

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor  
6801 Delmar Blvd.  
University City, Missouri 63130  
**Monday, November 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, November 25, 2019, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Councilmember Stacy Clay  
Councilmember Paulette Carr; (*via video conference*)  
Councilmember Steven McMahon  
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales  
Councilmember Tim Cusick  
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose, and City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Rose requested that Items J (2) and J (5) under the Consent Agenda be moved to the City Manager's Report.

Mr. Hales moved to approve the request, it was seconded by Mr. Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

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

**D. PROCLAMATIONS**

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. October 28, 2019, Study Session Minutes – Economic and Fiscal Impact Study, were moved by Mr. Smotherson, it was seconded by Mr. Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.
2. November 11, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes were moved by Mr. Clay, it was seconded by Mr. Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

**F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

1. John Stittleman is nominated for re-appointment to the Green Practices Commission by Councilmember Cusick. It was seconded by Mr. Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Barbara Brain is nominated for re-appointment to the Green Practices Commission by Councilmember Cusick. It was seconded by Mr. McMahon and the motion carried unanimously.

## **G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

## **H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed)**

### **Aren Ginsberg, 430 West Point, University City, MO**

Ms. Ginsberg stated the U City TNR volunteers are giving thanks to Darren Dunkle and Clifford Cross, who made the Heman Park Community Center available so that U City cats can be spayed and neutered this spring. TNR is also grateful to OpSpot for agreeing to provide this low-cost veterinary care and Feral Cat Out-Reach for providing traps and their expertise. Finally, Ms. Ginsberg stated they are thankful for compassionate neighbors who have fed these community cats and made sure that all of the lost dogs got home safely. Happy Thanksgiving.

### **Leif Johnson, 836 Barkley Square, University City, MO**

Mr. Johnson stated it seems that things are going very well with the destruction of local governments in St. Louis, so he would like to provide an update.

- Mayor Krewson has approved \$100 million dollars of the \$200 million needed for a 40-year bond to expand the America Center and \$240 million dollars for a new soccer stadium. More stadiums, TIF's, a marina, sports complex, riverfront renewal, luxury high-rise apartments or an amusement park, may be considered in future expansions.
- County Executive Page and the Governor have selected their Freeholders who met on November 12th. The media hype for these Freeholders will be "*Combating Racism*". And it looks like they want to consolidate the City and County School Districts in the Mega-Government, also under the theme of "*Racism*" or as Ms. Washington might put it, "*Educational Equity*".

There are two reasons why a bankrupt City would float several hundred millions of dollars worth of new bonds:

1. Elimination of municipalities in the County will give the new City/County conglomerate government control of sales taxes. This greatly improves the capacity to service existing bonds and float new ones.
2. The International Monetary Fund warned on October 16th that there was a potential for a recession half as bad as the 2008 Great Recession. The Federal Reserve Board responded by pumping in short-term credit and lowering interest rates, but the bubble needs more liquidity for which government bonds are highly desirable since the taxpayer must pay.

The Mayor and Council have given devoted service in the interest of the people of U City who worked for their election and have been rewarded by their actions; especially in restoring the City's ambulance service and the hiring of Mr. Rose, who spent weeks rescuing the City's finances. The strength of the American Republic depends on an informed electorate. Therefore he is saddened by his belief that Council has failed to adequately report what the conditions of the City were when Council took office; what the needs were; what was accomplished, and Council's Intentions going forward. Mr. Johnson stated he thinks it would have been very informative to know what persons opposed the TIF and their connection to the financing.

And his proposal to two people, in particular, was to compile a weekly or biweekly electronic newsletter to inform the public. Without an informed electorate there is always a possibility of losing some members of Council which could plunge this City back into the name-calling, malfeasance, secrecy, disdain for citizens, phony lawsuits, privatization, and starvation of City services, including fire and police, all of which were suffered under the leadership of Shelley Welsch. So now that the April election is upon us, he would strongly suggest the distribution of such a newsletter.

**I. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m., and after hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

2. Liquor License - Original J's Tex-Mex Barbecue, 7359 Forsyth Ave.

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m., and after hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:39 p.m.

**J. CONSENT AGENDA – Vote Required**

1. Golf Cart Lease Agreement
2. Internal Audit Proposal; *(Removed)*
3. Fiscal Impact Analysis
4. Emerald Ash Borer - Tree Replacement Program
5. Space Needs Study; *(Removed)*
6. Liquor License - Original J's Tex-Mex Barbecue, 7359 Forsyth Ave.

