# Frontenac Subdivision Trustees Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021

### Agenda

- Ameren MO Ongoing work to improve service and reliability
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
- ► Architectural, Landscape, and Tree Preservation Improvements
- Personnel Handbook Update
- Geyer Road Project Update
- ► Fall Festival
- Ways & Means Committee Opening
- ▶ Proposition A August 3, 2021

## Ameren Missouri – Ongoing Work to Improve Service and Reliability

- Vegetation Management is performed on a four-year cycle based on each feeder. A visual inspection is done every two years.
- ► Equipment Inspection Program is also performed on a four-year cycle on location for all facilities and equipment.
- ▶ Team is assigned to perform equipment monitoring, including monitoring for outages, switching errors and issues and equipment failure, and power quality issues.
- Regular meetings are occurring between Ameren and City leaders to coordinate specific improvements for Frontenac from Clayton Terrace and Lynnbrook areas south to Huntleigh Downs and Frontenac Woods.
- Stay tuned to e-news and City website for future updates.

#### Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

- ► The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Comp Plan) establishes a road map for the development of land that includes the long-range vision for the community and economic development.
- ▶ Updating the Comp Plan is to assure a policy instrument that retains our community appearance, guides how to use or protect local resources and provides predictability and stability for appropriate community development that balances competing interests.
- ▶ The current Comp Plan was originally adopted in 2006 and last reviewed in 2013 by City officials and community members.
- ► The City hired St. Louis-based planning consultant H3 Studio to assist in the update. H3 recently assisted Ladue and Creve Coeur with their plan updates.
- ▶ The process is anticipated to take 10 to 12 months to complete and will involve extensive community participation.
- ▶ Look for community meetings to begin this fall.

## Architectural, Landscape, and Tree Preservation Improvements

- ▶ ARB structure, application and application process improvements.
- ▶ Updated, improved and clarified ARB Design Guidelines and Landscaping and Tree Preservation Guidelines.
- Many hours volunteered by residents with expertise in engineering, architecture, building, and landscaping.

Andre Audi, Civil Engineer, President Alper Audi, Inc.

Tracy Katz Joe, Resident

Kimberly Tompras, MA Civil Engineering, Construction Management, M.Arch., Project Manager Afton Chemical. Member Frontenac Planning & Zoning

Rita Diekemper, ISA certified Arborist, AS Horticulture, certified pesticide applicator, CPA, Owner Gardens of Grace

Mike Thaman, former Chair ARB

Natalia Bogdanova, Biotechnology regulation solutions

Frontenac Forest Trustees

Chris Chivetta and staff, Hastings & Chivetta Architects

Chris Hyams, GSS Construction, Member Planning and Zoning

Tom Erman, Chair ARB

Virginia Eckhoff, ARB Member

Kris Anderson, ARB Member

Alderman Dan Kemper

Alderman Dan Millman

Alderman Tom O'Brien

Mayor Hatfield

#### Personnel Handbook Update

- Comprehensive review and update of the City's personnel handbook, completed and adopted by the Board of Aldermen in May.
- The review and updates focused on creating an improved transparent and collaborative culture within the City.
- Code of Conduct and other additions applicable to all elected, appointed, volunteer and paid staff.
- Many hours volunteered by residents and others with expertise in personnel management and employment law. Contributors:

Eric Todd, JD Ogletree Deakons, City HR/Labor Attorney
Janette Taaffe, VP Human Resources St. Luke's
Judge Andrea Niehoff, Federal Administrative Judge, EEOC,
Municipal Judge Frontenac & Town & Country
Tom Mug, JD retired, Greensfelder, Hemeker, Gale, member
Ways & Means Committee
Tom Becker, retired Frontenac Police Chief
Mark Guttman, Police Chief
Craig Picha, Police Captain

Marc Ulses, Fire/EMS Chief
Floyd Blake, Fire/EMS Assistant Chief
Leesa Ross, City Clerk
Lea Ann Bennet, Finance Officer
Jeff Wappelhorst, Public Works Director
Mayor Hatfield
Alderman Griesedieck
Alderman Mahadevan

#### Geyer Road Project Update

#### Phase 1 (Clayton to Hermitage Hill).

- ▶ Designs are being completed, which include a new sidewalk on the west side of the road from Clayton to Hermitage Hill.
- ► MoDOT approval any day to begin meeting directly with property owners along Geyer to secure easements.
- ▶ Estimated that easement negotiations will be completed by early 2022 to allow construction to begin by May 2022. Construction of Phase 1 is anticipated to be complete by November 2022.

#### Phase 2 (Hermitage Hill to Huntleigh Manor).

- ▶ MoDOT is expected to grant approval in the coming weeks to proceed with the design. Topographic survey work is currently scheduled for July 2021.
- ▶ Easement acquisition is scheduled to take place in 2022.
- ► Construction is currently scheduled to begin by summer 2023 and be complete in the early part of 2024.

