

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY
AUGUST 9, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Town and Country was held at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 9, 2021, at the Municipal Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rehm led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The 7:00 PM roll call indicated Aldermen Allen, Even, Holman, Hughes, Mortland, Parrotte, Wiesehan and Wittmaier to be present.

Mayor Rehm presided.

City Attorney Steve Garrett was present to represent the City.

MINUTES – 07/26/21 Regular Meeting

Alderman Even moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Hughes.

Mayor Rehm called for any corrections or amendments.

Hearing none, the minutes of 07/26/21 were unanimously approved.

Mayor Rehm welcomed the City's new Public Works Director Michael Zeltmann and briefly described his professional background.

HEARING FROM CITIZENS

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

APPOINTMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Alderman Holman

Alderman Holman reported that the Public Works Commission will hold its next meeting at 7:00 PM on August 16 at the Municipal Center. She encouraged all to watch for related notifications because the hefty agenda may warrant an earlier start time.

Alderman Hughes

Alderman Hughes announced that the next concert would be held on Friday, August 13 from 6-9 PM at Town Square. She added that she attended the art show held over the past weekend and it was very well-attended.

Alderman Allen

Alderman Allen stated that the Ways & Means Commission would next meet at 8:30 AM on August 17 at the Municipal Center.

She also announced that the Veterans & First Responders Task Force would hold its second meeting at 5:30 PM on August 16 at Town Square. Mayor Rehm noted that he has already received positive feedback regarding the Task Force.

Alderman Wiesehan

Alderman Wiesehan reported that the Parks & Trails Commission held extensive discussion about the Drace Park playground design and provided a great review of all of input received.

He also noted that a new self-defense class would be offered on August 28, with registrations due by August 20 for those interested.

Finally, he thanked volunteers from The Principia for their recent work on the Longview Park fence.

City Administrator Shelton

Mr. Shelton announced that the next meeting would include a Work Session with a 6:00 PM start time to accommodate a presentation from Management Partners regarding their audit report, as well as a presentation from staff about the Topping Road Project. He added that information on both topics will be forwarded in advance of the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILL NO. 21-28, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE I, CHAPTER 125: BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPAL CODE, SPECIFICALLY BY THE DELETION OF ARTICLE VII REGARDING THE COMMUNITY ART & CULTURE COMMISSION (sponsored by Alderman Even) (1st reading 07/26/21)

Mayor Rehm prefaced the agenda item by explaining that discussion has recently been held about streamlining commissions, most notably at the Retreat where general consensus on a pathway forward was achieved. He thanked all the volunteer citizen members for their service and added that it may be possible to find other areas for utilizing their talents.

Mayor Rehm called for a second reading, without objection. Without objection, Bill No. 21-28 was read for the second time and placed upon its final passage.

Alderman Even moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Holman.

Alderman Hughes noted that she reached out to each member and while some were saddened, there was general understanding. She referenced several of the projects that were successfully undertaken by the group over the last year and pointed out that the consolidation accounts for the continuation of art-related duties under Parks & Trails. Finally, she thanked all past and present members for dedicating their time and talents over the years.

The roll call vote was as follows: AYE, Aldermen Allen, Even, Holman, Hughes, Mortland, Parrotte, Wiesehan and Wittmaier; NAY, none; ABSTAIN, none; ABSENT, none.

The motion carried unanimously and Bill No. 21-28 became Ordinance No. 4443.

BILL NO. 21-29, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE I, CHAPTER 125: BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPAL CODE, SPECIFICALLY BY THE DELETION OF ARTICLE III REGARDING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AND THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 125.270 REGARDING BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM DUTIES (sponsored by Alderman Parrotte) (1st reading 07/26/21)

Mayor Rehm called for a second reading, without objection. Without objection, Bill No. 21-29 was read for the second time and placed upon its final passage.

Alderman Parrotte moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Holman.

Alderman Parrotte expressed thanks for all the Conservation Commission members for their dedication, ideas, and meaningful work. He noted that the members understood the effort to streamline but wanted to ensure that their existing duties and programs were captured by another commission.

Alderman Holman moved to consider Substitute Bill No. 21-29 for consideration, and explained that the revised language redirects the administration of the Beautification Grant Program to the Public Works Commission.

Alderman Allen seconded and a voice vote to substitute carried.

