

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 25, 2022

A meeting of the Warrensburg City Council was held on July 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at 200 S. Holden and via Zoom, with Mayor Jim Kushner presiding. Mayor Kushner called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called as follows, Present: Osborne, Bentley, Lund, Uhler, Kushner. Absent: none.

The minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were considered. Bentley moved to approve the minutes. Yes: Osborne, Bentley, Lund, Uhler, Kushner. No: none.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Bentley moved to adopt the agenda. Yes: Osborne, Bentley, Lund, Uhler, Kushner. No: none.

Jay R. Hahn and Claudia Alley, Hahn/O'Daniel Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update and State of Missouri Recovery Plan 2022 Report. Hahn relayed how important it was to have City Manager Dulin and Tracy Brantner, Johnson County Economic Development, advocating in Jefferson City on behalf of Warrensburg. Hahn said his firm represents the city's interest at the State level, provides regulatory review and grant assistance. Hahn showed a pie chart of the spending of Missouri ARPA funds of \$2.7 billion dollars and the available grant opportunities. Hahn stressed the importance of "being at the table" through lobbying efforts.

Finance Director McCoy invited contract agencies to make presentations and annual funding requests in conjunction with the FY23 budget preparation. McCoy said that Boards/Commission funding requests were moved to the legislative fund and will be detailed in the draft budget presented at the August 8, 2022 council meeting. McCoy offered historical funding requests of contract agencies in the council's meeting packet. McCoy said that upon direction by council, funding requests would be added to the FY23 budget.

Dana Phelps, Executive Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County ("BBBS") said the agency had grown and will celebrate its 25th year anniversary in Warrensburg next year. Phelps highlighted the community-supported "Littles and Lights" program partnering with United Way to offer private music lessons and theatre tickets by enrolling in local area programs as a win-win situation. Phelps said the Barnett House clothing donation center was a funding source and it recycled 440,000 pounds of textiles. Phelps spoke about the recent partnership with Whiteman Air Force Base ("WAFB") and serves on the newly-formed BBBS-WAFB board. Phelps said 92% of the littles that join the program have a positive outlook according to a survey of community peers/teachers. Phelps read several testimonials of program participants. Phelps requested \$2,000 per quarter broken down as \$1,800 for mentoring program services and \$200 reimbursement for upkeep and utilities associated with the Barnett House totaling \$8,000 for FY23. The FY22 funding request was \$6,000.

Jill Purvis, Executive Director for Warrensburg Main Street, presented a brochure and cited its goals for brand awareness of downtown Warrensburg and community engagement. Purvis said these goals were attained by promotions and events, more greenspace and community gathering places, and through partnership with local community groups. Purvis said the farmers' market had over forty vendors, Wednesday Art Walk had over thirty participating artists, and an influx of public art downtown by partnering with Sterling Elementary, RISE and the Warrensburg Arts Commission. Purvis said that Warrensburg Main Street was nationally accredited for its commitment to commercial district revitalization. Purvis said that vacancies

have decreased from 21% to 16% and there was private investment in properties of \$1.2 million dollars in 2021. Purvis requested funding of \$41,000 for FY23 unchanged from FY22.

Norm Lucas, Executive Director, Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission ("Pioneer Trails RPC"), distributed a 2021 Annual Report and said the assessed membership dues were \$6,800 based on population. Lucas said membership included their service as a MoDOT planning partner, grant application assistance and economic-needs planning with City Manager Dulin and Tracy Brantner, Johnson County Economic Development. Currently, Pioneer Trails RPC was putting together the Johnson County hazard mitigation plan, serving as a planner for Homeland Security and Grants, and putting together a transportation needs priority list for MoDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program ("STIP"). Pioneer Trails RPC gets to know the true needs of the Warrensburg community and always available for research-based planning.

Greg Frencken, President of Whiteman Area Leadership Council ("WALC"), said the council advocates on behalf of WAFB to sustain its mission with board leadership at the local, state, Pentagon and Global Strike Command levels. WALC functions at all levels to know what the air force wants and the basis for decisions on education, license reciprocity, housing and childcare. WALC performed a Phase 1 Housing Study at a cost of \$18,800 funded in half by a state grant and the other half was paid by Sedalia. Phase 2 of the housing study was just finished at a cost of \$59,000 funded in half by a state grant and the other half paid by WALC. WALC has started a childcare study at a cost of \$65,000. WALC provides these study results for the region. Council Member Uhler asked where to find these studies and Frencken thought the studies were accessible through a website and would get council that information. The funding request was \$3,000 for FY22 and the same in FY23 but Sedalia challenged surrounding municipalities to match its funding of \$5,000 for this year.

