

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd.
University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, December 9, 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, December 9, 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
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 Item J (3) of the Consent Agenda; Habitat for Humanity St. Louis Letter of Support, be moved to the City Manager's Report.

Councilmember Cusick stated he nominated Donna Marin for reappointment to the Historic Preservation Commission; however, Ms. Reese has informed him that Ms. Marin is no longer eligible to serve because she has served two terms. Therefore, she should be removed from the appointments.

Mayor Crow asked Councilmember Cusick if he could take his amendment as a motion that also included the City Manager's request? Councilmember Cusick agreed.

Councilmember Cusick's motion was seconded by Councilmember Carr and carried unanimously.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1. Donna Leach is nominated for **reappointment** to the Historic Preservation Commission by Councilmember Cusick. It was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
2. Donna Marin is nominated for **reappointment** to the Historic Preservation Commission by Councilmember Cusick. *(Removed)*

3. Susan Glassman is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Cusick. It was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
4. Frank Ollendorff is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Carr. It was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Natasha Kwan is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Carr. It was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.
6. Kurt Eller is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Hales. It was seconded by Councilmember McMahon and the motion carried unanimously.

G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed)

Leif Johnson, 836 Barkley Square, University City, MO

Mr. Johnson stated some 180 years ago in 1839, Abraham Lincoln stood before three faithful members of the Illinois State Legislature and delivered a 40-page speech. It detailed the destruction brought on the American Republic by the Presidency of Martin Van Buren and his party allies. Lincoln concluded with a manifesto of his love for this country that could never be shaken, which resulted in a pamphlet that became one of the most read and influential writings in America.

Lincoln believed that an informed electorate was the price of freedom and that there was no other way to preserve that freedom. But perhaps, that was a different time where people loved to read rather than watch television, or because there are so many distractions in today's modern life. And while that may be so, he is truly angered by the fact that he remains less informed about major issues and actions taken by this City Council than he was under the regime of Shelley Welsch.

It wasn't too much trouble for Lincoln to write that 40-page speech, and it wasn't too much trouble for thousands of Americans to read his speech. So, is it really too much trouble for you, Mr. Mayor and Council, to write a two or three page biweekly summary of what you have been doing and what needs to be done? *(Mr. Johnson asked that his written comments, along with the concluding pages of Lincoln's speech, be made a part of the record.)*

Jerrold Tiers, 7345 Chamberlain, University City, MO

Mr. Tiers stated having attended almost every Council meeting; he has been impressed with Mayor Crow's approach to handling comments. Members of the public have been allowed to make comments without interference; even those that may have been uncomplimentary. Not only that, the Mayor has gone out of his way to allow leeway on the 5-minute rule allowing commenters to finish their statement; which has not always been the case in past years. So tonight, he would like to thank Mayor Crow for his tolerance.

Councilmember Carr has announced her decision to not run for reelection. And although he realizes her term will not be over for several months, he thought now might be a good time to thank her for her service and mention a few of the contributions she has made during her tenure as a member of Council.

- Working to disclose, assist, and promote the Olive and I-170 Redevelopment Project;

- Working to bring serious attention to the City's Stormwater issues through the creation of a Stormwater Task Force to study and assess these problems;
- Her leadership role in establishing a less intrusive plan for the storage tanks proposed by MSD;
- Her efforts to faithfully communicate with residents via email on a regular basis; and last, but not least,
- Her determination; with the support of Councilmember Cusick, to tackle the troubled relationship between U City and Wash U that hopefully, will provide a new start and ultimately be a net positive to the City.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Liquor License – Winslow’s Table

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m. and hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

J. CONSENT AGENDA – Vote Required

- 1. Code Violations Software Contract**
- 2. Liquor License – Winslow’s Table**
- 3. Letter of Support For Habitat For Humanity St. Louis
AHAP Tax Credits; (*Removed*)**

Councilmember Hales moved to approve Items 1 and 2, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Crow acknowledged the new owners of Winslow's Table; formerly Winslow's Home and thanked them for being a part of this community.

K. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- 1. Budget Amendment Proposal – Planning & Development
*Amendment to Fund Additional Inspector I Position***

Mr. Rose stated one area of the City's survey revealed a weak spot in its ability to provide adequate code enforcement; which he believes has more to do with the lack of resources available. As a result, staff is recommending that Council provide authorization to increase the number of inspectors by adding a new employee to focus on exterior violations.

Clifford Cross, Director of Planning & Development, stated he thinks Council's memo related to this item pretty much explains what staff is asking for in terms of the budget for the remainder of FY20 and FY21. However, in his first ten months with the City, he and his staff have been peeling back the onion to identify deficiencies within the Department, and determine the answer to this question; how did we get here? They took a big step by addressing the Department's software issues. Next, they determined that this specific problem had evolved as a result of the obligations and responsibilities associated with occupancy inspections, which left Code Enforcement Officers with little or no time to address or ensure compliance of exterior infractions.

As documented in the Department's third-quarter memo, a new Housing Inspector was added in June of this year, which significantly enhanced their efforts to address some of these issues.

And after assessing the Department's current status with Mr. Rose and other members of staff, everyone agreed that in order to be ready to hit the ground running by the spring of 2020, another Housing Inspector was needed to focus solely on exterior and zoning violations.

Councilmember Hales moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Councilmember Clay stated while he is not a huge fan of extra-budgetary expenses, this one is certainly needed. The data is fairly clear on the number of vacant properties in the 3rd Ward, so has any thought been given to addressing some of those concerns? Mr. Cross stated this position will help the City address those issues by providing the resources needed to perform routine follow-ups after a citation has been written and pay more attention to nuisance properties with continuous violations. Chapter 240 of the Property Maintenance Code also provides staff with the authority to declare properties as a public nuisance. And once that declaration has been filed, the City can take further actions for injunctive relief and compliance. Mr. Cross stated his belief is that the utilization of these measures will really hold the property owner's feet to the fire and help with long-term compliance.

Councilmember Smotherson asked how soon the new software and inspector would be in place and ready to go? Mr. Cross stated the inspector should be pretty quick, so Council should be able to see notices and citations addressing exterior compliance issues in the very near future. And he is also working to establish the position of a Zoning Administrator which should further expand staff's ability to be more efficient. The coding software is a four-month implementation process that has been worked out to ensure a smooth transition with no loss of service.

Councilmember Smotherson questioned whether the City's Housing Court was prepared to handle the increase? Mr. Cross stated another disconnect has been his Department's inability to quickly and aggressively prosecute cases with any kind of consistency. So they are taking steps to address that problem.

Mr. Rose stated since the Code Enforcement Division has not been generating the same quantity of violations as they have in the past, i.e., 2005 or 2006, there has been a reduction in the Housing Court's dockets. So at this point, staff believes the court already has the capacity to accommodate an increased amount of code violations.

Voice vote on Councilmember Hales' motion to approve carried unanimously.

2. Letter of Support For Habitat For Humanity St. Louis; AHAP Tax Credits

Mr. Rose stated this item seeks Council's approval for the Mayor to compose a letter in support of Habitat's application to utilize AHAP tax credits for the project being proposed in U City. Mr. Rose informed Council that Mr. Powers of Habitat for Humanity was here to answer any of their questions.

Councilmember Clay stated he wants to be clear about what this letter does and does not do. The letter of support does not speak to specific locations or anything of that nature, so is this strictly about the City's support for Habitat's receipt of tax credits? Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Michael Powers, Real Estate Development Manager for Habitat, stated in order to apply for state tax credits, you need letters of support from your State Representative, State Senator, the Mayor of the municipality you are working in, and a description of the land you are going to be building on. Letters have been secured from the Representative and Senator, but the credits will only be issued on land that Habitat is able to secure. The letter being requested by Council today does not ask for the scope, scale or location of the project.

