# MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY HALL, Fifth Floor 6801 Delmar Blvd. University City, Missouri 63130 Monday, January 13, 2020 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, January 13, 2020, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:33 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; (Excused)
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

Councilmember Carr moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Hales.

Councilmember Carr moved to remove Item L (2); Bill 9398, from the agenda until January 27, 2020, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rose requested that Item J (2); Tree Trimming Bid Approval, be moved to the City Manager's Report.

Councilmember Hales moved to approve Mr. Rose's request, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Carr moved to approve the agenda as amended, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay and the motion carried unanimously.

#### D. PROCLAMATIONS

#### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **1.** November 11, 2019, Joint Study Session Minutes CALOP, was moved by Councilmember Clay, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2. November 25, 2019, Joint Study Session Minutes Washington University RE: Community Policing was moved by Councilmember Cusick, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson and the motion carried unanimously.
- **3.** November 25, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes, was moved by Councilmember Clay, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.

- **4.** December 9, 2019, Study Session Minutes Strategic Communications, was moved by Councilmember Smotherson, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.
- **5.** December 9, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes, were moved by Councilmember Smotherson, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay and the motion carried unanimously.

## F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- 1. Adam Brown is nominated to the St. Louis County Council for the University of Missouri Extension effective March 1, 2020, by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Kathleen Sorkin is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales and the motion carried unanimously.
- **3.** Traci Moore is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales and the motion carried unanimously.
- **4.** Byron Price is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales and the motion carried unanimously.
- **5.** Matt Erker is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Hales, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- **6.** Kevin Taylor is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Smotherson, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- **7.** Bwayne Smotherson nominated himself to serve on the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- **8.** Karen Neilson is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Hales on behalf of Councilmember McMahon. It was seconded by Councilmember Carr and the motion carried unanimously.
- **9.** Sam Estep is nominated to the Economic Development Strategic Plan Task Force by Councilmember Carr on behalf of Councilmember McMahon. It was seconded by Councilmember Clay and the motion carried unanimously.
- **10.** Ellen Hartz is nominated for **reappointment** to the Plan Commission by Councilmember Carr, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.
- **11.** Mark Harvey is nominated for **reappointment** to the Plan Commission by Councilmember Carr, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

# G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed) Roosevelt Erving, 1443 78th Street, University City, MO

Mr. Erving stated he was interested in finding out when the two blocks from North and South to 78th Street would be smoothed out?

Mayor Crow informed Mr. Erving that even though Council does not typically answer questions posed by citizens, he can assure him that the City Manager will have someone from Public Works contact him with a response.

# Mike Giger, 830 Vanderbilt, University City, MO

Mr. Giger stated he has been a resident of U City for 45-years and would like to express his support of Habitat's proposal to build seven homes in the 3rd Ward. As President of the Parkview Garden's Association, he stated one of the keys to their success in renovating this neighborhood was the utilization of affordable housing. The Association continues to own twenty-two buildings, consisting of 114 economic and culturally diverse units. As a volunteer construction leader for Habitat, he assisted with the construction of five houses in the City of St. Louis, today. And since this has been his passion for the last 20-years, he even had the pleasure of helping build the ten certified platinum houses currently in the 3rd Ward.

Habitat is the largest developer of certified platinum houses in this region; which means they are 20 to 30 percent more energy-efficient than homes built to standard residential building codes. They do an excellent job of screening applicants; they have an excellent track record, and their homes are in high demand throughout the metropolitan area. Mr. Giger stated he is honored that Habitat has considered coming back to U City and looks forward to working on the projects they have planned for the 3rd Ward.

# Mary Dee. Schmidt, 819 Jackson, University City, MO

Ms. Schmidt stated she has been a resident of U City for 47-years and as a member of Christ the King's Social Justice Committee she supports the seven homes being proposed in the 3rd Ward by Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Schmidt suggested that Council reject Bill Number 9398, the proposed Ordinance prohibiting Brent Roam and Ben Evans from serving on The Loop Special Business District Advisory Commission.

## Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, University City, MO

Mr. Sullivan stated on Saturday he was notified by the MO Ethics Commission that the U City Library, its Director, Patrick Wall, and The Friends of U City Library were fined \$1,100 for violating the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law by illegally spending public money to support the property tax increase on the ballot last year. But in spite of the fact that his complaints led to these actions, he strongly believes the penalties were much too lenient and that Mr. Wall should spend time in federal prison. He also believes that City Government and the U City School District have played a role in corrupting elections, and as a result, he intends to continue pursuing these matters with the federal authorities.

