

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2023

A meeting of the Warrensburg City Council was held on June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at 200 S. Holden and via Zoom, with Mayor Kushner presiding. Mayor Kushner called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called as follows, Present: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. Absent: Bentley.

The City Council Regular Meeting and Work Session Minutes of June 12, 2023 were considered. Osborne moved to approve the minutes. Yes: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Jones moved to adopt the agenda. Yes: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none.

Jay Hahn and Ryan DeBoef of Government Relations presented information on their services representing the city's interests in the State legislature, Governor's office, and sixteen different executive agencies. The firm also provides regulatory review and grant assistance noting the recent award of \$250,000 Local Tourism Asset Development Grant for the new Visitor's Center \$119,500 Jail Security Improvement Grant (County), \$20,000 Fire Protection Grant (County) and \$20,000 Fire Protection Grant (City). Currently, the Brady Commerce Park (County) \$5,000,000 industrial expansion project and Skyhaven Airport (County) \$850,000 in collaboration with UCM was appropriated but both projects were pending Governor Parson's decision on Friday, June 30th.

As detailed in the End of Session Government Relations Update dated May 21, 2023, DeBoef said 64 bills passed with 19 budget bills and 5 were concurrent resolutions that do not have the force of law like a bill. There were modest changes to closed records and information disclosure rules, minor changes to sales and property tax laws and criminal justice omnibus bill. DeBoef pointed out several 2023 local government omnibus bills that did not pass which included changes to the parks board statute, home-based business fix, cable franchise fees, requirements for public comment at meetings, ballot language on local tax measures, and exempting sales tax from sales of food, diapers, etc. As discussed with City Manager Dulin, Hahn said the firm is working on the next offering of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the City's Market Street project, federal grant offerings for the MoDOT Highway 50 project and appropriations leading up to the 2024 Legislative Session.

As part of the FY24 budget discussions, City Manager Dulin placed the compensation plan study on the regular meeting agenda. Dulin said Courtney Christensen had worked on the compensation plan since last summer upon the retirement of the HR Director. Dulin said it was apparent that the city had fallen behind in wages to recruit and retain public safety employees, and there were currently nine vacancies in the police department. The city also started to see other departments suffer wage gaps in parks maintenance and public works. The city made a few adjustments in 2022 to try to meet these wage gaps. Dulin said all departments have fallen behind in competitive wages which hinders the ability to provide services to the community. Dulin said there has been careful consideration and lots of number crunching on the proposed compensation plan and it is presented for consideration as an FY24 budget recommendation.

Courtney Christensen said she was hired last July 2022 as the Interim HR Director and was given the project to complete a competitive compensation study. Christensen said the city's last

compensation study was done by Austin Peters and implemented in 2018 but there was a feeling that it did not meet the needs of the city nor was it competitive with other agencies. Christensen studied that plan, how it was done, and why the inability to keep trained police officers and firefighters from being stolen by other agencies. Christensen explained that typically a consultant picks comparable cities and uses that same set of comparable cities no matter what the position even though city services may not be the same (i.e., a wastewater treatment plant, community center, etc.). The consultant would fill in numbers on a table to complete the study instead of offering a true comparison. Christensen explained that she used a different approach in this compensation study.

Christensen interviewed each department director on where they were losing employees and what was being offered elsewhere (billboards with sign-on bonuses) and came up with lists for each position. Christensen said every single full-time position in the city was looked at by itself with its position description and compared against position descriptions in salary studies of the Mid-America Regional Council and the Missouri Municipal League. From that list, cities were chosen that were in the area, same size population, and in some cases not the same size population necessarily but the same amenities as a community center or same acreage of park land. The process was time intensive to go to that level to be competitive. Christensen met again with department directors to see if each employee was performing the same duties as the position listed. In some cases, the position was not the same. For example, the city's firefighters have higher certifications in EMT training, so a standard comparison was not going to be competitive and a Firefighter EMT2 position was deemed much more comparable to the city's position duties.

At the August 2022 city council work session, Christensen presented the initial results of the study and said the salaries were so skewed that she did not see how the city could afford to meet the minimums in those salary ranges in one year. Christensen recommended that the salaries of all employees who received an evaluation of average or above should be raised 5% and that all the salary ranges should be raised 5%. The recommendation would not catch the employees up, but it would give salaries a step forward. The city council approved this recommendation and Christensen reconfigured the salary study with the 5% increase.

Christensen said the next steps were to identify each employee's years of service, placement on the salary range, determine what is the bottom of the range and what are the different quartiles. City Manager Dulin and Christensen had presented this information today to all the department directors individually by departments.

After several discussions with City Manager Dulin, it was decided the study would focus on the bottom salary range in Phase 1 in the approximate amount of \$239,000. There were some employees that were already higher so they would not be looking at an increase but would receive a minimum raise of \$240 a year for time on the job that would go in their base pay.

Christensen explained that salary range was the middle or median of all comparable cities/districts for each one of the positions, and in some cases, twelve cities or fire districts were used to establish the median. Then positions were ranked based on the median. Christensen said this study did not change an employee's range artificially by trying to make fewer ranges which is what happens a lot in a typical study. Christensen said it was decided to identify employees' jobs individually and give them their own ranges.