Suzanne Taylor, President and Karl Kramer, First Vice President of the Whiteman Base Community Council ("BCC") asked for continued support. The BCC is made up of several communities that surround WAFB with a mission to support airmen and their families. The military members are encouraged to engage and be part of the local community and return after service has ended. The BCC supports special events including a family Easter egg hunt and Independence Day celebration and programs of Adopt an Airmen, Scholarship and Home for the Holidays. The 2020 WAFB economic impact was over \$750 million dollars in the community. The funding request was \$3,000 for FY22 and remains the same in FY23.

Suzanne Taylor spoke on behalf of the Warrensburg Train Depot Renovation Corporation. Taylor said Bill Bernier could not be in attendance for the meeting. Taylor said the depot renovation preservation board had been in existence for over thirty years and Mr. Bernier works hard to maintain the structure. The depot is a beautiful feature for the residents in the community. The funding request was \$2,000 for FY22 and remains the same in FY23.

Dawn Ashurst, Operations Manager II for OATS Transit, handed out a bus schedule for the Old Drum bus routes in Warrensburg. OATS Transit had provided services as Old Drum since 2003 and since that time much had changed. The original budget was \$22.00 an hour and \$83,000 in annual costs (that included administrative costs by the City and in-kind contributions to match the Federal Section 5311 dollars that OATS Transit contributed). Approximately, ten years ago OATS and the City agreed to a simplified system since payment was generally the same each month. It was agreed to stop administrative fees and give \$15,000 a year in increments of \$7,500. During the past year, OATS provided 2,002 rides on Old Drum and 2,328 rides on complimentary door-to-door services and that did not include trips provided by OATS for other Medicaid contracts. Ashurst said wages have increased to \$44.15 per hour and costs were

\$148,000 and requested an increase of \$3,000 to help offset these rising costs. Council Member Uhler asked when the last time the fare had increased and Ashurst answered there had been no increase in fifteen years. Ashurst said the fare was considered a “buy-in” as most citizens do not have \$1.50 but still needed to get to the doctor and it was cheaper to get them to a regular appointment rather than an ambulance ride. Ashurst said that \$1.50 did not seem like much money but it was a lot for someone receiving \$878 a month. It was also asked whether college kids use the transportation and Ashurst answered that a few college kids use it to get to work. The funding request was \$15,000 for FY22 and \$18,000 in FY23.

City Manager Dulin presented a first reading of Ordinance Adopting Article IV of Chapter 28, Wildlife Management, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Warrensburg. Dulin said that discussions and surveys were held with the Missouri Department of Conservation (“MDC”), United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), and University of Central Missouri (“UCM”), regarding the unmanaged deer population and the hazards it presented including the health of the deer population; interaction with vehicles, pedestrians and park users; vegetation destruction; and the transmission of zoonotic diseases. A managed deer hunt in city limits was recommended by MDC and USDA.

Dulin said further discussion and presentation was held in May at the Joint Meeting with City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board about wildlife management with the Missouri Department of Conservation (“MDC”). Dulin said this topic was not new on wildlife management and the overpopulation of whitetail deer in Warrensburg and was brought to council in 2007 and again by a concerned citizen last fall in 2021. MDC relayed that whitetail deer does not have a natural predator and deer population nearly doubles every year. Mayor Kushner pointed out that the deer survey at the May meeting showed deer numbers on the University of Central Missouri’s property but not city property. Dulin reported that another deer study was performed and shared numbers on the screen which reflected a significant deer population within our city and parks. Dulin pointed out in the drone pictures the number of white dots representing deer and said there was a deer hit by a car on Mitchell Street just today.

The proposed ordinance outlines the standards for a managed deer hunt program and will be placed as a new section as Article IV of Chapter 28 in Public Health, Safety and Wellness of the City’s Code due to the issues presented by the overpopulation of deer. The program would require city council to adopt a resolution authorizing a managed deer hunt annually when deemed necessary and gives city council an opportunity to review a program designed and regulated by staff each year. The annual review allows flexibility in locations and timelines as the program is navigated. The resolution would allow governmental agencies to establish their own programs but still follow city standards. For example, the resolution would incorporate UCM’s standards and regulations for Mitchell Farm on whatever worked best for them. MDC’s changes would be incorporated on the final reading. The city’s standards for a managed deer hunt would include regulations on archery, permit, safety course, no discharge within 150 yards of rights-of-way/streets, no tracking on private ground without permission, and local and state regulations.

