

**CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES**  
**May 17, 2022**

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in the City Council Chambers, which was available to the public in person, and via teleconference, at 7:03 p.m.

Present at Roll Call:

Mayor Laura Arnold  
Councilmember Pam Bliss  
Councilmember David Franklin  
Councilmember Emerson Smith  
Councilmember Karen D. Alexander  
Councilmember Sarah Richardson  
Councilmember Emily Hixson Shepherd

A quorum was present.

Also present:

Dr. Marie Peoples, City Manager  
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney  
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

**RECOGNITION**

Mike and Kathy Silverman were recognized for receiving the Musco Lighting Give Back award from the Missouri Parks & Recreation Association.

**REMARKS OF VISITORS**

Dave Buck stated that he had planned to speak regarding budget deficits and the fact that the way to close them is not to make cuts but to create new, but following the shooting in Buffalo, he was moved to speak regarding mass shootings and the need for compromise to make changes. Below is email statement from Mr. Buck sent to Council May 18, 2022: "Fellow Peacemakers, Instead of reciting my exact words from the podium at last night's (May 17, 2022) City Council meeting during "Remarks of Visitors", I am sharing the most important part of what I wanted to say but my 3 minutes ran out. We as a nation utter these same words far too often, but my thoughts and prayers are with the victims, and their families & friends, who were senselessly & violently shot and murdered in the Buffalo mass shooting this past weekend. God forbid this should ever happen in Webster Groves but you never know. Since the shocking 1999 Columbine High School mass shooting, and for the 23 years thereafter which has seen the tragic mass shootings at Aurora, Las Vegas, Sandy Hook, Parkland, El Paso, Charleston, Pittsburgh and too many others, there has been absolutely NO movement or action at the Federal level, just like so many other critical, divisive issues, such as climate change, immigration, racial equity, abortion, etc., etc., etc. This is even true in our hometown of Webster Groves.

The last time our City Council even attempted any real strategic planning was 4 years ago when the "**2018-2019 Planning /Visional Directions and Goals**" were created.

They are still posted and accessible on the city's revamped web site by clicking on, "**Council Goals**". They have yet to be updated, but hopefully the city will fully recommit itself to returning

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to the table to do some serious and way overdue strategic planning that Marie and Eric are prepared to successfully lead and complete. Back then, Council agreed to 6 Visional Directions and 7 Goals, one of them being, "**Promote safe gun use and ownership by enacting legislatively acceptable municipal ordinances.**" Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, nothing was ever done to achieve this goal and, if it was, it was very minor and temporary. In any battle between two opposing forces, there are only 5 possible outcomes:

- Win - Lose
- Lose - Win
- Lose - Lose
- A Tie or Draw
- Win - Win

In my humble, imperfect but knowledgeable opinion, our world, nation, state, St. Louis City & Region, and Webster Groves does not do Win-Win very well, if at all. Instead, our disagreements and differences are always Win-Lose, or We vs They, where someone wins and someone loses. Never do we meet in the middle and reach a peaceful, mutually-beneficial & agreeable solution or compromise. This is why I created the attached "**US Peacemakers Pact**" back in 2019, but I have continued to push and circulate it every year since to multiple parties I hope will listen, including Sandy Hook Promise, Moms Demand Action, Everytown USA, Whitney Strong, March for Life, etc. A Win-Lose approach to this issue has not and is not working. To me, real, positive peacemaking through constructive compromise is the only way. Other "right answers" have been tried and failed. Compromise, to me, is now the **ONLY** right answer. You may not agree with my position, but I hope it and its rationale at least makes sense. Any and all feedback - the good, bad and the ugly - is welcomed, valued and appreciated."

Nick Nunn-Faron spoke on behalf of the Masonic Lodge to request consideration for \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for repairs to their facility.

**NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER**

No New Business.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**BILL #9183 – THIRD READING**

On motion of Councilmember Hixson Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, **BILL #9183 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING A LOCAL USE TAX AT THE SAME RATE AS THE LOCAL SALES TAX OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI**, having been introduced and read twice on May 3, 2022, was taken up, it's title read a third time, and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9183.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Bill #9183.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that Bill #9183 was approved.

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**BILL #9184 – THIRD READING**

On motion of Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, **BILL #9184 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 60, THE TRAFFIC CODE, SCHEDULE H, OF THE CODE OF WEBSTER GROVES, “PARKING PROHIBITED,” TO PROVIDE FOR A SECOND HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 612 EAST LOCKWOOD IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE EXISTING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE**, having been introduced and read twice on May 3, 2022, was taken up, it’s title read a third time, and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9184.

