



City Council Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Mayor: John McTaggart
Councilmember Chuck Adams Carolyn Caiharr Garrett Mellott
Margaret Shriver Chuck Stites

1. **Consider approval of consent agenda items**
 - a) **Approve minutes of May 10, 2021**
 - b) **Statement of bills paid in the amount of \$266,849.76**
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to approve the consent agenda items with a note to amend the minutes to reflect her comments about the Harvesters food pantry event as well as he request for a street project update.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Mellott seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes 5-0
2. **Requests or Comments from the public**
 - No comments heard
3. **Consider 2020 Financial Statement and Report of the City's Independent Certified Public Accountants – OLD BUSINESS**
 - City Manager Michael Webb reviewed this item, noting that it was initially presented at the previous meeting but Councilmember Caiharr requested an additional week to review.
 - Councilmember Caiharr asked the City Manager to comment on the debt level, which Mr. Webb responded that about 23-24% of the City's total mill levy is dedicated to debt and that debt valuation compared to total valuation is 12%. These ratios are favorable when compared to cities in the region.
 - Councilmember Caiharr asked to clarify the difference between the General Fund and the cash balance. Mr. Webb reviewed the corresponding pages related to this questions, noting the implications related to the cash-basis budgeting.
 - Councilmember Adams asked about the statutory violation related to bond payments, which Mr. Webb noted that this was due to a payment being filed two days late. Staff has changed process to correct this moving forward.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Caiharr made the motion to accept the 2020 audit prepared by Gordon CPA
 - **Second:** Councilmember Adams seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
4. **Consider approval of a business license application from Liquor Xpress to be located at 9701 Kaw Drive**

(note: this item was actually heard prior to Item #3 to accommodate the schedule of the business representative who attended).

 - Assistant City Manager presented this item, noting that business license applications are typically handled administratively but that the nature of the business requires Council approval.

- Mr. Daniel noted the applicant is currently undergoing the building permit application process and has some items currently being reviewed from a planning perspective, mostly having to do with parking and landscaping.
- City Manager Michael Webb noted that the planning items have largely been taken care of at this point.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked if this was a chain, and the applicant responded that he does own other locations, but it he is the sole owner.
- Councilmember Caiharr asked if there are any plans to expand to include a restaurant, which the applicant responded that he is currently focusing on the build project for the liquor store.
- Councilmember Stites asked about Sunday sale hours, which led to a discussion regarding the recent changes to Sunday alcohol sales. Staff noted they would bring a future ordinance to the Council which would bring the City's regulation uniform with state statutes.
- **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to approve the business license application on the condition that the planning items be addressed.
- **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion.
- **Vote:** Passes, 5-0

5. Consider City Manager recommendation regarding the City's Compensation Plan and adoption of Resolution 2021-06 related to the same

- City Manager Michael Webb presented this item, first summarizing earlier Council discussions on the topic.
- Mr. Webb referred to the recent studies undertaken by the Cities of Tonganoxie and Basehor which helped inform the findings for this presentation.
- Mr. Webb reviewed the pay structures of the comparison cities, pointing out that while their structure is similar, Edwardsville's range is smaller. This creates compression at the top of the pay plan where many employees are topped out in pay and ineligible for annual increases if they were approved by Council.
- The simplest and most effective solution to this problem would be to increase the range of pay to allow for continued growth within the City and to remain competitive with peer cities in the metro, with whom Edwardsville is competing for jobs.
- Mr. Webb noted the challenge in comparing firefighter positions across different cities due to the changes in operations from town-to-town.
- Fire Chief Whitham provided additional context on the firefighters topped out at the top of the paygrade.
- Councilmember Caiharr noted her preference to further review this item in a separate Council work session.
- Mr. Webb stressed that under current conditions, 11 employees would not receive a pay raise if the Council approved them as part of the budget process.
- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reminded the group that approving this plan tonight would not affect anyone's pay. This just helps correct the structure of the plan to allow for internal growth as people stay with the organization.
- Councilmember Adams noted that maintaining high quality employees is a priority for him and stated he wanted them compensated fairly. He noted he had faith in the leadership of the departments to develop appropriate pay structures.
- Mayor McTaggart disagreed with Councilmembers who wanted additional review on this item, stating he felt staff had presented enough information not to delay action.
- Councilmember Shriver stated it may be helpful to commission a future pay study, perhaps focusing on public safety. Mr. Webb also pointed out that holidays, leave policies, and other items are included in the agenda memo for this item.