Mr. Hales moved to approve Items 1, 3, 4, and 6; it was seconded by Mr. Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

**K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Army Corps of Engineers Update

Mr. Rose stated an update on the Stormwater Plan for MSD will be provided by the Director of Public Works, Sinan Alpaslan.

Mr. Alpaslan stated this update is related to the River Des Peres Study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

- The signing date for execution of the agreement between U City and the St. Louis District Office of the Army Corps is January 2020.
- The Design Team kick-off meeting for the evaluation report on the upper U City branch of the River Des Peres watershed is scheduled for February 2020.

Staff's intent is to meet all deadlines and come back before Council in 90-days to present another update. Mr. Alpaslan informed Council that Sean Sullivan from the Army Corps was also here to answer any questions.

## 2. Internal Audit Proposal

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council approve the allocation of \$57,750 for Phase I of the Internal Audit to be conducted by Brown Smith Wallace. The purpose of this audit is to perform a detailed review of purchasing, payables, solid waste billing, and grant management.

Mr. McMahan moved to approve, it was seconded by Mr. Smotherson.

Mayor Crow stated based on the amount of this bid, his previous question to the City Manager addressed due process and whether there was a need for this contract to go through the competitive bidding process. Mr. Rose stated he presented this question to the City Attorney who informed him that in this instance, there is no requirement for a competitive bid. Brown Smith Wallace is a local firm that has an extensive background in public accounting and a solid relationship with St. Louis County, which provides some of the City's revenue. So in his opinion, they are the best company to perform this audit.

Voice vote on the motion to approve carried unanimously.

## 3. Space Needs Study

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council provide authorization to conduct a Space Needs Assessment of existing utilization as well as future space needs throughout the entire organization. Staff is also recommending they be allowed to amend the Trivers' Contract to include this study. The total cost for this study is \$141,900, which will be allocated as follows: \$85,140 from the police facility fund; \$30,000 from the Capital Fund, and \$27,760 from the General Fund Reserves.

Mr. Clay moved to approve, it was seconded by Mr. McMahan.

Mr. Smotherson apologized for not emailing his questions in advance but he would like to get a clear understanding of what is meant by the statement under "*Programming*," which states, "*Police Department Program developed to the previous Annex Study will be reused*"?

Mr. Rose stated any pertinent information developed as a part of the Annex Study will be integrated into this new study. And that will reduce the overall cost since Trivers has already been compensated for that work. Mr. Smotherson stated while he believes Councilmember Clay's suggestion to conduct this study was a good one, doesn't the fact that the previous study focused on moving the police to the Annex mean that the incorporation of that information into the new study will eliminate the Annex as a possible location for any of the other departments? Mr. Rose stated although the initial study of the Annex was to determine the possibility of specifically using that facility to house the Police Department, it was an established fact that consideration would be given to housing other departments there as well. Ultimately, it will be up to Council to make the decisions about where all of the City's operations should be located. But once this study is completed, staff will provide a recommendation based on the existing facilities, the associated costs, and whether these modifications will be conducive to their desire to consistently provide exceptional service.

Mr. Smotherson stated his primary concern is about getting the biggest bang for the \$141,000 being expended on this study.

But when he looks at Option 2 under "*Conceptual Design*," which states, "*Ideal workplace and departmental distribution moving as few departments as possible*," in his mind that says Trivers will be looking to doing the bare minimum. And if that's the case, why couldn't staff just complete this assessment? He stated his vision of this study was that Trivers would come in with a blank slate and review each department to determine a strategy that would allow the City to achieve optimum performance in all areas of its operations. But if that vision is incorrect, then he would be opposed to approving staff's recommendation. Mr. Rose stated while Trivers could be allowed to proceed with a blank slate; as you've described it, from a practical standpoint, the City is limited by the architectural structure of this building and the cost associated with asking Trivers to look at an infinite number of possibilities.

And to the question posed about why he had not elected to have his staff conduct this study, the answer is that the City does not have an employee with the type of engineering skill sets needed to perform this type of study. Trivers has actually formed a consortium with other companies to augment their own skill set in some of the areas that need specific expertise. So his goal is to make sure the City has the right individuals performing these functions and that's why he thinks the study should be contracted out.

Mayor Crow stated while he understands his colleague's concerns, the way he reads the statement is that the first option provides the best way to accommodate our needs, and the second option is how our needs can be met with the least amount of disruption.