City Manager Dulin presented a first reading of Ordinance amending Section 14-119 for discharge of firearms and projectile weapons prohibited, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Warrensburg. This amendment would be required to allow the use of archery equipment as outlined in Article IV of Chapter 28.

The resolution authorizing a managed deer hunt will require more detail and probably a second reading as a first managed hunt as UCM presents to the university and students in much the same way. Dulin said the resolution should be simple with a limited timeframe of December 5th through January 15th. It was recommended that areas are closed to the public for the first managed hunt although other entities have successfully integrated open public areas with managed hunts. Further details for the resolution will develop after discussions with Parks and Recreation to identify areas for a managed hunt, permitting process and cost, who will be eligible to participate to include Johnson County or city limits only, tree stand requirements, code of ethics, and incorporate UCM's student, faculty and employees' eligibility to participate in a managed hunt on UCM's property, harvesting of deer with no field dressing, and require check-in of entire deer at UCM to enable biology students perform research on tick, blood and stool samples.

Council Member Uhler was asked by a resident whose responsibility is it if a deer does not drop for the hunter and goes onto private property. City Manager Dulin responded that it would be the responsibility of the deer hunter to get permission from the property owner and collect the deer. Mayor Kushner asked who would enforce the standards and rules of the managed deer hunt and the MDC agent in attendance responded that MDC would provide oversight and enforcement initially as it develops. Another question was asked if there was a limit on tags and the MDC agent responded two antlered deer per year and no limit on does. Dulin said that MDC agents will continue to take deer surveys at a reasonable cost until managing the deer population reduces to suitable levels. Dulin said everyone wants the charm of having a deer presence but do not want deer crashing through the Wendy's restaurant window or standing in the UMB bank drive-through lane. Chairman Pro Tem Bentley asked how a hunter would transport deer to checkpoint if no motorized transport or field dressing a deer is allowed. MDC's agent responded that mechanical wheel carts or the buddy system can be used by hunters to get the deer to check-in at UCM. Mayor Kushner summarized that this was not to eliminate the deer population but to have a reasonable and safe population of deer in the community.

Mayor Kushner read an Ordinance Adopting Article IV of Chapter 28, Wildlife Management, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Warrensburg for the first time by title. This will be considered again at the next meeting.

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Mayor Kushner read a Resolution Approving Stevenson Fund Donation Request by Teachers' Warehouse of Johnson County in the amount of \$500.00. City Clerk Schneider was in receipt of a donation request made annually to the city council as trustees of the Stevenson Fund trust set-up by the Last Will & Testament of the Charles W. Stevenson dated 1928 on behalf of the Teacher's Warehouse of Johnson County for teachers' classroom supplies. The request fell within the guidelines set out by the will to be used for charitable, educational or library purposes. Although there was money in the trust fund, the amount was unbudgeted and would be included in the year-end budget adjustments. Osborne moved to approve the Resolution. Roll was called for adoption as follows: Yes: Osborne, Bentley, Lund, Uhler, Kushner. No: none. Said resolution was declared duly adopted and given Resolution No. 2222.

Dean Murphy, 439 NE 550th Rd, Warrensburg, Missouri, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, said there was a growing interest to bring back “The Wall that Heals” Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial exhibit that was here five years ago hosted by the university. Mr. Murphy worked for the memorial fund and had several organizations in town in support and wanted to bring it to city council’s attention.

There were no Miscellaneous Matters from the Mayor and/or City Council.

Finance Director McCoy said as of June 30th, the budget was three-fourths completed and well within budget and extended thanks to our staff/management for managing within budgets in lieu of higher prices for goods and services.

Tourism Director Barnhart said “The Wall that Heals” was here in Warrensburg a few years ago with a tremendous outpour of emotion from the community and she was researching what needs to be done to make it happen again. There was a planned a field trip to visit the wall exhibit on September 9th in Warrenton as part of this effort. Barnhart reported that the WCVB grant application deadline was Friday and she spoke with three different applicants for new events.

Interim Police Chief Munsterman said squads assisted the fire department over the weekend and were dealing with a traffic-stop video posted by a first amendment auditor citizen. Munsterman said that Western Midwest Medical Center gave an appreciation lunch for public safety responders regarding the recent active shooter incident.

Chief Jennings said the fire department had a busy weekend beginning Friday night with a shed fire, Sunday morning on W. Market and Sunday afternoon on Pine Street behind Wood Chux. Chief Jennings said thank you to the Police Department for their help. Jennings also thanked council for their support and proxy of the ladder truck which was used in training at Osage Beach recently.

