

CITY OF LEBANON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 3, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Council of the City of Lebanon, Missouri, met in Work Session on January 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 401 South Jefferson.

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Upon roll call, the following Officers were present: Gib Adkins, Ken Eldridge, Sheila Mitchell, Jim White, LeAnn Mather, Randy Wall, Chuck Jordan, Bob Garner, and Mayor Carr. Absent: None.

A quorum was declared.

Staff members and others in attendance: City Administrator Mike Schumacher, Public Works Director Richard Shockley, Police Chief Randy Halstead, Street Superintendent Mike Moore, Interim Electric Superintendent Travis Long, Environmental Services Superintendent Eric Mork, Parks Director John Shelton, IT Director Jarrad Schomaker, Code Administrator Joe Berkich, Finance Director Kat Gill, Communications Manager Derek Gean, and Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Laina Starnes.

SPRINGFIELD/VAN BUREN REALIGNMENT

Street Superintendent Mike Moore presented information regarding a proposed realignment of Van Buren with Springfield Road. Moore said this was one of several efforts to relieve traffic congestion on Jefferson Avenue. During his presentation, Moore shared area traffic patterns and average daily traffic counts. He also explained that the City would have to work with MoDOT on this project because it maintained that portion of Commercial Street. To undergo this project, Moore said the City would have to demo one of the best buildings on the City compound. This led to a discussion regarding using abandoned land as green space with the possibility of adding a pocket park. Moore stated the estimated cost of the realignment project was \$175,000.

EASEMENT MACHINE

Environmental Services Superintendent Eric Mork spoke to the Council about a proposed purchase of an easement machine. He stated the machine would be used to get into backyards to clean out sewer lines. Mork reported the existing equipment was purchased in the 90's and was past its life expectancy. The cost of the new easement machine was reported to be approximately \$60,000 which included the trailer for hauling.

BACKHOE PURCHASE

A proposed backhoe purchase for the Water Department was also presented to Council by Environmental Services Superintendent Eric Mork. Mork shared that he budgeted \$100,000 and the cost of a new backhoe would be \$103,000. He said the new equipment would replace their 2006 model and added that their recent purchase of a mini excavator would extend the life of their third backhoe.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Interim Electric Superintendent Travis Long updated the City Council on improvements that were being made within the electrical system. Long stated he had been working with Toth and Associates to identify some of the system's shortfalls and improving reliability factors. During his presentation, Long introduced new technology that would improve reliability by addressing issues caused by wildlife. Long stated that 26% of outages were caused by squirrels, 23% from trees, and 11% from electrical failure. He reported the new technology should cut down outages significantly. In closing, he shared a bit of information on Phase 3 of the Electric System Improvements Project which would include a feasibility study.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Code Administrator Joe Berkich made a presentation to City Council regarding the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. Berkich shared that the last comp plan was approved in 2005 and H3 Studios was contracted approximately a year and a half ago to work on a proposed update. During his presentation, Berkich stated the updated document would provide guidance for future recommendations for land use, development and growth.

COUNCIL GOALS

Proposed City Council goals were distributed during the meeting for Council's review. City Administrator Mike Schumacher said the goals would be presented at the meeting on January 28th for formal adoption and staff had already begun working on them. During this portion of the meeting, the recent graffiti found in the park was brought up for discussion. Schumacher stated staff was looking into cameras with live feed, but some had already been set up on a hard drive. He further shared that the Police Department was going to use an old Gator from the Parks Department as a test vehicle for patrol. This then led to a conversation about establishing a reward from private donations and possible community service for those responsible for the damage.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Councilman White- asked what the City was doing to manage trash on City property. Street Superintendent Mike Moore reported there had been three street adoptions over the previous two weeks and volunteers would be working the property needing addressed as well.

Councilman Adkins- asked about the status of the airport hangars. City Administrator Mike Schumacher reported they had been waiting on the passage of the capital improvement tax and, since that initiative was successful, the process was moving forward. Adkins then suggested that Farmers Market be moved the pavilion area around the new ag barn. Mayor Carr stated the suggested move would tie up the pavilion and make it unavailable for others which would make it more of a hindrance than a help. Councilman Jordan shared that Farmers Market was happy with their current location. Adkins then asked about the status of the City Hall, Civic Center and Ag Barn signs. Code Administrator Joe Berkich reported he was working with contractors and was in the process of getting renderings for all the signs.

Councilman Wall- brought up the issue of a potential tourism tax increase and said he would like to discuss putting it on a future ballot. Councilman Adkins said he felt the Council would have to take the lead to get this tax increase moved forward. A discussion commenced about the many potential tax initiatives. Councilman Adkins suggested that a strategy on how to move them forward should be a topic of discussion at the February work session. Councilwoman Mather expressed she felt the community was tax fatigued and wasn't sure that putting forward a tax initiative this year was a good idea.


Councilwoman Mitchell- shared with the body a picture from her son's recent wedding.

Councilman Garner- thanked staff for putting together the employee appreciation luncheon and Tourism Director Nicole McGinnis for bringing forward her idea of collecting gloves, hats and scarves for elementary school kids.

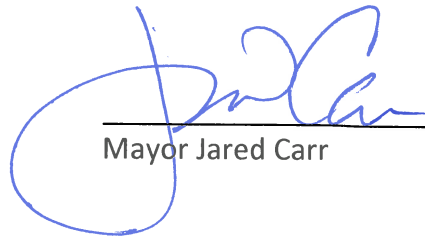
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carr declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

ATTEST:



City Clerk Laina Starnes



Mayor Jared Carr

Minutes Approved February 25, 2019

