

**CITY OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 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 7:15 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, Fire Chief John Hampton, Police Chief Frank McCall, City Attorney Apollo Carey, and City Clerk Octavia Pittman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Interest in making public comments were noted via zoom chat.

Annette Jenkins stated she is a concerned, involved, and engaged citizen. She noted recent comments being made publicly throughout the community are being perceived as offensive. She asked the Council to assist by promoting respect and unity towards each other.

Mildred Clines thanked the Council for conduct at the previous meeting, noting disagreements without dissention. She announced her support for Councilwoman Griffin and thanked her for help and improvements to residents in Ward 3.

Adrian Shropshire thanked the Council for unity and working together. He said he noticed the 5G antenna is up but he is unsure of any funding received. He also reported the condition of Robert Ave and added it seems to be a safety hazard as well as the condition of 909 Robert. He asked for consideration of a citizen task force to report compliance issues throughout the city.

Gerry Noll stated that is has been about a year since CRB had its first meeting on 3/20/17 and offered comments regarding the work accomplished to date. He stated the commission will lose 5 of its original members by 2023 because of term limits, losing the historical knowledge

and offered encouragement to anyone that may be interested in serving to apply now for the council's consideration.

Nick Kasoff noted the impropriety of using public comments for electioneering. He stated he hasn't endorsed any candidate but would offer comment on the work in the community by Joe Lonerio and Mike Palmer; substantial impact on organizing community clean ups and home improvements in Ward 3.

Erica Brooks expressed condolences on the death of Representative Cora Faith Walker. She also stated she has not received a response for ARPA funding uses and guidelines. She stated appreciation to Missouri American Water for lead piping replacements and MSD Project Clear work on Date. She also asked to know the duty of Council members on boards and commissions.

State Representative Mike Person announced the unfortunate passing of Representative Cora Faith Walker. He stated that an honor letter was prepared and conducted the reading in condolence.

MANAGER'S REPORT

COVID Update – Chief John Hampton

Chief Hampton reported a continued decline in COVID cases. He suggested that everyone continue to take safety precautions as the virus is still alive; vaccinations, social distancing, washing hands, wearing masks and staying home and getting tested when ill.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Recommendations for Conflict of Interest Policy- NPSC

Mildred Clines announced that the Neighborhood Policing Steering Committee was enacted as a result of the consent decree. A sub committee was formed to review the municipal code and city ordinances for applicable updates for equality. She presented proposed changes to the city's conflict of interest policy for consideration by the council in hopes to achieve transparency and build trust in the community.

St Louis County Street Update - Joe Kulesa with St. Louis County

Following the tragic accident in December, City Manager Osterberg approached County for solutions of addressing traffic safety issues at Chambers and Hereford. Mr. Kulesa presented a proposal with included options of restriping, lane reductions and a roundabout. It was also proposed that the city supplement 50% of the project costs. Discussions were held regarding additional suggestions of traffic lights and traffic configurations along with concerns with emergency vehicle maneuverability, overflow traffic into neighborhoods and the city's shared responsibility. Additional conversations can be held with County as well as community engagement efforts.

ShotSpotter

Chief McCall provided an overview of the functions of ShotSpotter, a detection of gunshots fired with the ability to provide a location and time of incidents. There has been a continued increase of reports of shots fired in the community and it was noted that the system has been effective in convictions or crime solving.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

CONSENT AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

None

BOARD/ COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

None

APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to appoint **David Keller** and **Pam Hartley** to **FNIP**. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED**.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Burrow and seconded by Councilwoman Robinett to appoint **Chris Crabel (2022)** and **Elliot Liebson (2024)** to the **North County Festival Square CID**. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED**.

REQUESTS

Liquor License Approval – Midwest Wine Bar – 252 S. Florissant Road

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to approve a liquor license for **Midwest Wine Bar**. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED**.

PROCLAMATIONS

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2022-12 – A Resolution To Revoke The Business License Of The Cousin Mini Market

Without objection, Resolution #2022-12 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Carey provided the reading. City Manager Osterberg reminded that the council of the activities taking place at this location. He noted that it was determined by the Municipal Court that they were guilty of maintaining a public nuisance. Motion was made by Councilwoman Robinett and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to approve Resolution #2022-12. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED**.

Resolution No. 2022-13 – A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With OpenGov For Code Enforcement And Permitting Services

Without objection, Resolution #2022-12 was introduced by Council Present and Attorney Carey provided the reading. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to approve Resolution #2022-13. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; 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

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Noah to read the bill a second time and place upon its passage. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; 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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Nelson to read the bill a second time and place upon its passage. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Noah and seconded by Councilwoman Lipka to read the bill a second time and place upon its passage. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; Councilwoman Burrow – aye; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Noah and seconded by Councilwoman Lipka to read the bill a second time and place upon its passage. **ROLL CALL:** Councilwoman Noah – aye; Councilwoman Griffin – absent; Councilwoman Burrow – nay; Councilwoman Robinett – aye; Mayor Jones – aye; Councilwoman Lipka – aye; Councilwoman Nelson – aye; **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilwoman Noah thanked Joseph Seatrom with parks for his efforts, welcomed the wine bar to the community and congratulated Octavia Pittman on becoming President of the MoCCFOA. She reminded that NorthHills will have its neighborhood meeting on the 3rd Saturday of each month via zoom.

Councilwoman Griffin was absent from portions of the meeting.

Councilwoman Burrow welcomed the wine bar, extended farewell to Bailey Mitchell (Community Development Coordinator) and wished him well on his new job. She announced the Ministerial Alliance Easter Service and all were invited. She also commented that this is

not the platform for hateful letters or messages and reported a meeting with the Mayor regarding SOP.

Councilwoman Robinett sent Happy Spring greetings and encouraged all as we continue to open up to think of where to dedicate their time in the community; get involved and meet new people. She reminded that election day is April 5th and hopes that all get out to vote. She stated appreciation of the League of Women Voters and the Library for hosting the candidate forum and added that the school board forum is coming up.

Councilwoman Lipka thanked Councilwoman Noah for the determination to fill boards and commission vacancies. She encouraged everyone to vote on April 5th, thanked Bailey for his hard work and thanked the community for allowing her to represent Ward 1. Last she offered comments and expressed condolences for Representative Walker.

Councilwoman Nelson encouraged everyone to cast their votes on April 5th.

City Manager Osterberg announced the departure of Bailey Mitchell and thanked him for his hard work.

Bailey Mitchell thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve Ferguson and announced that he will be moving to Mass for a position of Plan and Community Development Director.

City Clerk Pittman clarified that the position of President for the MoCCFOA ends on April 30th. All were thanked for their support over the years.

Attorney Apollo Carey had no report.

Mayor Jones announced that the next meeting of the Council will be April 19th with hopes to have in person. She also offered condolences to the family of Representative Cora Faith Walker.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Lipka and seconded by Councilwoman Burrow to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m. Unanimous vote in favor taken; **MOTION PASSED.**

Approved on the 19th day of April , 2022.

ATTEST:

Ella M. Jones, Mayor

Octavia Pittman, City Clerk