

**CITY OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 26, 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
Councilman Mike Palmer	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, Fire Chief John Hampton, City Attorney Apollo Carey, and City Clerk Octavia Pittman.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Comments were accepted via zoom and in person.*

**Carelton Stock** spoke of an environmental crisis that the need to begin preparing. He made a request to restore and reestablish the Ferguson Environment Commission.

**Lavern Mitchom**, former Council member and concerned citizen, spoke of an article written by Nick Kasoff referencing a corrupt government, a stench of neglect everywhere, and nothing is working. She asked the council to offer comment on this being the case.

**Nick Kasoff** commented regarding Bill #7226 and asked the Council to delay until the next April election which would allow people to know the direction of the new council before asking the community for a bump in taxes.

**Shirley Emerson** offered reminder of the Empowerment Summit on April 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be to promote the increase in home ownership and to provide housing and health resources.

**Erica Brooks** announced Abraham Bolden was pardoned by President Biden. She provided historical background, noting he served as the first African American to provide Secret Service Detail to a former president.

**Alan Mueller** thanked the city for the traffic calming town hall on Hereford and Chambers.

**Gerry Noll**, representing CRB, spoke of the recently issued monitors report regarding community policing and encouraged others to review. He also noted the next CRB meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> via zoom.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **COVID Update – Chief John Hampton**

Chief Hampton noted a 60% increase in positive cases, however it has not yet impacted hospitals. He announced that the City and County are working together to provide helpful information and encouraged the continued practice of safety measures.

Council asked that FD begin providing an overview of department activity.

#### **Community Policing Update – Chief Frank McCall**

Chief McCall provided a staffing update noting there are 31 certified officers on staff, this include multiple undergoing on street training as well as in the academy. He also provided an overview of the onboarding process noting that there are a couple underway.

Council discussed mini bike regulations, commercial vehicles in residential areas, proactive towing of abandoned and derelict vehicles and the current amount of K-9s (3) and requested a report explaining the cost to maintain.

**City Manager Osterberg** provided an update regarding the traffic meeting. He thanked attendees and noted the engineer will review the feedback provided and return to the city. He also announced the 1<sup>st</sup> ARPA report deadline this week; the next reporting takes place annually in April and should include allocations. In response to Council inquiries, he explained the ESDT Commission requirements.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

#### **Annual Twilight Run – Dwayne James**

Mr. James announced the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Twilight Run and free concert on May 14<sup>th</sup>. There are multiple run options to include 1 mile, 5K, FTR 13.1, 10K, as well as a virtual option. While this year's event will be an evening run, they have reverted back to the previous route used and notifications are going out for awareness. Partnerships were announced and he requested from the city: assistance from Public Works, Police, Fire, and Parks and Rec as well as the room rentals at the community center, use of the city's insurance, approval to place signs in the right of way and waiving of permit fees. Funds raised are returned to beneficiaries; that amount varies. Registration is open, volunteers are needed and all are invited to enjoy the free concert.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**None**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Special Meeting Minutes:** [March 3, 2022](#); [March 22, 2022](#)

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

#### **BOARD/ COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**None**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Redistricting Commission**

Mayor Jones announced the vacancy caused by the recent resignation and appointed **Mike Salant** to the **Redistricting Commission** to fill an unexpired term.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to appoint **Mike Lonero** to **FNIP** to fill an unexpired term (2024). Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion was made y Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to appoint **Lizzie Lonero** to **FSBD** to fill an unexpired term. Unanimous vote in favor; **MOTION PASSED.**

**REQUESTS**

**Liquor License Approval - Family Dollar – 1120 N. Florissant Rd (New)**

Clerk Pittman announced the representative was unable to attend and as such have requested a delay in approval. Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to postpone the license approval till the next meeting. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

None

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 2022-15 – A Resolution Selecting A Professional Services Contractor For Citywide IP Camera Solution, Awarding The Contract To Said Contractor, And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract On Behalf Of The City**

Without objection, Resolution #2022-15 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Harding provided the reading. Discussion was held and it was reported that the equipment included is per regulations. Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Lipka to approve Resolution #2022-15. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilman Palmer – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

**Resolution No. 2022-17 – A Resolution Selecting A Contractor For The Fireworks Display At The 4<sup>th</sup> Of July Celebration, Awarding The Contract To Said Contractor, And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract On Behalf Of The City**