Mr. Rose stated since Amy Gilbertson of Trivers is in the audience, he thinks she could answer that question much better than he can.

Ms. Gilbertson stated to clarify the first question about Programming, the program is strictly about the square footages and information ascertained from interviews and conversations conducted with the Police Department and has nothing to do with space layouts or locations. However, because there was a lot of good information that can be used for the Space Study, the purpose of that statement was to ensure the City understood that the process would not be repeated and they would not be charged for the use of that information.

She stated the Mayor is correct, in that Trivers does want to offer two options for your consideration.

- Option 1 - Gives no consideration to disruption and looks at all of the facilities with a blank slate, i.e., who should be where and their recommended location or relocation.

However, because sometimes ideal is not always feasible due to space or budget constraints, Trivers provided a second option.

- Option 2 - Moves as few people as possible with little disruption, construction or renovation. But that does not mean no consideration will be given to upgrading those spaces.

Ms. Gilbertson stated providing two options makes it a lot easier to weigh the pros and cons of each. And even if the City decides not to go through with either option exactly as proposed, you will have two feasible options that you can have extensive conversations about.

Mr. Rose asked Ms. Gilbertson if she would provide Council with the names of the companies that will be assisting them with this study? Ms. Gilbertson stated Trivers is partnering with HOK for justice programming; i.e., courts and police operations, and WPA; a survey company.

WPA will be charged with making sure they are asking employees about what they think the issues are and where they see room for improvement, as well as surveying the public to get their feedback; if the City is amenable to doing that, and then analyzing that information. The objective is to improve staff's experience in the workplace and the public's experience as they interact with the different departments.

Mr. Rose stated once this study is completed staff's recommendation will be based on the City's existing facilities, and how they can fit together in a cost-effective manner to provide effective and efficient services. But if Council decides to go a different direction, that's certainly a policy decision they can make.

Mr. Clay stated he had an opportunity to speak to the City Manager earlier today about this study, and in their conversation, he shared that the decisions Council will potentially make have a life span of twenty-five to thirty years. This is a conversation Council was involved in prior to his election, but as he entered into the conversation it was focused on a very tactical question; what do we do with our Police Department? So he is glad to see that this conversation has evolved from that question to a more strategic inquiry of how do we look at all of our buildings? Now, he would like to push a little bit further and say there is probably a need to spend time in the visionary space and look at a different question; how do we best serve our residents through the use of our facilities? When you do that, you begin to think about what could be. Mr. Clay stated most of us know that what could be rarely translates into what will be, but if our sole focus is on what can be, it will artificially limit us and this process. So he would really encourage everyone to focus on what could be and the process will lead you to what can be.

In terms of engaging the public to learn how our facilities can best serve their needs, Trivers mentions conducting a survey while we are in the visionary space, and he would like to propose some sort of public meeting(s), to engage them at the level of what should our Community Development Department look like in terms of applying for Occupancy Permits, et cetera. This gets the community on board with what Council and the administration are trying to do and it might encompass things none of us may have otherwise considered to make this a much more satisfying experience. Mr. Clay stated he does not necessarily think two meetings would take them off track and that they could still meet their June 12th deadline.

At the strategic level, a clear articulation of the process is crucial. Council should identify each building they want to look at and develop a scenario that helps them determine the highest and best use for those buildings.

Part of a strategy is the ability to understand the end; what are we trying to achieve? We need to get to a point of thinking strategically as we go through this entire process, and what he would like to see as the next step, is a discussion on what comes next; what happens after the Space Needs Study is completed? If Council is focused on or at least knows what they are trying to achieve, it informs how they operate in the present stage.

The final thing he would ask is far less tangible, and that is that we change our mindsets. There is no dearth of opinions. We all have ideas about where things should go and what should happen, but he would ask that we put those things aside and trust the process. If you are on the right road it will always take you to where you are supposed to be. And if we keep an open mind to the process and the possibilities, he thinks this City will come out with something that might be even better than anyone could have imagined.

Mr. Clay stated resources that confine and constrain you will always be an issue once you reach the tactical level. And even though there is a place for that, he does not think that now is the time for us to limit ourselves. His belief is that the ability to think in a visionary, strategic, and tactical mode will get this community to the place where it needs to be.

Mr. Rose stated the concept of adding a public engagement process is certainly something that can be done.