The roll call vote was as follows: AYE, Aldermen Allen, Even, Holman, Hughes, Mortland, Parrotte, Wiesehan and Wittmaier; NAY, none; ABSTAIN, none; ABSENT, none.

The motion carried unanimously and Bill No. 21-29, as substituted, became Ordinance No. 4444.

BILL NO. 21-30, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE I, CHAPTER 125: BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPAL CODE, SPECIFICALLY BY THE AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI REGARDING THE PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION (sponsored by Alderman Holman) (1st reading 07/26/21)

Mayor Rehm called for a second reading, without objection. Without objection, Bill No. 21-30 was read for the second time and placed upon its final passage.

Alderman Holman moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Mortland.

Alderman Holman moved to consider Substitute Bill No. 21-30 for consideration, and explained that the change deletes the duty regarding the Beautification Grant Program and also speaks to the Commission's purview of Town Square.

Alderman Wiesehan seconded and a voice vote to substitute carried.

The roll call vote was as follows: AYE, Aldermen Allen, Even, Holman, Hughes, Mortland, Parrotte, Wiesehan and Wittmaier; NAY, none; ABSTAIN, none; ABSENT, none.

The motion carried unanimously and Bill No. 21-30, as substituted, became Ordinance No. 4445.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL NO. 21-32, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE III: TRAFFIC REGULATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 320.040, 340.190, AND 375.170 REGARDING VARIOUS TRAFFIC LAWS AND VIOLATIONS (sponsored by Alderman Mortland)

Mayor Rehm called for a first reading, without objection. Without objection, Bill No. 21-32 was read for the first time by title only.

Mayor Rehm declared Bill No. 21-32 continued to the meeting of Monday, August 23, 2021 for the second reading and consideration.

APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE(S)

Alderman Allen moved to approve the following liquor licenses:

Retail Liquor By The Drink and Sunday By The Drink*

Wild Crush LLC a/k/a Wild Crush Wine Bar

*both licenses contingent upon receipt of occupancy permit

Sunday By The Drink

St. Louis Wine and Beermaking a/k/a Steampunk Brew Works

Alderman Holman seconded.

In response to Mayor Rehm, Mr. Shelton stated that final inspection for Wild Crush occupancy permit is August 10.

A voice vote was held and carried.

RESOLUTION NO. R09-2021, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION TO APPLY FOR A MUNICIPAL PARK GRANT FOR A REPLACEMENT PLAYGROUND IN DRACE PARK

Alderman Wiesehan moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Hughes.

Alderman Wiesehan reported that a lot of resident input was received and further that Drace Park was prioritized because of the condition of the playground surface. He reiterated that the Parks & Trails Commission had good discussion and recommended approval of proceeding.

In response to Mayor Rehm, Parks & Recreation Director Anne Nixon stated that maintenance and operating costs should remain the same.

Alderman Even inquired about the design choice. Ms. Nixon explained that a good number of responses was received and the Parks & Trails Commission evaluated each proposal to determine which was most responsive to the RFP. She added that the line of equipment and its ability to fit into the park was determined, but not specific equipment pieces at this time.

In response to Alderman Wittmaier, Ms. Nixon confirmed that the proposed plan is roughly the same size and capacity as the existing playground.

Alderman Parrotte inquired about the ongoing expenses anticipated and the potential for increases. Ms. Nixon noted that there is no water feature currently included and no change to operating expenses is expected. She added that the value is similar to what exists today so the insurance costs should remain relatively unchanged as well.

Alderman Holman asked when the Board of Aldermen would receive a presentation from SWT regarding the Playground Master Plan to include each playground. Ms. Nixon explained that the presentation would be made after grant funding is awarded. She noted that SWT will report on the feedback received and their recommendations regarding each playground. She added that Drace was prioritized for this grant cycle but the Board of Aldermen would decide which, if any, playground would come next and include those numbers in the budget's capital projections. Ms. Nixon also confirmed that it is anticipated that all playgrounds would be completed within five years.

Alderman Holman expressed concern about the failure of several previous projects due to lack of a definitive plan, moving pieces, and overall communication issues. She noted that approving a grant application based on a conceptual plan is not desired in order to prevent history from repeating itself.

Alderman Even expressed reservations about the plan being established after the capture of grant funds, particularly given the time crunch that is now a factor.

Alderman Holman inquired about the future of the Drace Park playground if the project is not approved on the current timeline. Ms. Nixon reported that a request of legal counsel would be made about whether or not the playground should be closed due to liability concerns. She added that the budget and maximum funding match of the project is specified in the Resolution, and further that the Board of Aldermen will see and approve future construction documents.

