

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE – ZOOM MEETINGS
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
5:30 p.m.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Special Session of the City Council of University City held via videoconference, on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson
Councilmember Stacy Clay (*arrived at 5:41 p.m.*)

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Hales moved to approve the Agenda as presented, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon and the motion carried unanimously.

D. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Crow noted that Council had received comments from one citizen prior to this meeting and he appreciates that effort

E. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Loop Special Business District proposal for a Street Event

Mr. Rose stated this item is asking Council to consider a proposal from the Loop Special Business District (LSBD) to host a street event. On July 14th, the LSBD voted and approved making a request for \$50,000 from the Economic Retail Sales Tax to host a street event in the Delmar Loop. Mr. Rose reminded Council that they had approved funding for events as part of the FY20 budget; but not all of the funds were used. Mr. Rose stated that he recommends the approval of the proposal for amount not to exceed \$50,000. If approved, he would request a more detailed budget that would be included as part of the contract; as well as the closure of Delmar Blvd.

Mr. Rose stated he would be happy to respond to any questions.

Q Councilmember Smotherson asked if this would be for the West Loop only?

A Mr. Rose confirmed that was correct. No funding would be allowed outside of University City

Q Councilmember McMahon asked between what streets would Delmar be closed?

A Mr. Rose stated he had not yet seen the details, but he believes it will be like what had been done in the past for the Loop In Motion event

Q Councilmember McMahon asked that everyone be cognitive that the rules regarding social distancing and gatherings may change as we get closer to the date;

A Mr. Rose stated that the language requiring them to comply to with any/all County/State orders in effect at the time of the event could be included in the contract
Councilmember Hales stated he was fine with the dollar amount, but we should make every effort to come in under budget if possible

Q Councilmember Smotherson asked how will the number of people be controlled? Because this would be an outside event; his concern how will the numbers be controlled?

A Mr. Rose stated he believed the intention is put together a more detailed proposal with the specifics and logistical details about how the event will be rolled out. As he understands it; the intention is to highlight the restaurants. He believes that including the language that they must comply with the St. Louis County Orders should provide a sense for limiting the number of people that can be in one place at one time; without social distancing.

Councilmember Smotherson stated he didn't want us to make national news because something bad happens in U City.

Q Mayor Crow asked if the contract should include a provision that the City Manager has the final say as to thumbs up or down? We need a someone to make the final decision as to whether it's a go or no go because this situation continues to very fluid. If it's happening on our streets, the final decision should not be left to the LSBDB Board. Mayor Crow stated he believes the City Manager is the appropriate person to make the final call because he is the gatekeeper when it comes to public safety.

A Mr. Rose stated that he was comfortable with including that type of language. And of course, the final decision would be made after conferring with the Police and Fire Chiefs.

City Attorney Mulligan stated that the City Code, in section 505.030, deals with using streets for special use purposes; this activity may far well fall under the scope of that. The City Manager has the authority to approve the use if it's not in excess of twelve hours. The Council would have to approve anything in excess of twelve hours. Council would have the opportunity to review the closure of the street for this event which is schedule to occur on September 6th and 7th; which indicates that it would be more than twelve hours. The goal would be to have the final details by August 10th which would allow Council to review and possibly approve in enough time.

Mr. Rose stated that he believes Council's concerns is dealing with how fluid the COVID-19 situation, things could change in two weeks, even after they consider the site plan and gain a good sense of what is planned. It seems Council has an interest in ensuring that even at the last week or so; we could make a go/no go decision. With that in mind, he intends to include language that would allow the City Manager to make the final decision.

Mayor Crow restated the action for tonight is to determine if Council is comfortable with allocating the funds in support of the proposed event. He believes the LSBDB Board will be agreeable with the details as they're worked in the contract.

Councilmember Cusick moved to approve the \$50,000.00 for a street event requested from the LSBDB Board, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales.

Councilmember Clay joined the meeting at 5:41 p.m.; and was present for the vote. Mayor Crow highlighted the discussion points as follows:

- Funding will not be more than \$50,000.00 and to try and save as much as possible.
- Contract to explicitly state that the City Manager will make the final decision "go or no go" based on the fluid situation with the Coronavirus or other factors.

Councilmember Clay apologized for his tardiness.

Voice vote on Councilmember Cusick's motion carried unanimously.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. BILL 9409** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 215.720 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, MISSOURI, RELATING TO OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC PLACES. Bill Number 9409 was read for the second and third time.

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

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

G. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Cusick stated that the St. Louis Pandemic Task Force reported that yesterday they saw the highest single day admission to St. Louis area hospitals. He reminded everyone to please practice safe distancing and wearing mask when out in the public.

Councilmember Smotherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales, and the motion carried unanimously.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Regular Session of the City Council meeting at 5:45 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk

From: Tom Sullivan <tsullivan@sullivanadv.net>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 6:13 PM
To: Council Comments Shared <councilcomments@ucitymo.org>
Subject: City Council Comments, July 21, 2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

July 20, 2020

TO: City Council Meeting, July 21, 2020

FR: Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse Avenue, U.City, MO 63130
RE: Special Business District Proposal/ Street Event -- Agenda Item E-1

I have some comments regarding the proposed \$50,000 appropriation for a street party in the Loop around the Labor Day weekend.

The amount requested seems too much. I would cut it by \$10,000 and save the \$10,000 for some other event.

Closing Delmar to traffic could create chaos. I would think twice about that. You don't want to create a lot of bad feelings from people caught in traffic jams. That happened about four or five years ago when Delmar was closed -- it might have been for a run.

I would keep the Loop Trolley out of it. Few people are riding it on the weekends. It usually has only a few passengers though there is no charge to ride it. There are times when no one is riding it. Also, it has no air conditioning.

The Loop is looking pretty sad at times these days. This morning around 11 a.m. there were only seven cars parked on Delmar from Westgate to Kingsland. Starbucks did not have a single customer.

There are still a lot of store vacancies. The old Cicero's spot will soon be vacant for three years. The old Bread Company space will be vacant nearly as long. The Melting Pot space is still vacant. There are three vacancies across from the old Cicero's. There are three vacancies in the City's parking garage store fronts. Hop Cat left a lot of empty space when it closed. The list goes on . . . It has to be wondered if the Loop is being effectively marketed.

Thank you for considering my comments.