

**CITY OF FERGUSON , MISSOURI
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Ferguson City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 27, 2010 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
Michael Salant
James W. Knowles, III
Dwayne T. James
Mark Byrne
Fran Grecco (Absent)

Council Member Grecco was absent. Ms. Matthies declared a quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager, John Shaw, City Attorney, Stephanie Karr and City Clerk, Deborah Matthies.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Blue Tapp Schaeffer, 705 N. Florissant Road, thanked Council for the National Bicycle Month Proclamation, who is a bicycle commuter and a member of the Ferguson Cycling Club and is very excited about all of the things Ferguson has been doing to encourage people to be healthy, to ride bicycles, the complete streets initiative, the Live Well Ferguson events, Sunday Parkways events and now the National Bicycle Month Proclamation. Several of the Ferguson Bicycling Club Members could not be here this evening but wanted to express thank you to the Council. The club is growing there are 6 members that meet regularly and organize bike rides from the Market once a month and travel different places. Several members are bicycle advocates and involved in advocacy issues. Their website is fergusoncyclingclub.com.

Mr. James commented that some of the members are also on the Great Rivers Greenway initiative.

Kathy Noelker, 423 Church Street, Manager of the Ferguson Farmers' Market commented the market is growing every year, this is the 8th season. The market opens this Saturday, May 1, 2010 8-noon. The market has been tremendously successful and hardly supported by the community. It is supported by the City with a lot of cooperation from City staff, which is greatly appreciated. There would not be a successful market without the City and its volunteers. There will be 38 tents which is the biggest opening day the market has had. Live Well Ferguson is active in pulling people into the community with their great events and appreciates what they do. There will be a Wellness Day on May 15. Sunday Parkways was a great success.

Ms. Noelker also appreciates and thanked the Ferguson Cycling Club for their third year of volunteering the last Saturday of every month for an organized bike ride. Please join the Market on Saturdays for 27 weeks with a variety of events. Ms. Noelker thanked the City for their help in making the Market a success and recognizing their importance.

Ann Chisholm, 312 Royal Ave, echoed that Sunday Parkways was a success despite the rain. Thanked the City and staff and everyone attending it was a great time and looks forward to July and being hot. Flowers were planted in the park at the 2 signs and feels that the park has never looked so good.

Martin Pion, 6 Manor Lane, congratulated the City for proclaiming National Bicycle Month in Ferguson which might encourage people to use bicycles. Encouraging City employees about a free bike class offered to employees and to encourage their use of loaner bikes. Hopes to have the Post Dispatch Health Reporter observe a class and report on something that the City is doing that is environmentally friendly as well as the classes offered. Mr. Pion offers courses to everyone as well. Appreciates what the City is doing.

There being no further public comments, Mayor closed the Public Comments portion at 7:15 p.m.

BUSINESS PORTION

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Park Board Minutes – March 16, 2010. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Park Board Minutes of March 16, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Ferguson Senior Citizens Commission Minutes – March 18, 2010. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Ferguson Senior Citizens Commission Minutes of March 18, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Ferguson Municipal Public Library Minutes – February 22, 2010. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Ferguson Municipal Public Library Minutes of February 22, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Program (FNIP) Minutes – January 25, 2010. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Ferguson Neighborhood Improvement Program Minutes of January 25, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Commission Minutes – December 2, 2009. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Plan Commission Minutes of December 2, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Commission Minutes – November 4, 2009. A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to receive and file the Plan Commission Minutes of November 4, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

FSBD recommends Sherry Loesch, from the Ferguson Style Shop to replace Jessica Hensiek, with the Ferguson Animal Hospital. Council agreed.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Fletcher read the following Proclamations.

National Public Works Week

Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week

National Preservation Month

May 2010 – National Bike Month – Mayor read and presented the Proclamation to Blue Tapp, Martin Pion and Don Chisholm.

Local Government Week May 2-8

REQUESTS

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to approve the *Temporary Liquor License* for The Junkyard Bar & Grill, 1120 N. Florissant Road, 1 year anniversary event on June 5, 2010.

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Salant and carried to approve the *Liquor License Management/Name Changes* for Hill Brewing Co. and Distributorship to Hill Food Services and Joe Lonero.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James and carried to read and approve Resolution No. 2010-05. Motion carried.

City Manager, John Shaw explained that this Resolution will allow the City Manager to acquire property for land banking purposes in the Plaza Heights area. This item has been set as a priority by the City Council, and funds have been allocated for this purpose in the current year's budget.

2010-05 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SALE CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SAME; AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ACQUISITION SERVICES, was introduced by Council Members present and read by City Attorney, Stephanie Karr.

On roll call vote, the motion carried as follows:

AYES: 6 – Crecelius, Salant, Knowles, James, Mayor Fletcher, Byrne

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Grecco

Resolution passes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Knowles questioned that when the brush was cleaned out at Jeske Park a lot of vines were left to die, they need to be cleaned out so the trees can stay healthy and if there is a timeline to do this.

Mr. Shaw commented that staff will follow up with the clean out as they can through regular park maintenance.

Mr. Knowles commented that Jeske Park has been looking for a place to have a community garden and the possibility of using AT&T's land off of Thoroughman.

Mr. Shaw commented staff is checking into that possibility and believes they are waiting for a response from AT&T.

Mr. James commented anyone interested in doing community gardens to start coming to the meetings so they can learn about the best practices, etc.

Mr. Knowles commented it was talked about at the last meeting regarding money available for professional services for studies, etc. There was a motion to table to move forward on an assessment of the potential capital improvements to the Police Department. Mr. Knowles would like to revisit the discussion because that for the current budget year there is money set aside for professional services.

