

**CITY OF SHREWSBURY
WORK SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

September 22, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shrewsbury, Missouri was held at 6:00 p.m. on September 22, 2020 in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall and via Zoom teleconference for the transaction of such business that came before the Board.

Present:	Mayor	Sam Scherer
	Alderman	Mike Travaglini
	Alderman	Greg Lauter
	Alderman	Keith Peters
	Alderman	John Odenwald
	Alderwoman	Elisa Reeves – Via Zoom
	Alderman	Michael Schmelzle – Via Zoom

Also Present:	Director of Administration	Jonathan Greever
	Fire Chief	Chris Amenn
	Chief of Police	Lisa Vargas
	Director of Parks & Recreation	Chris Buck
	Director of Public Works	Tony Wagner
	City Attorney	Mike Daming
	Asst. Dir. of Admin./City Clerk	Elliot Brown

Roll Call

Mayor Scherer called the meeting to order, and City Clerk Brown commenced with the roll call. A quorum was present for the transaction of City business.

Mayor Scherer called for a motion to amend the agenda to move the Hear Citizens segment up to accommodate several residents who wanted to speak to the Board. **Alderman Travaglini motioned to move the Hear Citizens portion of the agenda up in the agenda to accommodate several residents who wanted to speak to the Board; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Scherer introduced the minutes from September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Travaglini made a motion to approve the minutes; Alderman Peters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Hear Citizens

Rachel Stotler (5103 Exeter) addressed the Board of Aldermen about her opposition to the City's ban on certain breeds of dog within city limits. Ms Stotler owns a mixed-breed dog that fits the description of a "pit-bull," but has not exhibited any aggressive behaviors. Surrounding

communities do not have similar ordinances banning certain breeds, and she requested that the Board repeal the ordinance banning certain breeds. Mayor Scherer thanked Ms. Stotler for her comments and informed her that Alderwoman Reeves had previously expressed interest in repealing the ordinance, and that he personally favored a “bad-dog” law focused on behavior rather than on a particular breed of dog. Alderman Travaglini agreed. Mayor Scherer asked Ms. Stotler to come back to the Board at a later date to express her opinion when the Board takes up the issue.

Officer Swearing-In

Clerk Brown swore-in Officer Brian Koenig as a new police officer in the City of Shrewsbury.

Public Hearing – 2020 Tax Rates

Mayor Scherer called a public hearing into session on the issue of the 2020 tax rates. Treasurer Oettle addressed the Board with the following rates for their approval: Residential \$.398/\$100 assessed value; Commercial \$.410/\$100 assessed value; Personal Property \$.577/\$100 assessed value; Debt Service \$.164/\$100 assessed value. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Scherer closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing – Special Use Permit Adult Day Care 7563 Watson Rd.

Mayor Scherer called a public hearing into session on the requested Special Use Permit for an adult day care center at 7563 Watson Rd. Director Greever introduced the details of the request, informing the Board that the Plan Commission had reviewed it previously for approval. He then asked the applicants to address the Board with their business plan. Nicole McBee described *A Touch of Home Adult Day Care* as a business that would be open Monday through Friday from 6AM to 6PM to serve adults over the age of 18 with a range of physical and developmental difficulties. She stated that it will have a Registered Nurse on staff. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Scherer closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing – Re-Zoning Request Rothman Site 7737 Watson Rd.

Mayor Scherer called a public hearing into session on the requested re-zoning of a portion of the old Rothman site at 7737 Watson Rd. from C-1 to M-1. Director Greever introduced Garen Miller of AGM, Inc. to address the Board stating that the Plan Commission had reviewed the request but had not made any recommendation for approval or denial. Mr. Miller presented the developers’ plans for the site, stating that the re-zoning of the portion of the land that the Rothman building currently sits from C-1 to M- is necessary to allow for a self-storage facility to occupy the land. He indicated that by leaving the rest of the property zoned C-1, they would be able to develop a retail strip facing Watson Rd. that would provide sales tax generating businesses to the City.

