

**FERGUSON CITY COUNCIL
Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2009**

**COUNCIL MEETING, 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL - 110 CHURCH STREET**

The regular meeting of the Ferguson City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, 2009 by Mayor Brian P. Fletcher, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 110 Church Street, Ferguson, Missouri.

Mayor Fletcher requested that everyone stand for a moment of silent prayer, after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. On roll call, the following Council Members were present:

Mayor Brian P. Fletcher
Kynan S. Crecelius (Arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Michael Salant (ABSENT)
James W. Knowles, III
Dwayne James
Peggy Faul
Fran Grecco

Ms. Brooks declared a quorum was present.

Council Member Salant was an excused absence. Council Member Crecelius arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Fletcher announced the agenda be amended. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Faul and carried to amend the Agenda to add two Liquor License Transfer requests. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Also present were City Manager John Shaw, City Attorney Stephanie Karr and Deputy City Clerk Sonya D. Brooks.

Mayor Fletcher welcomed all present and explained the Council meeting would have a Public Portion at which time you are invited to speak on matters of general concern; and the Business portion in which you are welcome to listen but not participate.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Anton "Tony" Schoen

City Manager John Shaw introduced Battalion Chief Randy Skaggs. Mr. Skaggs recognized Mr. Anton "Tony" Schoen of Number 56 Bayview Court on behalf of the Fire Department and the City of Ferguson. Mayor Fletcher presented Mr. Schoen with a plaque recognizing his actions on February 1, 2009. Mr. Schoen assisted victims of a house fire at 54 Bayview by pulling them from a basement window. Mayor Fletcher stated Mr. Schoen performed admirably and acted decisively and the City and City Council would like to express their appreciation for his efforts.

Plaza Heights Initiative

Lieutenant Ray Nabzdyk and Police Officer Dominica "Dee" Fuller gave a brief overview of how the program was introduced and requested Officer Fuller present to the Council a status update on the policing portion of the City's Plaza Heights Initiative. Officer Fuller assisted by college intern and Ferguson resident Josette Perry shared some of the highlights of the Police Department's work in the neighborhood. Officer Fuller identified the key areas of concerns (reported problems): Increased activity; speeding autos; derelict autos; nuisance properties; and suspicious activities. Officer Fuller believes the community and Police need to work together.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sammie Jaraba – 1063 Riverwood Place, St. Louis, MO. (Ferguson Supermarket & More, Inc.) – Thanked the Mayor and City Council for all their support over the years. Mr. Jiraba further stated that he hopes to do business with the City in the future.

Mayor Fletcher closed the Public Comments portion at 7:25 p.m.

BUSINESS PORTION

MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2009. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Faul and carried to approve and receive, the Council Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2009 and file as appropriate.

Council Work Session Minutes – February 16, 2009. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Faul and carried to approve and receive, the Council Work Session Minutes of February 16, 2009 and file as appropriate.

Council Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2009. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Faul and carried to approve and receive, the Council Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2009 and file as appropriate.

APPOINTMENTS

No appointments at this time. Mayor Fletcher expressed the need for appointments with special skill sets (i.e. architecture). Mayor Fletcher requested assistance from the Council in identifying possible candidates.

REQUESTS

Ferguson Charter – *Section 3.11.1 Meetings* – April Council Meetings will be held April 21 and April 28, 2009.

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to schedule the April Council Meetings for April 21 and April 28, 2009, in accordance with the Ferguson City Charter, Section 3.11.1. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Liquor License - The Junkyard Bar & Grill located at 1120 N. Florissant Road. Applicant/Owner Nolan Ferguson, Managing Officer Josette Houston.

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to approve the liquor license for the Junkyard Bar & Grill at 1120 N. Florissant Road. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Liquor License Transfer – Liquor License transfer of ownership of Ferguson Supermarket & More, Inc. from current owner Bassam Hamed to new owner Mahesh S. Patel and new managing officer Manisha N. Patel.

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to approve the liquor license transfer of ownership of Ferguson Supermarket & More, Inc. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

Liquor License Transfer – Liquor License transfer of ownership of Sam's Meat Market & More, Inc. from current owner Ayoub Hamed to new owner Nimesh Patel and new managing officer Manisha N. Patel.

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to approve the liquor license transfer of ownership of Sam's Meat Market & More, Inc. Motion approved unanimously, 6-0.

PROCLAMATION

Kiwanis Day of Prayer – A Proclamation proclaiming April 8, 2009 as Ferguson Day of Prayer in the City of Ferguson, Missouri was read by Mayor Brian P. Fletcher.

BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING

BILL NO. 6875 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY TO ACCEPT FOR CITY DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION, REAL PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED AS LOCATOR NUMBERS 11H520748, 12J241991, 12J241827, 12J540302, HELD IN TRUST BY THE TRUSTEE OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY. A FEE OF \$27.00 (TWENTY SEVEN DOLLARS), PER PROPERTY, TO COVER THE RECORDING OF THE DEED IS REQUIRED, was introduced by Council Members present and read the first time.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Grecco suggested the City nominate Anton "Tony" Schoen for the Carnegie Award of Merit for his really extraordinary act. Mr. Shaw stated Mr. Schoen has been submitted for the award through the Administration office.

Council Member Knowles would like the Council to consider and review the process of keeping track of vacant properties. Mr. Knowles believes that the City is required after six (6) months to register a property as vacant and suggested the City consider possibly scaling back registration to three (3) months. This will allow Public Works and the Police Department to keep a better eye on the properties. The City needs to keep up with registrations and owners need to keep the City apprised of what they are doing. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Shaw stated he will provide the Council with the Ordinance regarding registration of vacant properties.

Mayor Fletcher discussed the Ferguson promotional video sponsored by Joe Lonero and would like to present it at the next Council meeting. Mayor Fletcher inquired about the possibility of having the video viewed on the cable channel. Mayor Fletcher felt the video should be distributed and shown more broadly. Council Member Knowles suggested it can be distributed through the City's website.

Council Member James reminded everyone of the Neighborhood Garden Meeting on Monday, March 16th at 5:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber Meeting Room (NATA). Taking any visions or suggestions.

Council Member James further informed everyone that the Dog Park Task Force will have a final recommendation to Council in the next few weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Knowles asked Council to instruct staff to construct a letter in support of the Ferguson Lions Club and their Ferguson license office. The state is currently going through a bid process to award contracts to license offices. Funds generated from the license office go back into the community and the Ferguson Lions Club is a great program. Council members agreed that a letter in support should be provided.

Council Member Knowles thanked everyone for the 4th of July BBQ support. Reminded residents of the Spaghetti Supper being held Saturday, March 14th at Ferguson Presbyterian Church which helps fund the Deacons.

Council Member James thanked Tony Schoen for risking his life to save others. Mr. James also thanked the Police Department for their Plaza

Heights efforts and suggested the City use this as a model for other areas.

Council Member Faul echoed the thoughts on the Plaza Heights efforts. Mrs. Faul reminded everyone of the Live Well meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 7 p.m. at the Parks. A group is training for "Couch to 5K" to be held in April and meets on Thursday evenings 6:00 p.m. at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (BTC). She also announced the PROUD Essay Contest is this weekend.

Mrs. Faul thanked Mr. Schoen as well. She further thanked the two businesses that were making transfers and the new business coming to Ferguson.

Mrs. Faul offered everyone in attendance Shamrock cookies to enjoy after the meeting.

Council Member Grecco extended a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Schoen. Ms. Grecco thanked the Police Department and Officer Dominica Fuller for their efforts in Plaza Heights.

Ms. Grecco mentioned the tornado sirens and warnings that sounded for their routine practice. Informed the City that the sirens on the north end of the City are not working. Ms. Grecco recommended residents consider purchasing a weather radio.

Ms. Grecco expressed her condolences on the passing of Council Member Michael Salant's mother, former Council Member Walter Dean, and longtime resident Margaret Caldwell. Ms. Grecco shared the scheduled arrangements for Mrs. Caldwell. A Memorial Mass on Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and an Irish Wake to be held at the Savoy Banquet Center on Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

City Manager Shaw announced to the Council that Metro has requested to attend the March 24th Council Meeting to present the changes to bus routes. Mr. Shaw encouraged everyone to get the word out to residents and those who may be affected so that they may attend if they wish.

Mayor Fletcher shared with the Council that he and the City Manager will be attending a meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. with area Mayors regarding distribution of Stimulus money.

Mayor Fletcher gave a brief background on former Council Member and longtime resident Walter Dean who passed and shared his scheduled arrangements. A Memorial Service to be held on Saturday, April 4th at noon at the First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO.

Mayor Fletcher also shared additional memories of longtime resident Margaret Caldwell.

Mayor Fletcher announced a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to enter into closed session in accordance with RSMo 610.021/610.022 to discuss matters relating to matters as provided under Section(s) 610.021 (1) and (12) RSMo. Motion carried.

Having concluded the closed session at 8:45 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Grecco and carried to convene to open session. On roll call vote, the motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, Council Member Grecco, seconded by Council Member Knowles, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian P. Fletcher – Mayor
City of Ferguson, Missouri

Sonya Brooks – Deputy City Clerk
City of Ferguson, Missouri