

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2020

A meeting of the Warrensburg City Council was held on April 27, 2020, via a video conference call. Roll was called as follows, Present were: Brooks, Jacobs, Holmberg, Allen, Lund. Absent: none.

The minutes of the April 13, 2020, City Council meeting were considered. Jacobs moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020, City Council meeting. Yes: Brooks, Jacobs, Holmberg, Allen, Lund. No: none.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Allen moved to adopt the agenda. Yes: Brooks, Jacobs, Holmberg, Allen, Lund. No: none.

Bill No. 4-3-20 being for an Ordinance Suspending Deadlines and Providing for Late Fee Relief Under the Code of Ordinances in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic was read for the first time by title. City Manager Harold Stewart said this ordinance would temporarily suspend late fees for business license, sewer bills and liquor licenses. Mayor Lund said with this decision the City is being business friendly during these tough times. Stewart said this has been common throughout the state during the pandemic. Jacobs moved said bill be passed to second reading by title. Carried unanimously. Said bill was read a second time. Roll was called for the adoption or rejection of said bill as follows: Yes: Brooks, Jacobs, Holmberg, Allen, Lund. No: none. Said bill was declared duly adopted and given Ordinance No. 5576.

In Other Business was the State of the City Update by City Manager Stewart. He said before City staff has done a good job of projecting and analyzing revenues. Stewart said this past fiscal year no significant projects had been budgeted. He said the past few years more money was allocated for employee salaries and benefits.

Stewart said with COVID-19 the financial picture has changed drastically. Stewart said with the closure of non-essential businesses has caused a decline in revenues. He said the City continues to see growth with the construction of Casey's and several new restaurants will be opening. Stewart said Marshall's will be opening in the old MC Sporting Goods Store which is exciting. He said COVID-19 has delayed the opening of several of these stores. Stewart said several sight selectors have been researching on-line and Retail Coach is continuing to showcase Warrensburg.

Stewart said he sent a memo to City staff last week stating the City will be seeing a significant decrease in franchise taxes and City sales taxes. He is estimating this to be a loss of revenue of around \$420,000 from original projections. Stewart said the following has been implemented:

- 1) All out-of-state travel or training expenses will be suspended, with exception of the Kansas City metro area, for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- 2) Furloughs for Non-Exempt and Exempt employees.  
Non-exempt employees: 12 days of unpaid furlough before September 30, 2020.  
Exempt Employees: 3 weeks of unpaid furlough before September 30, 2020.
- 3) The three current vacant positions are 2 police officers and a fire department training officer.

Stewart said as new vacant positions occur, the positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Stewart said the threshold for the PTO (Paid Time Off) was increased from 120 to 160 hours.

Stewart said some tough decisions will need to be discussed when the budget process begins for the next fiscal year. He said there will be a need to look at the contracts with the various organizations, possible position cuts, and possible salary freezes and continuing furloughs. Stewart estimates there may need to be an approximate cut of one million dollars in expenses for the upcoming budget.

Stewart did point out one positive fact was the City's decision to place the issue concerning the signal lights and new infrastructure on Maguire Street as a bond issue rather than a sales tax issue. He said the decision for it to be a property tax issue is much better financially.

Stewart said University of Central Missouri President Roger Best has hired a consultant to help analyze sales tax projections. He said there has never been anything that has caused such a negative effect on sales tax. Stewart said this information could help forecast the impact of COVID-19 on sales tax revenues. He said this could be a resource for other communities across the state too.

Council Member Holmberg said he appreciates City Manager Stewart going over all this information. Holmberg said earlier this year he had decided he would be calculating his on-line purchases and giving that money to the City to be deposited into the City's General Revenue Fund. Holmberg said he will also be donating his quarterly stiffen for gas mileage and would also like that to be deposited into the General Fund. Mayor Lund thanked Council Member Holmberg for this contribution.

Under Appearances to the Council Not Listed on the Agenda, Phil Miller, 601 Wren Way, said the Governor of Missouri will be re-opening the state on May 4, 2020, and asked what the changes will mean for Warrensburg. Mayor Lund said Warrensburg will mirror what the state does. Mayor Lund said Johnson County Community Health is currently discussing this to see if the County wants to enact any measures beyond the state order. The Mayor said this is all the information he has at this time.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Casey Lund, Mayor

Attest:

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Cindy Gabel, City Clerk