

**CITY OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 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, Community Development Coordinator Bailey Mitchell, Planning Director Elliot Liebson, City Attorney Apollo Carey, and City Clerk Octavia Pittman.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Comments were received via email and are also accepted via zoom chat.*

**LeRae Jackson** offered comments regarding an article published in the Observer. She noted she was a recipient of materials from the Home Depot and appreciative as this is on the areas often overlooked. She also thanked Councilwoman Nelson for her efforts.

**Nick Kasoff** commented regarding the recent appointment of Donald Cash to the Traffic Commission, he noted he does not live within city limits, rather Normandy. He asked the council to consider another appointment.

**Erica Brooks**, Hello City and Citizens of Ferguson, In the last Ferguson City Council Meeting, City Manager Eric Osterberg reviewed the results of the ARPA funding forums which reflected the community's perspective of how the ARPA funding should be spent. However, we as a community haven't heard the City of Ferguson's overall plan to itemized the funding and when is the deadline to submit the final requisition. Is the City reporting how it is spending the funds before the deadline? In addition, I asked what did my city council members, Heather Robinette and Toni Burrow submit to be of importance for Ward-2? Also, I asked will previous projects that were not able to be funded by federal, state or local grants and/or taxes be first to be considered before our, the community's suggestions? The City has yet to answer any of my

questions. Secondly, have the City of Ferguson been assess the socioeconomic effect of the Via Metro STL vs access to Metro Bus Route #79 on the west side of Ferguson since Bus route #61 and #74 are still servicing the East side of Ferguson after 7:38pm. I would be interested in know that. What was the summary of the redistricting meeting on February 17, 2022?

2-24-2022 I have been exploring the accessibility of the City of Ferguson's Disaster and Emergency Management Plan since last year with Ferguson Fire Chief and then Acting City Manager John Hampton. I saw other municipalities having town hall meetings with their communities about their plans. As a result, I wanted to know if Ferguson was going to do the same for us, the residents to be abreast of the safety measures we need to take during a flood, a tornado, an invasion, etc. Last year I was told by Chief Hampton and acting city manager that the current DEM Plan wasn't online and it was being updated. Yesterday, Thursday, February 24, 2022, I went back to inquire about the status of the DEM Plan, and it is still being worked on. Chief Hampton said it probably wouldn't be available until about May 2022. He has a few more things to address. I asked Chief Hampton does the DEM Plan provide the citizens with an action plan according to the expectations of the City of Ferguson, and he said it gives the City an action plan to ensure the safety of the City. However, I said this plan should show the residents what to do during a time of disasters and emergencies so we don't have to panic and survive by any means necessary. We don't know who will be able to help us, where to get the help and how to help each other. I said the way it set up now as a community we can only be reactive and not proactive. He suggested to go to Red Cross to learn about DEM skills, but I said that doesn't teach me about where I live. Yes, there are some resources on the City's website, but if we are not aware of what they are this is useless. I said when only a few people in the community are aware of the procedure of how to access the DEM Plan, we all will go down. On the other hand, if we have to opportunity to learn what to do, we can save each other. Also, I mentioned that it isn't anything to unexpectedly experience what the people are going through in Ukraine. It just take a turn of a missile to be sent our way to go through the same thing. Also, everything is center around computers and electricity. The City of Ferguson and we, the residents need ways to be able to communicate without electricity and computers. We must not take this time for granted. We must get informed by being on the same page. Ferguson's DEM Plan is well needed for both the City and us residents. Chief Hampton said he would email me a copy of the DEM Plan when it was properly vetted and approved. I'm looking forward to seeing the final results.

**Mildred Clines** offered comments of not initially supporting Councilwoman Noah however she has been doing a great job. She also offered comments regarding recent council meetings; the theatrics and personal attacks against one another. She asked the council to also consider kindly and respectfully responding to citizens and their concerns.

**Adrian Shropshire** suggested a warning notice when speakers are running out of time to help with the abruptness. He also commended women on National Women's Day and extended kudos to Chief for the work of his officers.

