

CITY OF SHREWSBURY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
April 10th, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shrewsbury, Missouri was held at 7:00 p.m. this 10th day of April, 2012 in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall for the transaction of such business that may come before the Board.

There were present:

Mayor..... Felicity Buckley
Alderman..... Elmer Kauffmann
Alderman..... Mike Travaglini
Alderwoman Chris Gorman
Alderman..... Sam Scherer
Alderman..... Ed Kopff
Alderwoman Dee Wiecher

There were also present:

Director of Administration Jonathan D. Greever
City Attorney Michael K. Daming
Finance Director Danielle Oettle
Director of Parks Chris Buck
Police Chief..... Jeff Keller
Fire Chief Bill Fox
Street Superintendent..... Tony Wagner

Roll Call

Mayor Buckley opened the meeting and Director Greever commenced with the roll call. The entire Board of Aldermen was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Buckley announced that the next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes of the March 13th, 2012 Board of Aldermen work session. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Alderwoman Gorman to pass the minutes of March 13th, 2012 as submitted. Alderman Scherer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Buckley announced that the next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes of the March 13th, 2012 Board of Aldermen regular meeting. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Travaglini to pass the minutes of March 13th, 2012 as submitted. Alderwoman Gorman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bills to be Approved

Mayor Buckley introduced the bills requiring approval and quickly overviewed them. She opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the bills, Alderman Scherer made a motion to approve the bills submitted for payment. Alderwoman Gorman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Hear Citizens

Mr. Mike Seabaugh of 5024 Hi View Avenue stated that his intention was to inform the Board of issues relating to the City's handling of code compliance procedures. He said that in 2007 when he purchased his property the City issued him a certificate of compliance, confirming that the premise had been inspected and was compliant with the City's minimum housing code. Mr. Seabaugh continued with saying that in 2009 he had been notified by Street Superintendent Tony Wagner that his property was not in compliance with the minimum housing code with respect to storm water run-off. He informed the Board that he had reached an agreement with the City by taking the necessary actions to resolve the issues on his property.

Mr. Seabaugh next stated that in 2011, when putting his property up for sale, he had again received a certificate of compliance that the premise was compliant with the City's minimum housing code. However, in February 2012 he received a letter from Street Superintendent Wagner that his premise was again not in compliance with the minimum housing code with respect to the storm water run-off. Mr. Seabaugh further noted that even though he believed that this issue had been previously resolved, he nonetheless took additional actions to alleviate the issues.

Mr. Seabaugh concluded that he wanted City representatives to describe the City's protocol for entering private property for inspections, the number of code compliance inspections that the City could perform annually, whether the results were reliable, the value of the certificates, and the interest of the City representatives in assisting the residents in code compliance matters.

Mayor Buckley responded that she would be available to discuss Mr. Seabaugh's concerns at a later time, since there are other items involved in this particular situation.

Ms. Neta Kessler of 51 St. Charles Place stated that she had concerns with the City's practice in spraying for mosquitoes. She began by providing information from the Center for Disease Control which stated that the spray method will only kill 10% of the adult mosquitoes during a limited time frame of 2 to 4 hours, but unfortunately will also kill other beneficial insects that assist in ridding areas of mosquitoes. Ms. Kessler further stated that other studies conducted by the Center for Disease Control have shown that the chemicals used in this type of spraying are harmful to children, pregnant women, the elderly, chemically sensitive individuals, and those with amino suppressions due to AIDS, cancers, asthma, or other allergies. She closed with asking the City to consider the use of more proactive methods suggested by the Center for Disease Control for controlling the mosquito population.

Mayor Buckley asked Ms. Kessler for the information from the Center for Disease Control to further review.

Ms. Patrice Russo 7222 Nottingham Avenue addressed the Board that she was again informing them of the exterior violations at 7233 Nottingham and of the presence of litter at the Ameren site.

Mayor Buckley responded that the City may have litter issues, but there was not a compilation of litter. She also stated that the City does listen to resident's concerns and actively works to address these concerns. The Mayor additionally stated that the Board had proactively toured the reported areas of concerns, had provided assistance in removing the litter from areas maintained by the County through the City's Street Department, had recruited the Affton Shrewsbury Patch to report on the adopt a road program, as well as had continued to utilize community based programs such as Make a Difference Day.

