

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE – ZOOM
Monday, October 11, 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, October 11, 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 Chief of Police, Larry Hampton.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Mayor Crow stated that a request was made to move Item J (2); Mobile Shooting Range Trailer Purchase, to the City Manager's Report.

- D. PROCLAMATION** – A Proclamation designating November 1, 2021, as "Extra Mile Day". A day set aside to encourage the community to "go the extra mile" in their personal and collective volunteerism and service efforts.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 27, 2021, Study Session Minutes – Loop Area Safety, Councilmember Clay moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. September 27, 2021, Regular Session Minutes, Councilmember Hales moved to approve, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1. Richard Massey (Arts and Letters) is nominated to the Community Visioning 2040 Task Force by Mayor Crow, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson, and the motion carried unanimously.

G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

1. Kathleen Simpson was sworn into the Library Board via Zoom on October 6, 2021.
2. Todd Jacobs was sworn into the Board of Appeals on October 7, 2021, in the City Clerk's office.

H. 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.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

J. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of Proposed FY2022-2023 Work Plan
2. Mobile Shooting Range Trailer Purchase - Police Department; *(Removed)*

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve Item Number 1 on the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales.

Councilmember Smotherson stated he would like to see the Retention and Recruitment Program initiated now rather than in 2023 so that the City can start addressing some of the issues it is currently facing within its business population.

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

Mr. Rose stated he would like to discuss two items before starting his report. The first item deals with the cost of relocating Council's Chambers to the Trinity Building.

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Rose stated he had informed Elliott Davis of Channel 2 News that the cost of relocating these Chambers would be less than \$100,000. Yet, despite that information, part of the report presented by Mr. Davis indicated that the cost would be approximately 2 million dollars. However, based on what he has learned today unless there is a desire to purchase new furniture, the actual cost of this relocation will be zero.

Mr. Rose noted that the primary reason for recommending that Council's Chambers be relocated was to provide ADA access for the public in the event the elevator was not available.

Councilmember Clay stated in addition to ADA access, he believed that there was also a security concern associated with the egress and ingress of the Chamber's current configuration? Mr. Rose stated, unfortunately, in today's environment where active shootings are occurring on a daily basis, security had been a concern. As a result, the City's goal is to provide the safest atmosphere possible for everyone when it is conducting business.

Councilmember Klein asked if there would be an official statement from the City regarding the actual cost of the relocation on social media? Mr. Rose stated he would discuss this with Gabby to make sure the report he received today is shared on the City's website as well as social media platforms.

Councilmember Hales stated his understanding was that the primary focus was to find a permanent location that met the requirements needed for the courts. And the way he read the assessment, Council would be able to meet in the same chambers utilized by the court without any additional cost. Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Mr. Rose stated he would like to read his statement into the record related to the incident where an officer stopped three pedestrians in the area of 8322 Delcrest in May of this year. The body camera video of this stop has been made available to the public, which illustrates that the pedestrians were detained for a total of 7-minutes.

"On May the 11th of 2021, one of the pedestrians filed a complaint against the officer that detained him, wherein he requested the body camera footage of the incident.

On May the 12th, 2021, an Internal Affairs investigation of the incident took place, which resulted in what I believed to be appropriate corrective actions taken by the Chief of Police.

There is no denying that the stop could have been handled much better, but that does not mean the officer was grossly negligent in carrying out his duties. I know the Police Chief and his officer's respect and have pledged to protect the rights of every individual, and they are always striving to improve in how they protect and serve the public. "

K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mobile Shooting Range Trailer Purchase - Police Department

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending the purchase of a mobile shooting range trailer for the Police Department.

Chief Hampton stated he was contacted by the Florissant Police Department who informed him that they were seeking bids in an attempt to sell their mobile trailer which has three firing lanes with up to 15 yards of usage. The trailer was purchased new in 1995 and is equipped with climate controls, filtration, sound, and ballistic-proof systems. He stated the City's bid of \$30,000 will be dispersed from the General Fund, and that cost will include maintenance and setup.

The Chief stated his Department needs additional firearms training to meet their annual firearms requirements, and he believes this will be a very effective tool to provide the extensive training needed to ensure his officers are qualified and fully prepared to meet the demands of their job. At this point, they have been unable to fully utilize the existing fire range located in the Annex, and as a result, the Department has had to rent or lease ranges in other jurisdictions; which severely limits the engagement times available for his officer's. Chief Hampton stated if the City is successful; the trailer will be housed in a fenced-in, non-residential section within the Public Works Garage.

Councilmember McMahon asked if this trailer would offset the rental and travel costs currently being incurred. Chief Hampton stated that it would, although his officers will still have to utilize the facility in Granite City to qualify for the use of AR-15 Rifles since it is the only training component that cannot be achieved in the trailer. Councilmember McMahon asked if the trailer would be used to supplement the indoor range after the renovations are completed, or sold to another municipality? Chief Hampton stated the main reason for his request is because of the time it will take to complete the renovations, and his ability to make sure his officers receive this required training while waiting for that facility to open. But once the indoor range is available, City officials will have the option to decide what they believe the best use of the trailer will be.

Councilmember Smotherson asked Chief Hampton if he believed the City would be successful in obtaining this trailer through the bidding process; and if they are, could the trailer be rented or leased out to other municipalities? Chief Hampton stated while he could not be 100 percent sure of submitting the winning bid, U City was the first municipality Florissant contacted. And he believes that the reason they did is because many of the smaller municipalities would not have the funds to meet their demand. But, if U City is successful, there are typically no fees associated with the use of mobile shooting ranges.

