

MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE – ZOOM
Monday, September 27, 2021
6:30 p.m.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held via videoconference, on Monday, September 27, 2021, 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 Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Tim Cusick
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., Director of Public Works, Sinan Alpaslan, and Director of Finance, Keith Cole.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 13, 2021, Study Session Minutes – Storm Response was moved by Councilmember Clay, it was seconded by Councilmember Klein, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. September 13, 2021, Regular Session Minutes was moved by Councilmember Hales, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1. The following persons are nominated to the Community Visioning 2040 Task Force by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick.
 - 1) Joan Suarez (CALOP)
 - 2) Bobette Patton (EDRST)
 - 3) Adam Staudt (Green Practices)
 - 4) Ed Nickels (Historic Preservation)
 - 5) Ed Acosta (Library Board)
 - 6) Wendy Harris (LSBD)
 - 7) James Wilke (Park)
 - 8) Peggy Holly (Plan)
 - 9) Sandra Hewitt (Senior)
 - 10) Garry Aronberg (Storm Water)
 - 11) Dennis Fuller (Traffic)
 - 12) Diane Benjamin (Urban Forestry)

Councilmember Smotherson asked if the LSBD was considered to be a Commission in this instance? Mayor Crow stated in order to make certain they selected a broad base of engaged residents for this visioning process, he and Mr. Rose decided to look at all of the City's volunteer groups. And in doing so they concluded that the LSBD's activities within the community resulted in more engaged members than some of the other Boards.

Mr. Rose stated their goal was to ensure integral areas like economic development and the business community was represented when establishing a vision for the City.

Voice vote on Mayor Crow's motion carried unanimously.

F. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

G. 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.** Also, note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the submitted comment will not be recorded in the official record.*

Mayor Crow thanked citizens for taking the time to submit their written comments. All comments meeting the aforementioned guidelines have been made a part of this record. He stated he looks forward to the time when citizens will have the opportunity to present their comments to Council in person.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 2021 Annual Property Tax Rates

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m. After acknowledging the receipt of written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. 2023 Freightliner Ambulance Purchase**
- 2. Severe Storm Response Policy**

Councilmember Hales moved to approve Items 1 and 2 of the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon, and the motion carried unanimously.

J. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Westgate Ave/ Contribution Agreement with Washington University

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council consider a contract agreement between U City and Washington University for the installation of lights along Westgate Avenue.

Mr. Alpasian stated the City received a Service Transportation Grant for street improvements along Westgate Ave., Delmar Blvd., and Vernon Ave. In addition to these improvements, Washington University has agreed to assist with the installation of 50 pedestrian-level light standards. Their contribution of \$750,000 does not include the costs associated with operating and maintaining these lights, which staff has estimated to be \$20,000 on an annual basis. Once installed, these lights will become a part of U City's infrastructure inventory. He stated the City's Consultant, CMT, will be responsible for the design and management of the Westgate Improvement Project, and their estimated timeline for completion is the spring of 2022.

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

Councilmember Smotherson questioned whether the street improvements had already been completed? Mr. Alpasian stated the design has been completed and staff is in the final stages of obtaining temporary construction easements from property owners.

He stated the construction phase will commence once all of the necessary signatures have been obtained.

Voice vote on Councilmember Clay's motion carried unanimously.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bills

- 1. BILL 9444** – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 210.040 OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO KEEPING MORE THAN TWO ANIMALS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS UNLAWFUL, BY REPEALING SECTION 210.040 AND ENACTING IN LIEU THEREFORE A NEW SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS "SECTION 210.040. KEEPING MORE THAN THREE ANIMALS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS UNLAWFUL;" CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING A PENALTY. Bill Number 9444 was read for the second and third time.

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

Councilmember Klein posed the following questions to Mr. Rose:

Q. Since this is being recommended as an incremental approach, how will staff gauge the impact of increasing the number of pets to three?