Mr. Sullivan stated the Olive and I-170 Redevelopment project that was promoted as being a financial bonanza for the City has now been delayed even further. The Loop Trolley that was supposed to bring thousands of tourists to The Loop is a crashing failure. And in the midst of all of this, Councilmember Carr announces that she is not going to run for a seat on Council again and that everything is going great. The City has changed for the better, and I assume, we should be thankful to her and the "other reformers". He stated Olive east of Kingsland is a big mess, and in his opinion, it's absolutely absurd to tear down a large part of the western portion of the City that is thriving while failing to address so many problems in The Loop and the eastern end of the City. So, while the headline on Councilmember Carr's recent newsletter states, "Looking to the Future," he thinks it should have stated, "Looking to the Future and Leaving a Mess Behind".

# Mimi Taylor-Hendrix, 1314 Midland Drive, University City, MO

Ms. Taylor-Hendrix stated Habitat for Humanity has a solid reputation for encouraging and supporting homeownership in neighborhoods that have been underserved by traditional banking institutions. They promote successful homeownership through training and buy-in from new homeowners in the form of sweat equity and one-on-one contact with members of their new community. Current Habitat homes are appraising in the range of \$130,000 and have increased the value of existing homes.

Ms. Taylor-Hendrix stated something a long-time resident of the 3rd Ward said during a TIF meeting last June still resonates with her; the 3rd Ward is an area of working-class people and affordable housing and she resented it being represented as a slum. So yes, while there is a need for rehab in the 3rd Ward, she does not understand why both options; new construction/rehab, cannot be utilized.

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

Ms. Ginsberg stated in the past two weeks U City TNR volunteers trapped, neutered, vaccinated, and returned two female cats from the 3rd Ward, at no cost to the taxpayers. They look forward to assisting OpSPOT in the spring; providing low-cost vaccinations to U City's cats and dogs in the fall, and the day when U City adopts a TNR Ordinance to protect community cats and their colony caretakers.

Mayor Crow extended an invitation to anyone interested in speaking on Bill Number 9398, to do so during the final minutes of the first segment of Citizen's Participation.

# Tom Schmidt, 6525 Delmar, University City, MO

Mr. Schmidt, the owner of Salt & Smoke Restaurant, stated he has served on the Loop Special District Advisory Commission for over three years and truly appreciates the tremendous amount of hard work that goes on at the Council level, as well as what The Loop does. U City is lucky to have people who want to volunteer their time to steer and promote The Loop. So, Bill Number 9398, which seeks to make Ben Evans; who has served on the Commission for two years, and Brett Roam; who was overwhelmingly elected by his peers, both ineligible to serve, is inappropriate because it works against the values of U City and the betterment of The Loop.

## Nakita Smith, 753 Westgate, University City, MO

Ms. Smith stated as a member of The Loop Special District Advisory Commission and business owner in the Delmar Loop, she also feels that the ability to include people who are willing to serve on the LSBD is a value that benefits The Loop as a whole. Therefore, her hope is that Council will continue to allow the Commission to be inclusive and reconsider Bill Number 9398, which seeks to limit the Commission's continued success.

# Joe Edwards, 6504 Delmar, University City, MO

Mr. Edwards stated in 1980; eight-year after the unofficial creation of the Loop Special Business District, merchants and property owners made a decision to formalize the organization by agreeing to impose a special tax on themselves that would provide additional funds for projects they felt would enhance The Loop and reverse the dramatic decline that had occurred in the '60(s). This system worked well, and the Delmar Loop was designated as one of the ten great streets in America by the American Planning Association. The LSBD has now been in existence for 40-years, and as a result, he believes it is time to pause and take a look at the original Ordinance to ensure that all small business owners, office tenants, and property owners have an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns.

Mr. Edwards stated an open government emphasizing inclusion rather than exclusion has been a hallmark of U City since its inception and he is proud to live and work in this wonderful City.

## I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Liquor License – Pasta House

(Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m., and after hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:56 p.m.)

## J. CONSENT AGENDA – Vote Required

- **1.** Liquor License Pasta House
- **2.** Tree Trimming Bid Approval; (Removed)

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve Item Number 1, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales and the motion carried unanimously.

