

**CITY OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Council meeting is being conducted through the use of a Webinar invite in which all members of the City Council, staff and citizens are participating in the meeting remotely. Section 610.015 of the Mo. Sunshine Law provides that members of the Council who are not physically in the Council Chambers can participate and vote on all matters when an emergency exists and the nature of the emergency is stated in the minutes. Thus, these minutes reflect that the U.S., and the world, is in a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus—COVID-19. The Missouri Governor and the County Executive have issued Orders limiting meetings and gatherings sizes. These Orders are intended to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus. Therefore, all members of the City Council, and staff, are participating in this meeting electronically as matter of public health and safety for each other and the general public.

Mayor Ella M. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Teleconference (RSMO 610.015) due to the recent State of Emergency. A copy of the recording will be made accessible via the City’s Website and Social Media Outlets. She immediately led a silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Naquittia Noah	Present	Mayor Ella Jones	Present
Councilwoman Fran Griffin	Present	Councilwoman Linda Lipka	Present
Councilwoman J. Toni Burrow	Present	Councilwoman Phedra Nelson	Present
Councilwoman Heather Robinett	Present		

A quorum was declared. Also present were City Manager Eric Osterberg, City Attorney Apollo Carey, and City Clerk Octavia Pittman.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Robinett to amend the agenda to suspend the current rules for public comment which required comments to be submitted prior to the meeting and allow the attending public 2 minutes each to make comments after noting their interest in the chat box. Unanimous vote in favor taken **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Mueller, I would like to make a quick update on PROUD’s next event. People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity will be hosting an on-line presentation titled “Critical Race Theory: What It Really Is and What It Isn’t ... Really.” The event will be held on the last Wednesday of the month, January 26, at 6:00. Please note that this is a different date than my previous announcement. We are pleased to have author and founder of the Missouri Equity Education Partnership (MoEEP) Heather Fleming as our presenter. Ms. Fleming recently appeared before the Missouri Legislature to provide expert testimony as the lawmakers consider bills regulating the teaching of Critical Race Theory and similar theories. Again, the Courageous Conversation will be held on Wednesday, January 26, at 6:00. For more information and the Zoom link, please see PROUD’s Facebook page or our website – www.proud-ferguson.org.

Erica M Brooks, Happy New Year to all. I have attended two of the four American Rescue Plan Act Forum. The suggestions I gave are as follows:

1. To create a safer surrounding for bus riders on Suburban Ave and Dade Ave. while waiting for Bus Route 79 by installing bus platforms and bus shelters to keep bus riders protected from the weather;
2. Facade windows should be put on the derelict houses in Plaza Heights Subdivision due to the high percentage of empty houses to attract buyers and create community appeal in our area;
3. More sidewalks need to be on Dade Ave. and Suburban Ave. all the way to Mueller Ave. for the safety of walkers and bus riders, as well as add curb appeal;
4. There should be an upgrade of lighting from regular bulb to LED lighting which are brighter and would allow the residents to see better at night and it might reduce criminal activity and
5. Due to the fact the infrastructure on Dade Ave. is in the process of being replaced at this and the will be resurfaced in the near future, Mueller Ave. and Plaza Ave. need to be resurfaced as well, because our streets especially Mueller Ave. and are sinking in daily. It's needs to be fixed, because I don't want to fall through the street.

These just a few immediate issues in our area that need to be addressed. Thank you.

Nick Kasoff, thanked the council for opening up public comments and noted concerns about the recent crash in front of Blessed Theresa that shines a light on terrible traffic in the community. All were invited to attend traffic commission meetings where discussions will be held regarding data being gathered. There are also plans to have an open house in March.

Stephen Robin, commented on the increase of speeders along Hereford @ Elizabeth. He added that discussions are being held at county to help mitigate traffic issues and suggested representatives listen in to learn more.

Mildred Clines, offered suggestions to slow traffic and prevent accidents; a traffic light timer and left turn only on arrow at the intersection. She also suggested we gather statistics and submit to county so that they can understand that there is in issue.

Aja Owens, representing the office of Congresswoman Cori Bush, introduced herself and noted that the office is there is assist where needed.

Gerry Noll, stated he sent a letter to the Council in response to the mention at the last meeting of the charter commission being assembled. He noted state statute discusses how commissions can be gathered and referenced the city charter section also outlines ways to propose changes.

