

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd.
University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, March 25, 2019
6:30 p.m.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held on the fifth floor of City Hall, on Monday, March 25, 2019, Mayor Pro Tem Paulette Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Carr announced that both Mayor Crow and Councilmember Hales have been excused from tonight's meeting.

B. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor Pro Tem, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales; (*Excused*)
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose, City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Mike Williams of Hochschild, Bloom & Company.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Rose requested that the Parking Study; Item J-3 be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under the City's Manager's Report as K-2.

Councilmember Cusick moved to approve the agenda as amended, it was seconded by Mr. Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 11, 2019, Regular Session minutes were moved by Councilmember Clay, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.
2. March 11, 2019, Joint Study Session minutes – Loop Special Business District, were moved by Councilmember Clay, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1. Susan Schmalz was sworn into the Park Commission on March 18th in the Clerk's office.
2. Kathy Straatmann was sworn into the Senior Commission at tonight's meeting.

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed)

Gabe Angieri, 8633 Mayflower Court, University City, MO

Mr. Angieri stated two years ago he was approached by NOVUS about a potential buy-out, and at that time there were seventeen well-maintained and occupied homes on his street.

A year ago, after discussions with former Councilman Rod Jennings, he and his neighbors decided to finalize their contracts with NOVUS. Mr. Jennings informed them that the project had the full support of Council and that it would be great for the City's future. He said if this development did not go forward, one could only guess what the next proposal might look like for residents in the 3rd Ward. Mr. Angieri stated his neighborhood has been in limbo for a year waiting on the outcome of this process. And while this is still a nice neighborhood, five homes now sit vacant, and it is at risk of collapsing if Council continues to delay this project.

The City's gross negligence in pushing forward with a project that had an eight-figure error has negatively impacted many residents who are ready to move on with their lives and would have benefitted from this redevelopment. And in his opinion, it's absolutely inconceivable that no one from the City has been held accountable for overlooking the massive miscalculations on the part of PGAV. NOVUS has assured him that they are still interested in the project and anxious to move forward, but at this point, they only have three weeks before their contracts expire. So he would like to know what the City is going to do to expedite this process.

Sonya Pointer, 8039 Canton Avenue, University City, MO

Ms. Pointer; a 3rd Ward resident, expressed her opposition to the Olive/I-170 Project and requested that Council vote to stop this process and start from scratch to do it the right way. The way all of you would have proceeded if this development had been in your ward. Council should have first, asked its residents for their input, and then tried to develop a plan around those objectives. Because this is not just about the loss of homes by people who did not sign the contract or the people who have elected to sell their homes, this is about the people in the 3rd Ward who will be left behind.

Ms. Pointer stated it is extremely hypocritical that the City has called out Better Together for their failure to devise a plan that does not engage or benefit City and County residents, and MSD for their plan to build raw sewage tanks in the 3rd Ward, when it has done the exact same thing in its community that you are accusing them of doing. I feel sorry for the people who are in limbo but they have to understand this isn't just about them; this is about the City as a whole.

Leif Johnson, 836 Barkley Square, University City, MO

Mr. Johnson stated there was a very interesting speaker tonight at Council's Study Session, and he asked him why do we now have to have this regional government? For example, at the end of World War II, Chicago produced just about every industrial chemical and manufactured goods. And as the speaker said, there were over 100 municipalities in Chicago at the time and that did not seem to inhibit the growth of Chicago; which actually grew unbelievably fast. And that has been true all over the country; they have the nucleus; the city, and surrounding municipalities. The question of economic development is the fact that there were industries springing up all over the place and states were becoming richer and richer without any concerns about having a metropolitan government.

Mr. Johnson stated in his opinion, the only ones that will gain an advantage in this merger will be Rex Sinuefield and his associates. A very strong centralized government would be the perfect instrument for rescuing the City of St. Louis and issuing bonds for amusement parks, convention centers, stadiums, and things that have always had to have an attached revenue stream. This is a financial scheme. And he's afraid that if the Freeholders' Plan goes through it's going to be the same financial scheme because it will involve the same people who are determined to achieve the merger; the Mayor of St. Louis and the County Executive. So the only way we can stop this is by not diverting our efforts on anything else but Rex Sinuefield.

Jerrald Tiers, 7345 Chamberlain, University City, MO

Mr. Tiers stated it appears as though there has been no further activity with regards to the Olive/I-1-70 development that was so highly touted by Council. There has been nothing new posted on the website since January. There have been no new announcements of progress; aside from some references to the nineteen changes the developer made to the Development Agreement, also in January, and prior to the mistake being discovered. So as the clock starts running out, this project seems headed towards failure by default.

