

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

May 19, 2020

The City Council met this date in a regular session, via Zoom, which was available to the public via teleconference, at 7:33 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch
Councilmember Bud Bellomo
Councilmember Laura Arnold
Councilmember Pam Bliss
Councilmember David Franklin
Councilmember Emerson Smith

A quorum was present.

Also present: Mr. Steve Wylie, City Manager
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Jennifer Conrad, Deputy City Clerk, read submitted Remarks of Visitors into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Eric Kuenkler – The Rockwood (Exhibit A)
- Daniel Bruzzini – 125 Orchard (Exhibit B)
- Dave Buck – 124 S. Elm Ave. (Exhibit C)

NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER

Mayor Welch stated that the FY-2021 Budget Public Hearing will occur at 7:30 p.m. on June 2, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL #9122 – FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD READING

Councilmember Bellomo introduced **BILL #9122 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER COMPANY (MAW) TO INSTALL ONE (1) FIRE HYDRANT PROXIMAL TO THE ELLE ON LOCKWOOD, 226 E. LOCKWOOD AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI**, and at the Councilmember's request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Bellomo, declaring there was a compelling reason to conduct the Third Reading of Bill #9122 this evening, in order to install the new fire hydrant at this residential location as soon as possible.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the compelling reason, and to conduct the Third Reading of Bill #9122 this evening.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BELLOMO, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, WELCH

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the compelling reason to conduct the Third Reading of Bill #9122 was approved, and Council would now conduct the Third Reading of said Bill.

May 19, 2020

BILL #9122 -THIRD READING

BILL #9122 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER COMPANY (MAW) TO INSTALL ONE (1) FIRE HYDRANT PROXIMAL TO THE ELLE ON LOCKWOOD, 226 E. LOCKWOOD AVENUE, IN THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, having been introduced and read twice on May 19, 2020, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9122.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9122.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, WELCH, BELLOMO

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9122 was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Bellomo, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, WELCH, BELLOMO, ARNOLD

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – May 5, 2020
- **Resolution #2020-18** – Requesting that Municipalities Within St. Louis County Receive an Equitable Distribution of the \$175 Million in Funding Received by St. Louis County from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to Reimburse Municipalities for Actual Public Safety Costs Incurred Related to COVID-19

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

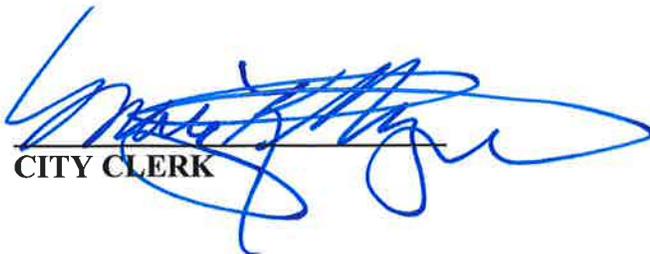
EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

No Executive (Closed) Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of JUNE 2020.



CITY CLERK



MAYOR

Katie Nakazono - Greetings from The Rockwood*EXHIBIT A*

From: "Eric" <Eric@therockwood.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 5/18/2020 9:49 PM
Subject: Greetings from The Rockwood

Dear Council Members,

We request that The Rockwood has time to speak at the upcoming City Council Meeting over the following issue:

At the OWTA meeting on April 16th, 2019, I questioned the Webster Groves Police Sergeant Flanery, Traffic Officer Rasool, Detective Bell and OWTA members, how The Rockwood should pursue removing the 2-hour parking signs from in front of The Rockwood.

It was suggested by all, at that time, we leave the 2-hour parking signs there and just continue to be non-enforcement. Therefore, if someone who is not from the Rockwood leaves their vehicle for an extended period of time, we may have it ticketed and/or towed. We all agreed that this would be acceptable. *EDIT: Since the initial request for an audience with the council before COVID, we were informed by Sergeant Flanery that non-enforcement is not an option without the council altering the ordinance or creating an ordinance that exempts The Rockwood.*

Starting the beginning of March, in a three week period, we had been given four parking violation tickets. The first was to the Owner of The Rockwood, who was 30 minutes over 2 hours because of our weekly meeting. The second ticket was issued to our Concierge who was working her 8-hour shift, third ticket was issued to one of our residents' caregivers who was working a 4-hour shift, and lastly a ticket was issued to a new concierge on her first day of work. It has been The Rockwood's policy for many years that employees and caregivers should park on the street in front of our building, to allow our Residents, families and visitors places to park in our parking lot.

It has come to light since then that "someone" was calling and complaining that our cars were there for too long, which is why enforcement started thirteen years after our business opened. We do know that we have a disgruntled family member of a former resident who has been making bogus claims against the community to many different agencies, all proven false. We feel this is the same person who started this issue as well.

I have been employed at The Rockwood for eight years and have not had any person issued a parking ticket in front of our building. We are hoping to secure the seven parking spots in front of our property as non-enforcement or have the signs removed.

This ordinance that is now being enforced is going to be taking a toll on our business. Our concierges have eight-hour shifts, our Residents have caregivers with no less than three-hour shifts, our family members could be visiting all day. One ticket equals one hour of pay for our employees. This new enforcement will become burdensome on everyone doing business at The Rockwood.

