

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES
September 21, 2021

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in the City Council Chambers, which was available to the public in-person and via teleconference, at 8:18 p.m.

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 (via teleconference)

A quorum was present.

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

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Salvo Parenti. Good evening, I'm Captain Salvo Parenti with the Webster Groves Fire Department, and I am the only active serving military member in the city of Webster Groves. Two weeks ago, my wife wrote an email with her concerns to this City Council and she has yet to hear a reply. When she wrote the email, I assured her that her message would not fall on deaf ears, and at the very least she would receive a notification that her message was read by the Council. My wife took great issue with the official statement issued by the City in that it wouldn't be prudent to honor the City's previous military benefit I received last time when I was deployed overseas four years ago. I mean think about that actual statement - the City's official stance is that it wouldn't be prudent to support its only active serving military member. She was also hurt that the statement referred to my deployment as a leave of absence. So please be clear this is an involuntary military deployment. I'm going overseas for six months to help with all the uncertainty that is happening in the world right now and I assure you when my wife is home alone with my seven-year-old son she's not going to think of it as a leave of absence. A military spouse cannot hear these words without adding to her stress level, but maybe that's where we are right now. Maybe this is no longer the employee friendly place it has been in the 12 years since I worked here, and I guess the City would rather pay lawyers to send this to arbitration. To put this in perspective when you compare the military benefit I think the city actually paid more for these tvs that are in the City Council Chambers, which by the way if you're sitting in the back, the overhead projector I think was a little bit more appropriate -- you could actually see the wordings if you're sitting in the back. I think a lot of City employees would agree that we are on the wrong path, and this sentiment is not just in the Fire Department. This military benefit in question was approved by the previous City Manager and it was confirmed in an email to me that said here's the City's new military policy it has been approved by the City

Manager. The name of the document was "Military Leave Revision 2017 City Manager approved" and my wife asked me how can they just act like these documents don't exist and I don't have a good answer for her. At least acknowledge that you read my wife's email. Take one thing off her mind, it's the prudent thing to do. Thank you.

Dave Buck stated, before I start, Firehouse One saved my house in the 90s. I'm 100% behind them and whatever they want. They're just too valuable to our community. I actually changed my remarks based on your work session. I want to talk about Douglass Hill really quick from a perspective that I have not heard from any of you yet. The last five words of the mission statement of the City says a traditional yet progressive community. So there's traditionalists there's progressive people. I'm a progressive. I like ideas. I'm hopeful. I'm an idealist. I support Douglass Hill because it's a great new breakthrough idea that thinks outside the box of safe sleepy conservative Webster Groves. I'm totally for it, but I'm also a realist and have seen what's been going on in this town. I think the decision has already been made. I think you guys are looking to do a colossal waste of time. I think history is going to repeat itself and it stems back to the Mills project. Douglass Hill is almost identical in how it's unfolding to the Mills project. The Mills project back in the early 2000s was big and bold. The community raised up and said oh I got height concerns, density concerns, traffic concerns, parking concerns, environmental concerns. Bruce Mills, Gerry, you know this, would not compromise. It got passed through the Plan Commission. City Council approved it. A resident group in opposition raised up a referendum City-wide vote and defeated it in February 2004. Does that sound familiar on what's going on today? It's almost identical. And the point is that we're going down that path and the resident opposition group has already showed its strength on the use tax, on Prop One, If you watch the Plan Commission meetings you know that there have been two or three hours of letters and comments in opposition. The community is speaking just like they did against the Mills project. The point is, I think the Plan Commission passed it on, you guys will approve it, the TIF Commission will approve it, it'll get passed, a resident opposition group will rise up just like they did on prop 1 call for a referendum just like on the mills project, and they will vote it down. I think we already know what the destiny of this project is. It's too damn big. It's too damn tall. It doesn't capture the character and the charm and the bedroom community history and equity of Webster Groves. It's okay for Kirkwood. It could fit in Clayton, but not in our town. And I'm for it. I don't think it's going to pass and I think that writing is already on the wall. Thank you.