A. The primary source of measurement will be based on the number of complaints received.

Q. Has a timeframe been established to conduct an analysis and determine if any adjustments will be needed?

A. The intent is to capture any complaints related to this topic over a three to six-month period and conduct a review to determine if the number of complaints has increased, or if any unintended consequences have occurred as a result of this increase and the broad diversity of animals included in the Ordinance. But regardless of the outcome, the plan is to bring this Ordinance back before Council at the end of the fiscal year for further consideration.

Councilmember Cusick asked if the Ordinance included a definition for which animals were acceptable? Mr. Mulligan stated the definition contained within the Ordinance is limited to dogs, cats, monkeys, or ducks.

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Bill Number 9445 be amended to allow for the hiring of a Human Resources Director.

Mr. Mulligan stated the City Manager is recommending that the current position of Assistant to the City Manager/Director of Human Resources, which is listed as a Grade E-3, be amended to a Grade E-2, and that the title of Assistant to the City Manager be eliminated. Therefore, the appropriate motion would be to strike Section 3, which lists the position of Assistant to the City Manager/Director of Human Resources as a Grade E-3 and insert the position of Director of Human Resources, as a Grade E-2.

Pursuant to the recommended motion made by Mr. Mulligan, Councilmember Hales moved to amend Bill 9445, it was seconded by Councilmember Klein, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2. BILL 9445 - AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AS ENUMERATED HEREIN FROM AND AFTER ITS PASSAGE, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 7154.** Bill Number 9445 was read for the second and third time.

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

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

L. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

- 1. Resolution 2021-14:** A Resolution to approve the 2021 Annual Property Tax Rates.

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

Mr. Rose asked Mr. Cole if he would provide a summary of what is being proposed.

Mr. Cole stated the following tax rates are being proposed for 2021, based on the current assessed valuations:

Residential	=	.584 <i>(a decrease from .610)</i>
Commercial	=	.62
Personal property	=	.68
Police and fire pensions	=	.195

The following represents the overall revenue generated from these taxes for 2021:

Residential	=	\$ 3,734,521
Pension plans	=	\$ 1,089,315
Library	=	\$ 2,780,188
LSBD	=	\$ 47,200
Parkview Gardens	=	\$ 105,029

Voice vote on Councilmember Hale's motion carried unanimously.

M. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions
3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes
4. Other Discussions/Business

N. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

O. COUNCIL COMMENTS

P. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 (2) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration

Councilmember Hales moved to adjourn the Regular Session and go into an Executive Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay.

Roll Call Vote Was:

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

Nays: None.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Regular Session at 6:57 p.m. to go into an Executive Session. The Executive Session was reconvened in an open session at 7:18 p.m.

LaRette Reese,
City Clerk

From: [Tom Sullivan](#)
To: [Council Comments Shared](#)
Subject: City Council Comments -- 09.27.21
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:50:58 AM

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Comments to the University City Council
Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, U.City, MO 63130
September 27, 2021

To the Council:

I have several things to mention, none of which have to do with agenda items.

▶ The Costco project was on the front page of Saturday's paper for making noise at night and upsetting residents. So what? The City has long has its Citizen Irritation Program (CIP) and this can just be added. As noted many times on nextdoor, resident are disturbed by high-powered leaf blowers that are nearly as loud as chain saws. They may be going early in the morning, even on Saturday or Sunday, or in the evening. Other cities have restrictions on them but not U.City with its the-hell-with-the residents attitude. Then there is the drum circle -- or is it the "dumb circle" -- that is allowed in the Loop and can be heard all the way to Vernon Avenue. The circle was kicked out of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood as it was disturbing residents but was welcomed with open arms in U.City, where citizen concerns are ignored. And now there is gunfire at night all over U.City to both irritate and scare residents. Just more reasons why fewer people want to live in University City. It always will follow that crime increases in cities with poor schools and University City public schools are among the worst in the area.