#### Phase 3 (Huntleigh Manor to the Frontenac-Kirkwood line).

- ▶ Construction of Phase 3 is likewise planned to begin by summer 2023 and be complete in 2024.
- Will begin designing Phase 3 in 2021
- ► Easement acquisition is currently projected to take place in the later half of 2022.

#### Fall Festival

- ► Late September or early October
- Music, food, games, and family-friendly activities
- Stay tuned for a date and time
- ► Feedback on most preferred day and time (Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday afternoon, etc.)

# Ways & Means Committee Volunteer Opening

- ► Ways & Means Committee
- ► Any City board or committee as future openings occur
- ► Jaysen Christensen (jchristensen@cityoffrontenac.org)
- ▶ Mayor Kate Hatfield (<u>mayor@cityoffrontenac.org</u>)

Proposition A: City Property Tax August 3, 2021

Public Safety Initiative - Proposed to maintain Police, Fire, EMS, and other essential services



- On August 3, 2021, Frontenac residents will vote on Proposition A, a property tax increase to pay for public safety and other vital city services.
- Quality police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) are the most critical services cities provide.
- ► The cost of goods and services has risen exponentially since 1992, which is the last time the residents of Frontenac approved a property tax increase.
- ➤ City officials know that few people get excited about tax increases of any kind. We also know that public safety is the most critical service a city can provide its residents.
- Every effort has been exhausted to address the financial shortfall without a tax increase.
- ► The City of Frontenac lost more than \$1 million in tax revenue in 2020.

Proposition A:
Overview
Protecting the Safety
and Welfare of
Frontenac Residents

- Frontenac needs a diversified revenue base.
- ► The City is already operating in the most cost-effective manner possible, despite rising costs.
- Capital expenses have been delayed, and further delay could be detrimental to police, fire and EMS vehicles and services.
- ▶ Pay freezes and benefit reductions have resulted in hiring and retention issues for essential city employees.
- Risking essential city safety services could result in poorer outcomes for residents.

# Proposition A: Overview Protecting the Safety and Welfare of Frontenac Residents

#### Frontenac Enjoys Top-Tier Public Services

- ▶ The Fire Department has been an outstanding performer, earning an ISO rating of 2, which is within the top 4% in the country as a fire department.
- ▶ 68% of sudden-cardiac-arrest patients of Frontenac Fire and EMS have been successfully revived over the past five years compared to just a 10% survival rate nationally.
- ► The Fire Department's average response time is four minutes and 28 seconds compared to an average of 15 minutes and 19 seconds nationwide.
- ► The Police Department maintains accreditation and has a high clearance rate on violent crimes as compared to agencies across the country, with a 91% clearance rate compared to a 46% nationwide rate.
- Risking public safety services could result in poorer outcomes for residents.

#### Qualified Public Safety Personnel at Risk

- ▶ Police and fire make up the largest part of the City's budget. These are life-saving services that are too important to jeopardize through unwanted turnover and the loss of experienced professionals.
- ▶ Pay freezes and benefit reductions have resulted in hiring and retention issues for Fire/EMS, Police and other City employees.
- ▶ Low pay makes it difficult to attract and retain Fire/EMS Staff.
- ▶ Frontenac firefighters and paramedics are the lowest paid among our neighboring communities of Creve Coeur, Des Peres, Kirkwood, Ladue, and Town & Country (West County Fire District).
- ▶ Since 2016, Frontenac's 20-man fire/EMS department has lost 13 firefighter/paramedics to higher-paying jobs in neighboring communities, and more are expected to leave Frontenac.
- Nearly 30% of Frontenac's Fire and EMS Department is expected to retire within the next two to three years.
- ► The August tax proposal would help increase police and firefighter pay to at least the 60th percentile of the pay of neighboring municipalities to help the City attract and retain talent.

### Quality Equipment at Risk

- Capital expenditures have been delayed.
- ► The City has postponed needed capital expenditures including police vehicles, public works equipment, and fire/EMS equipment.
- ▶ The City refinanced its bonds for City Hall in 2020, reducing the interest rate and then using the savings to finance the purchase of a new ambulance to replace an antiquated 10year-old version.
  - ► The City has been forced to borrow an ambulance from Des Peres while Frontenac's aging ambulance spends more time out of service for repairs.

#### Proposition A Language

Shall the City of Frontenac be authorized to levy and impose annually upon all subjects and objects of taxation within the City a tax which shall not exceed the maximum rate of one dollar on the one hundred dollars assessed valuation for general municipal purposes including paying increased costs associated with operating a local police department, operating a local fire department, building department, public works department and other services for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Frontenac?