We understand how parking affects the other businesses in our district, yet, The Rockwood is not in any competition for spaces with any surrounding businesses. The only business close to us is across the street. They have dedicated spots in their parking lot as well as four spaces in front of their building. Literally, no one uses the spaces in front of our building besides those who have direct business with The Rockwood.

We were instructed that we are not to use the large (half empty) parking lot next to us, because it is now owned by the business across the street, McCallum.

When The Rockwood became a business as a senior community in 2006, there was ample parking. Thirteen years later, our census is younger and still drives, our census is full which makes for a larger staff, and more of our Residents are using Home Health services which also takes up more parking. We must be able to utilize the parking available to us. If we cannot use the parking spaces in front of our building, they will stay empty. Our staff, resident's family and caregivers will be the ones suffering the consequences of this parking ordinance enforcement.

We would like a resolution to this issue before the businesses start opening back up for commerce in Webster Groves. Even though our senior community will probably not open for the month of June, having the parking issue resolved before we do open is a great importance to us.

EXHIBIT A

Please allow us the time to speak with the council about this important and urgent matter.

Thank you.

Eric Kuenkler

Executive Director

The Rockwood

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Webster Groves, MO 63119

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Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

EXHIBIT B

From: Daniel Bruzzini <dbruzzini@gmail.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 5/19/2020 10:19 AM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors

The 1980's malls with their "foot traffic" based sales has gone the way of the velour tracksuit. No local business, small business, or mom and pop business these days can solely rely on foot traffic for customers. They will have to have an online shopping presence with delivery service or perish per the May 9th issue of *The Economist*. Given this new paradigm shift to e-commerce, internet taxation will harm our neighbor's business, protect giant online retailers like Amazon, and decrease taxes collected by government because:

1. Internet taxation is just a minor administrative cost to the giant online retailers who have all voted in favor of it. To your neighbor's store, it increases their prices making them less competitive. Besides, tracking every internet sale is a major time consuming headache for local businesses trying to avoid getting fined and jailed for tax evasion.
2. Internet taxation will actually decrease government tax revenues. Per Thomas Sowell's Basic Economics, when the price goes up, people buy less of it resulting in less sales tax collected. Furthermore, local businesses that go bust or never start are another loss of taxation to the government -- No stores, no sales, no employee income, no taxes collected.
3. Not having an internet tax, gives Missouri a competitive advantage relative to other states. "Missouri as an internet sales tax free zone" makes us very attractive to small creative businesses and supports our local businesses in this new economic paradigm. More businesses, more jobs, more sales, more employees, more opportunity, more taxes collected.
4. Sir Winston Churchill, said it best, "I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

Closing food for thought: How will making things more expensive, favoring giant online retailers like Amazon, losing tax revenue, and increasing the administrative burden on our neighbor's business help our Missouri economy? Why should Missouri surrender its competitive economic advantage over other states like tax-raising, population declining, business losing Illinois? Webster Groves is a great place to live, work, and play! Let's keep it this way not internet sales tax it away.

EXHIBIT C

Katie Nakazono - Dave Buck's "Remarks of Visitors" for the May 19, 2020, City Council Meeting

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 5/19/2020 11:17 AM
Subject: Dave Buck's "Remarks of Visitors" for the May 19, 2020, City Council Meeting
Cc: "nakazonok@webstergroves.org" <nakazonok@webstergroves.org>

To City Council, Staff and All Residents Who May be Listening Tonight,

First, I hope you and your families are staying safe and well at home.

Second, in the parlance of media planning, my remarks seek to preempt the competition and represent classic counter-programming in order to send a clear and uncluttered message.

Simply stated, I wish to personally say "Goodbye to Bud". In less than three minutes, here's why:

- I really did not know Bud until he ran with Matt Armstrong for City Council. I loved that they both stood for unity and "One Webster" and I have witnessed this first-hand in Bud's words, actions and decisions ever since.
- His soft-spoken manner reflects what I believe to be his most important character trait: humility. As such, I do not think Bud has an arrogant bone in his body. At least I have never seen it.
- I often send in emails and ideas to Council. Every time - I mean EVERY time - Bud is the only Council member to send me a reply email, even if all it said was "thanks". He always made me feel included and that I mattered.
- Regardless of the issue, Bud always provides smart, reasoned and focused thoughts, opinions and perspectives that advances the conversations and never detracts.
- I thought a seminal moment and reflection of Bud's class and decency came during the City Attorney controversy when Bud made a comment to the audience and a resident in the crowd loudly attacked and criticized Bud personally. Bud could have chosen to attack back, but instead he remained calm, took the high road and showed us all what true leadership is. I will never forget it.
- Bud did not hesitate to help me and was the only Council member every year to be an intersection safety volunteer for Webster On Wheels at Elm & Lockwood.
- He was the lone voice and champion for serious strategic planning for the Council and the city, a dream that I hope is embraced and realized by the new Council.

In closing, and to paraphrase a famous St. Louis beer commercial, "This Bud's for US!" and all of us are going to miss him. Just as our city's namesake, Daniel Webster, was the "Statesman", Bud, as our Council's elder Statesman, has made a difference and made us One Webster as promised.

PEACE.

EXHIBIT C

Dave