

**FERGUSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 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 8:05 p.m. on February 8, 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 in memory of former Councilmember William Pike, 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 - Absent
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 continuation of a Work Session item, the Public Portion and the Business Portion.

NORTH CENTRAL FIRE ALARM PRESENTATION (Work Session cont'd)

City Manager, A.J. Krieger explained that City staff will make a presentation regarding contracting with North Central Fire Alarm for fire dispatching and an opportunity to upgrade equipment and enhance the ability to provide public safety benefits to Ferguson residents and firefighters.

City staff recommends that the Council authorize the City Manager to sign a letter of intent with North Central and initiate the process of negotiating an agreement to dispatch.

Assistant Fire Chief, Steve Rosenthal and Director of Public Safety, Chief Tom Moonier gave a background and presentation regarding the North Central Dispatching Agency and answered questions concerning the public safety benefits to Ferguson residents and firefighters. Chief Moonier commented that the City of Ferguson is the last Fire Department in North County not in the North Central dispatching service.

Ms. Elizabeth Huffman, Director of Operations for North Central Fire Alarm and Attorney Scott Pollard were present for questions.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding current and future procedures, familiarity with City addresses, contract cost, computer upgrades to enhance and improve the ability fire units have to response time, ISO (Insurance Services Office) ratings, and the benefit of the ability to better coordinate overall fire suppression efforts and dispatch ambulances.

Mayor Wegert questioned the change that has now created this scenario being presented as the preferred method. Chief Moonier explained past events and current ambulance procedures, 911 call procedures, upgrades, technical advances, Homeland Security, and ability to improve response time. Chief Moonier feels it would be a tremendous benefit for Ferguson citizens.

City Manager, A.J. Krieger feels that the change is important enough at this time to have the ability to provide overall safety for firefighters as well as residents. Mr. Krieger feels the City owes it to the firefighters to put them in the best possible position to protect their safety and welfare and give them the resources needed to adequately and safely fight fires. Mr. Krieger felt it was important enough to recommend to Council at this time.

Mayor Wegert is in favor of any opportunity for discussion on inner agency cooperation when there is an opportunity to improve or save costs. Mr. Wegert feels more discussion is needed before he is comfortable in saying a letter of intent is appropriate. The City is in a fiscal situation and it is hard to put a dollar amount on the safety of an employee. It will cost \$75,000 to replace essentially the same efforts, not the same level, of an already recently upgraded dispatching system. Mayor Wegert would like to justify the business points of the expense of the \$75,000 before going ahead. The City now is in a fiscal situation where expenses are cut, and employee salaries City-wide are on hold with no raises.

Mr. Krieger explained that if the City did execute a letter of intent, the commitment would be for \$5,000 along with an agreement to be approved by Council. All business points would be included therein. There would be the expectation that if the process

progressed within six months of executing the letter of intent the City would pay another \$5,000 totaling \$10,000. Calculation is the first full payment would be in fiscal year 2006-2007. Finance Director, Joan Jadali and Mr. Krieger have reviewed the formula and concluded the range, based on receipts, would be between \$65,000 - \$75,000. Mr. Krieger is not suggesting it is an insignificant amount of money, particularly during a time when the City has asked employees to do without raises, but feels the City has deferred Citywide maintenance needs and deferred capital needs in the Fire Department and purports that it is not the same service, but an improved level of service. Mr. Krieger views it as an opportunity to end a functional and operational disadvantage by not being on the same system with every other North County fire department. This is not justification to do it, but raises the question of what makes Ferguson different from any other City.

Mr. Krieger feels that Council agrees, when it comes to public safety, Ferguson residents deserve every advantage and every opportunity to have their public safety protected as any of the other 15 member communities. The benefit and ability to seize the timing suggest that it makes sense for the City to go forward. There will be some mandated changes in radio equipment, but the City will have access to technology and equipment at a professional level of service and will be able to defer the cost until 2006-2007. Mr. Krieger feels that over the course of the next two budget years the City can plan for and provide for the expenditure. Mr. Krieger would expect the Council to expect a full explanation of the business points and the cost benefit at the time in which an agreement is presented for Council approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana McBride – 1301 Fargo in relation to Bill No. 6702, would like a future agenda to address runaways, parents housing runaways and making parents accountable. Staff will research.

There being no further public comments, Mayor declared the public portion closed at 8:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2005. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Pension Board Minutes – October 25, 2004. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Library Board Minutes – November 15, 2004. A motion was made by Mr. Crinnion seconded, and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

Senior Citizens Commission Minutes – February 3, 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 Phil Lum to the Architectural Review Board. Mayor concurred. Motion approved unanimously 6-0.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Finance Director, Joan Jadali gave an overall presentation and explained the purpose for the Resolution was to establish an investment policy with the City of Ferguson, recommended by the City auditing firm and is a requirement of State Statute and offers many advantages than the lack thereof. The Investment Policy would:

1. Provide a guide for setting and achieving program objectives.
2. Reduce the exposure of liability of the City of Ferguson.
3. Drive the cash, treasury, and investment management functions of the City of Ferguson.
4. Provide reasonable investment safeguards while earning higher rates of return on investments.
5. Broaden the network of investment alternatives for the City of Ferguson, and
6. Enable the City to earn higher rates of returns of investments.

Discussion ensued.

Resolution No. 2005-03 was introduced by Council as a Whole and read by Attorney Karr.

