

**CITY OF HAZELWOOD
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Hazelwood City Council was called to order by Mayor Matthew G. Robinson at 7:34 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in the Council Chambers of Hazelwood City Hall, 415 Elm Grove Lane.

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency, some members of the City Council attended in-person in the Council Chambers at Hazelwood City Hall and others attended and participated by video conference in accord with Section 610.015, RSMo (“All votes taken by roll call in meetings of a public governmental body consisting of members who are all elected ... shall be cast by members ... who are physically present ... or who are participating via videoconferencing.”) It was impossible and impractical to hold the meeting in a manner physically accessible by the public. Section 610.020.2, RSMo (“Each meeting shall be held at a place reasonably accessible to the public ... unless for good cause such a place ... is impossible or impractical.”) Public access to the meeting was accommodated in person and via access to video conference pursuant to notice provided in accord with Section 610.020, RSMo.;

On roll call the following members of the Council were present:

Russell Todd
Warren H. Taylor
Rosalie Hendon
Mary G. Singleton
Carol A. Stroker
Robert M. Aubuchon
Don W. Ryan
Daniel T. Herin
Matthew G. Robinson

City Clerk Julie Lowery declared a quorum was present.

Also present were City Manager Matt Zimmerman and Associate City Attorney Robert Jones.

AGENDA

There being no amendments proposed, Mrs. Hendon moved, seconded by Mr. Herin, the adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Singleton moved, seconded by Mr. Todd, the adoption of the consent agenda as printed. The following vote was recorded on the motion:

AYE - 9

NAY - 0

Mr. Todd
Mr. Taylor
Mrs. Hendon
Mrs. Singleton
Mrs. Stroker
Mr. Aubuchon
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Herin
Mayor Robinson

The motion passed unanimously and the consent agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Singleton moved, seconded by Mr. Todd, to approve the minutes of the March 3 regular Council meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS - None

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS - None

CITIZENS HEARINGS AND PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Mayor Robinson explained the procedures to be followed during a hearing. He invited anyone desiring to make a comment to come forward at this time.

RFPD PROP R

Tyler Wilson of 4001 Dunn Road asked if Robertson Fire Protection District's (RFPD) Proposition R passes would the residents in the annexed RFPD service area have to pay taxes for fire and ambulance to the City.

Mr. Zimmerman responded this issue should be discussed with RFPD and if the proposition passes, it would be up to the Council to decide what they want to do with the City's tax levy.

LITTER ISSUES

Margaret Kaufeld of 7311 Caione Court expressed concerns with the litter problem in the City and the need for more trash receptacles in public places.

Ms. Kaufeld suggested stronger ordinances prohibiting littering and harsher fines for littering could help mitigate the problem. She also suggested two citywide trash pick-ups, one in the spring and one in the fall, and working with the Hazelwood School District's student community service program. Ms. Kaufeld reported that several residents from the Community Enrichment Commission and Green Committee picked up over 80 pounds of litter from Elm Grove Lane to Hazelvalley Drive.

The Council thanked Ms. Kaufeld.

Mayor Robinson asked Mrs. Lowery if any written comments had been received for this evening's meeting.

Mrs. Lowery replied none were received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LIQUOR LICENSE
6827 HOWDERSHELL The public hearing to consider a liquor license application from Inspiring Angels Private Event Center, Inc., has been cancelled.

COMMUNICATIONS

EWGCG
BRIEFINGS The February 25 issue of Briefings was received from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

HCC CID
2021/2022 BUDGET The Hazelwood Commerce Center Community Improvement District budget for fiscal year 2021/2022 was received from Development Dynamics.

EWGCG
BRIEFINGS The March 4 issue of Briefings was received from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

EWGCG
BRIEFINGS The March 11 issue of Briefings was received from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

COMMISSION
RESIGNATION A letter of resignation from the Neighborhood Watch Commission was received from Cecelia Green.

CHARTER
COMMUNICATIONS Notification of a new programming launches was received from Charter Communications.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

WORK SESSION
AGENDA ITEMS No items were added to the May 12 Budget work session agenda.

RFPD FIRE SERVICES Prior to this meeting, the Council received an email from City Attorney Kevin O'Keefe stating firefighters have been canvassing the Robertson service area over the last two weekends and have had a generally favorable response.

The communication from Mr. O'Keefe also stated there would be yard signs distributed, perhaps as early as later this week. It is also anticipated that there will be at least one, and probably two, direct mail pieces sent to registered voters in the service area between now and Election Day.

Mayor Robinson expressed concerns with the upcoming election. He stated there is a lack of information being put out to the public for the proposition on the April 6 ballot. Mayor Robinson stated the City has responsibility for this election. Mayor Robinson stated he believes it is the Council's responsibility to inform the residents of how much of a tax increase Proposition R would be. He stated the talking points given to City staff to answer questions about the proposition was not sufficient. Mayor Robinson stated whether Proposition R passes or not, the residents will come to the City and want answers about their taxes. Mayor Robinson stated he would like if our residents in the RFPD service area were notified by a letter containing information about the upcoming election and the tax increase.

Mrs. Hendon stated Proposition R is not the City's campaign.

Mrs. Singleton stated RFPD put this proposition on the ballot and we should not interfere with their campaign.

Mrs. Hendon stated it is RFPD's responsibility to educate the residents about Proposition R.

Mayor Robinson replied he strongly disagreed.

Mr. Aubuchon stated the City could not make any decisions regarding levying taxes until the outcome of the election is determined.

Mr. Herin stated it would be to the advantage of the City if Proposition R passed.