Without objection, Resolution #2022-17 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Harding provided the reading. Discussion was held regarding the cost increase. Councilwoman Lipka made a motion to amend the resolution to contract for 1 year and to remove the 5% option. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Burrow. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to approve the amended Resolution #2022-17. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilman Palmer – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

**Resolution No. 2022-18 – A Resolution Selecting A Contractor For The Demolition Of 9315 W. Florissant Road, Awarding The Contract To Said Contractor, Amending The Previous Resolution 2022-09, And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract On Behalf Of The City**

Without objection, Resolution #2022-18 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Harding provided the reading. Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve Resolution #2022-18. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah –

aye; Councilman Palmer – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

**BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING**

**Bill No. 7226** – An Ordinance Of The City Of Ferguson, Missouri, Imposing A Use Tax For General Revenue Purposes At The Rate Of Two Percent (2%) On The Privilege Of Storing, Using Or Consuming Within The City Any Article Of Tangible Personal Property Pursuant To The Authority Granted By And Subject To The Provisions Of Sections 144.600 Through 144.761 RSMO.; Such Use Tax To Be Primarily Used By The City Of Ferguson To Support The General Operations Of The City Of Ferguson, Including The Retention And Attraction Of Public Safety And Other Employees; Providing For The Use Tax To Be Repealed, Reduced Or Raised In The Same Amount As Any City Sales Tax Is Repealed, Reduced Or Raised; And Providing For Submission Of The Proposal To The Qualified Voters Of The City For Their Approval At The State Primary Election Called And To Be Held In The City Of Ferguson On August 2, 2022

Without Objection, Bill No 7226 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Harding providing the title only reading. Discussion ensued regarding the need for an opportunity to gather and disseminate information and Councilwoman Burrow made a motion to postpone the issue till the April election. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Robinett. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – nay; Councilman Palmer – aye; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – nay; Councilwoman Lipka – nay; Councilwoman Nelson – nay; **MOTION FAILED.**

**BILLS REQUIRING SECOND READING**

**None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Noah recalled previous attempts and asked the Council to consider a workshop to discuss the consolidation of boards and commission. Others noted the need to revisit the SOP as well as the City Manager’s strategic plan. We will look to schedule workshops in the fall.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Councilwoman Noah** welcomed the new Parks and Rec employee and state Southwest Ferguson is looking to continue their neighborhood meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. She noted the meetings of Forestwood as well as NorthHills. She also announced the Farmer’s market will open May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Palmer** encouraged residents to serve on boards and the neighborhood associations. She also thanked the parks department for their service and programming.

**Councilwoman Burrow** commented that the city cannot work without the help of citizens. She added that the council will be looking to amend the rules allowing citizens to serve on multiple boards. She also thanked the city and residents for condolences during the loss of her sister and other members this year.

**Councilwoman Robinett** had no report.

**Councilwoman Lipka** thanked Robin Shively for her service and stated that she is looking forward to the Twilight Run. She also thanked attendees, BTC staff and the city manager for the traffic town hall and allowing citizens to address their concerns. She encouraged people to continue to report neighborhood concerns and asked that they also communicate with their neighbors in hopes of a resolution. She also announced the prayer event held on the General Dollar lot for the family injured during the recent accident on W. Florissant at Hudson.

**Councilwoman Nelson** Announced the Nesbit Newton Subdivision Meeting on 4/27, the Senior Expo on April 27<sup>th</sup> and on April 30<sup>th</sup> the healthy Kids Day @ YMCA. She also thanked Nicole and others involved for assisting in the Youth in Government event the past week. Council members noted their interest in being involved in future events.

**City Manager Osterberg** had no report.

**City Clerk Pittman** had no report.

**Attorney Ryan Harding (for Apollo Carey)** had no report.

**Mayor Jones** announced on April 29<sup>th</sup> the Boys to Men Mentoring is partnering with FFD for neighborhood cleanup and on April 28<sup>th</sup> MML will have their monthly meeting. She also encouraged all to vote for the Ferguson sirens and Santa Parade conducted by the Ferguson parks, police and fire during the pandemic. This program has been nominated for the innovation award.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

**Approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May , 2022.**

ATTEST:

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Ella M. Jones, Mayor

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Octavia Pittman, City Clerk