But residents need to know whether this plan is still active. And if not, why? They have received little to no information on this very important issue. And the developer's unusual stance of speaking out about this publicly at the last Council meeting, rather than in negotiations, would seem to indicate that even he has been left out of the loop. Maybe this is exactly why we needed a CBA.

Statements made by the Mayor seem to be preparing us for an announcement that Council could not agree on a development plan that was good for U City. When the truth seems to be that the developer is good to go; the TIF is sound, and Costco thinks this location is perfect and that it can work for U City. Having them here will not only benefit the City's revenue stream, but it will also increase local hiring, provide better sources of income, and encourage further development along Delmar and I/1-70. So, the sticking point appears to be last year's tax mistake and some overpromising of monies for the 3rd Ward. But even if the money is less than originally anticipated, U City and the 3rd Ward will still get benefits from this development. And given Costco's financials, this should be their most profitable store in the area. On an average yearly basis, they have \$164 million dollars in transactions per store. They are also the store most likely to weather the "*death of brick and mortar store*" storm created by Amazon. And it is also his understanding that this will be the last store they are going to build in St. Louis.

Mr. Tiers stated this community believes they have elected smart, educated leaders to solve this sort of problem. And now is the time for this Council to provide innovative leadership and make this development happen with maximum benefits. This is your big chance to shine, don't let the clock run out.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Zoning Code Text Amendment to Article VII - Off-street Parking and Loading Requirements

Mayor Pro Tem Carr opened the Public Hearing at 6:51 p.m., and hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m.

J. CONSENT AGENDA – Vote Required

1. Capital Improvement Program Amendment – Forsyth Blvd. – ADA Improvements and Resurfacing Project.
2. Capital Improvement Program - Morgan Wilshire Road and Drainage Improvements Contract Approval
3. Parking Study; (*Moved to City Manager's Report*)
4. U. S. Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2018 Local Solicitation

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve all three items, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay and the motion carried unanimously.

K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. FY2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP

Mr. Rose stated this is a presentation regarding the FY2018 audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report that he is recommending for Council's approval.

Mike Williams stated he is the partner at Hochschild, Bloom & Company who was in charge of the City's audit. So what he would like to do is flip through the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report issued by his company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and highlight some of the important factors.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report contains audited financial statements, the Auditor's Report, and other information related to the audit that is prepared after the audit has been completed.

The first section of the report starts with a transmittal letter on U City's letterhead that contains information related to the City's financial management controls, economic condition, and outlook.

- The list of principal officials
- Organizational chart
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
 - ❖ *The receipt of a Certificate of Achievement illustrates that the City has gone above and beyond the normal audit by submitting all documentation to the Government Finance Officers Association; a national association that reviews the report for audit accounting standards, information related to the ten-year trend, and statistics.*

Financial Section

- Independent Auditor's Report by Hochschild, Bloom. *(The information, amounts, and disclosures being audited are the representations provided by the City.)*
- The City's responsibility
- The Auditor's responsibility
- The Auditor's Opinion
 - ❖ *In the Auditor's opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly in all material respects.*

Management's Discussion & Analysis

- A big picture perspective of the City's assets and liabilities on June 30, 2018, as compared to the previous year.

Page 7

- Governmental activities; general fund, capital, improvement fund, parks & stormwater
- Business-type activities; Solid Waste and parking funds
- Total assets = \$79,483,000 (includes deferred in-flows and out-flows)
- Total liabilities = \$22,865,000
- Net position = \$57,172,000
 - ❖ *Total assets include cash, investments, and capital assets, i.e., infrastructure and vehicles.*
 - ❖ *The difference between the assets and deferred amount of liabilities are called the net position; (retained earnings).*
 - ❖ *Changes between this year and the amounts reported in the previous year have been noted.*

Page 8

- Revenues = \$34,940.00
- Expenses = \$35,846.00
- Net Position = (an increase of about \$94,000)
 - ❖ *There is roughly a 5.1% increase in revenues and a .3% increase in expenses*

Page 16

- Assets/General Fund = \$21,289,000
- Liabilities = \$3,023,000
- Fund Balance = \$17,206,000

Page 18

- Revenues = \$24,006,000
- Expenditures = \$23,502,000
 - ❖ *There is a noted improvement in the fund balance amount of roughly \$504,000.*

Pages 24-25

- Totals for the pension trust funds; *(more details will be provided on pages 45-47)*

Page 26

- Notes to the financial statements - accounting policies

Page 36

- Notes to the financial statements - cash and investments
 - ❖ *The State Statute requires that all cash in the bank must be secured by the FDIC or pledged collateral. As of June 30th, the City's bank balances are entirely insured or collateralized.*

Page 37

- List of investments as of June 30th

Pages 40-41

- A schedule of the City's capital assets and related depreciation.