▶ As you head south on Kingsland, coming to Delmar to make a right-hand turn

and head west, a motorist sees a sign up with the traffic lights that says, "Right Turn Signal." Next to it is a blank screen in a box. It was put in when the Loop Trolley was constructed but has never worked. People like myself who go through the intersection regularly know it doesn't work. The problem is with some people not familiar with the intersection. They will sit at the light-- even a green light -- seemingly waiting for instructions on the screen -- but none come. This doesn't happen often but it happens. Just in the last couple of weeks it happened with two motorists; one with an Illinois license plate and one with a Texas plate. If the sign was taken down or covered up, the problem would be solved. This matter was brought up with City Manager Gregory Rose some time back.

▶ The plan to move the City Council chamber from City Hall is puzzling. You are destroying the thriving west end of the city and next on the agenda seems to be getting rid of University City's historic City Hall. Moving the council chamber for phony reasons is the first step. U.City residents have a lot of affection for the City Hall building but don't let that stop you.

▶ The bannister for the walk that leads from Trinity to City Hall is badly in need of painting. The pain has chipped off.

▶ The street north of "Loop North" is also called Loop North. Both have the same signage. According to Google maps, the street north of Loop North is New Enright. I would think a city ought to know what its streets are named. I brought this up to City Manager Rose in 2018 but it doesn't seem to bother him that two parallel streets have the same name.

▶ A "streetscape" light -- also known as a pedestrian light -- in front of Commerce Bank on Delmar is out.

▶ A street light is out on Heman Avenue just north of Loop North.

▶ There are two streetlights out on North Drive between Eastgate and Cabanne. The block is pretty dark and I would not say it is a safe area. (As I recall, a would-be car thief once got caught stealing a car on North Drive as he didn't know how to drive a stick shift.) It's surprising the number of lights that are out and apparently not reported by University City police officers.

▶ There are tree branches blocking pedestrians at Vernon and Leland by the Ackert Park nursing home. Also, there is about six-feet of sidewalk with dirt and grit on it in front of the nursing home on Vernon. This was reported to City

Manager Rose and some branches were cut but not enough. Nothing was done about the sidewalk. In addition, there is an orange barrel and an orange cone on the sidewalk on the Leland side of the nursing home. Not sure what that is about.

▶ As the library is being renovated it should be remembered what a corrupt campaign it was for the library's tax hike. Since the City and the School District both are experienced at corrupting elections, I suppose the library decided to do the same. Library Director Patrick Wall should have been fired. Years ago, University City had honest and trustworthy officials. Those days are long gone.

WEST END WORD: University City Fined For Finance Disclosure Violation
[University City Library Fined For Finance Disclosure Violation | West End Word | timesnewspapers.com](http://timesnewspapers.com)

▶ The Kingsland entrance to the #4 parking lot, behind the old Cicero's, it still a mess. At one time there were shrubs or trees along the Kingsland side but they apparently died as did their replacements. Surely the City can do better. The narrow trees along Kingsland Park would be a good example of what might be planted. That park is very well done. I don't know why the entrance to the Loop parking lot cannot be the same.

▶ There are two park benches in Metcalfe Park that are badly in need of painting. The paint has chipped off.

▶ The gas station/ convenience store under construction at Kingsland and Olive was approved over three years ago and is nearly complete but has been sitting idle for some time. What's the holdup? The weeds keep getting taller. They seem to be taller than the puny "trees" that were planted in the Kingsland median just south of Vernon.

▶ There are streetlights up and down Olive that are not working. There are 6 streetscape lights near Advance Auto Parts that are out.

▶ There are 2 streetlights across from Heman Park that are out.

▶ There are 2 streetlights by U-Haul that are out. There is a streetscape light just west of Midland that's out.

▶ There are two lights out by White Castle.

▶ There are around 12 streetscape lights around Olive and Hanley that are out. Obviously, an electrical problem rather than a bulb problem.

- ▶ There is a streetlight out in from of Aldi.
- ▶ There is a streetscape light that is blinking at Olive and Hafner.
- ▶ There is a streetlight out on Sheridan, just north of Olive.
- ▶ There is talk of a quarter-cent sales tax increase to be placed on the ballot next year. You must be joking.

Thank you for considering my comments.