Mr. Smotherson asked if the money from St. Louis County would be lost if Council does not grant approval? Mayor Crow informed Councilmember Smotherson that his understanding is that this is a State program.

Mr. Powers stated that is correct. But the answer to Councilmember Smotherson's question is unknown. When HUD produces an RFP in the St. Louis County region they score applicants based on their ability to leverage private donors, affordable land and other government entities that are willing to contribute funding towards a project. The State then incentivizes donors that give to community organizations that build affordable housing by providing them with tax credits; selling back 55% of what was donated. So this is a competitive statewide program where Habitat has done a very good job of bringing money to the St. Louis Region that would otherwise be going somewhere else. These dollars are important to the work that they do, but if Council should decide not to provide a letter of support, Habitat won't get the credits for this project and will be forced to find something in another municipality.

Councilmember Smotherson asked if there was any wiggle room for the City to negotiate on how the money is used? For example, what if the City wanted to rehab rather than construct new homes.

Mr. Powers stated most people assume that the money goes directly into a specific project, but in reality, it's used for operational expenses to ensure that Habitat will have the ability to produce more affordable housing. When Habitat tells the State they are going to produce affordable housing, they do not require that the dollars donated be utilized for that specific project. And the reason is that Habitat must find a donor, and if and when that occurs and Habitat pulls those dollars down, a project could already be completed. So the credits cannot be transferred to a governmental body or anyone other than the qualified applicant.

Councilmember Carr stated the proposed letter reads, "*With the support from MHDC this project will break ground in the next six to eight months with homes available*". So what land has been secured to build those homes on? Mr. Powers stated Habitat is securing land from private sellers, as well as St. Louis County, who both own property in the 6500 blocks of Plymouth. And if they are unable to secure all of the land by a specific time they will apply for a portion of the tax credits, and then reapply once the remainder is secured. So, the project could be broken down into multiple pieces which would require a second letter of support.

Councilmember Carr stated based on her understanding, her colleagues have an objection to building in the 6500 blocks of Plymouth based on their belief that there is a concentration of poverty in this area which prevents this from being a healthy situation for the construction of affordable housing. And as an alternative, I would like to see these seven new homes be more dispersive throughout the community. So while she is supportive of everything Habitat does, she is also sensitive towards that concentration and the expressed desires of her colleagues. Furthermore, her interpretation of the letter is that Council is being asked to sign-off on the 6500 blocks of Plymouth; is that correct?

Mr. Powers stated although these conversations have not been finalized, what Habitat's response has been to other communities is the possibility of moving projects forward in two phases. Where instead of constructing a total of seven homes at once, it could be reduced to four homes on Plymouth, with an option of taking the remaining three homes in a direction conducive to Council's desires; looking at rehab opportunities in the 3rd Ward or new construction in other parts of the City. The only caveat is whether HUD decides to make any changes to its high impact areas. St. Louis County's Five-Year Consolidated HUD Plan identifies targeted zones for where this money can be utilized. And in U City, there is a small wedge in the northeastern quadrant of the 3rd Ward that has been identified as their targeted area. The rest of their funding is prioritized for areas like Wellston, Pagedale, and the 24/1 communities. Councilmember Carr stated even though citizen groups have identified the northeast quadrant as an area needing attention, she will rely on her colleagues to inform her of what they would like to see this plan accomplish in that Ward.

Mayor Crow stated in the twelve years he's been on Council he does not ever recall having this level of inquiry over the issuance of tax credits. So the one thing he wants to make sure everyone understands is that's all this is; an application for tax credits. It's a process that every municipality seeking the addition of affordable housing through agencies like Habitat for Humanity must go through. They already have a yes from Senator Brian Williams and Representative Maria Chappelle-Nadal, and while he understands and respects his colleagues' concerns, the fact is, these tax credits are either going to be used for this project or they will be used for a project in another municipality. Therefore, his hope is that Council would want to see a project like this come forward, especially based on the options provided by Mr. Powers.

