



City Council Meeting

Regular Session Minutes

April 22, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Liberty, Missouri was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on April 22, 2024 with Mayor Greg Canuteson presiding. Mayor Canuteson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was given by Council Member Gentrup, who then led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Harold Phillips and Shelton Ponder, Ward I
Kelley Wrenn Pozel and Adam Travis, Ward II
Kevin Graham and Jeff Watt, Ward III
Gene Gentrup and Michael Hagan, Ward IV

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Curt Wenson, City Administrator
Sara Cooke, Assistant City Administrator
Vicki McClure, Finance Director
Andy Noll, Utilities Director
Amy Blake, Human Resources Director
BJ Staab, Parks and Recreation Director
Jim Martin, Police Chief
Matt Kellogg, Police Captain
John Mills, Fire Chief
Chris Young, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Epperson, Fire Division Chief
Katherine Sharp, Planning and Development Director
Wade Thomas, Technology and Logistics Director
Sherri McIntyre, Public Works Director
Sarah Ranes, Deputy City Clerk

Public Present: Kellie Houx, Courier Tribune
11 members of the public

IV. APPROVE MINUTES AND SUMMARIES

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2023

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Travis seconded the motion, which carried 7-0-1. Council Member Watt abstained due to absence.

B. SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2023

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Pozel seconded the motion, which carried 6-0-2. Council Member Phillips and Council Member Ponder abstained due to absence.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2023

Council Member Gentrup moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Travis seconded the motion, which carried 6-0-2. Council Member Phillips and Council Member Ponder abstained due to absence.

D. REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Council Member Gentrup moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Pozel seconded the motion, which carried 6-0-2. Council Member Phillips and Council Member Travis abstained due to absence.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION by Fire Chief John Mills

In 2019, the Liberty Fire Department, along with IAFF Local 42 and the Labor Management Committee, began requiring all members of the department to complete annual physicals.

- 2020: 170 Significant Findings in 52 members (Fire Department)
- 2021: 95 Significant Findings in 27 members (41 years and older)
- 2022: 111 Significant Findings in 43 members (31 years and older)
- 2023: 125 Significant Findings in 35 members (18-30 and 41+)

Life Scan Wellness Program Base Price: \$594.00
-Advance Cancer Markers: \$100.00
\$694.00 per employee

- 18-30 years old, every 3 years
- 31-40 years old, every 2 years
- 41 and older, every year

The harsh reality is, there are lots of things in this career that could kill a fire fighter, but hopefully these physicals help to ensure that staff is healthy and one step closer to going home to their families at the end of every shift.

VI. MEETING SCHEDULE

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2024

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2024

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

E. REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2024

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

F. REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2024

Council Member Hagan moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

IX. ORDINANCES, CONTRACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance acknowledging vendor payments for the period of March 29, 2024 to April 12, 2024

Document No. 9755 was read.

Action: Council Member Phillips moved to approve the vendor payments. Council Member Pozel seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Ponder, Pozel, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Travis and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11920.

B. ORDINANCE APPROVING A SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIBERTY, MISSOURI AND THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR THE M-291/BLUE JAY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STEWART/M-291 INTERSECTION PROJECT, FEDERAL AID PROJECT STBG-3392(407)

The City of Liberty M-291/BLUE JAY TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STEWART/M-291 INTERSECTION PROJECT includes installation of a public sidewalk along both sides

of Missouri Route 291 within Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) right of way. This will effectively provide pedestrian connectivity from North Havens Commercial Center development to Kansas St.

In order for the sidewalk to be constructed, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) requires that a Sidewalk Agreement be approved and executed between the City of Liberty and the Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission. The agreement grants permission for the City to install and maintain a public sidewalk within the state's right of way. Entering into this agreement is at no cost to the City.

Document No. 9756 was read.

Action: Council Member Phillips moved to waive the rules and consider the ordinance on first reading. Council Member Pozel seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Council Member Watt moved to approve the ordinance. Council Member Hagan seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0-0

Yes: Council Members Phillips, Ponder, Pozel, Hagan, Graham, Watt, Travis and Gentrup

No: None

Abstain: None

Approved by the Chair and inscribed in Ordinance No. 11921.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

XI. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

David Langston – 1920 Carter Court, Mr. Langston stated he did as the Mayor asked of him at the at the last meeting about private money to build a facility to be used for basketball and soccer. Mr. Langston thanked Mayor Canuteson for meeting with him and discussing the possibilities. Mr. Langston stated he talked with residents including those outside of the Liberty community and they all said that Liberty has a state of the art Performing Arts Center. Mr. Langston stated one thing he heard when talking with these people is, they wish the Performing Arts Center had better lighting and he wanted to pass that message along. Mr. Langston stated he also reviewed the rates at the current community center and an adult using the facility on a daily basis is \$12.50. Mr. Langston stated this is the same amount charged to Kansas City residents and we are subsidizing Kansas City by the way this is being done. Mr. Langston asked City Council to please review the rates being charged at the Community Center.

Gieselle Fest – 1407 Lynette Street, Ms. Fest thanked City Council for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Fest respectfully asked the Mayor, Liberty Council and Liberty taxpayers and citizens to withdraw the repossession lawsuit on Block 174 in the cemetery. Ms. Fest stated the cost is projected to be at \$100,000.00 which is also the estimate for costs on new lighting at the Performing Arts Center. Ms. Fest stated she learned a new trend this week about false equivalencies and to Ms. Fests people it's called apples and oranges. Ms. Fest stated false equivalencies to her are like referring to Christ and Hitler as the same because they both have mustaches but they have very different ideologies and they aren't the same. Ms. Fest

stated there are false equivalencies because we are taking things that have no business with the continued discussions. Ms. Fest stated there needs to be conversations and solutions that don't seek to divide people.

Dwayne Holtzclaw – 113 Kevin Street, Excelsior Springs, Mr. Holtzclaw stated he has family members buried in privately owned Block 174. Mr. Holtzclaw stated as Christians, they believe graves and grave markers are important and non-Christians don't care and they attack graves. Mr. Holtzclaw stated his uncle and Mayor John Will Hall sold Block 174 on January 6, 1900. Mr. Holtzclaw stated he has attended 89 City Council meetings to ask to stop the revestment lawsuit.

David Sallee – 9521 N. Laurel, Kansas City, Mr. Sallee stated he was told the soldier on top of the monument in Fairview Cemetery is a Northern Soldier and if how he is dressed changes the intent of the monument. Mr. Sallee stated the Confederate Monument Committee installed the monument and they placed a Confederate Battle flag on the east side of the monument, placed Nathan Bedford Forrest's name on the north side and referenced the Daughter's of the Confederacy on the west side leading one to believe they put a soldier of the Army of the United States of America not a Confederate soldier on top. Mr. Sallee stated that if all of this were true, it doesn't change the hate for which the monument was conceived, paid for and erected. Mr. Sallee stated the monument traumatized black citizens in 1904 and now 124 years later, the monument continues to traumatize. Mr. Sallee stated embracing this monument without apology for its message, is clear support of racism and people are what they stand up to defend.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

Deputy City Clerk