Alderman Mike Travaglini also added that with respect to the litter issue on Highway 44, his recent tour of that area did not substantiate the claims that had been made. He further stated that in conversations with neighboring municipalities it was expressed that they did not believe that the current state of trash on Highway 44 warranted a consorted letter to MODOT.

Mayor Buckley further stated that the City had also contacted Metro Link, BNSF, Ameren and the County to remove litter and graffiti.

Ms. Barb Dressler of 7229 Nottingham Avenue stated to the Board that she had sent a formal complaint to the City regarding the trash and weeds at 7233 Nottingham Avenue, along with a series of date stamped pictures documenting the above mentioned nuisances. She then asked if the City had sent the appropriate notification to the owners of the property as well as verified that all issues were in compliance within the timeframe allotted in the ordinance.

Mayor Buckley answered that the owner had been sent a letter of the violations in the specified timeframe outlined by the ordinance; however, the property had not been inspected for compliance within the allotted timeframe due to the code enforcer officer being out of the office.

Ms. Dressler asked if the City had a back-up inspector in place when the code enforcer officer was not available.

The Mayor stated that the code enforcer officer was part-time and the City at this time did not have any additional resources.

Ms. Dressler then stated that the City needed to be more vigilant in following the process and timeframes of all ordinances, or make process improvement revisions to these existing ordinances.

Mayor Buckley suggested to Ms. Dressler to meet with Director of Administration Greever to discuss this further.

Ms. Dressler agreed.

Alderman Kauffmann took the floor to inform Ms. Russo that he had participated with Mayor Buckley in touring the Ameren site for litter and had found a small amount on the premise of Ameren, none on private property, and some under the railway trussell. He further stated that the small amounts of litter may have come from an open lid on Ameren's trash container or from pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Alderwoman Wiecher stated that she recently had driven past Ameren and noticed that either the lid was off the trash container or there was no lid at all.

Alderwoman Wiecher and Alderman Kauffmann both confirmed that there was an ordinance that a lid must be on a trash container and closed at all times.

Mayor Buckley suggested that Ms. Russo meet separately with her ward's alderpersons to further discuss the above-mentioned Ameren issue.

Mr. John Bub of 7408 Williamsburg Colonial Lane stated that in the past he had voiced numerous concerns regarding the ground and building maintenance on the theater section of the Kenrick Plaza. He added that these concerns as of date have not been effectively addressed, and that the current state of excessively long weeds and overgrown bushes on the site encouraged vandalism and other crimes. Mr. Bub also informed the Board that the retaining wall on the pond side of the site does not appear to be maintained, and thus portrayed an unsightly and poor image to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. He then stated that even though he realized that the above mentioned property was under consideration for redevelopment, it still must be maintained to Shrewsbury standards throughout all negotiations. Mr. Bub also referenced that if the City's ordinances relating to this issue does not address reoccurring noncompliance, the ordinance needed to be changed. He concluded with stating that if the City was going to enforce code violations with property owners, why not the same for commercial property owners.

Mayor Buckley informed Mr. Bub that the retaining wall on the pond side was not solely owned by the Kenrick Plaza commercial owners, and would have to be addressed by all of the appropriate property owners. She continued by stating that the commercial property owners of the Kenrick Cinema should address the issues of mowing and trimming. However, she also informed that all items would not be brought up to code until decisions had been fully made with respect to the redevelopment.

