

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, March 25, 2024
6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, March 25, 2024, 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; (*excused*)
Councilmember Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon; (*excused*)
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Dennis Fuller
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose, City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Director of Public Works, Darin Girdler.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hearing no amendments, Councilmember Smotherson moved to approve the Agenda as presented, it was seconded by Councilmember Fuller, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. PROCLAMATIONS (Acknowledgement)

None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 11, 2024, Study Session Meeting Minutes; (Summer Camp Update), was moved by Councilmember Klein, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales, and the motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Councilmember Smotherson.
2. March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes was moved by Councilmember Fuller, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson, and the motion carried unanimously.

F. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

G. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - (Total of 15 minutes allowed)

Procedures for submitting comments for Citizen Participation and Public Hearings:

Request to Address the Council Forms are located on the ledge just inside the entrance.

Please complete and place the form in the basket at the front of the room.

Written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. on 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 that when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided**. Please also note whether your comment is on an agenda or a non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the comment will not be recorded in the official record.

Citizen Comments

Frank Ollendorff, 8128 Cornell Court, U City, MO

Mr. Ollendorff stated that after 40 years of trying to get to this point, he would like to congratulate Mr. Rose and the Mayor for bringing the community together to build the most exciting and important project that has occurred in decades; the construction of a state-of-the-art Police Station for the finest Police Department in the area. That said, he would like to suggest some minor adjustments he believes would make this project even better for citizens, and the police.

1. Leave the existing public parking lot open to the public.
2. Provide the police with a secure parking lot in front of the station, not behind it.
3. Keep the existing public entrance to City Hall and delete the new entrance facing the back of the proposed hotel.

Asking the public to park behind the new Police Station and access the lobby through a police entrance is a waste of money, less secure, and inconvenient; especially when there is a perfectly good entrance to City Hall from the existing parking lot that for many years has been used by the Senior Citizen Center and numerous events. People want access that is convenient and safe. And for years, the Missouri Police Chiefs Association has advised municipalities to keep public and police entryways separate.

Mr. Ollendorff stated the implementation of these changes will not delay the project and will save the City almost a million dollars.

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

J. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA - (1 voice vote required)

1. Heman Park - Memorial Fountain Restoration
2. Police Department Camera Surveillance Equipment Purchase; (Eastgate Park)
3. FY2023 Supplemental Agreement; (CDBG)

Citizen Comments

Patrick Fox, 1309 Purdue Avenue, U City, MO

Mr. Fox stated as a member of the Parks Commission he came before Council in November to discuss some concerns about the installation of surveillance cameras in parks not being presented to the Commission. Council voted to move forward on the guise of it being a public safety issue and the assurance that a member of the Police Department would attend a future Commission meeting. After that meeting; which occurred in February, he was led to believe that there was a shared understanding and willingness to work together on public safety and that whenever possible, Boards and Commissions could interweave the workings of the Police Department without compromising any sensitive information. So, you can imagine his surprise when he saw Item No. 2 on the Consent Agenda because here again, the Commission had been left out of the loop. He stated while he certainly understands that he serves in an advisory capacity to Council, it is frustrating to take time out of your life to volunteer, only to be put in a position where you learn that your perspective on issues specific to that work is consistently being overlooked.

Mr. Fox stated this is not an isolated incident because his attendance at this month's Traffic Commission meeting revealed that the police had implemented a parking permit plan without consulting that Commission. So, he is bringing this to Council's attention because he would like to see a better working relationship with police leadership, and more of a lock-step advisory capacity when they are considering things within these Boards and Commissions' areas of expertise.

Councilmember Klein moved to approve Items 1 through 3 of the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson, and the motion carried unanimously.

L. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – (Voice vote on each item as needed)
1. City Manager Updates

Housing & 3rd Ward Revitalization Task Force

10 million dollars has been set aside for revitalization of the 3rd Ward. Of those 10 million dollars, 2.4 million dollars will be allocated from Parks & Stormwater, which is a restricted fund that can only be used for park or stormwater improvements.

Mr. Rose stated there may have been some miscommunication that occurred at the last meeting, so he will be asking Ms. Smith to provide the Task Force with a brief update at their next meeting to clarify this issue.