Ms. Gilbertson stated once information from the survey has been analyzed, the proposal also includes a four-hour visioning session to meet and work with the City's department heads. And there would probably be no need to amend their fee if the first hour of that session included the public. She stated the second half of the proposal has some flexibility, but it can be rewritten to include more engagement if the City would like to see more than the one-hour visioning session.

Mr. Rose stated he thinks they could incorporate two public meetings at a pretty minimal cost. One could be a charrette as part of the engagement with directors, and the other could be a set-aside conducted by the Mayor and Council.

With respect to the process after the conclusion of the study, the next steps will be to establish a list of priorities; identify a way to finance those changes which will probably outweigh the available resources, and finally, the design and construction phase.

Ms. Gilbertson stated the last thing they want to do is create a plan that is not useful. Their goal is to keep the momentum going and provide the City with information they can really act on.

Mayor Crow stated something the City has learned from live streaming these meetings is that there are many different avenues or mechanisms that can be used to garner their citizens' input. So whether it's a public meeting, the surveys conducted by staff, emails or even Nextdoor, he would like to look at utilizing something in conjunction with the charrettes, which in the past, seemed to sort of fade out as time went by.

Mr. Smotherson stated he would like to make sure Council is involved in the entire process. Trivers has mentioned having discussions with staff and the public, but there has been nothing said in terms of interactions with Council prior to its review of the end results.

Ms. Gilbertson stated although their proposal was not written that way, her assumption is that Council would be included in their discussions with department heads. Building a consensus is extremely important, and while it's often better to have department heads, the public, and Council at the same meeting where they can hear each other, she is willing to come to as many Council's meetings as necessary to provide updates or even hold a special meeting with Council. However, since the priorities from these three groups are not going to be the same, her preference would be to have one meeting where the things that are really important can be vetted out. Typically, the process consists of tables where members of Council are intermingled with the public and department heads because that's when you get your best outcomes.

Mr. Rose stated his intent is to work with Council to determine when they wanted to be incorporated into this process.

Mr. Hales stated he is glad to hear Council talking about taking a comprehensive look because based on his understanding of what he read, this study is not only about the Annex, but all of the space in Civic Plaza and how these facilities can be best utilized throughout each of the City's departments.

That said, as Council is being asked to consider all of these questions, he thinks it would be helpful to have the opportunity to tour these facilities.

Mr. Rose stated since Sinan has gained a lot of experience in conducting tours of these facilities, he is sure he would be happy to put a tour together for Council.

Mayor Crow stated based on the questions presented he does not necessarily think there is a need for any amendments to this Resolution. So unless someone feels a level of discomfort with moving forward, his intent is to call the question.

Voice vote on Mr. Clay's motion to approve carried unanimously.

## **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. BILL 9395 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 400 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, RELATING TO ZONING, BY AMENDING SECTION 400.2130 THEREOF, RELATING TO OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REGULATIONS; CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING A PENALTY.** Bill Number 9395 was read for the second and third time.

Mr. Smotherson moved to approve, it was seconded by Mr. Cusick.

Roll Call Vote Was:

**Ayes:** Ms. Carr, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Hales, Mr. Cusick, Mr. Smotherson, Mr. Clay, and Mayor Crow.

**Nays:** None.

## **M. NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. RESOLUTION 2019-16** A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN TASK FORCE.

Mr. Smotherson moved to approve, it was seconded by Mr. Clay.

Mr. Cusick asked how members of the Task Force would be assembled? Mr. Rose stated the recommendation from The I5 Group was an expansion of the EDRST Board; therefore, the Resolution was drafted to allow for that expansion, as well as some flexibility in how that could be achieved. So if Council would like to take an alternative route and have the Mayor appoint three and Council appoint two, that is an option that could be employed as well.

Mayor Crow questioned whether that was a decision that had to be made at tonight's meeting? Mr. Rose stated the only thing this Resolution is addressing is the creation of the Task Force.

Ms. Carr stated if you look at *"Now Therefore Be It Resolved,"* it says that *"The Task Force shall consist of 15 members who shall be appointed by the City Council; the Mayor shall appoint three Task Force members, and all other members of the City Council shall appoint two Task Force members"*. So based on her understanding, once the Resolution is approved there is no flexibility.



Mr. Rose stated his belief is that the intent of the Resolution was to provide Council with the option of either appointing each member of the EDRST Board or making the additional appointments to achieve 15 members or allow each member of Council to select two members and the Mayor to select three.

Mr. Mulligan acknowledged his agreement with Mr. Rose's interpretation of the Resolution.