Page 43

- Long-term debt

Page 45

- Employee Retirement Benefit Plan; *(total pension liability compared to the net position)*
 - ❖ *76.1 percent funded*

Page 47

- List of the various pension plans
 - ❖ *There is a noted improvement illustrating that the starting position of the net pension liability was \$7.7 million dollars, and the ending position was \$6.2 million dollars.*
 - ❖ *Note F illustrates that the City has successfully implemented the new accounting standard requirement associated with its post-employment plan.*

Pages 64-65

- The Original Budget
- The Final Budget
- Actual revenues for the year
 - ❖ *The City is under-budget on its revenues by roughly \$263,000*
 - ❖ *Expenditures for the general fund are under-budget by roughly \$1,341,000*

Pages 87-88

- Statistical Information comparing this year's information to the previous nine years

Hochschild's Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control and Compliance

- This separate letter communicates to users of the financial statements that internal controls, policies and procedures have been examined.
 - ❖ *The comments on page 2 discuss the adjustments made by the auditors.*
 - ❖ *The Compliance paragraph states, "The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported".*

Management Letter

- General information related to the audit, a listing of the adjustments made, comments, and recommendations
 - ❖ *Neither the comments nor recommendations represent any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses for the City's management and Finance Department.*

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve the report, it was seconded by Councilmember E - 1 - 5 Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rose stated he would like to introduce the City's new Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Darren Dunkle, and recognize Keith Cole, the Acting Director of Finance. He stated he is pleased to have Mr. Dunkle on board, who comes to U City with twenty-plus years of experience. And would like to thank Mr. Cole and his staff for the fantastic job they did gathering all of the information needed to conduct the audit.

2. Parking Study

Mr. Rose stated he had asked that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda in order to expand the scope of this project by including the 6600 through 6800 blocks of Washington Avenue and Kingsbury; Trinity; Kingsland, and Melville, between Washington and Kingsbury. Staff is recommending approval of a \$24,000 contract to the Lochmueller Group for the performance of this entire study.

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve the Parking Study; it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick.

Councilmember Cusick moved to approve the extended Parking Study presented by Mr. Rose, seconded by Councilmember McMahon.

Councilmember Cusick asked Mr. Rose if the expanded scope would increase the cost of the project? Sinan Alpasian, Director of Public Works, stated after rechecking the areas his belief is that the original intent had been to include these streets in the study and that they had been included in the engineer's boundaries. However, after discussing this with the consultant today, they were uncertain whether they had been included, and as a precaution, included an additional cost of \$1,000. So although staff's expectation is that it will remain at \$24,000, to be on the safe side, Council's authorization should be for a \$25,000 expenditure.

Voice vote on the motion to expand the scope of the Parking Study carried unanimously.

Voice vote on the motion to approve the Parking Study carried unanimously.

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

BILLS

Introduced by Councilmember Cusick

1. **BILL 9383** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 400 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, RELATING TO ZONING, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 400.2010, 400.2070, 400.2130 AND 400.2140 THEREOF, AND BY ADDING 400.2145 THEREIN, RELATING TO OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REGULATIONS; CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING A PENALTY. Bill Number 9383 was read for the first time.

Introduced by Councilmember McMahon

2. **Bill 9384** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE III OF THE TRAFFIC CODE, TO REVISE TRAFFIC REGULATION AS PROVIDED HEREIN. (Williams Avenue) Bill Number 9384 was read for the first time.

N. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions
3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes
4. Other Discussions/Business

Councilmember Smotherson stated he had actually taken some lessons from Councilmember Carr and conducted some research to determine when he had made his first request to pave Kennedy Street. And from his notes, it appears to be September of 2018, where he had a discussion with Tina Charumilind. Per the Ordinance, Kennedy is one of those unfinished streets where no maintenance is required. Nevertheless, he would like to bring this request to the attention of Mr. Rose, and ask him to address whether this street would qualify for paving under the Community Development Block Grant?

Councilmember Smotherson stated he was sitting downtown last weekend and noticed how the slightest hint of warm weather had brought out such an increased number of scooters and robust activities in The Loop. So, while his hope is that the City and Police are already geared up for the bustle, he just wanted to provide a subtle reminder that Spring is here.

Mr. Rose stated staff is in the process of identifying which projects would qualify for the CBG funds, so from that perspective your request is timely. He stated he would report back to Council with any recommendations after he has received guidance from the Public Works Director on whether Kennedy qualifies under the grant, and if so, what type of improvements could be made.