Mrs. Singleton stated the City has educated people in RFPD service area many times over the past several years. She stated this is RFPD's campaign and she hopes the proposition passes. Mrs. Singleton stated she has not been asked to help campaign and she would be very uncomfortable intervening.

Mayor Robinson stated he also hopes the proposition passes. However, tax increases are open information and should be made public.

Mr. Ryan stated that until the City speaks with RFPD he does not feel it would be right for the City to get involved.

Mr. Aubuchon stated if RFPD wanted our help, they would have asked.

Mr. Herin stated RFPD has been going around the neighborhood and came to his house. The number he received from them was approximately a \$500 tax increase for a home valued at \$100,000. Mr. Herin stated the Council should support RFPD.

Mrs. Singleton stated she would consider helping RFPD if they asked and maybe the City could put out educational information and work with RFPD. She does not want to interfere with RFPD's strategy.

Mrs. Singleton suggested putting a fact sheet together and sending it to staff and the legal team for review and then presenting it to RFPD.

Mayor Robinson stated RFPD is holding this election for the City and it is irresponsible of the City to say it is not our election. He stated RFPD is doing this for the City.

Mrs. Singleton stated she has no reason to believe RFPD will not present the facts to the residents.

Mayor Robinson asked if the City was going to move forward with a fact sheet.

Mrs. Singleton replied she is confident that RFPD will put the facts out, but if the Council wants to put a fact sheet together to present to RFPD, she has no objections.

Mayor Robinson asked staff to revise the talking points information to include the tax rate formula and to send the information to the Council and RFPD and see if RFPD wants to approve it for the City to use to answer resident's questions.

Mrs. Hendon, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Aubuchon asked that legal staff review the talking points before they are distributed to anyone.

Mayor Robinson asked Mr. Zimmerman to explain what House Bill 1016 means.

Mr. Zimmerman replied a bill was filed two weeks ago by a state representative, who is a firefighter, which changes the law regarding ambulance districts and fire protection districts obtaining signatures and creating non-contiguous fire districts. This only applies to St. Louis County. Mr. Zimmerman stated there is concern that municipal fire departments could merge on their own to create their own fire district, by a vote of the people.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	The Council had been provided with copies of the proposed five-year Capital Improvement Fund Plan that is part of the fiscal year 2022 budget.
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Finance Director David Tuberty stated the total revenue for the 2022 Capital Improvement Fund is projected to be \$2.8 million. The budgeted expenditure is \$3.6 million. This would leave an expected fund balance of \$45,257 for the end of fiscal year 2022.

Major expenditures planned for 2022 include major park and recreation improvements, purchase of police vehicles, concrete and asphalt street replacements, sidewalk replacements, police station building improvements, City Hall parking lot overlay, heavy-duty maintenance vehicles and continued payments on long-term debt.

Mr. Herin stated he did not see any improvements for the fire department or firehouses.

Mr. Zimmerman replied it was the decision of the Council over a year ago that there would not be any major capital improvements into the fire department until there was clarity as to what was going to happen with fire services. Mr. Zimmerman stated a new ambulance had been purchased a couple of years ago, maintenance has been kept up on the buildings and there are ongoing improvements to both fire stations in next year's capital budget.

PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES Police Chief Gregg Hall reported staff recommends the purchase of one 2021 Dodge Charger and one 2020 Ford Interceptor sport utility vehicle with emergency equipment, installation and graphics from Lou Fusz Chesterfield, MO/St. Charles, MO at a cost not to exceed \$72,425.

Chief Hall stated the Capital Improvement Fund budget includes a remaining \$84,076 for two police vehicles to be purchased. The 2021 Dodge Charger is a car for admin and the 2020 Ford Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicle will be dedicated to the patrol group.

Mrs. Singleton moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to concur with the staff recommendation to purchase one 2021 Dodge Charger vehicle and one 2020 Ford Interceptor sport utility vehicle with emergency equipment, installation and graphics from Lou Fusz Chesterfield, MO/St. Charles, MO at a cost not to exceed \$72,425.

AMEND CH. 397 EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES Mr. Zimmerman reported staff recommends amending *Chapter 397: Emergency Snow Routes* designating certain streets as snow routes.

Mr. Zimmerman stated Council directed staff to review the current list of snow plow routes. The routes were last updated in March 2000 and since then there have been significant changes in traffic usage and additional major roads constructed. Mr. Zimmerman stated the Council was provided with a list of the proposed changes.

Mrs. Hendon moved, seconded by Mrs. Singleton, to concur with the staff recommendation to amend *Chapter 397: Emergency Snow Routes* and to place the draft bill on this agenda for introduction. The motion passed unanimously and the bill was added to the agenda as item 17.a.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - None

CITY CLERK'S REPORT - None

COMMISSION AND BOARD REPORTS

Mrs. Singleton moved, seconded by Mr. Todd, to receive and file the minutes of the January 14 City Plan Commission meeting and the January 25 Historic Preservation Commission meeting and the February 9 Community Enrichment Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – None

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

AMEND CH. 397
EMERGENCY SNOW
ROUTES

Mayor Robinson called for the first reading of a bill to amend *Chapter 397: Emergency Snow Routes* designating certain streets as snow routes.

There were no objections and Bill 4928 was read by title only:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE XII OF CHAPTER 397 EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES DESIGNATING CERTAIN STREETS AS SNOW ROUTES.

Bill 4928 will be on the agenda for second reading on April 7.

SECOND READING OF BILLS AND ACTION ON BILLS - None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Robinson announced the next regular Council meeting will be held Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Matthew G. Robinson - Mayor
City of Hazelwood, Missouri

ATTEST:

Julie Lowery - City Clerk
City of Hazelwood, Missouri