CITY OF CAMERON
MINUTES
August 17, 2020

REGULAR SESSION

Dennis M. Clark	P
Darlene Breckenridge	P
Becky Curtis	P
Julie Ausmus	P
Roy Estes	A

The City Council of the City of Cameron, Missouri met in Regular Session on Monday, the 17th day of August 2020, at 6:04 p.m. at City Hall. Mayor Dennis M. Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Dennis M. Clark presided with the following Councilmembers present: Darlene Breckenridge, Becky Curtis, and Julie Ausmus. Absent: Roy Estes.

Present were Assistant City Manager Zac Johnson, Attorney for the City Padraic Corcoran and City Clerk Shellie J. Blades.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WITH COUNCIL

Robert Graham, 515 Northland Drive: Mr. Graham presented a petition to Assistant City Manager Johnson from the residents and businesses along Northland Drive. They are requesting the street be resurfaced. There is grass growing in the gutters and earlier when the City filled potholes, they did not pack them down.

Mark Garges, 315 Oak: Regarding the budget, Mr. Garges stated it is a delicate balance between street and a more desirable town. We've had street projects in residential areas recently and would like to see the City patch and repair streets in business areas to help the City receive a return on its investment. They are working on events and obtaining a hotel/motel tax which will help raise additional revenues for these purposes.

Debbie Hahn, 1102 Timberline: Regarding the budget, Ms. Hahn believes streets are a concern but also thinks we need to bring people to town to create more revenue. It's not all or nothing. We need things to draw people to our town. She asked that Council please take this into consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Breckenridge and seconded by Councilmember Curtis to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed by four in favor and one absent (Councilmember Estes).

a. Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Regular Session.
b. Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Council/EDOC work session.
c. Motion to renew the annual liquor license for Washington Street.
d. Motion to approve a new liquor license for Papa Sweet's Grill & Bar, a change from a 5% by the Drink License (5BD malt liquor and wine) to a Retail Liquor by the Drink Resort license (RBDR – which does not include Sundays).
e. Motion to appoint Stephanie Williams to the Cameron Tax Increment Financing Commission.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant City Manager Johnson informed Council that the City received the Innovation Award from the Missouri Municipal League (MML) for our population size for our demolition program. We were also notified that the City received MML's Members Choice Award as well from MML out of all the projects that were submitted. In addition, the City of Cameron was also selected by MPUA as their 'spotlight' city for their upcoming publication.

There are a couple of events coming up for the City. On September 21st, the Rotary Club will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new fishing deck at Sunrise Lake at 12:30 p.m. The grand opening for the Animal Care Facility is planned for mid-October. Both projects are welcome additions to our community.

The City currently has several major projects underway. The Ashland Drive and Groat Street projects are proceeding on schedule. Both projects are expected to be completed later this fall. Work has begun on the sewer line extension on Bob F. Griffin Road. Crews are working quickly and the project is expected to be complete within a few months. Design and staking of the electric line extension into the new Business Park has been completed and construction will commence in the next few weeks.

Cameron's Municipal Court received an audit by the Office of State Court Administrators (OSCA) in February and the findings of that audit were presented to Judge Fann and City staff last week. Recommendations for best practices from that audit are being reviewed and implemented.

Councilmember Curtis inquired about MML's 'member's choice' award. City Clerk Blades explained the Innovation Award is selected by MML's Board based on the applicant's population category. The member's choice award is voted on by all MML members from all the Innovation Award applicants that were received. MML stated it is usually a very tight election but this year Cameron's project won overwhelmingly. Councilmember Breckenridge stated she pushed for this project to be submitted when she was Mayor and recognized staff for their work on it. Councilmember Ausmus recognized Building Inspector Beckwith for really getting the program going and making it successful. Mayor Clark stated when this program was created six or seven years ago along with Mark Gaugh and Mike O'Donnell, it took time behind the scenes to work out the kinks and refine it into the program it is today. The new homes bult on the properties

where homes were demolished create many new revenue streams through both property and sales taxes. It is a great example of innovation.

EDOC / TERRY RUMERY UPDATE

Terry Rumery gave an update on project 'Marvin'. Mr. Rumery attended a Zoom meeting with them last week due to the prospect being based out of Australia. Since then, he's been in contact with them every day. There have been some amendments from the initial information; they are now expecting more jobs, higher wages and an increase in capital investment from what was originally projected. The State of Missouri and KCADC have helped greatly with this project. Cameron is not the only competitor for this prospect and the prospect has made it known that they would prefer to have an existing building.

6:25 p.m. – Councilmember Estes joined the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 2020-33, **AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF CAMERON, MISSOURI TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE TO DISCLOSE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS** was read by title on second reading by City Clerk Blades. Copies of said Bill 2020-33 were available for the public. Motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes to pass said bill on second reading by Roll Call. Discussion. None. "Aye": Councilmembers: Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay" none. The Mayor thereupon declared said bill duly adopted and said bill was numbered **ORDINANCE 6153**, was thereupon signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

Bill 2020-34, **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CITY OF CAMERON, MISSOURI BUDGET OF THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021** was read by title on first reading by City Clerk Blades. Copies of said Bill 2020-34 were available for the public. Motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes to pass said bill on first reading. Discussion. Finance Director Weigand informed Council the budget presented is the same as what was discussed during the public hearing. She also reminded Council that we routinely do budget adjustments throughout the fiscal year, usually quarterly, to make necessary adjustments. Councilmember Estes proposed that the City not 'earmark' the items on the community projects list. He wants any items funded to be voted on by Council.

Councilmember Curtis asked for clarification on 'collaborative.' Mayor Clark responded any items on the collaborative list would be voted on by the full Council. Councilmember Curtis stated her understanding is that collaborative meant other entities or persons contributed to the project. Councilmember Estes reiterated that he wants all the projects on the list to be voted on by Council. Councilmember Ausmus clarified that the projects list is not designated for streets or community projects and anything funded would have to be voted upon. Mayor Clark stated that collaborative project, community projects or road projects, nothing gets spent without Council vote. Councilmember Estes stated that voting allows the Council to prioritize our projects.

Councilmember Curtis stated that our street contract line item is at $0 in the proposed budget. She would like our staff to be able to decide what streets need maintenance and have the budget to do it. ***Councilmember Curtis made a motion to amend the draft 2020-2021 budget to move $116,000 from line 10-10-400-00 (Council Community Projects) to line 10-13-218-00 (Street Improvement Contracts). Motion was seconded by Councilmember Breckenridge***. Discussion. Councilmember Curtis said that streets need at least $250,000 for repairs every year and referred to Mr. Graham's information during public participation about Northland Drive. She went on to say that Public Works has a list every year of streets needing maintenance. Councilmember Ausmus stated she learned more in a Facebook post she read this week about the City's streets than she did during the Finance Committee Meetings leading up to the budget hearing. There is a misconception that the Committee members sent the budget back to staff several times to make cuts. She wants to clarify that many of the cuts in the budget were already done by staff before the Committee began looking at it. The Committee only made two changes to the budget that was presented to them. Councilmember Ausmus also informed Council that this is not the first year that the streets have not had funding for maintenance. Councilmember Curtis said that there is usually $250,000 to $350,000 budgeted annually for street repairs but it has been cut way back the last several years and it was also at $0 last year. Mayor Clark stated that Councilmember Curtis makes a great point, the amount budgeted doesn't go very far and revenues have been flat for some time. What he is trying to do is create more revenue. Mayor Clark relayed that the City will receive about $650,000 in transportation sales tax this year for projects. The Finance Committee left $80,000 in the Street Maintenance Material line to fund pothole repair and winter weather activities. The City will be spending about $1.3 million on streets. Councilmember Curtis detailed that both the Police and Fire Departments have sales tax revenues and they still receive the same amount of funding from the General Fund. The Public Works Department receives money from the Transportation Sales Tax and their General Fund dollars get cut back. ***Councilmember Curtis's motion to amend the 2020-2021 Budget failed with a vote of two in favor and three opposed.***

Councilmember Estes inquired about making a motion that any of the items funded on the collaborative list be voted on by the full Council. Assistant City Manager Johnson and Finance Director Weigand explained that any item funded from that list would already have to come before Council for a vote. Bill 2020-34 passed on first reading only by vote of three in favor and two opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

At 6:49 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Breckenridge and seconded by Councilmember Ausmus to enter a public hearing to discuss the 2020 Tax Levy. Motion passed by Roll Call Vote: "Aye:" Councilmembers Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay:" none.

City Clerk Blades explained the process by the County, the City and the State Auditor's Office in determining the current tax levy rates. A public notice is required at least seven days before the hearing and this was completed, however, the Clinton County Clerk submitted updated tax assessment information on the day of the publication so an amended publication was completed the following week. The total tax levy proposed this year for all four levies (General, Parks, Library & Band) is 1.1267 per $100 of valuation. This is an increase over the 2019 levy of $0.0213. As

an example of the impact of the tax levy, a home valued at $150,000 would owe $321.11 to the City of Cameron for 2020 which would be an increase over the 2019 tax of approximately $6.07.

At 6:53 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Breckenridge and seconded by Councilmember Estes to exit the public hearing. Motion passed by Roll Call Vote: "Aye:" Councilmembers Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay:" none.