With respect to the scooters, currently, the City does not have an agreement with any company to operate scooters within the city limits. So anyone who might be participating in this sort of activity is doing so illegally. Scooters found in the City's right-of-ways will be confiscated by City staff and their owners will have to pay a hefty price to get them back. Mr. Rose stated the goal is to present Council with a recommended policy on the operation and governance of a privately owned scooter business within the next 60-days.

O. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

Ariel Gardner, 8649 Richard Court, University City, MO

Ms. Gardner stated she is a homeowner in the redevelopment area and a few weeks ago received a notification from the County Assessor's office notifying her and her husband that their home value had increased. This was confusing; especially since their understanding was that they lived in a blighted area, and they are currently under contract with NOVUS. Ms. Gardner stated after speaking to some of her neighbors she learned that their homes had also increased in value. And when she called the County Assessor's office she was told that several homes had been sold in the area at a price that warranted the tax increases. The Assessor was also completely unaware of this being a blighted area. Her review of the Assessor's website revealed that NOVUS owned four homes in RPA-1, one of which was located on her block that had been sold to them for significantly higher than the market value. But since they are under contract, they are prohibited from taking advantage of this increase by selling their home on their own and receiving a higher market value.

Ms. Gardner stated the list of issues that the City seems to not want to be forthright about with homeowners in RPA-1 is another side-effect of its lack of communication and transparency. Someone just talked about a flyer that is being distributed by the police to business owners in The Loop regarding an influx of crime. But where is that same kind of outreach for those of us in RPA-1 who has been forced to deal with issues that not everyone is equipped to handle? Our elected leaders are the ones that are supposed to be advocating on our behalf. Yet, here we are wondering if the City ever had any intent to notify us about these increased personal property taxes created by NOVUS for the sole purpose of augmenting this development? Or whether the City has any plans to help its residents who are now caught up in a situation that seems totally unfair? The longer this City takes to drag out this process, the more negative side-affects residents are going to experience.

Aren Ginsberg, 430 West Point Court, University City, MO

Ms. Ginsberg reported that U City's community cat advocates had a productive meeting with Mr. Cross last Friday. They discussed how a community-based trap, neuter, vaccine, and return program can be a safe, cost-efficient, and human solution to pet overpopulation. She stated they appreciate the opportunity to partner with the Community Development Department to help stabilize and reduce U City's feral cat population through an officially sanctioned TNR Program.

Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, University City, MO

Mr. Sullivan stated he is filing a complaint against the U City Library and friends of the Library with the MO Ethics Commission for running a campaign in support of Proposition L without filing the necessary paperwork or campaign finance reports, as the law requires. In addition, the materials being distributed do not properly identify the group, the name of the treasurer or provide an address. His belief is that this is a deceptive campaign in that it does not mention the 49 percent property tax increase that will take place if Prop L is passed. Mr. Sullivan stated he attended one of the Library's focus group sessions; which are really designed to promote this tax hike. Yet, the library has done nothing outside of spending a lot of its resources to support this Proposition. This would not be so surprising if it was U City government or the School District, who have been corrupting elections for years by illegally spending thousands of public dollars to print and mail campaign material to support their bond issues.

The State test scores were released last month and once again, the District is near the bottom. The previous results showed the District as being the fourth worst in the area; these latest scores pushed it up a notch to the fifth worst. And that isn't because the school has improved, it's because another school district got worst. The Superintendent gave the State of the District address last month and it is the same one she has given in previous years, and the same one her predecessor gave for years. It will probably be the same one she will be giving in future years since there is no reason to believe U City schools will ever improve.

Mr. Sullivan stated U City has three big problems that the Costco development won't help resolve; awful schools, crime, and a badly managed City Government. Mr. Rose has made some progress, but there is still a long way to go. However, destroying businesses and homes in the Olive/I-1-70 area certainly will not move us in the right direction.

Jan Adams, 7150 Cambridge Avenue, University City, MO

Ms. Adams stated Councilmember Carr is not a lawyer, so her attempt at offering a legal opinion in her newsletter and published letter to the editor of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, is without expertise or authority. If she is simply articulating the opinion of our City Attorney then this form of communication is unethical. And if this is actually the opinion of Mr. Mulligan then he needs to own it, and publish that signed opinion for the taxpayers who are paying his bills. Why is this important to citizens? Because if Ms. Carr and/or Mr. Mulligan are wrong, and they continue to proceed, in spite of the warnings from Attorney, Charles Hatfield, then Mr. Hatfield's client could sue the City and its agents. And we, the taxpayers, could end up paying thousands of dollars to defend these City officials. Although, if Mr. Mulligan is found to be wrong; he cannot ethically charge taxpayers the cost of his defense.