Christensen said the median salary range of the comparable cities was the starting point. The \$239,000 amount did not include Lagers, FICA, long or short-term disability, etc. Christensen

was given a number that would get the city between \$225,000 to \$275,000 of salary so that when it was all rolled up, the amount would not be more than \$350,000. Christensen said due to the nine vacant patrol officer positions and losing trained firefighters, it was recommended to move all those positions to the bottom of the new salary range. The city needs to get those positions up and so the wage study includes those positions moving to the bottom of the range in total (and not in the 75%). The study recommends that starting police officers (not cadets) would be at \$21.06 per hour at the start of the range.

Christensen said the result was \$239,598.39 to get it done so 100% of the police officers and firefighters being at the bottom, and the other ones going to 75% of the bottom of the range. The city cannot move these ranges until it can get everybody there but will know what that number is when new people are hired until the city can get the next phase done.

Christensen said the undecided future number of Phase 2 is \$399,238.70 and it is not what is being proposed this evening. Phase 2 is not only the 25% of the remaining people who would get to the bottom but also looks at all the employees and how long they have been in their present position. Christensen said if an employee has been in their present position for five-to-seven years, the employee should be at the median of the salary range. The number in Phase 2 includes all employees who have been here five years or more moving to the median in the future. Christensen said it does not move the people who have been here ten years or more who should be at the top of the third quartile to that position, but it is just moving everybody to the median. Christensen said the amount to implement Phase 2 may change as employees cross over the five-year mark.

Christensen said the Phase 1 amounts per department are as follows:

Police \$83,063.75

Fire \$83,677.09

Christensen said the numbers drop dramatically after this point based on size of the departments. Public Works is a larger department but there were several adjustments made to certain departments this past fiscal year as mentioned by the City Manager.

Public Works/WPC \$34,744.80

Community Development \$7,300 (instead of \$6,800)

Park and Recreation \$12,830 (full-time filled positions only)

Finance \$11,476.95

Administration \$6,956.40 (Includes the City Manager's office, Court, IT Technology, Human Resources)

No member of the executive team is getting anything in this \$239,598.39 phase even if it shows that they should, and their ranges will not be adjusted until the regular workers are adjusted first.

City Manager Dulin said the \$225,000-\$250,000 mark and managing the entire financial impact to \$350,000 was a sustainable number pursuant to the last budget discussion on all city fund balances of general fund, wastewater pollution and parks. Councilmember Uhler asked if this

will help in the police department. Chief Munsterman said that it was a step in the right direction. Councilmember Jones asked if this would help keep and recruit people. Chief Munsterman said that all agencies were dealing with this issue and at least the city would be comparable and not \$3 or \$4 behind. Christensen said the city would need to regularly evaluate its salary study on an annual basis to stay competitive.

In response to Councilmember Jones' inquiry, Christensen confirmed that Phase 1 of \$239,000 (or \$350,000 of entire financial impact) would be funded by use of the fund balance for the FY24 budget, and Phase 2 was \$400,000 and was an unfunded amount so a decision would need to be made on a new revenue source before any implementation. Councilmember Jones asked what consisted of the \$400,000. Christensen said \$400,000 is what is left to meet the plan, and that is the 25% of employees that didn't get to get to the bottom of ranges and money for people who have been here five or more years at a minimum would need to get to the median of the range. Councilmember Jones asked if Phase 1 would get the employees to the median. Christensen replied not even close and that was part of what was misspoken about the Austin Peters study. The employees were given the impression that they were being moved to the median and they were never being moved to the median. In that study, the consultant calculated the median and then reduced it to 80% and started everybody there instead and also used comparable cities that were not competitors and did not provide the same services either.

Christensen said that Phase 1 does not get employees to the median but instead to the bottom of the salary range of the middle of their comparable cities. In fact, Phase 1 does not even get them all the way there because it is only 75% of what it takes to get them there except for the police officers and firefighters (minus the supervisory personnel). Councilmember Jones asked if the employees that have been here are not going to get an increase. Christensen said many of them are just getting the basic \$240.

City Manager Dulin said the goal was to bring people to the bottom of that competitive salary range. Dulin said we are trying to balance and prioritize and get the 75% to the bottom but then also be able to account for years of service and give a little bit of priority so we do not run into compression issues. It has been a challenging exercise to make sure that we are prioritizing those entry level positions for recruitment and trying to give credit to our employees who have been here. Dulin said we are not getting everyone to the median in Phase 1. Councilmember Jones was concerned about loyal and good employees hanging on. Dulin said some of those bottom ranges have moved and those employees would be receiving 75% of the way to the bottom of the competitive range which is a significant amount for a position in public works who has been on board for five-to-six years. Dulin said just 75% of what the employee is making now compared to the bottom of that competitive range is \$2,500-\$3,000 but for now we are not going to be able to get them all the way to the bottom and afford to be able to give them credit for all the years of service that they have given us. Dulin said that these adjustments are sustainable with the current revenue source of fund balance for several years, but the city still has a significant chunk of work of \$400,000 that is unfunded to work towards. Dulin said in April, the city asked for a one percent sales tax increase as 70% of our budget in general fund is personnel costs. Dulin said it was not easy to go out and ask for the tax increase which lost by 66 votes, but as we continue to put together and develop this budget the question to ask is do we go back to voters and ask for that one percent again, or what does that look like truly being able to maintain our demands and our personnel expenses as well as our operational expenses with inflation on materials, labor and equipment going up. Councilmember Uhler commented on the nine police vacancies leading to added stress on current officers due to overtime demands. Mayor Kushner asked if there was action requested on this item. Dulin said there is no action on this competitive compensation plan tonight but did ask for direction from city council as final