Prior to the Third Reading of Bill #9184, a motion was made by Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to amend Bill #9184 to accept all redline revisions changing the word “handicapped” to “accessible”.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on the amendment.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD, BLISS

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that the amendment was approved.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Bill #9184.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that Bill #9184 was approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE – FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mayor Arnold stated that the FY-2023 Budget Public Hearing will occur at 7:30 p.m. on June 7, 2022 in the Council Chambers, as well as by teleconference.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED FY-2023 BUDGET**

**BUDGET DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Jamie Hasemeier, Chair of the Sustainability Commission, gave a presentation on the Sustainability Plan, and requested funding for items including expanded bike and pedestrian infrastructure, electric vehicles, building improvements, and the addition of a position for a Sustainability Director. She stated that if the funding is not possible for this position, they have creative ways to work on getting elements of the sustainability plan through including collaboration with other commissions, investigating grant funding, or to identify a current staff member to work closely with the commission

Councilmember Hixson Shepherd thanked them for their efforts on the plan and for being mindful of the budget.

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Erbab Majeed, member of the Business Development Commission, requested funding for a Business Liaison for the City. Funding options include the ARP funding and/or a nominal increase in business license fees.

Mayor Arnold stated that she'd like to catalog what they are requesting that is being done by current staff members to see what the workflow looks like and then identify the need beyond that.

Councilmember Franklin stated that he thinks the school district also needs to be part of this equation, as any assistance to businesses raises tax revenue that assists the district.

Dr. Peoples and Mr. Peterson presented information on the proposed FY 2023 budget [**Proposed Budget and Related Information**]. Council and staff discussed amendments to the budget by department. **Adopted Budget Amendments** to the proposed budget that were approved are available online at <https://www.webstergrovesmo.gov/100/Budget>.

Council and staff discussed allocation of the ARP funds, including funding for a new firetruck. Mayor Arnold stated that now that we have allocated a large portion of the ARP funds for a firetruck, we'd like to empower Dr. Peoples to have the conversation with our firefighters to figure out what they can do to help us with our budget situation.

Dr. Peoples stated that she hopes the shop will take into consideration all of the City departments.

Other allocations discussed included Sustainability initiatives, biking and pedestrian improvements, energy initiatives, electric vehicle charging stations, solar roofing, windows, and technology improvements.

Council and staff discussed structural deficit reduction tactics and target growth rate. Dr. Peoples cautioned against soft targets for spending.

Dr. Peoples and Council clarified that these reductions will result in staff reduction. Dr. Peoples stated that the city has kept people whole throughout COVID and a lot of municipalities were not able to do that.

Mayor Arnold summarized that the Council is targeting a balanced budget by 2026. Our initial projected growth rate is -1% with a \$1 million in reductions.

Director of Parks and Recreation Scott Davis stated that he just wanted to put on the record that they have moved several things from the General Fund to the Park Fund already, and while he is not disagreeing that the new firetruck is needed, this is not a sustainable plan for the future. Mayor Arnold thanked him for reminding them that this cannot be a precedent.

Council discussed the Sustainability request. Funding is already allocated for sustainability improvements this year. Mayor Arnold stated that she does want to be sure we pursue grant funding for a coordinator in the future. I think it is fair to ask staff if there might be someone who can allocate time to this.

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Council discussed the BDC request. Mr. Peterson stated that in the future we would see the need for someone to assist with economic development. Mayor Arnold requested that later this summer we have the staff mapping done for this position to see what is being done.

**BILL #9185 – FIRST AND SECOND READING**

Councilmember Franklin introduced, **BILL #9185 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, “PUBIC WAYS AND PLACES”, ARTICLE II “EXCAVATIONS”, SECTION 10.110 “PERMIT REQUIRED” TO INCREASE EXCAVATION PERMIT FEES WITHIN THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES**, and at the Councilmember’s request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following Consent Agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – May 3, 2022
- **Liquor License** – Application for Hwy 61 Roadhouse, 34 S. Old Orchard Avenue, to Sell Liquor by the Drink for Consumption on the Premises Where Sold, and on Sundays (New Owner)

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- Julie Campbell was appointed to the Crossroads Special Business District.
- Anne Halvachs was reappointed to the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Sherry Taylor and Leanne Waugh were reappointed to the Library Board.
- Sloane Carfield was appointed as Youth Liaison to Police Community Engagement Board.
- Paul Detrick was appointed to the Police Community Engagement Board.
- Karla Armbruster was appointed to a full term on the Sustainability Commission.

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION**

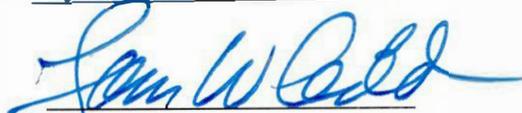
No Executive (Closed) Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

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PASSED AND APPROVED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE 2022.

  
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Mayor

  
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City Clerk