Ms. Adams stated there is a simple resolution to this issue. Once a formal request is submitted, the Attorney General of MO will research this dispute and publish his opinion free of charge. Therefore, she would urge this Council to direct the City Manager to immediately submit such a request to the Attorney General. In the meantime, this Council should not authorize any expenditure of City funds related to the proposed Better Together merger. This Council would not be fulfilling its fiduciary duty to be prudent stewards of its taxpayers' funds by exposing the City to the risk of further lawsuits after they have been put on notice by an experienced lawyer whose client is likely to be well financed and can afford to outspend any city lawyers. *(Ms. Adams asked that her written comments be made a part of the minutes.)*

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Cusick reminded everyone that a week from tomorrow is Election Day for municipal elections, and as a private individual, and resident of U City that loves its library, he will be voting in favor of Proposition L. So he would encourage everyone to do their research and support U City's public library.

Councilmember Cusick stated if anyone is interested in signing the Freeholders' Petition they should see him after this meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Carr made the following announcements:

- Tomorrow, U City in Bloom will be sponsoring "*Eat Pizza to Raise Dough*" at Dewey's, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Twenty percent of the proceeds will be donated to U City in Bloom.
- This Saturday U City in Bloom will have their volunteer orientation and open house at the Mary Fahey Pavilion located at 6860 Vernon, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.
- U City in Bloom's annual plant sale will be held on April 26th and 28th.

Councilmember McMahon moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Carr closed the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk

Council Comments – March 25, 2019

I rise to respond to Paulette Carr's Newsletter and her published Letter to the Editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. *RE OPPOSITION TO BETTER TOGETHER.*

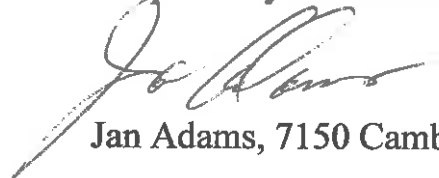
First, Paulette is not a lawyer so her attempt to offer a legal opinion is without expertise or authority. If she is simply articulating the opinion of our City Attorney, John Mulligan, than this form of communication is unethical. If this is actually the opinion of Mr. Mulligan, than he needs to own it and to publish, to the taxpayers who are paying his bills, HIS opinion with his signature.

This is important to citizens because if Paulette and/or Mr. Mulligan are wrong and they continue to proceed, regardless of the warnings from another attorney, Chuck Hatfield, then Mr. Hatfield's client may sue our City, and its agents, and we taxpayers will be paying what could amount to Tens of Thousands Dollars to defend our City Officials. If Mr. Mulligan is found to be wrong, he cannot ethically charge taxpayers for his cost of defense.

There is a simple resolution to this issue. The Attorney General of Missouri will research this dispute and publish an Attorney General Opinion on this matter – free of charge. You just need to send him a formal request.

Therefore, I urge this Council to direct the City Manager to request an opinion from our Attorney General immediately. In the meantime, this Council should not authorize any expenditure of City funds relating to the proposed Better Together merger. You will not be fulfilling your fiduciary duty, as prudent stewards of taxpayer funds, if you expose the City to the risk, after you have been put on notice by an experienced lawyer whose client is likely to be well-financed and can afford to outspend the City's lawyer.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Adams, 7150 Cambridge Ave.

mayors

March 26, 2019

Dear Mayor ~~Schneider~~,

My councilmember in University City recently declared that “no matter what your approach to regional government is, whether evolutionary or revolutionary, it should only be done by the people who live here.” You say, “We think any regional decisions on governance change should be made by the citizens who would be affected.”

So, both my Councilmember and you think *we ought to have some form of regional government*. Why? Is there something wrong with your city that giving up part or most of its sovereignty would cure? Likewise for University City?

The town (city), county, state, form of government in the New World began before your city was formed. It then raised the militia and clothed and fed the army that gave us the right to keep those forms of government, and that right was based on the highest rates of suffrage in the world. It has functioned admirably during the rise of America from an agricultural economy to one that became the industrial envy of the world.

Did all those small communities make America “uncompetitive” with the rest of the world? Do they make St. Louis less “competitive” with other cities?

Why would anyone want to, in any way, diminish the powers of the existing communities in St. Louis County? Do we need “evolutionary or revolutionary” “decisions on governance change”? Why have you and my councilmember given in to the shibboleth of regional governance? In what way will combining local governments make St. Louis a “more competitive metropolitan area”?