**Gerry Noll** expressed the need for additional members on the CRB as there is currently 1 vacancy and 2 nearing terms in June. He announced that meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month; 6:30 – 8:30 pm and a Town Hall to present NACOLE training will be changed from March 15<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Annette Jenkins** offered comments regarding the article published by Nick Kasoff adding that Councilwoman Nelson is active in the community. She also spoke to the need for civility amongst each other.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to amend the agenda to add appointments to boards and commissions. Unanimous vote in favor taken;  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Osterberg asked the council to consider availability of a special meeting the next two weeks to further discuss the positions of the ARPA funding and allocations will take place during the budget process.

**COVID Update – Chief John Hampton**

Chief Hampton noted the 2 year anniversary of COVID in St. Louis County. He noted that cases remain on the decline. The Department of Public Health continues to recommend vaccinations/boosters, social distancing, wearing mask and staying home and getting tested if you are ill.

He also discussed the city's emergency operation plan that describes roles and responsibilities and details plans in the event of an emergency. It is currently being updated and will be placed on the city's website for review. He also announced the North County CERT Program is available to citizens and is currently being conducted through Florissant. More information will be distributed as it comes up.

**Community Policing Update – Chief Frank McCall**

Chief McCall provided a comparison of statistics from this period last year noting a decrease in calls for service however there has been an increase in domestic violence, disturbances, and auto thefts as well as traffic enforcement. There has also been a decrease in calls related to shots via shotspotter. A full report of statistics is available on the city's website. Last he stated 2 potential candidates for the police academy are in the process and another with hopes of making an offer this week. Discussion was also held regarding the dispatch system outage in which an upgrade is being researched.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Parks Master Plan – Vireo**

Director Musgrave announced the process began last October to update the Parks Master Plan and Larry Reynolds with Vireo was present to present the draft plan. A presentation was conducted to explain the process involved which included citizen surveys and public engagement as well as park inventory and analysis with actions and steps to take and funding alternatives.

**Business License Review For Cousins Market (929 Airport Road)**

City Manager Osterberg made a recommendation to the council the revocation of the business license for Cousins Market per the process outlined in the city's code. Inspector Diaz explained an undercover investigation was conducted by the state agency of the sale of loose cigarettes. City staff followed up and determined they are operating outside of the approved licensing, we were unable to determine current ownership and management and there is also a need for the health department to inspect conditions for food sales. LT. Harris also explained recent criminal activity, the volume of calls for service (147+) which also included a murder this month that began on this property, auto thefts and assault 1<sup>st</sup> degree, overdoses (6 from 2021 – present) and multiple reports of gun shots fired. Discussions were held and it was noted that a resolution would be needed to proceed with the revocation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**None**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

None

**BOARD/ COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Civilian Review Board: [January 10, 2022](#)

Farmers Market Commission: [November 17, 2021](#)

FNIP: [December 7, 2021](#)

Redistricting Commission: [December 30, 2021](#)

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to receive and file commission meeting minutes. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by councilwoman Griffin to appoint **Sara Fletcher** to the **Traffic Commission**. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**REQUESTS**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to lay on the table Liquor License Approval – Déjà vu II. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 2022-09 – A Resolution Selecting A Contractor For The Demolition Of 9315 W. Florissant Road, Awarding The Contract To Said Contractor, And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract On Behalf Of The City**

Without objection, the resolution was introduced by Council present. Attorney Carey provided the reading. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve Resolution No 2022-09. **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. 2022-10 – A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Contract Between The City Of Ferguson And Greens HVAC To Replace The Heating And Cooling System At City Hall**

Without objection, the resolution was introduced by Council present. Attorney Carey provided the reading. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to approve Resolution No 2022-10. **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. 2022-11 – A Resolution Of The City Of Ferguson, Missouri, Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Contract With Republic Services For Solid Waste Collection**

Without objection, the resolution was introduced by Council present. Attorney Carey provided the reading. City Manager Osterberg presented the bids solicited for solid waste and announced that Republic Waste appeared to be the best for the city. After questions for the council it was noted that Republic can review arrangements for the multi-family units, however it would take a 2 year period per state statue. Motion was made by Councilwoman Griffin and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve Resolution No 2022-11. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye;

Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; (Mayor Jones and Councilwoman Lipka recused themselves from voting) **MOTION PASSED.**

**BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING**

**Bill No. 7222 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 47 Of The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Ferguson And By A New Article III As It Relates To Mobile Food Vendors; Providing For The Effective Date Of This Ordinance; Providing For The Current Maintenance Of This Code; And Providing For The Repeal Of All Conflicting Ordinances**

Without objection, Bill #7222 was introduced by Councilwoman Noah and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. It was explained that after passage at the last meeting additional revisions were being introduced. Discussion was held regarding the insurance requirement and a motion was made by Councilwoman Noah and seconded by Councilwoman Lipka to revise the bill (section 47-31 and 47-32). **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.**

**Bill No. 7223 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Ferguson, Missouri, Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into And Execute A Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement**

Without objection, Bill #7223 was introduced by Council present and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. Chief Hampton explained this agreement would allow for additional mutual aid.

**Bill No. 7224 – An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor Of The City Of Ferguson, Missouri, To Execute The Deed And Acknowledge Other Documents In Order For The Real Properties To Be Transferred To The City For City Development And/Or Beautification**

Without objection, Bill #724 was introduced by Council present and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. It was explained that this would allow the city to acquire land off the post third list for the property acquisition program.

**Bill No. 7225 – An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of A Redevelopment Agreement With LMAC Holdings, LLC, For The Purpose Of Redevelopment Of 10607 New Halls Ferry Road To Be Used As Affordable Senior Housing Units In The City of Ferguson**

Without objection, Bill #7224 was introduced by Council present and Attorney Carey provided the title only reading. This will provides for the execution of the redevelopment agreement for the senior housing project.

**BILLS REQUIRING SECOND READING**

**Bill No. 7221 – An Ordinance Of The City Of Ferguson, Missouri Granting A Special Use Permit To Jacqueline Phillips For The Purpose Of Operating An Event Space/Open Bar At 3156 Pershall Road Subject To The Conditions, Restrictions, And Requirements Set Forth Herein**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to read the second time and place upon its passage. Attorney Carey provided the title only reading.

**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.**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to move from the table **Liquor License Approval – Déjà vu II.** Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Burrow and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve the liquor license for Déjà vu II. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Noah announced her interest in hearing a presentation from Carlton Stock regarding a local Environment Board. And Councilwoman Lipka noted interest in hearing from Bryce Robinson. Council agreed to hold certain presentations at special sessions before the regular meetings.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Councilwoman Noah** expressed a Happy International Women's Day and staff appreciation day, March 4<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup> she met the MO Stream Team who cleaned the Maline Creek in Ferguson. They collect water samples to monitor salt conductivity and Maline Creek tests excessive. She encouraged everyone to remain engaged and thanked everyone for their support and dedication.

**Councilwoman Griffin** announced Northhills Neighborhood Community Meeting on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> at Zion and via zoom.

**Councilwoman Burrow** reported the Library is fully opened and require masks. They have made many updates also to the card process. They will hold a council candidate forum at 6pm on March 21<sup>st</sup> and school board forum on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The library has added additional wifi hotspots and as there is an increased demand for fax and copies, there are no charges.

**Councilwoman Robinett** offered a reminder of the candidate forum on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm hosted by the Library and the League of Women Voters.

**Councilwoman Lipka** expressed happy International Women's Day. She announced Delaney Knowles (former Mayor Knowles daughter) was able to ring the bell today, she is in recovery. She thanked Mike Palmer for community clean up on W. Florissant. Last she shared the celebration of her daughter's birthday.

**Councilwoman Nelson** announced the Eco Team clean up on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am. She announced the Summerset Drive supply drive as well as Rita Days Town Hall regarding ARPA Funding on march 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

**City Manager Osterberg** had no report.

**City Clerk Pittman** had no report.

**Attorney Apollo Carey** had no report.

**Mayor Jones** offered comments regarding ARPA funding and announced that County has opioid settlement funding and will look into why cities were not notified and what can now be done to be included.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Burrow and seconded by Councilwoman Robinett to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**Approved on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.**

ATTEST:

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Ella M. Jones, Mayor

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Octavia Pittman, City Clerk