Alderman Travaglini stated that he was interested in the developers’ plans to renovate the previous corridor linking Laclede Station and Watson Roads through the site as well as the plans for retail. He asked if Mr. Miller could provide any additional details on what kind of businesses they envisioned would go there. Mr. Miller responded that the “strip” retail buildings would accommodate similar businesses to the ones that occupy the frontage portion of the Dierbergs property just north of the Rothmans site.

Alderwoman Reeves asked what percentage of the property was being requested to be re-zoned to M-1. Mr. Miller responded that it was roughly 40% of the site. Alderman Peters asked how quickly the developers needed an answer on this re-zoning request. Mr. Miller stated that they would like to move as quickly as possible as one possible retail business had already had to pass due to how long the process is taking. Alderman Peters also asked if the developers planned to maintain the new cut-through between Laclede Station and Watson Roads. Mr. Miller indicated that the road would be maintained by the owners as a public-access private road.

Alderwoman Reeves asked how this development plan was different from the last self-storage proposal that was not approved by the Board several years ago. Mr. Miller indicated that the previous development was requesting a variance from the City zoning code rather than a re-zoning of the property and did not have any plan to offset the retail sales tax reduction that was expected to result from the proposed plan. Alderman Odenwald asked if the project would all be developed at the same time or in different phases. Mr. Miller responded that the project was planned to be built in phases, with the self-storage business being completed first, followed by the retail strip center. This was due to the fact that potential retail businesses were not likely to sign-on to occupy the space until after the self-storage center was proven to be viable. Alderman Travaglini asked if the developers would receive letters of intent from businesses guaranteeing they would occupy the space. Mr. Miller indicated that they would.

Director Greever stated that the developers and City Staff would work together to iron out the details of the proposal and would bring it before the Board at the next meeting in October for a vote. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Scherer closed the public hearing.

Purchase Request

Director Wagner presented his purchase request to the Board for a new security system at the Public Works facility. He presented the following bids received for the equipment and monthly service charges: The Audio Edge - \$1,795.75 (plus \$42.95/month); ADT - \$1,392.00 (plus \$91.70/month); Safeguard Alarms - \$1,695.00 (29.95/month). Director Wagner recommended the City accept the bid from Safeguard Alarms as the lowest and best bid. **Alderman Travaglini made a motion to approve the permits; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Bill No. 3006 – Tax Rates 2020

Mayor Scherer introduced Bill Number 3006, which approves the property tax rates for 2020 in the City of Shrewsbury. Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Peters motioned to read Bill Number 3006 by title only for the first time; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3006 by title only for the first time

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to further discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Peters motioned to read Bill Number 3006 by title only for the second time; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3006 by title only for the second time.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to final discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Peters motioned to read Bill Number 3006 be adopted to become Ordinance Number 2992; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Scherer requested a roll call and the following vote was recorded: Alderman Travaglini, "Aye"; Alderman Lauter, "Aye"; Alderman Peters, "Aye"; Alderman Odenwald, "Aye"; and Alderwoman Reeves, "Aye"; Alderman Schmelzle, "Aye".

There being unanimous votes in the affirmative, the **Mayor declared that Bill Number 3002 was approved and was therefore adopted as Ordinance Number 2992:**

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE LEVIES AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ANNUAL TAXES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2020 BY AND FOR THE CITY OF SHREWSBURY, MISSOURI.

Bill No. 3007 – Adult Day Care Special Use Permit

Mayor Scherer introduced Bill Number 3007, approving the special use permit requested for an adult day care center at 7563-7565 Ravensridge Rd. Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Lauter motioned to read Bill Number 3007 by title only for the first time; Alderman Travaglini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3007 by title only for the first time.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to further discussion. There being no discussion, Alderman Lauter motioned to read Bill Number 3007 by title only for the second time; **Alderman Travaglini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3007 by title only for the second time.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to final discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Lauter motioned that Bill Number 3007 be adopted to become Ordinance Number 2993; Alderman Travaglini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Mayor Scherer requested a roll call and the following vote was recorded: Alderman Travaglini, "Aye"; Alderman Lauter, "Aye"; Alderman Peters, "Aye"; Alderman Odenwald, "Aye"; and Alderwoman Reeves, "Aye"; Alderman Schmelzle, "Aye".

