

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 29, 2021

The regular Sikeston City Council meeting of March 29, 2021 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Clinton Building, located at 501 Campanella Drive in Sikeston, MO. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Steven Burch, Karen Evans, Gerald Settles, Brandon Sparks and Onethia Williams. Councilmen Brian Self and Ryan Merideth were absent. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Tabatha Thurman, City Clerk Rhonda Council, Finance Director Karen Bailey, HR Director Amanda Groves, Public Works Director Jay Lancaster, Street Superintendent Brian Dial, Street Supervisor Darren Martin, Public Safety Director James McMillen, Public Safety Captain Ryan Smith and Community Development Director Lorenzo Ware.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1st Reading, Bill #6217, Re-adoption of Fair Housing Policy

Councilman Sparks moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6217. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6217, providing "Fair Housing" for the City of Sikeston, Missouri, defining discriminatory housing practices and creating a Fair Housing Committee.

Update on Stormwater Permit Renewal

In accordance with the Missouri Clean Water Law and the federal Clean Water Act, the City of Sikeston must obtain a permit (Permit MOR04C) to discharge storm water into the waters of the state. This permit covers all areas served by a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Sikeston currently operates as a MS4. The City's current storm water permit will expire on December 31, 2021. Application for coverage under MOR04C permit is due April 3, 2021 and a new MOR04C permit to be issued on October 1, 2021.

A Storm Water Management Plan must be developed , implemented, and enforced to the requirements of the state permit. The city must implement Best Management Practices to achieve compliance with the standard of reducing pollutants to the waters of the state.

Under the provisions of this permit, a representative of the MS4 shall provide an update to the governing board. This shall be conducted at minimum annually with the status of the Storm Water Management Plan, and compliance with the Storm Water Management Plan. The Storm Water Management Plan must be updated by January 1, 2022.

Receive FY20 Financial Audit

Every year, the city undergoes an independent audit of its financial statements by a certified public accountant. The audit of the Fiscal Year 2020 financials has been completed by our new auditing firm (Beussink, Hey, Roe & Stroder, LLC).

Some highlights of the financial statements and auditor's report include the following:

- In the auditor's opinion, the City's financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund,

and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Sikeston, Missouri as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America” (see p.2).

- The audit “did not identify any deficiencies in internal controls that we consider to be material weaknesses” (p.4-5), but did identify the following deficiencies (p.57):
 - Inadequate documentation of some credit card transactions. The Finance Department has provided additional instruction to credit card holders and accounts payable staff.
 - Some expenditures exceeded budget. Every year the City Council approves a budget amendment near the end of the fiscal year to account for unbudgeted expenditures that were approved throughout the year. Several of these expenditures were inadvertently left out of the annual budget amendment.
- Total revenues exceeded budget by approximately \$628,000 (p.13).
- Net position increased by \$970,000 compared to a \$76,000 increase the previous fiscal year (p.11)
- Long term debt was decreased by \$395,578 (p.15).

Councilman Settles moved receive the FY20 financial audit. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Other Items

Street repairs to Baker Lane have been put on hold until next year when the construction work from the new Lee Hunter School has been completed.

Starting with the next meeting, Council meetings will return to being held in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

As per RSMo 109.230(4), City records that are on file in the City Clerk’s office and have met the retention schedule will be destroyed in compliance with the guidelines established by the Secretary of State’s office.

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Sparks moved to adjourn into executive session for Property and Personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Mayor Burch called the executive session to order. Present were: Mayor Steven Burch and Councilmen Brandon Sparks, Karen Evans, Gerald Settles and Onethia Williams. Staff present were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Tabatha Thurman, City Clerk Rhonda Council, Finance Director Karen Bailey, HR Director Amanda Groves, Public Safety Director James McMillen and DPS Captain Ryan Smith.

City Staff received a proposal from Center Street Property, LLC to purchase the Stalcup Building in the amount of \$50,000.00. The building will be purchased, as it, with all of its current faults with the intended purpose of bringing it up to code in order to operate a commercial business (restaurant) on the lower floor. Center Street Property also intends to renovate the second floor to be used as either apartments or office space. Estimates for this initial work may cost as much as \$100,000.00. In the event Center Street Property is unable to obtain a suitable tenant within two (2) years of its purchase, they will sell the Stalcup Building back to the City for the initial purchase price of \$50,000.00. It will not seek to recover for its costs incurred in repairing the building for any renovations and improvements it completes.

Councilman Sparks moved to authorize negotiations with Center Street Property, LLC to purchase the Stalcup Building in the amount of \$50,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Settles and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye, Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

No other action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Sparks moved to adjourn from executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Settles and the following roll call vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye, Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Settles moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sparks and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Absent, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye, Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

APPROVED:

GREG TURNBOW, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RHONDA COUNCIL, CITY CLERK

SEAL: