

CITY OF LEBANON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 7, 2019

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Council of the City of Lebanon, Missouri, met in Work Session on February 7, 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, Jim White, LeAnn Mather, Chuck Jordan, and Mayor Carr. Absent: Sheila Mitchell, Randy Wall and Bob Garner.

A quorum was declared.

Staff members and others in attendance: City Administrator Mike Schumacher, Police Chief Randy Halstead, Fire Chief Sam Schneider, Parks Director John Shelton, Code Administrator Joe Berkich, Communications Manager Derek Gean, Lebanon REDI President Brian Thompson, and Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Laina Starnes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/NUISANCES/HOTELS

Code Administrator Joe Berkich presented a brief overview of proposed changes to the current general nuisance code and then spoke of addressing chronic nuisances by enacting a new section of code regarding the same. He said a chronic nuisance ordinance would allow the City to declare a premise a chronic public nuisance if it had a threshold number of nuisance activities occurring on, or in association with, the premises. It would also allow for penalties to be assessed for chronic offenders. During his presentation, Berkich also expressed the City's need to address nuisances with hotels/motels. He stated an ordinance addressing hotels/motels would allow the City to set a standard of the use and up-keep of the existing structures and would provide for an annual inspection to ensure compliance. A discussion commenced regarding general nuisances, chronic nuisances, and hotels/motels. During this time, the Council asked that Joe look into adding language in the general nuisance code regarding parking on unapproved surfaces and expressed they didn't think language regulating Christmas decorations should be included.

CODE ENFORCEMENT-GRASS NUISANCE IN RIGHT OF WAY

Code Administrator Joe Berkich also touched briefly on grass nuisances in rights-of-way. He explained the challenges his department faced when dealing with high grass in these areas. A short discussion was held about adding code language addressing the issue.

CODE ENFORCEMENT- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Police Chief Randy Halstead spoke to Council about pedestrian safety and provided statistics for pedestrian death risks. He then presented proposed code language that would assist with pedestrian safety around medians and islands of arterial roadways and intersections. During his presentation, Halstead stated if the proposed code was

adopted, pedestrians would not be allowed to stand on the medians or sidewalks of the defined areas and citations could to be written for violations.

HOUSING INCENTIVES CHAPTER 353

City Administrator Mike Schumacher shared that he and Lebanon REDI President Brian Thompson were working on housing incentives that they hoped would spur the real estate market for the City's workforce. Schumacher shared proposed incentives would be offered through Chapter 353 tax abatement and the waiving of development fees on vacant lots for single family dwellings under \$200,000. During his report, Schumacher stated there were 434 vacant residential lots in the City and added that this type of approach for residential development was unique. He also stated a resolution regarding the waiver of development fees would be presented to Council for their consideration at an upcoming meeting.

COUNCIL GOALS- GROUP 1, PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief Randy Halstead, Fire Chief Sam Schneider and Code Administrator Joe Berkich updated the Council on the Public Safety category of the City Council Goals. Chief Halstead spoke of the Police Department's efforts to implement Crime Neighborhood Watch groups in crime driven areas, building positive relationships with the community and police, and announcements focusing on public safety. Chief Schneider spoke about fire extinguisher training, progress made with installing smoke detectors, and social media awareness messages. Chief Halstead and Chief Schneider both shared information on action taken to reduce the impact of illegal drug use. During their presentation, Chief Halstead and Code Administrator Berkich brought the Council up to speed on what had been done thus far to address nuisances and dangerous buildings. Chief Schneider also showed a video which captured the ignition of a fire in a laundry room. The fire started in a pile of cleaning cloths that had been removed from a clothes dryer.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Councilman Adkins- stated he felt the Council needed to have a discussion on tax revenue. He stated he would like to see the City put a lodging tax increase on the ballot this year or next year. He also spoke briefly about putting together a plan for the new public safety building. Adkins then commended the cooperation between the City and Laclede County on the implementation of Nixle, the new public alert warning system; stated the ag barn open house went well; and said he was looking forward to the Missouri Municipal League Legislative Conference. In closing, Adkins expressed he would like to see an award of some kind for "service above self" and the possibility of adopting a "sister city" concept with other countries.

Councilman Eldridge- with regards to parks, Eldridge expressed the City needed a plan to maintain what it currently had before discussing the addition of new parks.

City Administrator Mike Schumacher- spoke about the renewal of the capital improvements tax, the ballot language used to renew the tax, and its impact to the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He stated the City currently had the funds to start working on the covered area for Famers Market and felt it could be finished fairly

quickly. He then briefly touched on the City's social media presence and asked that Communication Manager Derek Gean introduce "Next Door" and explain how it worked.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mayor Carr opened the floor to the students of Maggie Shelton's American Government PLS101 class who were in attendance. Several took the opportunity to ask questions regarding the material and information presented during the meeting.

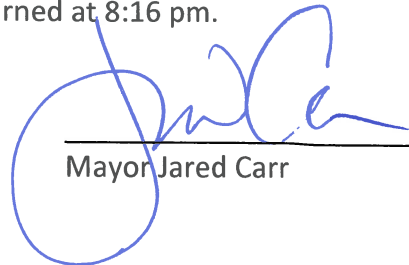
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carr declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

ATTEST:



City Clerk Laina Starnes



Mayor Jared Carr

Minutes Approved April 8, 2019