Streetlight Maintenance

Mr. Girdler stated staff patrols the City once a week to observe whether any repairs are needed. If a light is owned by the City, it is typically fixed within the week barring there are no equipment/part delays, and it can be accessed with the bucket truck. If the light belongs to Ameren the pole number is reported to them. Repairs are usually conducted within a reasonable timeframe, and the only time Ameren will communicate with staff is if there is an issue with making a repair.

Mr. Girdler stated he believes they do a pretty good job of locating and repairing streetlights, but if anyone has a complaint, Ameren's information can be found on the City's website, or they can contact Public Works.

Councilmember Hales asked if staff had information on the number of City-owned streetlights and those owned by Ameren? Mr. Girdler stated that they do, and he would be happy to provide him with that information.

Councilmember Smotherson stated while he understands the provisions of this plan that are currently in place, there really is no misunderstanding. He stated as the individual who implemented this process in 2016, he is confident that the original proposal stated that 10 million dollars would be used to fund housing. And at some point, he would like to see the Task Force make a recommendation to remove the 2.4 million dollars for parks and stormwater that can be submitted to Council for approval.

Councilmember Hales stated his recollection is quite different and believes that what the City Manager described is precisely what Council voted on.

Mayor Crow stated it would be pretty simple to look back at the record to provide clarification.

Cleaning of the Channels by MSD

Mr. Girdler stated the two simultaneous projects are the removal of sediment in the channel between Pennsylvania and Vernon and a separate tunnel cleaning project. Pennsylvania consists of an improved channel where sediment has accrued over the years that MSD has spent approximately one month cleaning out. The exact amount of cubic yardage removed will be provided shortly.

MSD contracted the second project out to Ace Cleaning, who reported that the project was much bigger than they anticipated. Currently, they have removed 600 tons of materials from the tunnel.

Mr. Girdler stated if Council so desires, he could ask MSD to attend an upcoming meeting and explain this process in more detail.

Councilmember Hales asked if MSD was planning to work on any of the other improved channels; i.e., behind Royal Bank and to the west? Mr. Girdler stated he did not know. Because when he contacted them today for information about the Pennsylvania channel he was told that the City had entered into a contract with someone to perform the work. But neither he nor Mr. Rose has any knowledge of such a contract.

Councilmember Hales stated at times, his experience with MSD has also been frustrating because depending on who you ask, you could receive two vastly different answers. Mr. Girdler stated the only challenge he is experiencing is obtaining information about the work that is being done. Councilmember Hales stated he thinks it would be helpful to know exactly what their plans are relative to cleaning the channels. Because right now it seems like they've done some of the work, which is great, but we need to know if this is the beginning or the end of what they intend to do.

Councilmember Fuller stated what was disclosed at the Stormwater Commission's meeting is that MSD has hired two different companies to clean the channels. So that may be a part of the confusion.

2. EDRST Applications

Mayor Crow stated the EDRST Board is appointed by him, with Council's approval. And this year there was a large number of applicants interested in investing back into the community that Ms. Smith, staff, and the EDRST Board spent an enormous amount of time reviewing. So, while the packet before Council tonight is substantial, he would like to commend staff and this group of seven citizens who went above and beyond to get this work done.

Mayor Crow then asked Council if they had any questions for Ms. Smith, the City Manager, or the EDRST, before approving these applications?

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

M. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - (Roll call vote required for 2nd and 3rd readings)

None

N. NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions - (Voice vote required)

None

Bills - (No vote required for introduction and 1st reading)

None

O. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed

2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Fuller reported that the Traffic Commission elected Cirri Moran as their new Chairman. He then thanked Bart Stewart for his lengthy service on the Commission.

The University Height's Task Force has invited Mark Holly of the Stormwater Commission to a public meeting tomorrow at the High School Library, to discuss the Dartmouth Tunnel Flood Model which explores the removal of debris. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes

4. Other Discussions/Business

P. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (continued if needed)

Q. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Hales moved to close the Regular Session, seconded by Councilmember Klein, and the motion carried unanimously.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for coming out and closed the Regular Session at 6:55 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk, MRCC