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

No new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILL #9157 - THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, **BILL #9157 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2021 BY THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO.**

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9157, having been introduced and read twice on September 7, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9157.

A motion was made by Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to accept the proposed amendments dated 9/21/2021 that reflect the current rates as provided by the Assessor's office.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the amendment.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

The amendment was approved.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9157.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9157 was approved as amended.

BILL #9158 - THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Smith, **BILL #9158 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2021 FOR THE WEBSTER GROVES LIBRARY DISTRICT, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 9158**, having been introduced and read twice on September 7, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9158.

A motion was made by Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to accept the proposed amendments dated 9/21/2021 that reflect the updated data.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the amendment.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

The amendment was approved.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9158.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9158 was approved as amended.

BILL #9159 - THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, **BILL #9159 – AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR SMR AUTO, LLC TO PERMIT THE OPERATION OF AN AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP AND**

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SERVICES FACILITY ON AN APPROXIMATELY 0.65 ACRE TRACT AT 8523 WATSON RD. IN THE “C” COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 9017 AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO, having been introduced and read twice on September 7, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9159.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9159.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9159 was approved.

BILL #9160 - THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, **BILL #9160 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 4, “BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS”, ARTICLE XX, “POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD”, BY REPEALING SECTION 4.1230 “SUNSET”, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**, having been introduced and read twice on September 7, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9160.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9160.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9160 was approved.

BILL #9161 - THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, **BILL #9161 – AN ORDINANCE LEVYING THE COST OF ABATING CERTAIN NUISANCES (CUT/TRIM, REMOVE TRASH AND DEBRIS, ETC.) AS SPECIAL TAX BILLS AGAINST THE PROPERTIES HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED AND CONSTITUTING LEVIES AS LIENS ON THE RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES**, having been introduced and read twice on September 7, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9161.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9161.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9161 was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL #9162 – FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Smith introduced **BILL #9162 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI ADOPTING AND ENACTING NEW FEE SCHEDULES FOR APPLICATIONS, PERMITS, PLAN REVIEWS, INSPECTIONS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #8769 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.

BILL #9163 – FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Bliss introduced **BILL #9163 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, AN EASEMENT TO THE UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI ACROSS A PORTION OF 307 MARSHALL AVE. (LOCATOR NO. 22K530660)**, 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.

BILL #9164 – FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Arnold introduced **BILL #9164 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, AN EASEMENT TO THE UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A AMEREN MISSOURI ACROSS A PORTION OF A PARCEL EAST OF 307 MARSHALL AVE. (LOCATOR NO. 0L0805013)**, 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.

BILL #9165 – FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Franklin introduced **BILL #9165 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 60, "THE TRAFFIC CODE", ARTICLE XVI, SECTION 60.996, SCHEDULE M OF THE CODE OF WEBSTER GROVES, "LEFT TURNS PROHIBITED", TO PROHIBIT LEFT TURNS ONTO AMBROSE WAY FROM SOUTHBOUND SOUTH ELM AVENUE FROM 8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. ON SCHOOL DAYS**, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, 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** – September 7, 2021
- **Liquor License** – Application to Sell Liquor by the Drink for Consumption on the Premises Where Sold, and on Sundays, by Big Sky Café (New Owner), 47 S. Old Orchard Avenue

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- **Resolution #2021-52** – Amending the Budget for FY-2022 Related to the American Rescue Plan

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- The appointments, addressed at the reconvened work session, will be formally announced at the October 5, 2021 Council meeting.

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)], Real Estate [MO Statute 610.021 (2)], 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 they would go into Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further regular business to come before the City Council, the regular meeting ended at 8:37 p.m., at which time the Council went into a closed session, which was followed by a reconvened Work Session, that adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of OCTOBER 2021.


MAYOR


CITY CLERK