#### K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**1.** Tree Trimming Bid Approval

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council authorize a contract for tree trimming, which will be presented by Mr. Dunkle.

Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated the City issued an RFP for a tree trimming service to help maintain various trees throughout the City. The proposal details the need to trim approximately 140 trees, along with another form of management known as block pruning to help maintain proper tree heights and standards. This activity is done on an annual basis and will largely take place in the 3rd Ward.

Mr. Rose stated Mr. Dunkle conducted a short survey on our street trees which revealed that it has been more than twelve years since some trees have been pruned. Recognizing the need to take advantage of the favorable bids received, Mr. Rose stated he requested that this item be moved to the City Manager's Report to seek Council's authorization to double the amount currently being budgeted for the maintenance of trees; with the proviso that the company being awarded the contract is willing to uphold this additional funding.

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

Councilmember Clay thanked Mr. Rose for his forward-thinking in the terms of the need to do more with respect to maintaining the City's trees because he is certain every member of Council has received a call about problematic trees that seem to be on their last legs. In fact, as his colleagues might recall, there is a 3rd Ward resident who has repeatedly expressed concerns about a tree in her yard at these meetings. Staff responded to her concerns by trimming the tree. However, this 3rd Ward resident, as well as many others, believe that trimming is merely a short-term solution. So, in an effort to better understand the criteria staff employs when making a determination to trim versus extraction, Councilmember Clay asked Mr. Dunkle if he could speak on the standards utilized by the City. Mr. Dunkle stated when a request is received from a homeowner the City's Forester, who is a Certified Arborist, conducts an assessment of the tree to determine its condition from a hazardous standpoint; is it splitting, uprooting, et cetera. In the vast majority of cases, trees simply require pruning. However, once a tree is identified as being problematic, the health of that tree is reviewed on an annual basis.

Oftentimes, a resident's request to have a tree removed is based on the fact that they don't like where the tree is located because it results in them having to clean up leaves or falling branches on a regular basis. But by City standards, that is not a valid reason to remove a healthy tree.

Councilmember Carr asked Mr. Dunkle if he could explain what the second form of tree maintenance in the 3rd Ward entailed? Mr. Dunkle stated the RFP solicited a base bid for the cost of pruning approximately 140 trees and an alternate bid for the block pruning of entire streets or blocks within the 3rd Ward where the biggest portion of City trees are located.

Voice vote on Councilmember Carr's motion to approve carried unanimously.

# **2.** Legislative Update (Pat Kelly)

Mr. Rose stated a Legislative Update was scheduled to be presented by Mr. Pat Kelly. However, since he is not in attendance, he would request Council's permission to remove this item from the agenda and invite Mr. Kelly back at a later date. *(Council concurred with the request.)* 

# 3. Consideration of Legislative Platform

Mr. Rose stated staff is requesting Council's approval of the City's 2020 Legislative Platform, which will provide guidance to the legislative delegation, as well as staff, during the upcoming legislative session. This platform focuses on the areas of revenue/finance, infrastructure, quality services, and local control. However, there is a specific Bill he would like to bring to Council's attention that has an impact on the current revenues received by the City, which he has asked the City Attorney to highlight.

City Attorney, John Mulligan stated his understanding is that Senate Bill 526, which caps the amount of video service fees paid by companies using public right-of-ways to provide video service, is a priority for the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis.

Currently, there is a video provider fee equal to not more than 5 percent of the gross revenues the City receives, which equates to approximately \$270,000 a year, and this Bill caps the amount companies will have to pay to not more than 5 percent of the first \$20 of the gross revenues charged. He stated when they analyzed the impact this Bill would have on the City; depending on how it is interpreted, the best-case scenario would be a 75 percent reduction, and the worse case would be a 95 percent reduction. And that would apply to all cities and a number of counties throughout the State of Missouri.

Last year, the cable association proposed similar legislation that never made it out of the Senate Commerce Committee. That legislation created a classification called, "Competitive Video Service Providers," and reduced the 5 percent fee to 3 percent. The idea was to bring more video service providers into the arena; those that use right-of-ways, and those that don't, to generate a larger pool of gross revenues subject to a fee or tax. Naturally, the competitors were not thrilled about having to pay this tax and presented a strong opposition to the legislation. So this year, instead of holding cities harmless by having competitors pay this fee, their new approach is to take the fee; i.e., revenues, away from cities. And if it passes there will be a significant fiscal impact on every city across the State.