Rex Sinquefield's plan to eliminate our right to vote for sovereign local government is an abomination to any thinking American. But what is the Freeholder's Plan? Well, “they” don't have one. “They” aren't appointed yet. “They” will be appointed by the mayor of St. Louis and the Executive of St. Louis County. Having Krewson and Stenger appoint a Board of Freeholders is bad enough, but the true evil is that they must come up with a plan that, in one of five ways, *according to the State Constitution, combines City and County, and lessens the power of our local governments*.

Whatever their plan, you may tell your followers, “Since we need regional government to become a more competitive metropolitan area, this is the best plan that Krewson and Stenger will offer us. Vote YES”.

Sinquefield has an agenda: direct the resources of the nation towards the wealthiest individuals or companies with the “proper” legislation. This, he claims, will bring economic growth that will make everyone prosper. I had heard that ever since Barry Goldwater; I remember it as 'supply side economics' and most recently as a reason for \$400 billion Federal tax cuts. It never worked, but it did make some individuals and companies richer. In St. Louis it resulted in attempts block minimum wage increases, restricting the rights of labor, reducing taxes on corporations and the upper income persons, shifting the tax burden to the lower classes, and perhaps most pernicious, attempting to eliminate public education (an unnecessary tax burden; only the elite need be educated.).

Another way for Rex and allies to make billions off the public is loan sharking. It's best seen in Third World countries where an impoverished country borrows from foreign banks to develop its resources. The banks are generous, even to point of encouraging official corruption. Then more loans, and more loans, until the country can no longer pay and still keep social services, infrastructure, even government afloat. The IMF/World Bank steps in with an austerity program to cut government functions until the loans are paid. The loans never get paid and the austerity programs never cease.

Take St. Louis: it has more debt than it can pay and needs an austerity program. The bondholders get paid before any City services are rendered. The twist here is Rex wants to expand the scope of bondholder payments to the county—not merely to “assist” St. Louis—but to float additional bonds in his “New City”. Do we need a stadium? (why not two), another convention center with accompanying hotels and other service functions, more tourist attractions, a marina, a sports complex, even a Disney-type theme park? Just float some bonds.

I witnessed this in New York City in the 70s. The city built up an enormous debt with uncalled for hirings, police and fire stations, downtown renewal and real estate tax giveaways. It went broke and the banks imposed "Big MAC" (Municipal Assistance Corporation) to "save New York." It stood at the cash register collecting every dime until the debt was paid; 25,000 employees were fired, wages frozen, garbage, fire, police services cut, streets and sewer improvements cut, and so on. Big MAC was a financial control board where local government was overridden by the creditors. Rex Sinquefeld's Better Together is a financial control board, as will be the Freeholders plan.

There are untold millions profit in this operation, but that is the lesser part. These bonds are highly valued because they are backed by taxing the public. They are "very good paper", a great asset in the financial world—not the junk bonds and NINA mortgages that buoyed up the last bubble. Such good paper is not only profitable in the market but, as a real asset, yields stability in a highly speculative market.

Here are the powers needed to conduct Rex's scheme:

The taxing power: notably sales tax, the easiest to raise, to collect and burden the lower classes.

The "economic development", power to issue bonds for those stadiums, ice rinks, downtown development, bailout of Paul McKee, etc. It could be used for useful items, but Rex prefers projects that have a revenue stream to make the bonds more secure.

The control of courts: a power to curb actions against Rex's endeavors.

Control over police: Cutting back services may result in public disorder.

Elimination of local voting. According to the purposes of Rex and cohorts, local voters should never be allowed to interfere with financial matters, as did U. City voters defeating a \$25 million bond issue for streets. We voters found that the Mayor had "balanced" the budget by misappropriating earmarked street funds into the general budget, then claiming an urgent need for street bonds..

Control of building codes, TIF projects, zoning, land clearance, eminent domain, etc.

Not necessary, but useful, is control of the roads budget as a slush fund.

Will these major powers which strip municipalities of sovereignty be included in the Freeholder's plan? Yes, because that's what Rex and his very powerful allies want and they have the power to make it happen. The Freeholders are chosen by Krewson and Stenger, not the voters.

The only defense we have against Rex's City-County merger and de facto abolition of municipalities is to stop Better Together. And Rex and his "fat-cat" supporters are a perfect target. Out-state will vote against Rex if you chose to to inform them. *But if you split opposition to Rex by diverting your followers to the Freeholder's plan, Better Together could win. If I were Rex, I would welcome the Freeholder's plan.*

I suppose we could tolerate Rex's financial swindling; the ordinary people have paid such dues many times over. But if we tolerate any diminution in our right to vote in local elections, we will prove to our posterity that we, this generation's heirs of our great Forefathers fight for freedom, have lost the will to survive. This is a crucial mistake that must not be made if we value our liberty and our sacred honor. If we accept Rex's absurd promise of a "more competitive metropolitan area" by destroying local government, shall we accept merging counties, merging states and ultimately merging countries into World Government? Wouldn't that be more efficient?