- Councilmember Caiharr stated that she agreed with the idea that the pay range needed expanded, but wanted information on the effects each would have on the budget. Mr. Webb noted that both plans would effectively have the same impact, it would just be a matter of the differences in each plan's internal structure.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Mellott made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-06 including proposal number 1 as noted in the agenda materials.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Shriver seconded the motion
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
- 6. Consider Resolution 2021-07 regarding requesting the Unified Government Board of Commissioners to terminate Local Health Order (LHO) 4/29/21**
- City Manager Michael Webb provided a brief background of the item and summarized recent actions on the part of the UG Board of Commissioners.
 - Councilmember Stites noted he believed that the health department would be asking for an extension of the mask order and that he did not want Edwardsville to be a part of it.
 - Councilmember Caiharr noted the pending state statute related to financial liability of governments for public health orders.
 - Councilmember Stites pointed out that the original "Core 4" have not had uniform regulations for a while.
 - Councilmember Caiharr noted that people are still free to wear a mask if they choose.
 - There was a discussion about the difficulty enforcing current mandates.
 - Councilmember Adams asked that the word "strongly" be removed from the portion of the resolution related to vaccine encouragement.
 - **Motion:** Councilmember Adams made the motion to adopt Resolution 2021-07 with the amendments noted.
 - **Second:** Councilmember Stites seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** Passes, 5-0
- 7. Hear presentation regarding street maintenance projects**
- Public Works Director Dusty Zenger presented this item, first reviewing the activities of staff throughout the year.
 - This work included mastic seal application, a crack seal program, and various patches and pothole maintenance.
 - Mr. Zenger then reviewed the full-depth repairs taking place on Kansas Ave.
 - Mr. Zenger reviewed other, non-street work that falls within the purview of Public Works.
 - A 6-Year crack seal and surface seal rotation program was then discussed, which provides a roadmap of repairs and maintenance.
 - Mr. Zenger noted the preliminary work being done on 102nd St. to prepare for a full-depth patch plan.
 - In general, the total general maintenance for roads and streets carries a price tag of about \$300,000-\$400,000. This does not include curb repairs, pavement striping, storm sewer projects, or ditch cleaning.
 - There was no action to take related to this item
- 8. City Manager Report**
- City Manager noted the 110th Street project work as well as the additional funding for the 98th Street project.
- 9. Council and Mayor Comments**

Councilmember Stites again pushed for more litter control in the City's right-of-way. Mr. Daniel updated the group on some of the City's efforts in this area. Mr. Stites then pointed out some of the difficulties for traffic control related to the 110th St. work. Mr. Webb noted they would discuss with the contractor. There as additional discussion about a large meeting to involve the UG Commission and the Bonner Springs City Council.

Councilmember Shriver asked about the mowing of the NE corner of 4th and K-32. Mr. Webb noted that this is an ongoing codes issue and the property owner has been notified. She then thanked staff for their work during the City-Wide cleanup. Ms. Shriver then asked about the public reaction to the temporary sign location, which staff noted it was been mixed.

Councilmember Mellott asked about possible uses of federal money for sewer installation along 110th St. near Williamson Farms and the Methodist Church. Mr. Webb provided additional details on ARP funds and noted that staff is currently reviewing possible uses. Mr. Webb also reviewed the challenges associated with septic systems in that area. Mr. Mellott then thanked staff for their help at the Clean Up and thanked Director Zenger for his street presentation. Mr. Mellott closed by asking for a update on the Quiet Zone, which Mr. Webb provided, noting a pre-construction meeting is set for early July.

Councilmember Caiharr thanked Director Zenger for the street report and voiced her support for moving forward with the 6-year rotation plan as noted. She also asked that this information be shared with the public as budget discussions continue. Ms. Caiharr expressed her desire to see the computer lab concept be explored, possibly using the existing Police Department building in the future. She closed by reminding people about the Memorial Day service coming up and congratulating the EPD on their recent designation from Lexipol.

Councilmember Adams stressed the need for the City to push for the renewal of the SiFi program for street maintenance. He then asked Chief Mathies for more details on the Lexipol award, which was provided, noting it was mostly related to the department's policy management system.

Mayor McTaggart congratulated EPD and thanked staff for their presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.
Zachary Daniel
City Clerk