

## **CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES**

**March 16, 2021**

The City Council met this date in a regular session, via Zoom, which was available to the public via teleconference, at 7:37 pm.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch  
Councilmember Laura Arnold  
Councilmember Pam Bliss  
Councilmember David Franklin  
Councilmember Emerson Smith  
Councilmember Karen D. Alexander  
Councilmember Sarah Richardson

A quorum was present.

Also present: Dr. Marie Peoples, City Manager  
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney  
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

### **REMARKS OF VISITORS**

Jennifer Conrad, Deputy City Clerk, read submitted Remarks of Visitor comments received by 4 p.m. on March 16, 2021, into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Tim Keeney (Exhibit A)
- Dave Buck (Exhibit B)

City Attorney Neil Bruntrager stated that there are a number of things he wanted to speak to. You as a Council have a duty to inform your constituents as to the facts regarding things like the use tax. These are facts, not opinions. He stated that it is important to correct some of the misinformation that is out there. He shared and corrected misinformation regarding the use of lobbyists, election spending, cost per voter, and states with a use tax. It makes sense for us to pass a use tax in light of the fact that Missouri is trying to pass a Wayfair tax. On April 6 it is important that people look past the misinformation. Everything that is being done is with the purpose to educate. It is important to understand how it all ties together and the misinformation is a concern.

### **NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER**

No New Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **BILL #9144 – FIRST AND SECOND READING**

Councilmember Franklin introduced **BILL #9144 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 4, "BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS", ARTICLE VII, "ARTS COMMISSION", SECTION 4.363 "COMPOSITION OF THE ARTS COMMISSION" AND MATTERS RELATED**

**THERETO**, and at the Councilmember's request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Smith asked if the new air units would be in compliance with the CDC COVID regulations. Dr. Peoples stated that per the CDC the HVAC is just one layer of the mitigation strategy. It would have adequate airflow and turnover rates. It by itself does not provide a filtration system, it is just one component.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Councilmember Richardson, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – March 2, 2021
- **Resolution #2021-14** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for a Construction Contract for the Big Bend Boulevard Sidewalks Phase I [Federal Project No. STP-5537 (623)]
- **Resolution #2021-15** - Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Replacement HVAC Systems for the Parks and Recreation Department
- **Resolution #2021-16** – Approving the Dissolution of the Employee Welfare Benefit Trust, Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA)
- **Resolution #2021-17** – Accepting MODOT Grants for Police Services and Equipment for 2021-2022

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- Jenny Starkey was reappointed to the Business Development Commission.
- Holland Saltsman, Angel Venegoni and Steve Zielinski were reappointed to the Old Orchard Special Business District Commission.
- Elizabeth Schappe was reappointed to the Sustainability Commission.

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION**

Councilmember Arnold made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to go into Executive Closed Session per Attorney-Client Privileged Communications [MO Statute 610.021(1)], Personnel [MO Statute 610.021 (3)], Negotiated Contract [MO Statute 610.021 (12)].

Mayor Welch called for the vote to go into Executive (Closed) Session.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD

NOES: NONE

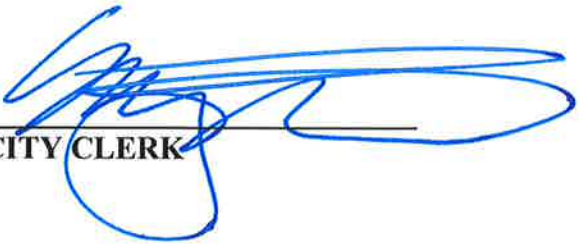
Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

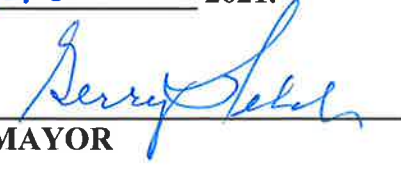
March 16, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

  
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CITY CLERK

  
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MAYOR

**Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors**

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**From:** "keeneyone" <keeneyone@gmail.com>  
**To:** <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>  
**Date:** 3/12/2021 10:34 AM  
**Subject:** Remarks of Visitors

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Greetings Council Members,

I heard the discussion at the recent Council Meeting regarding what to do with money collected from the Wayfair tax so ardently sought by the City. Ideas included forming a low-income housing task force to decide how to allocate the tax money, the City purchasing homes to give to people, giving money to people for home repairs, and giving money as a utility tax rebate. What board or committee would be in charge of doling out the bucks? How do I qualify? Then I received the City's flyer in the mail supporting the Wayfair tax. Imagine my surprise when the bullet points only included "provides needed revenue" and the usual desire to "level the playing field for local businesses," and a minimal impact to residents. Nothing about taking money from some WG residents to give to others the Council deems more deserving. A review of the City Charter suggests the City has the authority to spend tax money on "public improvements" and police, fire, etc. I'm left questioning whether the City has the authority to spend tax money on a policy of socialist redistribution of wealth but at least have the courage to own it in the propaganda sent out to support it.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tim Keeney

**Katie Nakazono - Dave Buck "Remarks of Visitors" in the Regular Zoom City Council Meeting, 3/16/21**

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**From:** Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>  
**To:** "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>, "people...  
**Date:** 3/15/2021 3:46 PM  
**Subject:** Dave Buck "Remarks of Visitors" in the Regular Zoom City Council Meeting, 3/16/21  
**Cc:** Kevin Sombart <kspceb@gmail.com>, Eric Hayes <ericrevhayes@att.net>

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To Our Mayor, City Council & City Staff,

I heard a news broadcast on public radio this past weekend that Webster Groves will be receiving **\$4.2 Million Dollars** in stimulus funds from America's Rescue Plan.

**So, how should the City allocate these funds?** As food for thought, here's a few possible options, not in order of priority:

1. Jump start the design process on a **new aquation center**. Hire a top-notch design firm and gather ideas from other innovative community pools around the country and from our residents. My own wish is for a design where you can swim year-round.
2. Help address Webster Groves' **affordable housing crisis** by funding proven, effective solutions that will end the grip of gentrification and the loss of North Webster's black population. Such solutions include Community Land Trust homes, multi-family homes, Tiny Homes, etc. and home repair assistance.
3. Implement a new **"beat cop" strategy** and hire new police officers who patrol assigned neighborhood and business district "beats" on foot, where they are visible and can better build trust and relationships with our community.
4. Initiate the full-scale development design to transform the Ozark Theater into the **Webster Groves Performing Arts Center** in our "City of the Arts".
5. Join forces and collaborate with the Webster Groves School District, area church preschools and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries and find a way to end the City's greatest racial inequity by **offering universal preschool for our lower-income kids and families** to effectively close the 20-year old "Academic Achievement Gap" that has negatively impacted the lives and futures of over 7,800 black students in our community.
6. Add all funds to the General Fund Reserve as **further protection against an unexpected financial downturn**, such as if COVID seriously spikes again and continues for some time to come.

Just a thought: **set your 2021-22 Council goals and let them guide your decisions**. I know exactly where my head is. Do you? Have FUN!!!

PEACE.

Dave