On roll call vote, the motion carried as follows:

AYES: 6 – Corson, Kallstrom, Crinnion, Wegert, Faul, Duncan

NOES: 0

ABSENT: - Hines

Resolution passes.

BILLS REQUIRING FIRST READING

Mark Boatman, Partner at Armstrong Teasdale LLP gave a brief overview of the Halls Ferry TIF refunding process. Mr. Boatman explained there is a call date and if the City could meet the deadline date, it would be a cost savings for the City. Discussion ensued.

Since there is a deadline date, Mr. Krieger asked if Council needed additional information to let Mr. Krieger know. Mr. Krieger updated the Council on the Halls Ferry development. Discussion.

BILL NO. 6703 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX INCREMENT REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2005 (CROSSINGS AT HALLS FERRY PROJECT); AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAX INCREMENT REVENUE NOTE (CROSSINGS AT HALLS FERRY PROJECT); AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; EFFECTIVE WHEN, introduced by Council as a Whole.

BILLS REQUIRING SECOND READING

Discussion ensued. City Attorney Stephanie Karr explained that residents should contact both the Ferguson City Police Department as well as the State Hotline to report any suspicions or incidents.

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 and read the first time.

A motion was made by Mr. Kallstrom, seconded and carried to read the Bill a second time and place it upon its passage. On roll call vote, the motion carried as follows:

AYES: 6 - Kallstrom, Crinnion, Wegert, Faul, Duncan, Corson

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Hines

Bill No. 6702 was declared passed and sent to the Mayor for signature. Bill No. 6702 thus became Ordinance No. 2005-3229 permanently recorded in Book 26 on page 196.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

City Manager, A.J. Krieger explained that at previous meetings, Councilmember, Mr. Crinnion requested the status of the City CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and annual audit, which will be distributed in the Council packet on Friday (2/11/05).

Tammy Alsop, Partner - Hochschild, Bloom & Company LLP was present for questions and gave a brief presentation on the City's overall financial position followed by a discussion on the auditors' recommendations (also known as Internal Control and Management Comments and Recommendations) for improvements to the functionality of the City's internal control framework. Ms. Alsop noted 10 various recommendations, 2 of which have been repetitions from prior audits.

MISCELLANEOUS

John Corson – deepest condolences to the family of former Councilmember Bill Pike. Mr. Corson is optimistic with the change regarding the 4th of July festivities. He is in favor of contracting with North Central Fire Alarm for fire dispatching. Mr. Corson feels that the importance and value of a single dispatching agency is a tool that will enhance the safety of the citizens and employees that work the streets. Mr. Corson hopes Council can come to a decision.

Keith Kallstrom – condolences to the family of former Councilmember Bill Pike. Mr. Kallstrom is in favor of contracting with North Central Fire Alarm for fire dispatching. The City is at the point where it makes financial sense and the City can save money and receive the upgrades so citizens can continue to enjoy the ISO rating the City has currently to maintain the insurance costs.

Mark Crinnion – condolences to the family of former Councilmember Bill Pike. Mr. Crinnion is in favor with staff recommendations regarding the 4th of July Festivities. His goal was to maintain the family atmosphere of the festival and to make sure the citizens of Ferguson win and the disruptive people do not take away something the City enjoys. He is glad to see that working with Council, Staff was able to provide Council good recommendations and input from the 4th of July committee to come up with a good plan.

Since postponing the Midwest Waste date, Mr. Crinnion questioned when the informational campaign would resume.

City Manager, A.J. Krieger explained that the informational campaign is ongoing and the public information effort is continuing. Staff is in negotiations and at the March 8, 2005

Council Meeting the Council can consider an Agreement. At Midwest Waste's expense, informational Flyers will continue to be sent to residents.

Peggy Faul – feels that schools need more education regarding “recycling”. Condolences to the family of former Councilmember Bill Pike. Hopes Councilmember Mr. Hines is improving and continues to do well. Thank Council and Police for working on the amendment to Bill No. 6702 and feels the City of Ferguson is here to protect families and children. Mrs. Faul explained that Mid East Area Agency on Aging is trying to get more services to seniors and the agency would like to re-open a center in Ferguson, another good indicator that Ferguson is here for all families. Concerns and comments regarding residents leaving trash out several days until their scheduled pickup date. Implement a procedure, that in addition to, when applying for an occupancy permit trash bills are paid up front. Ms. Faul would appreciate future discussion on this process. Ms. Faul is glad the City will continue the events, the City is known for, on the 4th of July.

Bill Duncan – Condolences to the family of former Councilmember Bill Pike. Wishes Councilmember Mr. Hines well, he is due to return to the hospital this week for another procedure and would like to wish him well.

Mayor Wegert – is delighted Council and Staff has come to a workable solution for the 4th of July festivities and credits Councilmember Corson for beginning the discussion. Mayor Wegert amplified his comments with regard to the dispatching conversation. He feels that a dollar amount cannot be placed on a person's safety; however, \$75,000 is a large amount of money that would be pledged each year for a necessary service to perform a function. Looked at another way, the City of Ferguson residents just passed a quarter-cent sales tax to generate new revenue specifically earmarked to the Fire Department and can only be used for the Fire Department, \$75,000 of that new revenue is 12% and is a large amount of new revenue to pay for the services. Mayor Wegert feels more discussion is needed in making sure Council is well informed and all options have been discussed before committing the \$75,000.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Debbie Matthies, City Clerk