Ms. Carr asked Mr. Rose if the way he was thinking about proceeding was for each member of Council, including the Mayor, to appoint one member, and the Mayor to then appoint two more? Mr. Rose stated his belief is that during the meeting when this item was presented by 15, the Mayor indicated he would prefer to let the six members of Council make the remaining appointments since he had made the appointments to the EDRST Board.

Ms. Carr noted that two members of the EDRST Board are appointed by the School District and there might be some changes in those appointments. However, at this point, she can see where some of her colleagues might be amenable to the proposal to appoint one member, while others may not. So when does Council have to make a decision? Mr. Rose stated the intent is simply to vote on the creation of a Task Force tonight and make the actual appointments at the December 9th Council meeting.

Mr. McMahon stated Councilmember Carr's comments are significant because there is a need to make sure everyone understands what we are doing. So, are we talking about the Mayor having up to three appointments and each member of Council having up to two, with the option of appointing the EDRST Board as a block and working from there?

Mayor Crow stated while he is okay with the first option, he is not necessarily interested in the Task Force being comprised of the entire EDRST Board because he thinks it would be good to have some fresh eyes look at this. He stated he would be the first one out of the gate to make his appointments so that everyone knows who they are, and then each member of Council can make their determinations from the current EDRST Board or an independent citizen(s).

Mr. Clay stated while procedurally he is not sure what the recommendation should be, the arrangements being conveyed by Council do not correspond with the language contained in the Resolution. Perhaps, all that's needed is a little wordsmithing to address some of the edits; i.e., changing the word "*shall*" to "*up to*".

Mr. Rose stated based on his interpretation the language in the Resolution is drafted to allow Council to take a more traditional approach of Council appointing two members and the Mayor appointing three.

Mr. Cusick questioned whether it would be appropriate or possible to survey members of the EDRST Board to determine their interest in serving on the Task Force?

Mayor Crow stated the lawyer and politician in him say never ask a question that you don't know the answer to. So he would not suggest taking that step because if some express interest and do not get appointed it could generate feelings of ill-will.

Mr. McMahon stated he thinks the language in Paragraph 2 will accomplish either option; an expansion of the EDRST Board or some other selection.

Voice vote on Mr. Smotherson's motion carried unanimously.

**2. RESOLUTION 2019-17** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY CITY ADOPTING THE ST. LOUIS REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Smotherson moved to approve, it was seconded by Mr. McMahon and the motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS**

*Introduced by Councilmember Smotherson*

1. **BILL 9396** - ZONING CODE TEXT AMENDMENT - ZONING CODE SECTION 400.2140 OF ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 400 RELATING TO SCHEDULE OF OFF-STREET VEHICLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS. Bill Number 9396 was read for the first time.

**N. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS**

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions  
Mr. McMahon reported that the Parks Commission met last week and went through their annual review of projects. The report will be finalized and presented to Council in January.

Mr. Clay reported that the Senior Commission and their liaison, Lynda Taylor met last Monday, and discussed the importance of participating in the Census; St. Louis County's initiative to address elder abuse, and the Golden Lion's Program. Seniors were also provided with a free turkey for the holidays.

Mr. Hales reported that the Traffic Commission met last week, and reviewed safety issues associated with the operation of scooters in U City. Their discussion on this topic will be resumed at their next meeting.

The Urban Forestry Commission met last week and reviewed an incredibly thorough and exhaustive list of City trees to be planted in tree lawns, along with an interesting presentation facilitated by one of the new Forestry employees.

Ms. Carr reported that she has been meeting extensively with the Plan Commission who has now received all of the RFP proposals related to developing the Comprehensive Plan Update. Prior to the submittal of their recommendation, a joint meeting with Council will be conducted to hear each applicant's presentation.

3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes
4. Other Discussions/Business

**O. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)**

**P. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Cusick thanked both of the individuals reappointed to the Green Practices Commission, and everyone who volunteers their time on the City's Boards and Commission for their service. He stated he would also like to extend an invitation for more citizens to participate by contacting Ms. Reese for an application.