Another provision of the Bill deeply impacts the amount of telephone taxes these video service providers would have to pay. Basically, what the provision states is that if the video service provider is paying 5 percent on the first \$20.00, the amount paid will be credited against any telephone taxes they are required to pay, as long as an affiliate is providing telephone service. (Under the current law there is no cap.)

For example, Charter has affiliates that provide video service and telephone service using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) technology that contributes to the City's current revenue of \$270,000. So if this Bill is passed, they would get credit for that amount. Using the best-case scenario of 75 percent, 25 percent of that amount or \$67,500 would be credited to their telephone tax bill. (The City has been in litigation for almost ten years with Charter over their alleged underpayment of telephone taxes.) Not only would Charter receive a break on the fees for video services, but they would also pay less on telephone taxes. So it's kind of a double whammy as far as the impact on a city's revenue.

Mr. Mulligan stated there are a number of other provisions contained within this Bill, and perhaps, it has been given such a high priority because last year a representative from the cable association testified during a Senate hearing that cable companies pay roughly \$32 million to cities and counties across the State. And if successful, that number would be reduced by 75 or 95 percent just on the right-of-way usage. He stated he has been working with the Missouri Municipal League and will present testimony on this legislation when it comes up for a hearing.

Mr. Rose stated this is a very good example of where the approval of a specific Bill could have a major impact on some of the City's revenue sources. Moreover, this type of legislation can move very quickly, oftentimes making it impractical to schedule a meeting with Council. So, the approval of this Legislative Platform will provide staff with the guidance it needs to move forward in an expeditious manner when issues like this emerge.

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

Mayor Crow stated he thinks this hearing will actually be in front of the Committee that Senator Williams; who represents U City, is a member of. So, to those members of Council who have a way to communicate with the Senator it might be a good idea to let him know your thoughts on this particular Bill because it will have a major impact on the City's budget, as well as a number of municipalities across the State.

Voice vote on the motion to approve carried unanimously.

4. Lease with Option to buy purchase of Fire Apparatus

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council consider a lease with the option to buy a fire apparatus that will be described in more detail by Chief Hinson.

Battalion Chief, Bill Hinson stated his Department is looking to lease/purchase a used ladder truck from the Community Fire Protection District. The District currently uses this as a reserve truck and has agreed to sell it to U City for almost \$50,000 less than its original asking price. So this will start out as a lease to make sure it fits the Department's needs. The truck has been well maintained, and his mechanics; who have spent several hours inspecting the truck, believe that it is in great condition.

As some of you may know, one of their newer trucks was totaled out by the insurance company as a result of trying to rescue a woman and child from a submerged vehicle during the flood. This loss means that they are almost two trucks short since House No. 2 is operating with a 20-year old pumper that has almost 800,000 miles. Recently they discovered that it also has some mechanical issues that will cost about \$20,000 to repair. However, based on the age of the truck there is no guarantee that these repairs will actually fix or sustain the life of this vehicle.

Mr. Rose asked Chief Hinson if his Department anticipated applying for a grant to help with the purchase of a new truck? Chief Hinson agreed that there would be an opportunity to apply for a SAFER grant in a couple of weeks, and if they are awarded that grant the intent is to purchase a new vehicle to replace the one that was lost.

Mr. Rose informed Council that all of this information is outlined in Staff's Report under *"Funding to Cover the Cost of the Lease and Purchase"*. However, if they are unsuccessful in receiving this grant funds for a new truck will come from the insurance proceeds.

Chief Hinson stated a part of the insurance proceeds would be used to lease the fire apparatus and supplement the 10 percent match needed to fulfill the grant requirements.

Councilmember Smotherson questioned whether the ultimate plan was to maintain the leased vehicle in reserves after the new truck was purchased? Chief Hinson stated while the ultimate goal is to place the leased apparatus in reserves until they can purchase a new vehicle, it will be used on an as-needed basis, as a frontline vehicle to replace the old pumper at House No. 2. He stated even though the Apparatus Grant is one of the most difficult grants to receive, his hope is that the fact that U City is a three-truck town that is now down two trucks, will be viewed as an application needing high priority.

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

#### L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 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 second and third time.

