/A, the project will incorporate appropriate business practices as needed to comply with local city ordinances and requirements and environmental regulations. The project is not located in the 100-year floodplain. No wetlands are expected to be impacted by this project.

General overview of CDBG environmental review procedures: As part of the environmental review process, agencies and Indian Tribes will be invited to comment. Any conditions for approval identified, including conditions related to fill or borrow material, cultural materials encountered during project activities, and radon testing after the building is complete will need to be addressed.

Needs Assessment: A needs assessment was conducted with an opportunity for those present to assist in the determination of needs.

Public Works Infrastructure

- Water system, sanitary sewer system, streets, and bridges – Good
- Storm sewer/drainage – Fair

Public Services

- Fire, police, code enforcement, health care, emergency services and parking – Good

Community Facilities

- Community Center, senior citizen center, sheltered workshop, hospital, infant/daycare, and crime prevention program – Good
- Mental health counseling services and drug abuse prevention/rehabilitation – Fair
- Teen/Youth Center – Doesn't exist

Housing

- Residential rehabilitation, single family housing, affordable rental housing, energy efficiency improvements, and senior housing – Good
- Disabled housing – Fair
- Lead-based paint test/abatement and homeownership assistant – Doesn't exist.

Education

- Preschools, public schools, community colleges, universities, continuing education, and cooperative school-business partnerships – Good
- Vocational schools and employer-based skills training – Fair
- Entrepreneurship training – Poor

Economic Development

- Job creation and other economic development needs – Good
- Start-up business assistance and employment training – Fair

City Council's top five priority needs in this assessment are:

1. Job creation
2. Employment training
3. Entrepreneurship training
4. Infrastructure (sidewalks/streets/storm)
5. Start-up business assistance

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the resolution. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-0
Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Hagan, Graham, Watt, and Duncan
No: None
Abstain: None
Inscribed in Resolution No. 3124.

IX. ORDINANCES, CONTRACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Ordinance acknowledging vendor payments for the period of June 12 to July 2, 2020

Mayor Pro Tem Hagan took over as Chair of the meeting.

Document No. 9069 was read.

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the vendor payments. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-0
Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Hagan, Graham, Watt, and Duncan
No: None
Abstain: None
Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11267.

Mayor Brenton resumed as chair of the meeting.

- B. Ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Liberty, Missouri and the New Liberty Hospital District for a Disbursement of Cares Act Coronavirus Relief Funds from the City of Liberty, Missouri Cares Act Funds to the New Liberty Hospital District for the Liberty Hospital Coronavirus Mitigation Project in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00

Liberty Hospital is requesting funds to convert a current area that houses positive COVID-19 patients into a self-contained unit and upgrade the monitoring and alarm system across all hospital isolation rooms. Individuals with confirmed and suspected cases of COVID-19 are best cared for in isolation rooms with an air supply that bypasses the main HVAC system to ensure infected air is vented externally. A dedicated area would minimize potential exposure to the virus, streamline the delivery of care, and conserve personal protective equipment.

Document No. 9070 was read.

Action: Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Hagan seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Hagan, Graham, Watt, and Duncan

No: None

Abstain: None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11268.

- C. Ordinance amending Chapter 20, "Motor Vehicles And Traffic ", and Chapter 14, "Fire Protection", of the Code of the City of Liberty, Clay County, Missouri

This action would remove the ten day provision to pay parking tickets. Parking tickets would then include a Court date, as well as the ability to be paid online. Language pertaining to the Violations Bureau and associated Uniform Fee Schedule, in conjunction with State regulations, is added. This ordinance would also make a correction to the distance required when parking near a fire hydrant to be consistent throughout the Code.

Document No. 9071 was read.

Action: Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Graham seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Council Member Graham moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Hagan seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Jenness, Hagan, Graham, Watt, and Duncan

No: None

Abstain: None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11269.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

XI. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

XII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

Deputy City Clerk