

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, June 21, 2021
6:30 p.m.

On March 20, 2020, City Manager Gregory Rose declared a State of Emergency for the City of University City due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting will be in person at City Hall, but **the public may not observe and attend in person but may observe and attend the June 21, 2021 meeting as it has been able to do since on or about March 20, 2020.**

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Special Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, June 21, 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 Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson
Councilmember Aleta Klein (*absent*)

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

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Procedures for submitting comments for Citizen Participation and Public Hearings:

*ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.** Comments may be sent via email to: councilcomments@ucitymo.org, or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention City Clerk. Such comments will be provided to City Council prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.*

*Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Please also note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.*

Mayor Crow thanked citizens for their comments prior to noon today. All comments meeting the aforementioned guidelines will always be forwarded to members of City Council for review.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Relocation Assistance Agreement and Payment Authorization

Councilmember Clay moved to approve the Consent Agenda; it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson.

Councilmember Clay asked if Council would need to approve each individual agreement for payment? Mr. Rose stated that this agreement is coming before Council because technically Council has not yet established a budget for RPA2 Funds.

The intention is to establish a budget as part of the Annual Operating Budget that is being proposed to the Mayor and Council. Until then we will need to bring this agreement to you for consideration.

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

F. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Free Admission to Centennial Commons and Heman Park Pool

Mr. Rose stated he as was able to follow up with Captain Lemons regarding the question that was raised during the Study Session about the body camera program. The program has been fully implemented; they are now in the analysis phase. He intends to make information available to the Council and to the public that will make you more aware of what is happening with the program.

Mr. Rose stated that item F1 is asking for authorization to extend the free entry to Centennial Commons and Heman Park Pool, not to exceed July 6, 2021. The action cannot be done administratively because his expenditure amount is limited to twenty-five thousand dollars, and he believes this would exceed that amount.

Mayor Crow stated that everyone wanted to get the kinks worked out of the system at the pool and at Centennial Commons and to relieve a bit of the stress that our families have gone through during the COVID crises.

He believes everyone recognizes there is a time for this to sunset and he hopes that we have a good communication strategy to inform the kids, parents, swim club and anyone else who uses the swim lanes. We need a communication plan prior to the date so there are no surprises when people show up on July 6th.

Councilmember Hales asked how things went this past week with the additional attention at both facilities?

Mr. Rose stated that he had not received any concerns about operations at the pool or Centennial Commons. He asked Mr. Dunkle to provide his insight regarding operations over the past weekend.

Mr. Dunkle stated that things went fairly smooth at both facilities. There were a few hiccups over the past weeks but with the addition of the police presence, those issues have been greatly minimized. There has been an increase in non-resident usage partly because other Municipalities have limited or no non-residential usage. Overall, it was a relatively smooth weekend.

Mayor Crow asked if we have an idea of how many people use the pool on a heavy flow day and how many are non-residents?

Mr. Dunkle stated he did not have exact numbers; on warm days, the pool has heavy usage.

Mayor Crow asked if the maximum is 900, what would be the best estimate? Mr. Dunkle said on busy sunny days it would be about half (450-500).

Mayor Crow called for a motion that free admission to Centennial Commons and Heman Park Pool remain in effect until the end of business on July 5th with the appropriate communication plan.

Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve the motion as stated by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay

Councilmember Cusick asked for clarification that free admission would go through Monday, July 5th which would include the official holiday observance?

Mr. Rose stated that correct.

Councilmember Hales further clarified the ending date is July 5th.

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

2. Free Parking Meters

Mr. Rose stated this item is requesting to waive parking meter fees throughout University City for a period not to exceed six months from today's date (6/21/2021). The purpose of this action is to assist our small businesses in the Loop and other areas such as North and South and Delmar, where they could advertise free parking for patrons visiting the various restaurants and retail stores.

If this item is approved, the intention is to seek reimbursement of the funds from the Economic Development Retail Sales Tax fund for approximately \$150,000, which is about half of the amount that would normally be collected.

Councilmember McMahon asked if this number was represented in the proposed budget, or will a budget amendment be needed? Mr. Rose stated if the item is approved, his intention is to make a budget amendment to reflect that the revenues will be received from a different revenue source.

Mr. Rose clarified the amount is a combination of the fees from the parking meters as well as the fees from the violations. He stated that he looked at the 2019 budget to determine the amount of revenues typically received from the parking meter program and this is about half of that amount.

Councilmember Cusick asked if this included the City owned parking lot on Delmar; will the parking there be free as well? Mr. Rose stated he is looking at locations that have meters, which would include Delmar and the side streets and potentially yes the metered parking lots (#4) and the one close to the Tivoli building. His intention is to cover all meters for a period not to exceed six months.

Mayor Crow clarified that parking lot number 4 does not have meters. Mr. Rose stated it is the lot by the Tivoli.

Councilmember Clay asked if there was a plan for the City to advertise the free parking program in the key small business areas? Mr. Rose said that he had not considered that at this point but would likely pursue something with the Loop Special Business District. The other development on North and South and Delmar may not be aware of this action as it was initially spurred by LSBDD. But, because it seems like a positive action that could benefit all small businesses, he is proposing to do it throughout the City. Staff would look at putting together a general plan to be communicated to the general public letting them know about the free parking if the item approved. And only in the areas where the businesses want it, some may choose to keep the metered parking.

Mayor Crow stated that some of the businesses, particularly along Forsyth, may want to keep the metered parking to avoid the residents having to absorb the additional parking by students and so forth. He stated this idea was brought up the head of LSBDD and Jessica Bueler, so they took the lead in wanting to do parking stickers and such. Mr. Rose is right in that we need to make sure the other areas have a voice in rather we offer free parking or not because in some situations it may have detrimental impact that we may not have thought about it.

Councilmember McMahon asked if we could get feedback from the business owners to see if the program is successful or not in case we ever want to do it again perhaps at holiday time. It would be good to know if it helps to draw people in. Mr. Rose stated that is absolutely the intention.

Mayor Crow called for the motion and asked Mr. Rose if he wanted to recommend the wording of the motion.

Mr. Rose recommended a motion to the Mayor and Council to authorize the City Manager to waive parking meter fees throughout University City effective June 21, 2021 for a period not to exceed six months.

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

G. NEW BUSINESS

Bills

Introduced by Councilmember Smotherson

1. **Bill 9435** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PERMIT CONSTRUCTION WORK OR ACTIVITY DURING OTHERWISE PROHIBITED TIMES; CONTAINING A SUNSET CLAUSE. Bill Number 9435 was read for the first time.

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Crow stated that he attended the Missouri City Clerks and Finance Officers Association, Eastern Division, where Ms. Reese has been a member for some time. He had the great pleasure of giving her the oath of office as a new board member for the organization. In this case, it was sort of like the student swearing in the teacher. He stated it was an event that he was very proud to attend, and he thanked Ms. Reese for all that she does and will do for the association.

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

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Special City Council Meeting at 6:53 p.m.