Wendy Daniels, noted concerns with traffic issues on Elizabeth and other streets with long stretches. She added her fear of walking down the streets and suggested round-a-bouts or other calming methods.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Osterberg provided an update of ARPA funds, noting that meetings were held with 8-10 in attendance. The next meeting will be held tomorrow at 6pm via zoom given COVID. Access information can be found on the city's website "MovingFergusonForward.com". A survey will also go out via text regarding the usage of the funds.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Wayfair Sales Tax. The Supreme Court decision was explained that allowed for the tax collection for online purchases. He stated that funding will go to the state of Missouri, however because the City of Ferguson has not passed the allowed tax, we will not be allowed to collect the portion that would otherwise be allocated to the City. It was reiterated that this is not a new tax that citizens would pay, it is a tax that is already

being collected, however the city is not receiving its portion. The City may move forward with a ballot campaign for a future election. There will be more information to come.

Community Policing Update – Chief Frank McCall

Chief McCall provided a crime statistics update noting the increase in homicides from 2020 to 2021. He discussed staffing concerns with the pandemic and provided an update of staffing efforts. We are hopeful to have 1 new officer join this month, there are a couple headed to the academy, and another 2-3 in the interview and background stages.

COVID Update – Chief John Hampton

Chief Hampton provided an update of COVID activity noting we are at the highest number of positive cases since the pandemic started and have also reached record numbers of hospitalizations locally. Everyone was reminded and encouraged to get vaccinated and to continue practicing safety measures; social distancing, wearing clean masks and to get tested and stay home if you are feeling sick. More information is available regarding testing and vaccines at www.REVIVESTL.com.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to approve the meeting minutes of [December 14, 2021](#) as submitted. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

Special Meeting Minutes:

None

BOARD/ COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The City Council received and filed the Civilian Review Board Meeting Minutes of [September 13, 2021](#); [October 4, 2021](#); [November 1, 2021](#).

APPOINTMENTS

None

REQUESTS

None

PROCLAMATIONS

School Choice Week

WHEREAS, *all children in FERGUSON should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,*

WHEREAS, *FERGUSON recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in FERGUSON to be successful adults; and,*

WHEREAS, *quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of FERGUSON; and,*

WHEREAS, *FERGUSON is home to a multitude of high quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children, in addition to families who educate their children in the home; and*

WHEREAS, *educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,*

WHEREAS, *FERGUSON has many high-quality teaching professionals in all types of school settings who are committed to educating our children; and,*

WHEREAS, *School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ella M. Jones, Mayor of the City of Ferguson, Missouri, on behalf of the Ferguson City Council do hereby recognize January 23 – 29, 2022 as FERGUSON School Choice Week, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

[2022 Greater North County Chamber of Commerce Board Chair](#)

A Proclamation Congratulating Carletus D. Lathan On Being Selected To Serve As the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce Chair of the Board

WHEREAS, *Carletus D. Lathan relocated to Ferguson, Missouri in 2002 from southern Illinois and his hometown of Unity; and*

WHEREAS, *He has over 30 years' experience in the healthcare industry working with companies such as SDC Community Action Agency, River To River Cache Valley Senior Living, Hidden Lake, Century Park, Aperion Care and Hope Hospice Inc. to name a few; and*

WHEREAS, *He is an active member of the Mercy Seat Baptist Church, as Vice Chair for the Mercy Seat Apartments Board of Directors as well as a member of the North County Senior Resource Team; and*

WHEREAS, *He is a longtime member of the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce. He is a part of Leads Group 2, has served as the Secretary and is currently the Vice Chairman for the Board of Directors. He is also the very proud recipient of the Cathy Behlmann 2021 Volunteer of the year Award; and*

WHEREAS, *With Unity instilled in him he gets the most enjoyment from lifting the spirits of others by doing all the good he can by all the means he can, in all the places he can;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ella M. Jones, Mayor of the City of Ferguson, Missouri, on behalf of the Ferguson City Council, hereby congratulate Carletus D. Lathan On Being Selected To Serve As the Greater North County Chamber of Commerce Chair of the Board

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-01 – A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Contract Between The City Of Ferguson And New Concept Construction To Repair The Retaining Walls At 820 Hutton Place And January Avenue

Without objection, Resolution #2022-01 was introduced by Council present and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. It was explained that constant flooding at Wabash Park caused damages to the retaining wall of adjacent residents. Motion was made by Councilwoman Griffin and seconded by Councilwoman Robinett to approve Resolution #2022-01. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

Resolution No. 2022-02 – A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With New Concept Construction For Road Repairs On North Clay Avenue

Without objection, Resolution #2022-02 was introduced by Council present and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. It was explained that Municipal Services have been contacted daily with complaints from residents in regards to massive potholes, causing damages to resident's cars. This agreement would provide for the repairs of North Clay. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to approve Resolution #2022-02. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING

None

BILLS REQUIRING SECOND READING

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Robinett to remove to the rule to require citizens to submit public comments the day before the meeting and allow open forum via the chat box within the first 5 minutes of the meeting. A brief discussion was held regarding the need to allow the public to speak during the meeting and how to best handle it given the city continues to host meeting via zoom. It was agreed that further discussion is needed to solidify a process and the motion and second were withdrawn.