Presentation regarding American Red Cross Blood Drive

Mayor Buckley stated that the next item on the agenda was the presentation for the American Red Cross Blood Drive. She further informed that the Red Cross representative slated to present tonight was unable to attend. On behalf of the Red Cross, the Mayor informed that regular blood drives are held at the American Legions Hall and that the next one had been scheduled for May 21st between 3 pm to 7 pm. She concluded the presentation by informing everyone, that just one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Resolution

Mayor Buckley stated that the next item on the agenda was the resolution supporting the adoption of a statement of affiliation between the City of Shrewsbury and the Meramec Valley Citizen Corps Council, which served as a joint initiative for the St. Louis region to engage citizens in the preparation for the response to natural, technological, and manmade disasters. Mayor Buckley asked Frank Arnoldy, a Deputy Police Chief and President of Meramec Valley Citizens Corps, to present on the Meramec CERT group citizen preparedness programs. After the presented overview, Mayor Buckley opened the floor for discussion. Alderman Kauffmann asked if the City would be required to provide any financial assistance for the group citizen preparedness programs. Deputy Police Chief Arnoldy stated no, that this was a cooperative effort. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Travaglini that Resolution No. 2012-01 be approved. Alderwoman Gorman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Alderwoman Wiecher inquired if a landscape ordinance would be presented in the near future.

Director of Administration Jonathan Greever stated that a draft of the landscape ordinance would be addressed in the next Board of Aldermen work session.

New Business

None

Department Head Reports

Fire Chief Bill Fox informed the Board that he had contacted the Meramec Valley Citizens Corps Council to have the City's Fire Department join the cooperative program.

Street Superintendent Tony Wagner informed the Board that the Street Department had completed the repainting of all STOP and CROSSWALK bars on the streets and City owned parking lots.

Finance Director Danielle Oettle stated that the field audit began yesterday and was expected to continue through the end of next week. She further stated that the final audit should be published within the first two weeks of May. Finance Director Oettle closed with saying that she anticipated presenting a quarterly review at the April 24th work session.

Police Chief Jeff Keller informed that the police department's 2011 annual report was completed. He additionally stated that he was pleased that Shrewsbury not only continued to enjoy a low rate of crime, but was still considered one of the safest areas to live in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Parks Director Chris Buck stated that the bottom step at the pool's slide exit had collapsed, but through the efforts of the Street Department it had been repaired at no cost to the City. Parks Director Buck next stated that the centennial committee had recently met to discuss the possibilities of street banners, a Fall Festival parade, and a kickoff celebration sometime early in 2013. He also mentioned that an artist rendering for the commemorative brick courtyard had been completed by resident Patty Sheppard.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor stated that she wanted to open discussion again with respect to the previously presented website tag line of "The City of Generations".

Alderwoman Wiecher voiced a concern that the reference of "Generations" may not be inclusive, since there are many residents that do not share a previous connection of family heritage within the community.

Mayor Buckley responded that she too did not want to exclude any resident from a sense of community, and that it was not necessary to even have a tag line on the City's Website. She then asked if the Board was prepared to vote on the above mentioned tagline.

Alderman Kauffmann suggested that this should be tabled for further consideration.

Closed Session

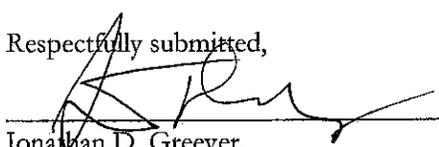
Alderman Kauffmann made a motion to enter into a closed session following the Board of Aldermen regular meeting. Such closed meeting, he continued, with closed vote and closed record would take place in the aldermanic conference room and said meeting, vote, and records would be closed pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (12). Alderman Travaglini seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was recorded. Alderman Kauffmann, "Aye"; Alderman Travaglini, "Aye"; Alderwoman Gorman, "Aye"; Alderman Scherer, "Aye"; Alderman Kopff, "Aye"; Alderwoman Wiecher, "Aye".

There being a majority of votes in favor, the Mayor declared the motion passed and stated that the board would enter into a closed session.

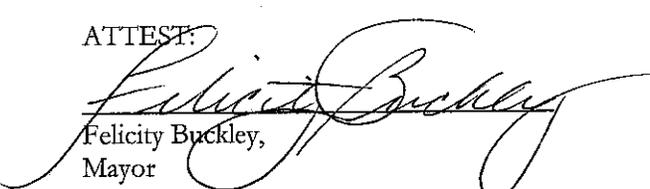
Adjournment:

Alderman Travaglini made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Alderman Kauffmann seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The work session adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan D. Greever,
Director of Administration/City Clerk

ATTEST:


Felicity Buckley,
Mayor