

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

October 27, 2020

An Open Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Shrewsbury, Missouri was held at 6:00 p.m. on October 27, 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 – Via Zoom
	Alderwoman	Elisa Reeves – Via Zoom
	Alderman	Michael Schmelzle

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.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Scherer introduced the minutes from October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen and opened the floor for discussion. Alderman Schmelzle identified one correction in the minutes: During the first Hear Citizens section of the meeting, it was incorrectly stated that the City of Shrewsbury provides snow removal and street repair services to the Kenrick Parke Condominium Association for a fee. The City does not provide these services. Rather, KPCA is asking the City to take ownership of their streets. **Alderman Schmelzle made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect this change; Alderman Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Alderman Travaglini made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Alderman Lauter seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**September 2020 Financials**

Director Oettle provided an update of the City's financials. General Fund revenues and expenditures totaled \$437,894.70 and \$591,342.66 respectively. Capital Improvement Fund revenues and expenditures totaled \$66,097.55 and \$170,826.30 respectively. Debt Service Fund revenues totaled \$1,319.62. Equipment Replacement Fund revenues totaled \$116,000. Sewer Lateral Fund revenues and expenditures totaled \$83.16 and \$2,884.50 respectively. TIF Fund revenues totaled \$141,120.90.

### **Bill No. 3004 – COVID-19 Policy Manual Update**

Mayor Scherer introduced Bill Number 3004, which updates the City's employee manual with COVID-19 related policies. Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance and the Mayor opened the floor to discussion.

Alderman Peters stated that he had not changed his position on the ordinance since moving to table Bill 3004 in September. He had spoken to a representative of St. Louis County who indicated they would not recommend this type of policy and recommended that the City use the existing policies in place in the event an employee received a positive COVID-19 test result. He also expressed his concern that requiring an employee to provide a test result could possibly violate HIPAA regulations. Mayor Scherer responded that the current policy already requires employees to contact their direct supervisor when they are ill, but this Bill would lay out the procedure for supervisors to follow as employees are off work recovering.

Alderman Schmelzle indicated that he believed the language related to COVID-19 symptoms was overly broad and would create confusion for supervisors on when to enact the policy and when to follow the existing non-COVID sick leave policy. Alderman Lauter stated that he would also like to see the language in this area made clearer. Mayor Scherer indicated that the Public Safety personnel already have a COVID policy in place, and Chief Vargas replied that their policy came from St. Louis County's Emergency Operation Center.

Alderman Travaglini asked if it would make more sense to pass a separate COVID-leave policy ordinance rather than updating the policy manual. Director Oettle responded that because the City's policy manual was enacted by ordinance, it would all have to be enacted together if amended. The discussion was tabled further consideration at a later meeting.

### **Discussion – Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Time Change to 6:00pm**

Mayor Scherer introduced a draft Bill changing the time of the Board of Aldermen Regular meeting from 6:30pm to 6:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance and the Mayor opened the floor to discussion.

Alderwoman Reeves addressed the Board with her concerns with moving the meeting time to earlier in the evening. She stated that the COVID-19 pandemic will eventually end, and residents will be returning to their normal routines and may have trouble commuting home from work to attend a meeting at 6:00pm. She had researched other municipalities in the St. Louis area and found that most actually moved their meetings to 7:00pm or later and felt that a later time would actually be better than earlier.

Aldermen Peters and Travaglini indicated they were in favor of leaving it at 6:30pm instead of changing it, and Alderman Odenwald replied that he did not favor 6:00pm or 6:30pm, but that he would like both the Regular Meeting and the Work Session each month to be at the same time. The Bill was tabled for further consideration at a later meeting.

### **Discussion – Vicious Dog Ordinance**

Mayor Scherer introduced a draft bill amending the City code to remove the ban on specific breeds of dogs and replacing it with a more general regulations on vicious animals Mayor Scherer and Director Greever provided a brief, general overview of the provisions of the ordinance.

Mayor Scherer opened the floor to discussion. Alderman Travaglini expressed his approval of the change from a breed-specific ban to more general language regulating vicious animals. He asked what the repercussions were for an owner who did not comply with the ordinance. Director Greever noted that the ordinance provides for violators to be subject to the General Penalty outlined in the Shrewsbury Municipal Code Section 100.090 and removal of the animal by St. Louis County's Department of Animal Care and Control. Alderman Travaglini asked if the owner would be responsible for the cost of removal and Director Greever replied in the affirmative.

Alderwoman Reeves asked what the procedure would be for a resident to dispute the allegations that their animal was vicious. Director Greever replied that the ordinance leaves the timeframe open to fit the situation. If the animal is an immediate threat to other people, the process would have to be sped up to protect the residents. Generally, the process should take a week at the most. Mayor Scherer indicated that the ordinance provides the City the flexibility to deal with each situation as it comes up. Alderman Travaglini again expressed his approval of the update as a big improvement on the existing breed-specific ban. He asked that the actual process of approving the Bill be spread out over several meetings rather than all at once. The Bill was tabled for consideration at a later meeting.

### **FY2021 Budget Update**

Mayor Scherer introduced the changes to the Draft FY 2021 Budget to the Board. The major difference with this version is to employee benefits/compensation line items. The draft doubles the portion of the health insurance deductible employees are responsible for from \$500 to \$1,000, freezes salaries at FY2020 levels, and requires employees to contribute 20% of the health insurance premiums on any dependents. These changes create a budget with a surplus of around \$40 for the year.

Alderman Peters asked if the department heads anticipated turnover if this draft budget was approved. Chiefs Vargas and Amenn both indicated that they would. The City has a history of not paying public safety employees as much as other municipalities in the St. Louis region and the generous benefits package is a big reason we are able to retain good personnel. Alderwoman Reeves asked if it would save the money in the long run if it were to cut back on the benefits offered to new public safety hires and instead increase their starting salaries, acknowledging that this may cause short-term turnover. Alderman Travaglini stated it would be good to research what similarly sized municipalities in the St. Louis region do. Mayor Scherer responded that he was hopeful that the City could find a way to give some sort of salary increase later in FY2021 as the economic impact of the pandemic begins to ease.

Alderman Peters asked to see how the Proposition P money was being spent by the City. Mayor Scherer responded that the fund is in the public safety tax line item of in the General Fund and is mostly spent on wages that were increased when the proposition passed. Alderman Peters

responded that all the money was supposed to benefit the public safety departments and that he would like to get confirmation that it is being fully allocated that way. He also asked for an update on the DEA's progress in generating revenue from seizures from drug crimes. Director Oettle responded that the City had received \$44,830 from the DEA to date. Chief Vargas indicated that the legal process has been slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that she would provide an update on the Agency's progress at the next meeting.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

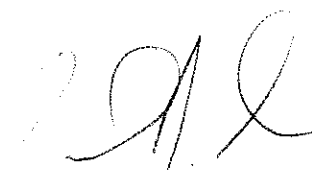
**Hear Citizens**

None

**Adjournment**

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


**Meeting adjourned at 7:16p.m.**



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Sam Scherer  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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