Councilmember Hales asked Chief Hampton if he believed the trailer would still be a viable asset that could be sold once the City's indoor facility was up and running? Chief Hampton stated these trailers are designed to be used for a prolonged period of time. There are certain requirements; like replacing the tarps regularly, that must be met to retain the trailer's accreditation standards and the safety, filtration, sound, and ballistic-proof systems.

Mayor Crow asked Chief Hampton if he knew the price of a new trailer? Chief Police stated they would probably cost \$60,000 or more.

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

2. Approval of Participation in Reimbursement Program for Project Funding from Operations, Maintenance, and Construction Improvement (OMCI) Taxing Sub-districts.

Mr. Rose stated staff is recommending that Council consider approving the City's participation in the Reimbursement Program for Project Funding for Operations, Maintenance, and Construction Improvement Taxing Sub-districts.

Mr. Alpaslan stated MSD plans to allocate revenue to municipalities and reimburse them for costs incurred for eligible stormwater projects again, in 2022. Last year, which was the first year for this program, the City elected to participate and chose Option A, wherein an application for reimbursement was requested to receive 50 percent of the program funding that MSD collects from their sub-districts. 2022's revenue is estimated to be approximately \$20,000 higher than 2021. And after reviewing this program with the Stormwater Commission, they have agreed that it should be continued.

Mr. Alpasian stated there is one quarter left in 2021 in which to submit a final application for reimbursement, and one outstanding application, which staff believes will be approved once they have provided MSD with the additional information requested.

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

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bills

M. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

1. Resolution 2021-15 - Third Ward Revitalization Task Force.

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

Mayor Crow informed the public that Council had conducted an extensive discussion of this topic at their retreat held on September 19, 2021.

Councilmember Clay asked Mr. Rose if he would provide a summary of the next steps in this process? Mr. Rose stated the first step would be to appoint members to participate in the Task Force and the next step would be to establish a meeting schedule.

Voice vote on Councilmember Clay's motion carried unanimously.

N. 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

O. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continue if needed)

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Crow announced that the Executive Session had been conducted prior to the Regular Session.

He stated today is National Coming Out Day, a day set aside to raise awareness, support, and hope for individuals within the LGBTQ community. The goal is to eradicate hate and homophobia directed towards members of this community who tend to have a higher rate of suicide as a result of peer pressure and stereotypes. Mayor Crow stated this is an important day for anyone who has traveled this path, and he would be more than happy to act as a resource for folks who may find themselves needing someone to talk to.

Q. 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, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay, and the motion carried unanimously.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk

LaRette Reese

From: victor pichon <victorapichon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:52 PM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: diamond developement

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

I have concerns about all of the impact or altering of bordering streets in terms of access to the new development . We need a clear picture of what this will look like.

What guarantees the neighbors considerations in protecting the integrity, character and value of our property. Are residents involved.

Where/ Who is the overcite that assures us that Diamond will do what they say they will do and how will this process look?

Heavy Rain water will no longer have a place to go. The Des Peres Flooded and houses were under water 2 blocks away, a historical event and recent events tell us this is a serious matter, getting worse. What addresses the water that we know is coming?

Developers accessing established neighborhoods, swallowing up vital land with pavement, minimal green space (that is purely cosmetic and doesn't even provide decent recreational space for its tenants) and pre fabricated box buildings is too real, all around us, this is not a progressive, thoughtful, plan, and there are too many examples. University City keeps green spaces, plants trees, designs parks, encourages a future past 20 years. How does this development fit into our title Tree City USA?

The developer has one agenda, make money. The community has a complex, complicated agenda. The community does not owe this developer one concession, it owes its citizenry, the people who have kept this area healthy, green and solid, a continued commitment to what's best for those of us who are already here. Janis Pichon 1316 purdue

From: Tom Sullivan <tsullivan@sullivanadv.net>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Council Comments Shared
Subject: UC Council Comments, 10.11.21

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Comments to the University City Council
Tom Sullivan, 751 Syracuse, U.City, MO 63130
October 11, 2021

To the Council:

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

► There are still many streetlights out around the city. Some more to add to those previously noted:

- A streetlight is out on Sadler, between Bartmer and Etzel by Pershing School.
- A streetlight is out on Ferguson by Chamberlain.
- A streetlight is out on Vernon next to the Heman Community Center.

Many streetscape (or pedestrian) lights are still out on Olive. These lights were erratically placed and add nothing; they only clutter up the street. The planters are also erratically placed on Olive with some that have no plantings. If there is some plan to improve Olive it would be hard to figure what it is.

► The weeds were cut at the gas station/ convenience store at Olive & Kingsland that is still not completed but there are still weeds at the intersection. At a small island on the northeast corner some weeds are four to five feet tall. The weeds might be MoDot's responsibility but a little effort by the City would help improve the intersection. Street markings on Kingsland just north of Olive are a mess. At least Kingsland Park looks nice.

► The area around Vernon and Leland by the Ackert Park nursing home still needs attention. There is about six-feet or more of sidewalk covered with dirt and grit in front of the nursing home on Vernon. Tree branches on the nursing home's ground interfere with pedestrians. There is still an orange barrel and orange cone on the sidewalk on the Leland side of the nursing home. They don't seem to be there for any purpose. City trees on the west side of Leland by the nursing home need trimming. The branches interfere with pedestrians.

► The plan to move the City Council chamber from City Hall, at a cost of \$2.2 million, seems to be overwhelmingly opposed by University City residents. The one exception -- outside of City Hall -- is Councilwoman Klein's husband. Citizens don't think it makes any sense -- just one more bad decision by city officials.

Thank you for considering my comments.