Mr. Shaw commented that it would not be able to paid out of capital improvements because it is a true plan at this point in time. There are professional service funds that are not utilized during this fiscal year that would enable it to be done at this time. The other option would be to make that part of the budget process for next year.

Mr. Crecelius responded it was not necessarily the funding of the study but more making sure that there is a clear picture of the funds in the capital improvement program for next year to identify potential funding sources for infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Knowles responded capital improvements will not be reviewed until the second budget work session meeting, May 13. His concern and what was talked about was the actual bond issue as a potential remedy to make it a public safety bond issue. Mr. Knowles commented for many months Council has been reviewing the Fire House Study and feels if there is going to be anything done with the Police Department this would be the one attempt at doing so in the next several years. The ball needs to get rolling soon, to hear what the Chief and command staff has to say about what their needs are. In the past, items were taken out of the CIP, two big Police Department items one was the firing range because either the money was not there are it was felt it was not needed at the time.

Mr. James commented a lot of other things were taken out not just Police Department items. It was discussed before things are added into the bond issue, that it needs to be figured out how much residents can afford before it is put in front of them. Mr. James agrees with Mr. Crecelius in that before rolling out another study Council needs to review the budget and CIP. Mr. James agrees to let the Chief present to the Council what he feels the needs are of the department.

Mayor would also like to hear from Chief and staff what the items are before approving a study. Mayor would also like to know the costs related to the proposed Fire Station, acquisition costs, location, and whether it would be too much to place on one bond issue. Mayor requested more information. If Council decides to place both issues on one bond then do not push the bond issue as quick.

Council discussed the study and what the problems are and what is needed in the Police Department and to assess a prioritization of the needs. The Fire Department came to staff and told them why a new fire house was needed. In this case, the Police Department has not come to staff to say what is needed. Discussion regarding the tax burden in order to raise the money needed to do some of the things discussed.

Mr. Salant would like to hear from Chief Jackson.

Mayor commented that he would like to hear some numbers with property acquisition, demolition, etc. and is concerned with placing too much on this package that it would fail. It needs to be successful.

Mr. Knowles commented that he does not want the public safety issues put off; CIP numbers are not looking great for the future or for Police Department items. The hope about this came when Council was provided with the amounts of money the City would get for a bond issue, and was surprised about the amount of money that is likely to be spent on a Fire House and what the expected tax burden would be for the residents, which he feels is going to be low. Mr. Knowles feels that more could get done with this bond issue, but still have a reasonable and very low tax burden for the residents.

Mr. Byrne would like to hear from the Chief but agrees with James that time is of the essence.

Council discussed what type of work would be in the study, the costs and what would be explored and having a professional study done or relying on staff to perform most of the study. Council also discussed having a bond issue regarding public safety and infrastructure and its passage.

Council consensus is not to move forward with the motion this evening.

Mr. Shaw commented that there are a few items that will appear in the CIP that the Chief and staff has asked for to address some of their needs and the study would go beyond that for new information.

Council Members will coordinate meetings with the Chief.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Byrne is still getting acquainted with things.

Mr. James commented that despite the rain Sunday Parkways was a success approximately 200 people in attendance. Thanked all of the volunteers, Police Department, Staff and everyone involved with the event. Farmers' Market opens Saturday, May 1, 2010. Live Well 5K run/walk along with the opening of the Plaza @501, and the Garage Sale on May 15, 2010. Thanked Parks Superintendent, Stan Kreitler, Planning and Zoning Director, Rosalind Williams, City Staff, Police Department and everyone involved.

Mr. Knowles announced that due to lack of participation the 4th of July Trivia Night fundraiser has been cancelled.

Mr. Crecelius commented that volunteers are always needed for the Farmers' Market, please donate items to the food pantries and be prepared for power outages with supplies i.e. water, food, flashlights, for up to 72 hours. Be prepared to be safe and protect your family.

Mr. Shaw commented that the City needs to form a steering committee to oversee the long-awaited Bikeable/Walkable Study that is ready to begin. Trailnet recommends that the composition of the committee include representatives from City Council, City Planning Dept., City Parks Dept., City Police or Fire, County Highways and Traffic, County Health, MoDOT, Live Well Ferguson, Business District or Chamber, and the Ferguson-Florissant School District. Because this is an AD-Hoc Committee, submit names to Mr. Shaw who you would like him to contact. The committee needs to be established by next Friday to keep this moving forward.

Mr. Shaw commented that the Kick-Off Informational Meeting on the All-America City Award will be Monday, May 3rd, in the City Council Chamber. Encourages anyone in the community who is interested in getting involved or just interested to hear more about what is going on to come and attend.

Mayor Fletcher enjoyed attending the Parks & Recreation trip to Charleston, Missouri for the Dogwood/Azalea festival.

Mayor announced a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. motion was made by Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member Salant and carried to enter into closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021/610.022 to discuss matters relating to RSMo 610.021 Section(s) (1) legal actions, causes of action or litigation and confidential or privileged communications between the Council and its attorneys, (2) lease, purchase or sale of real estate; and (12) negotiations of a contract. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Having concluded the closed session at 9:15 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Salant, seconded by Council Member James and carried to convene to open session. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to consider, Council Member Knowles, seconded by Council Member James, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Matthies – City Clerk
City of Ferguson, Missouri
Approved: 5/11/10

Brian P. Fletcher – Mayor
City of Ferguson, Missouri