## What will the proposed tax increase cost?

APPRAISED VALUE OF HOME		ASSESSED VALUE OF HOME*		PROJECTED NET RATE INCREASE		PROJECTED DOLLAR INCREASE ON ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX	
\$	200,000	\$	38,000	\$	0.565	\$	215
\$	300,000	\$	57,000	\$	0.565	\$	322
\$	400,000	\$	76,000	\$	0.565	\$	429
\$	500,000	\$	95,000	\$	0.565	\$	537
\$	750,000	\$	142,500	\$	0.565	\$	805
\$	1,000,000	\$	190,000	\$	0.565	\$	1,074
\$	1,250,000	\$	237,500	\$	0.565	\$	1,342
\$	1,500,000	\$	285,000	\$	0.565	\$	1,610
\$	1,750,000	\$	332,500	\$	0.565	\$	1,879
\$	2,000,000	\$	380,000	\$	0.565	\$	2,147
\$	2,500,000	\$	475,000	\$	0.565	\$	2,684
\$	3,000,000	\$	570,000	\$	0.565	\$	3,221

<sup>\*</sup> Per Missouri statute, the assessed value for residential property is 19% of the appraised market value.

# How do Frontenac taxes compare to neighboring cities? Lower!

Current City Residential Property Tax Rates					
Olivette	1.2790				
Creve Coeur*	1.1850				
Westwood*	1.0790				
Maplewood	0.9510				
Glendale	0.8590				
Webster Groves	0.7160				
Clayton**	0.6990				
Ladue	0.6170				
Brentwood	0.5550				
Richmond Heights	0.5210				
Kirkwood	0.4930				
<b>Frontenac</b>	<mark>0.4350</mark>				

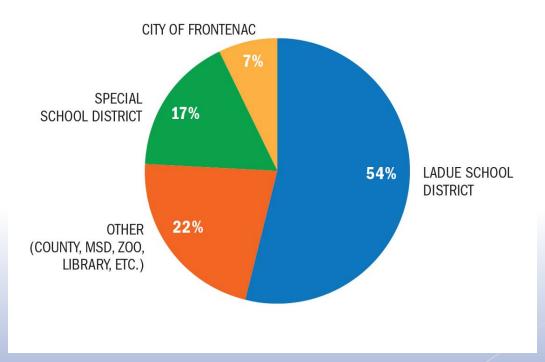
# How do Frontenac taxes compare to neighboring cities? Lower!

Current City Residential Utility Tax Rates				
Olivette	10.0			
Maplewood	9.0			
Glendale	9.0			
Clayton	8.0			
Kirkwood	7.5			
Creve Coeur	7.0			
Webster Groves	7.0			
Ladue	6.9-7.0			
Richmond Heights	5.6-6.0			
Des Peres	3.5-5.0			
<b>Frontenac</b>	<mark>0.5</mark>			

## How much of my property tax bill goes to Frontenac?

#### **PROPERTY TAX BILL**

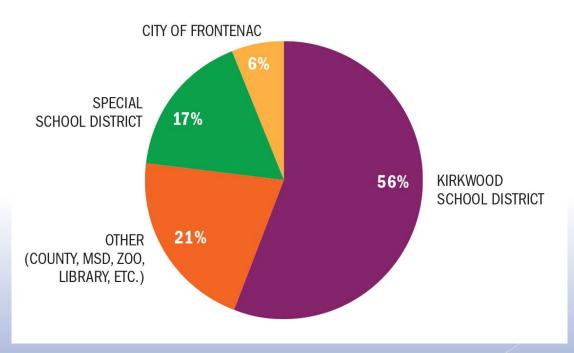
Frontenac Resident in Ladue School District



## How much of my property tax bill goes to Frontenac?

#### PROPERTY TAX BILL

Frontenac Resident in Kirkwood School District



What happens if Proposition A fails?

The top-tier Public Safety services that residents depend upon today such as fire, police and EMS will be reduced and could potentially be outsourced. At the current and projected rates of revenue, the city simply cannot sustain the current level of services without this tax increase.

#### Next Steps

- We need your help to educate your neighbors.
- ▶ Handouts and presentation slides will be emailed to you.

#### How to Keep Informed

- ► Please provide City with your updated trustee contacts by emailing City Clerk, Leesa Ross, at <a href="mailto:lross@cityoffrontenac.org">lross@cityoffrontenac.org</a>
- ► Request to sign up for the City's e-news updates also by emailing Leesa Ross.
- Frontenac Facebook pages:
  - ► Firefighters: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FirefightersofFrontenac">https://www.facebook.com/FirefightersofFrontenac</a>
  - ► Police: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FRONTENACPD">https://www.facebook.com/FRONTENACPD</a>
  - ► General: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/livinginfrontenacmissouri">https://www.facebook.com/groups/livinginfrontenacmissouri</a>
- Frontenac Website: <u>www.cityoffrontenac.org</u>