Councilwoman Griffin commented that part 2 of the federal mortgage assistance funds are expected to be released in March and asked that Council to put forth an ask to stay evictions. Comments were offered that there may be a need for a more comprehensive understanding of the other entities affected and that this should be discussed in another setting. Mayor Jones stated she will confer with the attorney.

Councilwoman Burrow asked for a work session for further work on the SOP, to continue discussion of what has been adopted and to also include how the public interacts at council meetings. Mayor Jones and Councilwoman Burrow will have a discussion before moving forward with the special meeting.

Councilwoman Lipka stated interest in starting the process of including Tyrone Woodly and Henry C. Miller on the "Wall of Fame" located the police and fire campus. She stated that both have roots in Ferguson, can be seen as role models and represent diversity. Mayor stated that this too may be included on the work session.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilwoman Noah thanked Pastor Jose and Ward 3 resident LaTasha Brown for their community donations during the holiday season. She also thanked Mr. Bryant and Ms. Osbourne for beautification efforts throughout the community. Stated on the 4th this year they were in Please View soliciting rental assistance and repairs with the St. Louis Mediation Projects. Last, she welcomed the new officers to the city.

Councilwoman Griffin she stated her anticipation of the critical race theory discussion with PROUD. She congratulated Councilwoman Nelson for her receipt of the CD Banks Award. She also announced enjoyment of participating with the ARPA funding allocation process and stated she looks forward to how we implement participatory budgeting in the next budget process.

Councilwoman Burrow thanked the public safety and front line workers for their diligence during the pandemic. She added that COVID is still infecting many, especially seniors and encouraged everyone to protect themselves and their families. She thanked Chief McCall for

answering today and noted the need to discuss further with the Police Chief and City Manager regarding the request of the video footage from the recent shooting that should be distributed to CRB as soon as possible. She added that a letter will be sent to Judge Perry regarding the need to improve communications. Regarding CRB, they will have a town hall in mid March to present information learned from NACOLE of recent trainings and in May they will present their report. There is also a vacancy on the CRB as well as the Library Board. She noted the library has a new telescope that is available to check out. Last she extended a shout out to Toni Dupree for her work with the city and HRC, thanked the council for efforts in working together and Clerk Pittman for being the glue that holds everything together.

Councilwoman Robinett thanked citizens for joining the meeting and providing comments. She stated that traffic enforcement and safety are a main concern and she looks forward to citizens providing more comments in the future. She welcomed the new police officers and encouraged everyone to check on their neighbors.

Councilwoman Lipka welcomed the new officers. She noted the Sunday was national law enforcement day and thanked all officers and front line workers. She stated she attended one of the ARPA funding forums and it resulted in a lot of good ideas. She said she is the Council rep for Traffic, FSBD and FNIP and safety topics are being held. She reiterated the desire to see speed check zones and traveling speed zones/radars as they are immediate action items. She added that the most recent accident was horrific and everyone needs to work together.

Councilwoman Nelson congratulated the new officers. She extended a shout out to Chief McCall on the use of academies via HBCUs and hopes to continue getting officers from our community. She thanked residents for comments regarding the accident on Chambers. She stated while it is terrible what happened, there is speeding all over Ferguson that also needs addressing. She stated that Home Depot awarded \$14,000 for ppe totes in the Ferguson Woods Community; on the MLK Day of Service these totes will be distributed.

City Manager Osterberg reminded that the next ARPA funding forum will be held tomorrow at 6pm via zoom, access information can be found at www.movingfergusonforward.com.

City Clerk Pittman had no report.

Attorney Apollo Carey had no report.

Mayor Jones stated excitement of new officers coming to the city. She congratulated Deborah Carter on the new appointment to the Red Circle and Andreah Hoosman who will be recognized as the 2022 Drum Major Award with Christian Hospital. She thanked Christopher with Starbucks who stayed late on Christmas Eve to provide coffee to our police. She announced the next consent decree status hearing on January 20th at 11am and also on January 20th at 9:30 am George Robnett with CAASTLE will speak at the senior meeting regarding the weatherization program. She announced her participation in the MODot video for the slow down campaign with Fran Griffin, Von Walker, and LaRea Jackson. They have given us slow down yards signs to be distributed. She congratulated Councilwoman Nelson on receiving the CD Banks Awards and also announced that MML has many recognition award programs. She speak of the phenomenal job the parks department, police and fire all did on Santa and Sirens. She recommended they are recognized for this effort during COVID.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Burrow and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Unanimous vote in favor taken;
MOTION PASSED.

Approved as submitted on the 25th day of January, 2022.

ATTEST:

Ella M. Jones, Mayor

Octavia Pittman, City Clerk