CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES
January 19, 2021

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

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch
Councilmember Laura Arnold
Councilmember Pam Bliss
Councilmember David Franklin
Councilmember Emerson Smith
Councilmember Karen D. Alexander
Councilmember Sarah Richardson

A quorum was present.

Also present: Dr. Marie Peoples, City Manager
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

REMARKS OF VISITORS
Ms. Conrad read submitted Remarks of Visitor comments into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Dave Buck (Exhibit A)
- Daniel Bruzzini (Exhibit B)
- Addie Siefert (Exhibit C)
- Rob Heyder (raised hand comment) addressed the cost of insurance on golf carts.

Mayor Welch stated we should address some of Mr. Bruzzini’s comments at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER
No New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILL #9138 – THIRD READING
On motion of Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, BILL #9138 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 20.352 AND 20.355 OF THE MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING CODE REGULATIONS AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO, having been introduced and read twice on January 5, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9138.
Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9138.
MEMBERS VOTING:
AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH
NOES: NONE
Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9138 was approved.
BILL #9139 – THIRD READING
On motion of Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, BILL #9139 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE VACATING THAT PORTION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OF AVENUE A BETWEEN 1306 S. ELM AVENUE AND 14 E. ROSE AVENUE ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT 1 TO THIS ORDINANCE #9139 AND COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 4,350 SQUARE FEET AND CONSOLIDATING LOTS FOR A NEW CITY FIRE STATION AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO, having been introduced and read twice on January 5, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9139.
Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9139.
MEMBERS VOTING:
AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD
NOES: NONE
Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9139 was approved.

BILL #9140 – THIRD READING
On motion of Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, BILL #9140 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, ON APRIL 6, 2021, TO CONSIDER IMPOSING A LOCAL USE TAX AT THE SAME RATE AS THE LOCAL SALES TAX OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, FOR PURCHASES FROM OUT-OF-STATE VENDORS THAT EXCEED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS, having been introduced and read twice on January 5, 2021, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9140.
Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9140.
MEMBERS VOTING:
AYES: FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS
NOES: NONE
Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9140 was approved.

Councilmember Arnold requested that the letter from Rebecca Now, Webster Shrewsbury Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce, in support of the Use Tax, be included in the minutes. (See Exhibit D)

Also, Council agreed to discuss at the next work session -- how the Use Tax monies would be used, if approved.

CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Councilmember Richardson, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve the Consent Agenda.
Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.
MEMBERS VOTING:
AYES: SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN
NOES: NONE
Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.
January 19, 2021

The following consent agenda was approved:
  • Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2021

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 7:49 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of February, 2021.

[Signature]
MAYOR

[Signature]
CITY CLERK
This remark is focused on the need and opportunity for City Council & Staff to lead by example and inspire the **REAL character of Webster Groves and its citizens**.

One of the five factors in assessing a new Conditional Use Permit application deals with the **"character of the neighborhood"**. But Dr. Martin Luther King preached about something deeper and more important: the **"content of our character"**.

**Character is the moral development of the heart** and is defined by the Core Values that guide our daily speech, thoughts, choices, decisions and actions. Thus, it seems to reason that the REAL character of a neighborhood and community lies in the hearts of its citizens and not in the look and feel of its historic architecture.

Core Values is also an essential element of the 2021 Strategic Plan Council & Staff will soon meet to develop. What might these values be for our community and citizens? **Trust?** **Honesty?** **Kindness?** **Acceptance?** **Sharing?** **Empathy?** **Diversity?** **Equity?** **Humility?** **Others?**

How can Council inspire such values? **First**, through **leading by example and role modeling** these values in your daily lives and interactions. And **second**, by embracing a unique and effective leadership model called **"Leadership by Values"**.

Here's how it works. Once you identify your Core Values, **do everything you can throughout the year to live up to and maximize each Core Value**. And if you do, two things will happen: 1) decision-making is simple, and 2) your Council goals will take care of themselves. In short, don't worry so much about your goals; worry instead about the values that make the goals happen.

Trust me. It works. I use this model all the time, most recently in putting on "Porchfest" last October. One of our Core Values was **"Sharing, Not Spending"** and Porchfest succeeded because of our community's incredible capacity to share and we did not spend one penny on the event.

But forget what I think. What are the Core Values you value most in your community & citizens that uniquely defines and differentiates Webster Groves?

Thank YOU!!! And welcome, Marie, as our new City Manager!!!

**PEACE.**

**DAVE**

file:///C:/Users/nakazono/AppData/Local/Temp/XPgrpwise/600564E6WG_DOMWG_P... 1/19/2021
"A penny saved is a penny earned" is good advice for all of us, especially for the City Government of Webster Groves.