The moment in which we live is part of the great battle between the American System of industrial capitalism, and the British System of merchant-banking (financial, speculative) capitalism. The latter results in dictatorships such as we suffered in the 20th century. The former could once again become our future if we have the will to survive. I enclose Abraham Lincoln's passionate oath to his country, and Henry Carey's defense of the American System.

Sincerely,

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point to be omitted. A witty Irish soldier, who was always boasting of his bravery, when no danger was near, but who invariably retreated without orders at the first charge of an engagement, being asked by his Captain why he did so, replied: "Captain, I have as brave a *heart* as Julius Caesar ever had; but some how or other, whenever danger approaches, my *commonly* legs will run away with it." So with Mr. Lamborn's party. They take the public money *into* their hand for the most laudable purpose, that *wise heads* and *honest hearts* can dictate; but before they can possibly get it *out* again their rascally "*vulnerable heels*" will run away with them.

Seriously: this proposition of Mr. Lamborn is nothing more or less, than a request that his party may be tried by their *professions* instead of their *practices*. Perhaps no position that the party assumes is more liable to, or more deserving of exposure, than this very modest request; and nothing but the unwarrantable length, to which I have already extended these remarks, forbids me now attempting to expose it. For the reason given, I pass it by.

I shall advert to but one more point.

Mr. Lamborn refers to the late elections in the States, and from their results, confidently predicts, that every State in the Union will vote for Mr. Van Buren at the next Presidential election. Address *that* argument to *cowards* and to *knaves*; with the *free* and the *brave* it will effect nothing. It *may* be true, if it *must*, let it. Many free countries have lost their liberty; and *ours may* lose hers; but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was the *last* to desert, but that I *never* deserted her. I know that the great volcano at Washington, aroused and directed by the evil spirit that reigns there, is belching forth the lava of political corruption, in a current broad and deep, which is sweeping with frightful velocity over the whole length and breadth of the land, bidding fair to leave unscathed no green spot or living thing, while on its bosom are riding like demons on the waves of Hell, the imps of that evil spirit, and fiendishly taunting all those who dare resist its destroying course, with the hopelessness of their effort; and knowing this, I cannot deny that all may be swept away. Broken by it, I, too, may be; bow to it I never will. The *probability* that we may fall in the struggle *ought not* to deter us from

the support of a cause we believe to be just; it *shall not* deter me: If ever I feel the soul within me elevate and expand to those dimensions not wholly unworthy of its Almighty Architect, it is when I contemplate the cause of my country, deserted by all the world beside, and I standing up boldly and alone and hurling defiance at her victorious oppressors. Here, without contemplating consequences, before High Heaven, and in the face of the world, I swear eternal fidelity to the just cause, as I deem it, of the land of my life, my liberty and my love. And who, that thinks with me, will not fearlessly adopt the oath that I take. Let none falter, who thinks he is right, and we may succeed. But, if after all, we shall fail, be it so. We still shall have the proud consolation of saying to our consciences, and to the departed shade of our country's freedom, that the cause approved of our judgment, and adored of our hearts, in disaster, in chains, in torture, in death, we NEVER faltered in defending.

December 26, 1839

Plan of Campaign in 1840

1st. Appoint one person in each county as county captain, and take his pledge to perform promptly all the duties assigned him.

Duties of the County Captain

1st. To procure from the poll-books a separate list for each Precinct of all the names of all those persons who voted the Whig ticket in August.

2nd. To appoint one person in each Precinct as Precinct Captain, and, by a personal interview with him, procure his pledge, to perform promptly all the duties assigned him.

3rd. To deliver to each Precinct Captain the list of names as above, belonging to his Precinct; and also a written list of his duties.

Henry Corde 1856

has been productive, and the labourer has received wages that have enabled him to feed, clothe, and educate his children, and the nation has thus performed its true "mission" in elevating the condition of man. If we desire to find exceptions to this, we must look to those periods in which the policy of Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Jackson, was departed from, and when the government adopted measures tending to the maintenance of the English monopoly of machinery, and there we shall find taxes more heavy, capital accumulating more slowly, labour more unproductive, and the wages of labour so much depressed that the labourer finds it difficult to feed or clothe his children, and still more difficult to educate them.