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

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

2. 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. (Removed from agenda)

#### M. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

**BILLS** 

## N. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

- 1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
- 2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions Councilmember Carr stated the Storm Water Task Force will make their presentation during the next Council Study Session. Council has already received a copy of the report, which she thinks is actually pretty great.

And to emphasize these member's dedication to this work, they actually went out during the last severe rainstorm and took measurements. Fortunately, the amount of rainwater did not exceed the limit, but their recommendation of an early warning system will eliminate the need to take physical measurements, warn residents who are in endanger, and reassure residents when they are not.

Councilmember Smotherson recognized the Arts & Letters Commission for what he thinks is one of the best calendars the City has had in years. He stated Ms. Audrey Jones, the young lady in charge of last year's Mannequins on The Loop was here tonight, and his hope was that he would have been able to thank her for all of the work she did on this project before she left because it was a tremendous success.

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

# O. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

#### P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Clay stated he wanted to acknowledge all of the City's Departments that were involved in the precautionary evacuation of Westover and Hafner Place; two areas that are prone to frequent flooding. As it turns out, the storm was not severe enough to create any flooding and residents were quickly returned to their homes. But this event certainly highlights the work of Councilwoman Carr and the Storm Water Task Force, as it relates to some of the real issues in U City. He stated while he understands there are no easy answers to this problem, there is a definite need to continue pushing forward in the hopes of finding one because frankly, being in constant fear of losing everything you have, is no way to live.

Councilmember Cusick reminded everyone about the unveiling of the mural painted by U City High School students that will take place this Saturday in the U City Parking Garage, as well as the Ice Carnival that starts this weekend. He stated after being afforded the opportunity to preview the mural he can attest to the fact that it is fantastic. So he would encourage everyone to come out this weekend and support these two events.

Councilmember Hales stated he would also like to thank the City's Fire and Police Departments for their quick response and support of those residents who live in areas prone to flooding. He stated on Christmas Day he decided to spend the morning on a ride-along with Officer Smith. So he would like to send a big thank you out to him and all of the employees who worked over the holiday season. The work they must perform to protect residents while they are at home enjoying the holidays with family and friends is greatly appreciated.

Mayor Crow stated during the last Study Session Council had an opportunity to learn more about the Citizen's Engagement Survey from the company who prepared the assessment. So to all those citizens who participated in the survey; thank you very much. I would also like to thank members of our staff for their dedication and service, particularly as it relates to the extremely high scores they received in the areas of customer service and the level of engagement they provide to the community. And finally, to those who watched the session or were in attendance, please take advantage of the opportunity to look at the survey results and if you are impelled to do so, provide some additional feedback because everyone's input helps to make U City a better place.

And based on the number of complaints he received this holiday season; which was only

two, it is becoming a better place.

One complaint was that the City had failed to get the 2020 calendars out on time, and the other one; which came from a few residents, questioned whether staff had provided enough straw in the Dog Park. With respect to the calendar, what he would like everyone to keep in mind is that this is a product of the Arts & Letters Commission. So if anyone is interested in seeing the calendar completed sooner, he would welcome the opportunity to nominate them to become a member of this Commission.

He stated in the scheme of life, and thinking about the ground that has been covered, he thinks we will be okay if the calendar is not received before December 30th. The return of EMS has not only increased our residents' confidence in our Police and Fire Departments but today we heard about our ability to work with another Fire Department to lease us their equipment at a reduced rate. Nevertheless, we also heard about 12-years of tree trimming the City needs to catch up on, and a vacant lot at Olive and North and South; if only they knew the entire story. Mayor Crow stated the bottom line is that there is still an awful lot of work to do, and this is one of those moments where you have to take a deep breath and keep moving forward.

Mayor Crow stated rather than inundating Council with emails on the day Bill No. 9398 is slated to be on the agenda, his hope is that the folks who spoke on this topic will ask members of the LSBD to engage in conversations with members of Council to discuss the challenges that have come forward. Everyone cares deeply about the success of the City's downtown area and would like to see it become a strong and vibrant business district. So while his belief is that there was no ill intent meant by the presentation of this Bill, he thinks it will take everyone coming together, either as a group or in one-on-one conversations, to find an amenable solution.

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 Hales moved to go into a Closed Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Carr.

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

## R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow closed the regular City Council meeting at 7:27 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 9:08 p.m.

LaRette Reese City Clerk