Despite the city’s decrease in tax collections and fees due to COVID-19, our city government continues to spend more than before the pandemic. There is a loss of fees from the Recreation Center, decreased utility tax collections, an employee pension shortfall of $975 thousand dollars, and a whopping $1.2 million decrease in sales tax collections from just 3 months of the COVID shutdown. Given that our city leaders continue to spend, while others belt-tighten, lose their jobs, and close their businesses during these trying economic times, the City of Webster Groves has millions of dollars to spend, spend, spend:

- $5.4 million dollars for Fire House
- $21.5 million dollars for Capital Improvement projects ranging from park concrete to a new Aquatic Center over the next four years
- 2 lobbying firms for the SG collaborative
- 2 lobbying firms to promote the use/internet sales tax
- $4,500 for the first step of a four Step Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program for the government of the City of Webster Groves
- $15 thousand to reprint the 6 April ballots to put the use/internet sales tax on it
- Twice a year pay raises for the 40 fire/EMS personnel, 47 police officers, and 54 administrative staff.

No amount of taxation can save Webster from this kind of profligate spending. The proposed use/internet sales tax is expected to only generate 250 thousand dollars which won’t cover the planned spending but will hurt Webster’s retail businesses by increasing the price of their goods and services.

The city needs businesses to collect sales taxes. In just the first 3 months of the pandemic, the city is short 1.2 million dollars in sales tax collections. How are sales tax collections since July of 2020? Businesses need sales not a 13th sales killing use/internet tax. If passed, people and businesses will simply shop online from the 27 states without a use/internet sales tax of 9.24%.

Webster Groves Residents and businesses simply can’t afford MORE taxes and MORE spending, unless our motto is a special place “to live, work, and raise a family in a traditional yet progressive community” of Webster “tax’em more to spend more” Groves.
Sir Winston Churchill said it best, "I contend that for a nation (Webster Groves) to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."
January 19, 2021
Dear Council,

My name is Addie Siefert, 444 Oak Tree, Webster Groves.
I am against the use of golf carts on our City Streets.
I share concerns with Police Chief
There are 3 around my neighborhood. 1 of which I think has some sort of taillights.
Although "It is currently illegal for golf carts to be driven by anyone on public streets,"
They do it anyway. I don't think anyone has been criminalized yet.
I have seen teens driving these, and also adults with kids in the back. They never
seem seat belted in. (I also saw a teen driving down the wrong side of the street)
I don't see why the law should change, because a few people, bought one and want to
play in the street.
They can't keep up to speed on streets and are too wide to pass safely.
They could not be safe in a crash. Who knows if they are insured?
Without headlights, brake lights, reflectors, speedometers, seat belts, turn signals,
mirrors and windshields, They are a danger on the streets.
Most are a nuisance already

The ones at Webster University are a nuisance also, but at least they are within their
campus area. They seem to be gas powered and stink to high heaven.
Usually their taillights do not work, and they pull in front of cars, going 12 mph.
Please keep them off the streets!

Thank you,
Addie Siefert
Katie Nakazono - Use Tax letter for Jan 19, 2021

From: rebecca now <rebecca@go-webster.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 1/19/2021 3:13 PM
Subject: Use Tax letter for Jan 19, 2021
Cc: "nakazonok@webstergroves.org" <nakazonok@webstergroves.org>
Attachments: Use tax advocacy letter to city council.docx

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The Chamber of Commerce supports the addition of the use tax ordinance 9140 to the April election ballot. Without the passage of this use tax, our small businesses in Webster Groves are at a disadvantage compared to out of state and online competition. It is unfair that consumers will pay no sales tax if they purchase from an online merchant and are taxed when shopping within our own community, in brick and mortar stores. For this reason, it is imperative to pass a use tax in the city of Webster Groves and throughout the state of Missouri so that there is an 'even playing field' and our small businesses are not kept at an unfair disadvantage. Consumers pay attention to the amount of sales tax they pay, and it is a consideration when making a purchase.

A use tax will protect in-state retailers against unfair competition from out-of-state sellers that aren't required to collect tax. It is time for the state of Missouri to protect all in-state retailers, rural and urban, by enacting a state-wide use tax.

The residents of Missouri need funding of state and local programs and services, and their spending dollars whether in-state or out-of-state should equally benefit the programs and services that government provides.

At least 45 other states have a Use Tax, and it is past time for the state of Missouri to come on board. For these reasons, the Webster Groves/Shrewsbury/Rock Hill Area Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed ordinance 9140.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Rebecca Now
Executive Director
Webster Groves/Shrewsbury/Rock Hill Area
Chamber of Commerce
314-962-4142

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