

CITY OF FRONTENAC



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC BOARD OF ALDERPERSON MAY 14, 2020

The May 14, 2020, regular meeting of the Board of Alderpersons of the City of Frontenac was called to order at 5:10 p.m. with Mayor Kate Hatfield, presiding. The Alderpersons present via video were Mayor Hatfield, Dan Millman, Nalini Mahadevan, Dan Kemper, Jamie Griesedieck and Tom O'Brien. Brian Warner was not present.

Also, in attendance was City Administrator, Jaysen Christensen; City Clerk, Leesa Ross; and City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe (all who participated via video).

Prior to the meeting officially starting Mr. Christensen gave the following updates:

Mr. Christensen discussed the budget process and that he is proposing freezing all employee salaries and delaying major capital items and purchases except for the Geyer Road Project and possibly the Spoede Bridge replacement. He is also recommending postponing expenditures of the comp plan, but will recommend the city lock in the consultants price, from a cost of \$132,000 to \$102,000.

Mr. Christensen stated the Ways & Means Committee is projecting a 25% reduction in sales tax, which amounts to \$1,100,000. Our current reserves are \$6.7 million and with proposed deficits from FY19-20 and 20-21, the reserves will go down to \$5.6 million. He said the FY19-20 deficit is projected to be \$323,000.

Mr. Christensen stated there is a Ways & Means Committee meeting Tuesday, where they will pass the budget. There is also a budget workshop meeting on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Board of Aldermen meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Christensen stated he received a call from Senator Jill Schupp who stated he believes the Wayfair Bill will pass today. He said there is a provision in the bill that will lower the video franchise fee, which currently is 5%, down .5% each year until it is lowered to 2.5%. He said overall the video franchise fee for the state generates \$15,000,000 and the proposed amount to be generated from the Wayfair Bill is \$90,000,000. There was additional discussion.

Mr. Christensen stated Plaza Frontenac is expected to open Monday at a 30% capacity. He said Saks Fifth Avenue will open sometime during the week, and Neiman will open soon to appointments only.

Mr. Christensen said Mayor Hatfield has received complaints about deer from residents in the city. Issues with bow hunting was discussed. Mr. Christensen stated he would contact the Missouri Department of Conservation to see if a presentation can be made for city residents.

Mr. Christensen stated City Hall will reopen on May 18 and best practices will be used. The city lobby will remain closed. There will be no contact with the staff, and all employees who were working from home on a part-time basis will begin to work in the office full-time. All employees will use precautions, wear masked and will be asked to practice extra social distancing.

Mr. Christensen stated there is no update on the library. After the ICC review, comments were sent to the library and the city is awaiting their response.

The sales tax interruption policy was discussed, and Mr. O’Keefe’s office is looking into it, along with the City of Richmond Heights. Mr. Christensen stated the City of Des Peres may also pursue the issue.

A. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Hatfield asked for a motion to approve tonight’s agenda.

MOTION: Alderperson Kemper made a motion and Alderperson Millman seconded the approval of tonight’s agenda. All Alderpersons present voted “Aye”. The vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

B. READING OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were sent to the City Clerk.

C. MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Hatfield thanked everyone who sent letters and emails to Senator Jill Schupp regarding the Wayfair Bill. She also thanked the public works commission and department for their help on the Geyer Road street repairs; the Spoede Road Bridge repair; the Clayton Road repaving and work on the two homes on Clayton Road who had repairs to their storm water problems; as well as their help on the food drive. She said there were 19 other municipalities who participated in the food drives, the Mayors for Meals.

D. COMMENTS BY BOARD OF ALDERPERSON MEMBERS

No comments were made by anyone at this time.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Bill No. 2020-1960:** An ordinance adding a new Chapter 260 entitled ‘Fair Housing’ to the Frontenac Code of Ordinances to prohibit discrimination in housing practices.

Mayor Hatfield asked Mr. Christensen and Mr. O’Keefe for an explanation of the bill. Mr. Christensen stated there is an annual allotment of \$20,000 for funds for the CDBG funds to be distributed to

Frontenac residents. The county requires the city to have a fair housing ordinance, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, age and sex, and to state there will be no unfair lending practices on the same basis. If there is a complaint, it must be heard by a three-person, Human Rights Commission, appointed by the Mayor with approval of the Board. Mr. Christensen suggested the appointments be board members. Mayor Hatfield suggested, one alderperson from each ward. Alderperson Kemper volunteered to be the representative of Ward 1.

Mayor Hatfield asked for a motion for a second reading of Bill No. 2020-1960.

MOTION: Alderperson Kemper made a motion and Alderperson Griesedieck seconded approval of the second reading of Bill No. 2020-1960. All Alderpersons present voted “Aye”. The vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

Bill No. 2020-1960: An ordinance adding a new Chapter 260 entitled “Fair Housing” to the Frontenac Code of Ordinances to prohibit discrimination in housing practices.

Mayor Hatfield asked for a motion to approve Bill No. 2020-1960.

MOTION: Alderperson Kemper made a motion and Alderperson O’Brien seconded approval of Bill No. 2020-1960.

Mayor Hatfield asked Ms. Ross for a poll vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Alderperson Millman, “Aye”; Alderperson Griesedieck, “Aye”; Alderperson O’Brien; Alderperson Kemper, “Aye”; and Alderperson Millman, “Aye”. The vote was not unanimous. **MOTION PASSED by a vote of 5-0.**

Bill No. 2020-1960 became Ordinance No. 2020-1914.

2. **Resolution No. 2020-435:** A resolution requesting that municipalities within St. Louis County receive an equitable distribution of the \$175 million in funding received by St. Louis County from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to reimburse municipalities for actual public safety costs incurred related to COVID-19.

Mayor Hatfield asked Mr. Christensen for an explanation of the resolution. Mr. Christensen stated this legislation was drafted by the City of Des Peres and requests funds from the \$150 million received for the CARES Act and it asks that funds given to the St. Louis County are shared with the municipalities. County Executive Page stated the funds are not eligible to be used for police and fire salaries for employees of municipalities. This resolution encourages the county to share the funds with the municipalities. Alderperson O’Brien requested a letter is drafted to Dr. Page and Mr. Fitch regarding the city’s position on this stance. Alderperson Mahadevan stated she also supports this. Mayor Hatfield stated our fire and police departments were the first exposed, and that our city set the policy on how to respond in the county.

MOTION: Alderperson Millman made a motion and Alderperson Kemper seconded approval of Resolution No. 2020-435. All Alderpersons present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Hatfield asked Ms. Ross for a poll vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Alderperson Griesedieck, “Aye”; Alderperson O’Brien; Alderperson Kemper, “Aye”; Alderperson Millman, “Aye”; and Alderperson Millman, “Aye”;. The vote was not unanimous. **MOTION PASSED by a vote of 5-0.**

Mayor Hatfield explained the small business loans that are available to businesses, and the notifications she sent to residents and businesses. She stated all applications for district three will be submitted for payment.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hatfield asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Alderperson O’Brien made a motion and Alderperson Millman seconded the meeting be adjourned. All Alderpersons present voted “Aye”. The vote was unanimous. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.