Ms. Avis McHugh, Director of Family Services for Habitat, stated she would like to speak to a comment made by Councilmember Carr with respect to poverty. Habitat works closely with each new homeowner to not only help them achieve ownership but reach other personal goals so that they don't stay at the same level of poverty associated with the areas they reside in. And the families they have previously partnered with in U City are doing amazing things with their careers, families, and their community.

Councilmember Carr stated she certainly does not dispute that fact, however, the question is more for her colleagues in the 3rd Ward who are faced with this decline, especially in the northeast quadrant.

The land and number of homes to be built are specified, so whether it's done in one felled swoop or sequentially is irrelevant, because the execution of this letter gives Habitat the approval they need. Essentially, she thinks that Habitat for Humanity walks on water, so she has no problem with that aspect of it. But with the deepest respect to the Mayor, she does not think Council has ever really looked at the problems associated with this decline and tried to address them, until the last few years. Councilmember Carr stated she thinks this discussion is a first step, which hopefully, will lead to a decision on what Council feels is the right approach.

Councilmember Clay stated he does not think anyone is unsupportive of Habitat's mission. The issues are placement, disbursement, and the need to make sure these homes are built in a location that can do the most good over the long-term. His understanding is that the location was not necessarily fixed. But in saying that, he does realize there are two private sales on Plymouth which he is loath to interfere with because these are citizens looking to make a transaction in an area where real estate sales can be hard to come by.

But as it relates to the County's property he thought there was room to look at other places. Now he's hearing something a little bit different. So could you speak to that?

Mr. Powers stated they are really attracted to land that has been environmentally reviewed, owned by a municipal partner, has a clear title, and taxpayers are burdened with. Their approach in the City of St. Louis is to first, look at their inventory since they are very interested in moving property into private hands, and then work from there.

However, based on Council's feedback, the accommodation for U City is to only commit to four houses on Plymouth and then reexamine where the remaining three should go. It may be possible to give the \$250,000 back to St. Louis County and not construct any more houses. Or this could be an instance where Habitat finds rehabbing opportunities on other blocks, as long as they fall within the framework that the County has laid out for the type of projects they want to fund.

Councilmember Clay stated there are several properties in the 3rd Ward that are owned by St. Louis County and meet the criteria you've just described, so can those be explored? Mr. Powers stated since they are working with an elderly senior resident who is interested in selling two parcels that are scheduled to close next week, their hope is to get the four properties locked down. Once that is accomplished, a longer period of time could be set aside to determine where to move the second phase of investment, and make sure the look and feel of those homes blend in with the selected neighborhoods. Councilmember Clay asked whether the approval of this letter absolutely locks in the City into those four homes on Plymouth? Mr. Powers stated the application cannot be submitted until they can provide documentation of the required support and ownership of the land.

Councilmember Clay asked if it would satisfy the requirements if Habitat could show they had secured the two parcels of land? Mr. Powers stated typically, Habitat would not submit an application for just two parcels because that would reduce their amount of tax credits, which are based on the number of parcels an agency, has. At this point, Habitat must submit a secondary application to construct only four parcels and go back to all of the parties to get a letter of support. And if they end up with seven parcels, the same process would have to be repeated. So this can be accomplished in segments with a finite amount of credits. However, it's important to remember that this is a competitive statewide competition and Habitat's history of success has been based on its ability to submit a good solid application that they think is going to be impactful to a community. So the weaker the application, the less likely it will be viewed as a feasible project that provides Habitat with the opportunity to invest \$1.5 million dollars into the 3rd Ward.