Bill 2020-35, **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAX UPON ALL PROPERTY TAXABLE IN THE CITY OF CAMERON, MISSOURI FOR THE YEAR 2020, FIXING THE RATE THEREOF** was read by title by City Clerk Blades. Copies of said Bill 2020-35 were available for the public. Motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes to pass said bill on first reading. Discussion. None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Curtis to suspend the rules and place said bill on second reading by Roll Call vote. Discussion. None. "Aye": Councilmembers: Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay" none. The Mayor thereupon declared said bill duly adopted and said bill was numbered **ORDINANCE 6154**, was thereupon signed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

Bill 2020-36, **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF CAMERON, MISSOURI AND ALLIANCE WATER RESOURCES, INC. FOR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS SERVICES AT THE CAMERON WASTEWATER FACILITY** was read by title on first reading by City Clerk Blades. Copies of said Bill 2020-36 were available for the public. Motion was made by Councilmember Estes and seconded by Councilmember Ausmus to pass said bill on first reading. Discussion. Assistant City Manager Johnson advised Council that Alliance runs the day-to-day operations at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Alliance does a wonderful job and are very good stewards of the City's money. This year's contract has been increased by 2% and most of that is for their employee's health insurance. They budget some money each year for facility repairs and they are known for giving us money back at the end of the year for any savings they experienced. Councilmember Estes inquired how long this service has been contracted out. City Clerk Blades responded that they were managing the sewer plant when she came to work for the City in 1993. Bill 2020-36 passed on first reading only by unanimous voice vote.

At 6:58 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Breckenridge to enter a public hearing to discuss the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission rates. Motion passed by Roll Call Vote: "Aye:" Councilmembers Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay:" none.

Assistant City Manager Johnson gave an update on the waterline project. The design phase of the project is nearing completion. The project is being funded by the USDA, there is approximately $17 million in loans and $5 million in grants thus far. The project is getting close to being bid for construction. Tonight's hearing is required by the USDA. The budget is being developed for GNWWC and the City of Cameron will be responsible for approximately $2.3 million annually. The overall monthly rate increases will be approximately $20 for a consumer who uses approximately 5,000 gallons per month (Cameron's average consumer uses about 3,000 per month). There are still a lot of unknowns and variables. The national standard is that residents pay approximately 2% of the median household income for water, Cameron is way below that

threshold. Councilmember Estes inquired how much of the waterline will Cameron own and Mr. Johnson responded 86.6% and explained the history behind that figure. Councilmember Estes inquired if more entities join GNWWC will Cameron's costs will be reduced? Assistant Manager Johnson replied yes. Councilmember Estes thanked Councilmember Curtis for her work on GNWWC.

Mayor Clark gave a history of the waterline project stating the original cost was around $8 million, the City would have owned all of it and be making money on it. The Council at the time didn't push the project for fear of public 'beat down.' Now the project is estimated to cost $31 million and we are sharing with others. Councilmember Ausmus also spoke about the history for the project and the confusion on the previous bond election which failed. People thought they were voting on the waterline and didn't realize the vote was for bonds. Councilmember Curtis spoke about the legislation in 2012 which made it possible for the waterline project to move forward without a vote.

Councilmember Estes asked about the completion timeline. Assistant City Manager Johnson informed Council that inquiring the easements greatly slowed the project. GNWWC is nearing completion of final design and will be ready to bid this fall. Eighteen months is what is expected for construction. New water rates would go into effect at the end of construction. Councilmember Curtis spoke about the waterline needing to bore under the river near St. Joseph and difficulties with the storage tank.

At 7:12 p.m., motion was made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes to exit the public hearing. Motion passed by Roll Call Vote: "Aye:" Councilmembers Clark, Breckenridge, Curtis, Ausmus and Estes. "Nay:" none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WITH COUNCIL

Quinten Lovejoy, 807 Rosewood: Mr. Lovejoy said there has been a lot of discussion about history tonight. In 2013-2015 the voters were asked to pass a tax for pools and economic development and the phrase 'no plan/no tax' was coined. The taxes failed. The community has since passed the taxes individually. Mr. Lovejoy believes the community projects list is a way to subvert the will of the voters. Mr. Lovejoy discussed at length previous conversations with Councilmembers and differences in opinion regarding business practices. Mr. Lovejoy stated that Councilmember Ausmus previously asked for a transparent budget and believes the community projects list is the opposite of this. City Clerk Blades informed Mr. Lovejoy that his participation had reached the 5-minute mark. Mr. Lovejoy expressed his displeasure that he was not able to finish his remarks.

MISCELLANEOUS-STAFF

City Clerk Blades:

- Informed Council about the virtual MML Conference upcoming in September and requested Council advise her if they plan to participate.
- The next regular Council Meeting will be August 31st due to the first date in September being a holiday.
- Wished health and wellness to Verlon Persinger for his recent ailment.

MISCELLANEOUS-COUNCIL

Councilmember Curtis:

- Glad everyone came to the meeting and thanked them for their participation.

Councilmember Estes:

- Apologized for being late and thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Clark:

- Stated the job of the Council is to run the City's business in an informed way. In response to Mr. Lovejoy regarding the earlier sales taxes that were voted down, those projects proposed would have been cheaper then than they are now. The City tries to provide quality services and keep expenses down. He is trying to be innovative to raise the City's revenues.

There being no further business on motion made by Councilmember Ausmus and seconded by Councilmember Estes, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. on unanimous voice vote.

APPROVED:

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Mayor Dennis M. Clark

ATTEST:

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City Clerk