There being unanimous votes in the affirmative, the **Mayor declared that Bill Number 3007 was approved and was therefore adopted as Ordinance Number 2993:**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO A TOUCH OF HOME ADULT DAY CARE CENTER FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY LOCATED AT 7563-7565 RAVENSRIDGE ROAD IN THE CITY OF SHREWSBURY; FURTHER PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN CONDITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH SAID SPECIAL USE PERMIT AND FURTHER PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF SAID CONDITIONS AND ALL OTHER LAWS AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHREWSBURY, MISSOURI.

Bill No. 3008 – CARES Act Funding

Mayor Scherer introduced Bill Number 3008, requesting that St. Louis County distribute CARES Act funds to the City of Shrewsbury on a per capita basis. Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Odenwald motioned to read Bill Number 3008 by title only for the first time; Alderman Lauter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3008 by title only for the first time.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to further discussion. There being no discussion, **Alderman Lauter motioned to read Bill Number 3008 by title only for the second time; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** The City Attorney read Bill Number 3008 by title only for the second time.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to final discussion. There being no discussion, Alderman Lauter motioned that Bill Number 3008 be adopted to become Ordinance Number 2994; Alderman Odenwald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Scherer requested a roll call and the following vote was recorded: Alderman Travaglini, “Aye”; Alderman Lauter, “Aye”; Alderman Peters, “Aye”; Alderman Odenwald, “Aye”; and Alderwoman Reeves, “Aye”; Alderman Schmelzle, “Aye”.

There being unanimous votes in the affirmative, the Mayor declared that Bill Number 3008 was approved and was therefore adopted as Ordinance Number 2994:

AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING THAT ST. LOUIS COUNTY DISTRIBUTE \$47 MILLION OF CARES ACT FUNDS ON A PER CAPITA BASIS TO THE MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY TO BE USED FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SHREWSBURY, MISSOURI, TO ACCEPT CARES ACT FUNDING AND EXECUTE A MUNICIPALITY RELIEF PROGRAM FUNDING AGREEMENT, AND CONFIRMING AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS ST. LOUIS COUNTY FROM SUCH DISTRIBUTION

Budget Work Session

Director Oettle introduced the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 to the Board, including information on how COVID-19's impact on FY2020's budget impacted the calculations. Mayor Scherer stated that he had met with all the various department heads when drafting the proposed budget, weighing their needs for the next fiscal year against the projected revenue challenges expected to result from the pandemic. Director Greever stated if the Edge Fitness center and an expected restaurant at the Dierbergs shopping center both opened in the coming months, and if the Court revenues increased, and if the proposed Ambulance fee ordinance was passed, the revenue outlook would improve.

Alderman Reeves asked if this proposed budget was going to result in a deficit. Director Oettle responded that it was, and that the City's cash reserves would have to be used to make up the difference. Mayor Scherer added that one of the biggest differences between this proposed budget and those in past years was the salary freeze. Alderman Peters asked why the proposed Police salary budget was still showing an increase over last year's. Director Oettle responded that this increase reflected other factors such as promotions and new hires. Alderman Odenwald asked if it would be possible to provide raises for the Public Safety departments, recognizing that this may not be popular with Staff in other departments. A general discussion followed on the feasibility of this approach, resulting in a consensus that it would not be ideal.

Alderman Schmelzle asked why the Board was not presented with a balanced budget proposal. Mayor Scherer responded that this was just a preliminary proposal and that it was the Board's responsibility to make the final changes to balance it. Alderman Travaglini suggested that each department head go back and try to find any and all possible methods of reducing expenditures in the next fiscal year. Alderman Peters suggested that this had already been done, but Alderman Travaglini recommended that it would be a worthwhile exercise to go back and make sure.

Old Business

Mayor Scherer asked the Aldermen to reach out to him if they would like to assist with informing the public about the upcoming ballot issue known as Proposition A making a portion of the debt service property taxes permanent to fund City operations.


New Business

None

Adjournment

Alderman Travaglini motioned to adjourn the meeting; Alderman Peters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m.



Elliot M. Brown
Asst. Dir. of Administration & City Clerk

ATTEST:



Sam Scherer
Mayor