In response to Alderman Allen, Ms. Nixon and the City Attorney confirmed that the City would be responsible for the design costs of approximately \$31,000 if grant funds are ultimately not received and/or the project does not reach completion.

Discussion was held about the timing of the grant application and future approvals that would be required of the Board of Aldermen before the project could proceed.

Ms. Nixon described the typical process and requirements of making a grant application to the Municipal Park Grant Commission. Aldermen Even suggested that, in the future, a presentation be made to the Board of Aldermen in advance of the approaching deadline for grant application, and asked if one could be made before the vote on the current Resolution.

Discussion was held about the items that should be covered by SWT's presentation to include timing, costs, target age group, etc. The ability for the Board to appropriate additional monies for the project at some point in the future, above and beyond what is contemplated in the Resolution, was also discussed.

Alderman Mortland noted his understanding of the expressed concerns. He confirmed with Ms. Nixon that the City can continue in the grant process for a new playground and save \$375,000 or alternatively, use solely City funds to repair existing equipment as needed.

Mayor Rehm stated that while it is clear that the City cannot have another open-ended project, it seems illogical to walk away from grant funding.

In response to Alderman Even, Ms. Nixon stated that if the City does not apply for this grant cycle, it must wait until next year to submit. Aldermen Even again suggested that moving forward, the Board should receive a design presentation well in advance of any deadlines.

Alderman Even moved to continue Resolution No. R09-2021 to the meeting of August 23, 2021, seconded by Alderman Holman.

A voice vote was held on the continuance and carried.

WARRANT LIST-08/09/21

Alderman Allen moved for approval, seconded by Alderman Parrotte.

Mayor Rehm called for discussion or amendments.

Alderman Even inquired about the publication expense for the Drace Playground Proposal. Mr. Shelton noted that the ad was run in consecutive weeks.

She also asked about the number of membership fees for Sam's Club. Mr. Shelton explained that the various departments each have accountholders that make purchases.

Finally, Alderman Even inquired about the payment to "School of Rock" given that their concert was cancelled. Mr. Shelton noted that they will be paid for their contingency date.

Alderman Allen requested that additional information be provided to better understand expenses and related revenues, particularly to highlight the benefits provided to residents. She noted that with regards to utilities, timing and purpose can cause fluctuations so it would be helpful to demonstrate that staff has accounted for those and continues to monitor usage and billing.

She added that she inquired about the expenditure for MML dues and found that the cost was a function of our population density.

Alderman Hughes inquired about the various 3rd quarter dispatch fees. Mr. Shelton explained the West Central Dispatch Center charges a fixed base quarterly fee and an additional fee based on the number of sworn officers.

Hearing no amendments, a voice vote was taken on the warrant list of August 9, 2021, in the amount of \$387,939.47, and carried.

OTHER

Alderman Holman inquired about the important takeaways from the Police Department mid-year report that was recently distributed. Chief Cavins noted that the lower numbers represent that education efforts about prevention measures appear to be working. He explained that public safety is a partnership between the Police Department and the residents and encouraged everyone to continue to “See Something, Say Something” and “Lock it or lose it” to prevent crimes of opportunity.

Alderman Holman requested information about the status of the Fire & EMS Task Force and next steps for the fire contract. Mr. Shelton noted that an update could be provided at the next meeting.

Alderman Holman asked about the timing and usage limits of forthcoming ARA funds. Mr. Shelton explained that it is anticipated that 50% will be received this year and 50% next year, with a four year period to allocate funds to qualifying expenditures. He added that ARA funds provide an opportunity to recover lost revenue, which is different than the previous CARE funds.

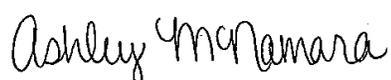
ADJOURN

Motion was made by Alderman Allen and seconded by Alderman Mortland to move to closed session pursuant to Section 610.021 (12) to discuss contract negotiations and attorney/client privileged communications.

The roll call vote was as follows: AYE, Aldermen Allen, Even, Holman, Hughes, Mortland, Parrotte, Wiesehan and Wittmaier; NAY, none; ABSTAIN, none; ABSENT, none.

The motion carried unanimously and the Board moved to closed meeting at 8:08 PM.

The Board did not return to open regular session.



Ashley McNamara
City Clerk