Councilmember Smotherson stated he grew up on the north side of Olive and his parents were redlined and not allowed to look at houses on the south side. So when he first saw this proposal for the north side of Olive his initial thought was why? He stated he loves Habitat for Humanity and what they do for individuals, but as a representative, he has to look at the total picture; where you're placing these folks. At the last Council meeting, he showed his colleagues 300 vacant properties in the 3rd Ward, so while he doesn't necessarily want to interfere with the construction of the four homes, he would like to see some discussions take place on the possibility of using money from the remaining three homes for rehab. Mr. Powers stated he reached out to Amy Ellis, who is the contact for the County's Community Development Department and specifically asked how her department would feel about this amendment? There was sort of a glowing response which led him to believe that members of this community had already reached out to her department in an attempt to get them to understand that rehab should be a priority.

But, if you look at the way Community Development has drafted their RFP, rehab is not encouraged. Their preference is projects with secure titles that will result in an easy environmental review; which is the reason why they liked the project Habitat put forward. The County owns part of the land, the City owns part of the land, and Habitat has worked with both entities in the past. Mr. Powers stated Habitat's preference would be to utilize the land owned by U City for the four homes and let the County land go back under U City's control until everyone has had time to talk about the final three homes. And if they are unable to come up with something everyone feels will raise the quality of life and improve outcomes in the 3rd Ward, then nothing further will be pursued. He stated Avis is charged with placing homeowners into a 30-year mortgage, so there has to be some faith that the community around them is going to improve. But as it stands tonight, Habitat is looking to construct four new homes in U City.

(Councilmember Hales was excused from the meeting at 7:22 p.m.)

Mayor Crow noted that Council had failed to follow protocol in that no motion was made prior to the commencement of any discussions.

Councilmember Clay moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Councilmember Smotherson stated he still had questions and unsettled emotions regarding the options associated with the remaining three homes.

Mayor Crow stated due to the nature of Council's questions, he would ask the City Clerk to conduct a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Clay, Councilmember Carr, and Mayor Crow.

Nays: Councilmember Smotherson.

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 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 second and third time.

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember Carr, Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, and Mayor Crow.

Nays: None.

M. NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLUTION 2019-18:** A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 (FY20) BUDGET – **AMENDMENT #1** AND APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOUSING INSPECTOR I POSITION TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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

2. **RESOLUTION 2019-19:** A RESOLUTION APPROVING A USER AGREEMENT WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR THE DISPATCH EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABLE RADIO SYSTEM.

Councilmember Carr moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **RESOLUTION 2019-20:** A RESOLUTION APPROVING A USER AGREEMENT WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY AGENCIES INTEROPERABLE RADIO SYSTEM

Councilmember Cusick moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon and the motion carried unanimously.

BILLS

Introduced by Councilmember Smotherson

4. **BILL 9397** - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CITY MANAGER GREGORY ROSE. Bill Number 9397 was read for the first time.

Introduced by Councilmember Carr

5. **BILL 9398** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 120.940 OF MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, RELATING TO THE LOOP SPECIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMISSION, BY AMENDING SUBSECTION A.1 THEREOF, RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP. Bill Number 9397 was read for the first time.

Councilmember Carr stated the original Ordinance for the Loop Special Business District (LSBD) was established in 1980 and amended in 1989. Bill No. 9398 represents a second amendment for the purpose of clarifying;

- a. That the real property or licensed business must be subject to the additional tax in Municipal Code Section 120.910 and not be in arrears. Revenue from the taxes is used to pay all costs and expenses incurred in the operation of the District, and
- b. That if the owner of real property or a licensed business within the district is a partnership or a business organization or other entity, including a limited partnership, corporation, estate or trust, the owner may designate in writing an individual as the owner's legally authorized representative and such individual may be appointed to the Advisory Commission provided the individual is formally affiliated with the owner and the owner is subject to the additional tax in Section 120.910 and not in arrears.

Councilmember Carr stated forty years ago most of the real property and licensed businesses were owned by individuals but today, they are owned by partnerships, LLC(s), and trusts.