Mr. Smotherson stated his review of the 28-page report on vacant properties within U City was so profound that he solicited the help of his wife and Ms. McQueen to assist him with making this visual presentation to Council. The presentation reveals that based on this 28-page report, there are;

- Four and a half (4<sup>1/2</sup>) pages of vacant properties associated with Ward 1
- Eight (8) pages of vacant properties associated with Ward 2, and
- Fifteen (15) pages of vacant properties associated with Ward 3

Mr. Smotherson stated this report provides a clear example of the issues he and Councilmember Clay deal with on a constant basis; absentee landlords; the condition of vacant homes, and the safety and health-related problems that ensue as a direct result of those conditions. Then there's Habitat for Humanity's desire to build seven homes in an area with the highest crime rate within the City and the recent request for a vehicle service center at 8550 Olive with cars and flags directly across from the ongoing development project. And while a new home or business can be a great step forward for individuals, as a City, all of us must begin to look at the bigger picture.

What all of this says to him, is that there is an immediate need for a housing plan; a plan that looks at more resources and some form of concentrated code enforcement to protect the property values in our neighborhoods, specifically the 3rd Ward, and looks at new construction and businesses in a way that ensures everyone one is on the same page and that any new addition represents the best fit for the proposed area. The I5 Group is currently conducting an Economic Development Study and therefore, he would ask the City Manager and Council to give consideration to placing a moratorium on any new requests for the 8200 to 8500 blocks of Olive until that study has been completed.

Mr. Hales stated earlier tonight a citizen mentioned looking back at the former administration and now being able to fully appreciate Mayor Crow's outspoken desire to move forward. For me, tonight was one of those meetings that exemplified precisely how much this Council and the City are doing just that; moving forward. Sometimes we are not all on the same page but the positive thing about where they are today is that there is a clear level of mutual respect among every member of this Council. That's why he has absolute faith and trust that he and his colleagues will get through all of these issues and continue to move forward in a respectful, open, and honest way.

- Q.** Motion to go into a Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021 (1): Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys and (3) Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, and (13) Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees

Mr. Smotherson moved to go into a Closed Session, it was seconded by Mr. Hales.

Roll Call Vote Was:

**Ayes:** Mr. Hales, Mr. Cusick, Mr. Smotherson, Mr. Clay, Ms. Carr, Mr. McMahon, and Mayor Crow.

**Nays:** None.

**R. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Crow wished everyone a nice holiday and closed the regular City Council meeting at 7:42 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 8:24 p.m.

LaRette Reese  
City Clerk

Leif Johnson, 836 Barkley Square, U.City, MO 63130  
725-5429; [leifjohnson@hushmail.com](mailto:leifjohnson@hushmail.com)

I have an update on the destruction of local governments in St. Louis County. It seems that things are going very well. City Mayor Krewson has approved \$100 million of the \$200 million of 40-year bonds to expand America's Center. And then there is the \$240 million for a new soccer stadium. Coming up, may be more stadiums and TIFs, possibly a marina, a sports complex, riverfront renewal with luxury high-rises or an amusement park.

County Executive Page and the Governor have chosen their Freeholders, who met on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The media hype for the Freeholders will be “combatting racism”, and it looks like they also want to consolidate the City and County school districts in the mega-government. The theme will also be racism, or as Pat Washington might say: “educational equity”.

Why would a bankrupt City float several hundred millions of dollars worth of new bonds? Here are two good reasons:

1. The elimination of municipalities in the County will give the new City/County conglomerate government control of sales taxes. This will greatly improve the capacity to service existing bonds and float new ones.
2. The International Monetary Fund warned on October 16, that there was a potential for a recession half as bad as the 2008 Great Recession. The Federal Reserve Board responded by pumping in short term credit and lowering interest rates, but the bubble needs more liquidity, for which governmental bonds are highly desirable--since the taxpayer **must** pay.

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Councilmembers, Mayor Crow, you have given us devoted service in the interests of the people of U. City. We worked for your election and we have been rewarded by your actions, especially in restoring our ambulance service and by hiring Mr. Rose who spent weeks rescuing our finances from the fakery and misappropriations of Shelley Welsch.

The strength of the American Republic depends on an informed electorate. I am saddened to say that I believe you have failed to adequately report to us what the condition of the City was when you took office, what were the needs, what was accomplished and what you intend to do. It would have been very informative if you had told us who the persons were who opposed the TIF and what were their connections.

I proposed to two persons in particular, and others also, to compile a weekly or bi-weekly e-mail newsletter to inform the public. I believe if a Councilmember or the Mayor asked persons they know to create an e-mail newsletter, they might do so. The April election campaign is upon us and we need that newsletter. Without an informed electorate, we could lose some of you, and that would plunge our City back into the name-calling, malfeasance, secrecy, disdain for the citizens, phony law suits, privatization and starvation of city services, including fire and police, we suffered under Shelley Welsch.

Thank you.

