

FERGUSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting, January 25, 2005

Work Session, 7:00 P.M.
Council Meeting, 8:00 P.M.

CITY HALL
110 Church Street



The regular meeting of the Ferguson City Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on January 25, 2005 by Mayor Steven Wegert, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 110 Church Street, Ferguson, Missouri. Mayor Wegert requested that everyone stand for a moment of silent prayer, after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following Council members were present:

Mayor Steven Wegert
John Corson
Keith Kallstrom
Mark Crinnion
James Hines
Peggy Faul
Bill Duncan

Also present were City Manager A.J. Krieger, City Attorney Stephanie Karr and City Clerk, Debbie Matthies. Mrs. Matthies declared a quorum was present.

Mayor Wegert welcomed all present and explained the meeting would be the Public Portion and the Business Portion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chuck Henson – 1110 Birchgate Trail – commented he enjoys and is in favor of fireworks and hopes the City can find a way to continue the fireworks as part of the 4th of July festivities.

Tom Wolf – 139 Thoroughman - was pleased to see that revenue for the City for the first five months was up \$330,000 from a year ago or a 13% increase. It was good to hear good financial news coming out of City Hall and hopefully some or most of it is sustainable and have turned a corner after 9-11.

There being no further public comments, Mayor declared the public portion closed at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Council Closed Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Parks & Recreation Board Minutes – January 18, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Senior Citizens Commission Minutes – January 13, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

APPOINTMENTS - Boards and Commissions Appointments for 2004-2005.

A motion was made by Peggy Faul, seconded, to re-appoint Tom Sansevere to the Pension Board. Motion approved unanimously 7-0.

Mr. Kallstrom commented that the City is in need of an insurance representative for the FNIP Board and, if interested, please forward their name to the City Clerk, Mark Etling or Mr. Kallstrom.

MANAGER'S REPORT - City Manager, A.J. Krieger explained the items on the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2005-02 – United Missouri Bank (UMB) Wire Transfer Agreement was introduced by Council as a Whole and read by Attorney Karr.

Discussion ensued. Finance Director, Joan Jadali explained there would be no cost for the wire transfers and the City has never done wire transfers before.

On roll call vote, the motion carried as follows:

AYES: 7 – Kallstrom, Crinnion, Hines, Wegert, Faul, Duncan, Corson

NOES: 0

Resolution passes

REQUESTS

A motion was made by Mayor Wegert, seconded and approved unanimously, to approve the request for a Liquor License for Kelli's Pub at 1212 Chambers (formerly Butlers Bar & Grill). The business has applied and met all of the criteria for a new Liquor License. New owner and applicant Kelli Eberhard was present and described the Pub services and was welcomed by Council.

BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING

BILL NO. 6702 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III OF TITLE 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF FERGUSON BY ADDING A NEW SECTION RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD; EFFECTIVE WHEN; introduced by Council as a Whole.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bill Duncan – gave an update on the Trailnet Art Project in the box tunnel under Highway 70, which is approximately 400' long, 12' wide and 16' high. The plan is to spend \$60,000 - \$100,000 on the project to be an attraction for the Trailnet. The Regional Arts Commission, McDonnell Boeing Foundation, the Great Rivers Greenway and Ted and Pat Jones are responsible for the funding. The artist chosen will work with High School students from McCluer, UMSL, and Normandy. Mr. Duncan will give future updates on the project.

Peggy Faul – Questioned if City inspectors have specific areas? City Manager, A.J. Krieger explained staff is presently keeping track of inspections so they may be charged back to CDBG funds. Eventually inspectors will be assigned to certain quadrants.

Peggy Faul – Questioned how staff is keeping track of properties in making sure that the occupancy permit matches the name on the trash bill. Mr. Krieger – explained because it is so infrequent staff only verifies when necessary.

Mark Crinnion – feels the continuation of the fireworks is an important part of the 4th of July festival and appreciates all of the work that public safety and the parks department spent in putting together the report, there are a lot of well thought out ideas dealing with possible changes. Mr. Crinnion feels it is important to continue the fireworks. If the City stops the fireworks, he feels the City has let the troublemakers win and the good citizens of Ferguson have lost out. If the City temporarily halts the fireworks they could be forgotten.

Keith Kallstrom – agrees with Mr. Crinnion, likes the suggestions of the Police Department, and would like to see the City continue the fireworks. Mr. Kallstrom commented that the Ordinance to protect the welfare of a child was introduced and he would like to take it one-step further. St. Louis County has produced an Ordinance on domestic assaults and has asked municipalities to pass similar Ordinances. Mr. Kallstrom requested City Attorney Karr to present an Ordinance to Council that the City could utilize.

Mr. Kallstrom commented that St. Louis County Executive, Charlie Dooley was the honorary coach at an UMSL Basketball game, unfortunately the UMSL Rivermen lost to the Quincy Hawks, 87 to 76, but Mr. Dooley gave it a good try.

John Corson – is glad to see Mr. Hines and hopes that he is doing well and will continue to do well. The intent of the 4th of July festivities is to make it a safe and friendly environment, which means a lot of Council deliberation. Congratulations on the wire transfer and for bringing the City into the 21st Century.

City Manager, A.J. Krieger – staff has received a request from PROUD to utilize the Council Chambers to host a candidate forum and wanted to inform the Council prior to granting access to the Council Chambers. Staff will take care of the arrangements.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Mr. Krieger explained that staff would like to present to Council a monthly Financial Report that will be a work in progress and would appreciate Council's comments on the format. The intention of the report is to keep Council apprised month to month throughout the fiscal year of the City's General Fund revenues/expenditures.

Mr. Krieger would like to clarify comments made during the public comments portion. One of the speakers said that he was glad to find out that revenue was up \$330,000 and represented a 13% increase this fiscal year over last year. Mr. Krieger explained that the difference is one of timing as opposed to overall growth. This fiscal year, the City has received some revenue faster than last year and are properly accounting for some kinds of revenue items, namely grants, in a way that is different from this fiscal year than last year.

Unfortunately, what appears to be a 13% growth is a timing question not an overall growth question. If Council recalls, the City is not keeping pace with what was budgeted as 1% growth in General Fund revenue this year, it is mathematically impossible to grow by 13% in total receipts and not keep pace with 1% overall growth. Mr. Krieger wanted to make sure everyone understood that the illusion of revenue growth was due to timing. Mr. Krieger commented that the City is unfortunately not keeping pace with what was a very conservative projection of 1% growth.

Finance Director, Joan Jadali presented the Financial Report to Council. In response to Mr. Crinnion, grant revenue was approximately \$70,000. There were several timing issues involved.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Krieger explained the \$300,000 Property Tax.

Mrs. Jadali explained the breakdown of Revenues and Expenditures for 2004-05 Fiscal Year. The budgeted amount is \$4,656,200 at 50% of budget, YTD actual is \$3,965,231, a variance of \$ (690,969) to the negative compared to prior YTD actual of \$3,265,662. Expenses were budgeted at \$5,118,434, YTD actual is \$4,415,165 compared to prior YTD actual of \$4,333,747. Last year St. Louis County took longer to submit the revenues to the municipalities. This year revenues are on a timely basis. Park Revenues were budgeted at \$460,745, YTD actual \$466,299 compared to prior YTD actual \$290,276, a variance due to Real Estate and Personal Property tax collection from St. Louis County. Park Expenditures budgeted at \$517,794, YTD actual \$534,663 compared to prior YTD actual \$723,895.

Discussion ensued regarding the breakdown of revenues/expenditures, sales tax issues and corporate expenses.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Debbie Matthies, City Clerk