Therefore, what has happened over time is that individuals associated with these entities have been appointed to the Commission. She stated there is a need to make certain that members of the LSBDD represent those businesses and property owners who actually pay into the District. So this amendment asks that their designation/appointment, be a formal designation and that the person being designated has some relationship with ownership of those properties. Councilmember Carr noted that this amendment has been examined and accepted by the City Attorney.

N. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Carr reported that the Stormwater Task Force has now issued its amazing report to the City that is well worth reading. Members of the Task Force will make a presentation to Council during the January 27th Study Session. Several of their recommendations include:

- An early warning system to alert residents
- The hiring of a consultant to help with the prioritization of suggested projects
- A review of the City's Ordinances that address stormwater runoff

Councilmember Carr stated her hope is that this Task Force will culminate into an official Board or Commission that continues to address these ongoing problems. She stated this has been a very long journey, so she could never give enough thanks to those members who gave their time and expertise, for initiating this process. Special thanks should also go out to Councilmember Cusick, for his dedication and labor.

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

O. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

Patricia McQueen, 1132 George Street, University City, MO

Ms. McQueen stated she listened intently to the discussions regarding Habitat's letter of support, and while she is appreciative of the positions taken by Councilmembers Carr and Smotherson, Councilmember Clay's decision to fold was disheartening.

Ms. McQueen stated her hope was that the presentation of vacant properties orchestrated by herself and Mrs. Smotherson would have been the jolt this Council needed to clearly understand what is needed here in U City. But today, her challenge is for members of this Council to visit the 6500 blocks of Plymouth during the day, night, and especially on weekends. Perhaps, that visual will help each of you form the insight needed to convince Habitat about the obvious need for rehabilitation.

Habitat for Humanity is an organization she has admired for a long time, but over time it seems to have taken on the characteristics of a sacred cow, so she understands the need to strike a balance between these two positions. Everyone wants to put families in affordable housing, but shouldn't we also want to make sure these homes are in an area that is safe, with the potential to thrive? As it stands today that is not what the 6500 block of Plymouth represents. Habitat's Chicago affiliate performs rehabilitation of neighborhoods where new houses are being constructed. And that's what she would like to see Council moving towards because that's what would work for the northeast quadrant of the 3rd Ward.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Smotherson stated prior to making his final comment for the night, he too would like to thank Councilmember Carr for her service and passion for the work she has performed.

He stated as a 50-year resident, the success of U City has always been his focus, but now, his focus is on Olive; the Boulevard where he previously resided. As we speak, a new beauty supply is opening, and his question is; how many beauty supply companies do we really need on Olive?

Mayor Crow announced the passing of Mr. Elliott Porter last month, who some may remember as the gentleman who frequently attended these meetings to hold this Council accountable. If anyone is interested in learning more about Mr. Porter, there is a beautifully written obituary in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

Mayor Crow stated he is pleased by the number of people who exhibited their support of the City's decision to manage the Dog Park and would like to thank everyone who participated in the robust online discussion about this topic.

In response to one of the comments made tonight, he stated although some of the newsletters generated in the past may have been mildly informative, they typically included a hammer and a political component that no longer exists in the communications dispersed by this City's administration. So while his belief is that this Council can always do better at communicating, one of their goals over the past couple of years has been to ensure that their interactions did not befuddle the press. That is something they have been rather successful in accomplishing and will continue to strive for.

Mayor Crow stated he also thinks that tonight clearly illustrated how seven members of Council can have a conversation about a subject where there are mixed emotions and still reach a rational conclusion. So while there is no doubt that some folks would have preferred to see a different outcome, the respect his colleagues demonstrated towards this issue and the people involved, is commendable.

Councilmember Carr stated it just occurred to her while talking about the LSBDD, that Mr. Paul Schoomer; the former Councilmember instrumental in forming the LSBDD was in the audience tonight. This initiative has survived for 40-years, so she wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you.

- 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.

Councilmember McMahon moved to go into a Closed Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, Councilmember Carr, Councilmember McMahon, and Mayor Crow.

Nays: None.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the regular City Council meeting at 7:39 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