Parks Director Foster said the duct work repair started today at the pool and upon final inspections will begin filling the pool.

Community Development Director Carroll issued a full certificate of occupancy for the first phase of Spring Ridge Bend project and the developer was hoping to close on phase two with MHDC in August.

Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Villegas offered council a revamped activity report by division within each department to show how the workloads are distributed and the work being done. The Insituform pipeline project has cured will be completed by August 4th. With the close of that project, the City was able to leverage mobilization charges since the contractor was already here for a storm sewer lining project. This quick action will significantly reduce the cost to \$81,000 for the project and enable a notice to proceed within sixty days once the contract is authorized. Villegas highlighted some peripheral services that public works offers the community as listed in the activity report but specifically reported that the cemetery staff was averaging one cremation a day in the past two weeks which is a service that allows families to grieve and find peace. Villegas also reported on public works’ removal of roadkill in addition to wastewater treatment and repairing roads.

Bill Graves, Public Works Project Manager, said that that MMC Contractor was spearheading the HVAC repairs on the duct work at the pool. MMC Contractor hired Stadium Sheet Metal as

the subcontractor and started repairs today. In addition, the City has another proposal to do overall structural integrity inspections on all of the parks and recreation facilities with inspections focusing on the indoor pool first since the contractor was on site doing the work. The City was working on contracting for sandblasting and resurfacing both indoor and outdoor pools. The work will take approximately one month to finish after the duct work was repaired. There were areas on the indoor pool that need to be addressed. Graves said he was working with the engineer and would issue a change order for any additional work required. The Hawthorne playground surface project was put out to bid but none were received. Graves will review and reach out to folks who specialize in that playground surface and bid it out again.

Phil Adlich, Operations Manager, Wastewater Treatment Facilities, said the SCADA project will be ongoing for a year and is in the design phase. Empire Electric is the contractor working on writing programs and getting panels together. The blower phase 2 project should be completed Wednesday and then Empire Electric should get it switched over to the SCADA. Adlich thanked council for approving the blower improvements at the east and west plant. The City entered a contract with D&M Plumbing to accept hauled residential waste in the retention basin lagoon. D&M Plumbing are paying the City to provide the ability to dump 9,000 gallons a week and Adlich will be watching the lagoon closely for any negative effects and then stop the dumping per the contract if that occurs.

City Manager Dulin introduced Courtney Christenson as the Interim Human Resources Director for the next six months. Courtney will be performing a payroll audit, reviewing human resource policies and processes, recruiting for Police Chief and HR Director and formulate what the City will do with pay in the next fiscal year. Dulin also spoke with Jason Haynes, an engineer on the RAISE grant and Maguire Gateway project. Haynes did not have any inside information prior to the US Department of Transportation's award deadline of August 12th but both Haynes and Dulin felt confident with the revisions and resubmittal of the application.

Mayor Kushner said there had been many inquiries about the animal shelter and asked whether City Manager Dulin had any information that could be shared with the public or city staff. City Manager Dulin said as a reminder that the Warrensburg Animal Rescue shelter was its own organization and the City did not have any say on its business or internal personnel matters. Dulin took the opportunity today to visit the shelter, along with the City's facility manager, Bryan Jones and Asst. City Manager/Public Works Director, Enrico Villegas to view some issues with doors and windows. Dulin met with Julie Newton, a board member of the rescue shelter, and Julie said the rescue will have an interim shelter manager in a few weeks experienced in working with a city shelter.

Tourism Director Barnhart said Bill Graves was a tremendous help with the renovation at 205 W. Holden and thanked city council for letting Bill help with that project.

Director Suzanne Taylor, Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce said the chamber was excited to celebrate the return of second daily service on Amtrak's Missouri River Runner train on July 18th and thanked all who attended the event. Taylor reminded everyone of the candidate forum event for Johnson County Presiding Commissioner position.

Director Jill Purvis, Warrensburg Main Street, said in August there was a Dog Days of Summer Sidewalk Sale event and plans toward refreshing the app and logo for "Love What is Local."

Mayor Kushner recommended to Appoint Kathy Strickland, Member, Energy and Sustainability Task Force to a two-year term expiring in July 2024. Bentley moved to approve the recommendation. Roll was called for appointment as follows: Yes: Osborne, Bentley, Lund, Uhler, Kushner. No: none.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Jim Kushner, Mayor

Attest:

Jodi L. Schneider, City Clerk

DRAFT