Two systems are before the world; the one looks to increasing the proportion of persons and of capital engaged in trade and transportation, and therefore to diminishing the proportion engaged in producing commodities with which to trade, with necessarily diminished return to the labour of all; while the other looks to increasing the proportion engaged in the work of production, and diminishing that engaged in trade and transportation, with increased return to all, giving to the labourer good wages, and to the owner of capital good profits. One looks to increasing the quantity of raw materials to be exported, and diminishing the inducements to the import of men, thus impoverishing both farmer and planter by throwing on them the burden of freight; while the other looks to increasing the import of men, and diminishing the export of raw materials, thereby enriching both planter and farmer by relieving them from the payment of freight. One looks to giving the products of millions of acres of land and of the labour of millions of men for the services of hundreds of thousands of distant men; the other to bringing the distant men to consume on the land the products of the land, exchanging day for day's labour. One looks to compelling the farmers and planters of the Union to continue their contributions for the support of the fleets and the armies, the paupers, the nobles, and the sovereigns of Europe; the other to enabling ourselves to apply the same means to the moral and intellectual improvement of the sovereigns of America.* One looks to the continuance of that *laissez faire* freedom of trade which denies the principle of protection, yet dates it out as revenue duties; the other to extending the area of *legitimate* free trade by the establishment of perfect protection, followed by the annexation of individuals and communities, and ultimately by the abolition of custom-houses. One looks to exporting men to occupy desert tracts, the sovereignty of which is obtained by aid of diplomacy or war; the other to increasing the value of an immense extent of vacant land by importing men by millions for their occupation. One looks to the concentration of wealth and power in a great commercial city that shall rival the great cities of modern times, which have been and are being supported by aid of contributions which have exhausted every nation subjected to them; the other to *concentration*, by aid of which a market shall be made upon the land for the products of the land, and the farmer and planter be enriched. One looks to increasing the necessity for commerce; the other to increasing the power to maintain it. One looks to underworking the Hindoo, and sinking throughout the world to our level. One looks to pauperism, ignorance, depopulation, and barbarism; the other to increasing wealth, comfort, intelligence, combination of action, and civilization. One looks towards universal war; the other towards universal peace. One is the English system; the other we

* Russia is now raising by loan five millions of pounds sterling to pay the expenses of the war in Hungary. The farmers and planters of the Union are the chief contributors to this loan.

may be proud to call the American system, for it is the only one ever devised the tendency of which was that of ELEVATING while EQUALIZING the condition of man throughout the world.

Such is the true mission of the people of these United States. To them has been granted a privilege never before granted to man, that of the exercise of the right of perfect self-government; but, as rights and duties are inseparable, with the grant of the former came the obligation to perform the latter. Happily their performance is pleasant and profitable, and involves no sacrifice. To raise the value of labour throughout the world, we need only to raise the value of our own. To raise the value of land throughout the world, it is needed only that we adopt measures that shall raise the value of our own. To diffuse intelligence and to promote the cause of morality throughout the world, we are required only to pursue the course that shall diffuse education throughout our own land, and shall enable every man more readily to acquire property, and with it respect for the rights of property. To improve the political condition of man throughout the world, it is needed that we ourselves should remain at peace, avoid taxation for the maintenance of fleets and armies, and become rich and prosperous. To raise the condition of woman throughout the world, it is required of us only that we pursue that course that enables men to remain at home and marry, that they may surround themselves with happy children and grand-children. To substitute true Christianity for the detestable system known as the Mahometan, it is needed that we prove to the world that it is population that makes the food come from the rich soils, and that food tends to increase more rapidly than population, thus vindicating the policy of God to man. Doing these things, the addition to our population by immigration will speedily rise to millions, and with each and every year the desire for that perfect freedom of trade which results from incorporation within the Union, will be seen to spread and to increase in its intensity, leading gradually to the establishment of an empire the most extensive and magnificent the world has yet seen, based upon the principles of maintaining peace itself, and strong enough to insist upon the maintenance of peace by others, yet carried on without the aid of fleets, or armies, or taxes, the sales of public lands alone sufficing to pay the expenses of government.

To establish such an empire—to prove that among the people of the world, whether agriculturists, manufacturers, or merchants, there is perfect harmony of interests, and that the happiness of individuals, as well as the grandeur of nations, is to be promoted by perfect obedience to that greatest of all commands, "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you,"—is the object and will be the result of that mission. Whether that result shall be speedily attained, or whether it shall be postponed to a distant period, will depend greatly upon the men who are charged with the performance of the duty of government. If their movements be governed by that enlightened self-interest which induces man to seek his happiness in the promotion of that of his fellow-man, it will come soon. If on the contrary, they be governed by that ignorant selfishness which leads to the belief that individuals, party, or national interests, are to be promoted by measures tending to the deterioration of the condition of others, it will be late.