budget presentations are put forth in the next few weeks and whether city council is comfortable with the recommendation to incorporate it into the FY24 budget. Dulin said the city would be spending down fund balances this year if city council moves forward with these salary adjustments.

Suzanne Taylor, Executive Director of the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of the Warrensburg Train Depot Renovation Corporation as an ex-officio member of the board. Taylor said President William Bernier could not be in attendance for the meeting. Taylor gave a brief history of the historic depot. The depot board has been in existence for over thirty years and the board participates through the Warrensburg Chamber for advocacy and continuation of Amtrak railroad services. Last year, the new railway platform was completed marked with a dedication ceremony. The depot board maintains the structure and specifically repaired the roof, renovated train waiting rooms, and landscaping. The depot is a beautiful feature for the residents in the community and serves the Chamber office, Amtrak, Inter-city bus terminal, and Jack Moore Community Room. Taylor thanked the city council on behalf of the depot renovation preservation board for its past support and made a request for FY24 of \$2,000. This amount has been reduced from last year's request of \$5,000 due to the electronic door lock access project slated for installation by the city this year.

Dana Phelps, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County said she has served as executive director for the past five years. Phelps has submitted quarterly reports highlighting the 25-year anniversary of the agency, celebrating twelve matches made so far in 2023, lifetime matches made of 832 and awarded Agency of the Year as part of the BBBS of Greater Kansas City. Phelps said the BBBS of Johnson County was the recipient of a Missouri Waste Management grant in the fall of 2022. This grant has allowed their donation center to expand and be upgraded to provide operational and aesthetic improvements. So far this year, the BBBS has taken in 150,709 pounds of textiles and miscellaneous household items through weekly pick-ups at community outreach locations. Phelps said the Barnet House continues to provide a wonderful location and their volunteer hours and security cameras benefit Shepard Park. Phelps said the decision made by the BBBS board to install a new HVAC system in the building has offered financial efficiency and system dependability. Phelps gave a testimonial of a program participant's positive experience in the program. Phelps made a request for FY24 to continue to occupy the Barnet House at Shepard Park and for continued support financially in the amount of \$2000 quarterly.

Jill Purvis, Executive Director for Warrensburg Main Street said several board members were present at the meeting. Purvis said Warrensburg Main Street has been active for over 25 years as a non-profit organization. Purvis offered a detailed 2022 annual report and highlighted several goals and activities over the past year. Main Street offered over 49 event days in downtown, organized clean-up days for community pride, enhanced funding sources, provided meeting places downtown, and facilitated efforts to revitalize downtown through the award of seven façade grants offered by the City and Main Street. Purvis reported a 19% building vacancy with a projected vacancy rate of 11% by the end of 2023. Purvis said the farmers' market saw an increase of 166% of seasoned vendors since 2018 with over 300 attendees each week and reported sales up by 40% each Saturday. Purvis said that Burgfest 2022 had record attendance and sales. Purvis said Main Street works with over fifty volunteers logging 3,796 volunteer hours valued at \$120,000. Purvis said Warrensburg Main Street appreciated the city's annual support and requested FY24 funding of \$22,250.

Norm Lucas, Executive Director, Pioneer Trails Regional Planning Commission distributed a 2022 Annual Report and said the membership dues for FY24 were \$7,160 based on population.

Lucas said membership included service as a MoDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) planning partner, grant application assistance, land use planning, mapping services and economic-needs strategic planning. Lucas said City Manager Dulin serves as part of the governing board and Assistant City Manager-Public Works Director Villegas serves on the Transportation Advisory Board. Lucas noted that Ben McCabe has moved on and MoDOT is searching for his replacement as area engineer. Lucas said they provided recent grant application services for the Market Street project through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Lucas appreciated working with the city's staff and looked forward to an agreement renewal.

Tracy Brantner, Executive Director of Johnson County Economic Development, serving in a nonvoting administrative clerical support and as registered agent, spoke on behalf of Whiteman Area Leadership Council. Brantner said President Greg Frencken could not attend the meeting. Brantner said WALC advocates on behalf of WAFB to sustain its mission with board leadership at the local, state, Pentagon and Global Strike Command levels. WALC functions at all levels to know what the air force wants and the basis for decisions on education, license reciprocity, housing, and childcare. WALC completed a housing assessment needs study covering a thirty-mile radius of the base. The study is available online at supportwhiteman.com and focuses on five topics of housing, education, health care, childcare, and sponsored employment. The funding request for FY24 is \$5,000.

Suzanne Taylor, Executive Director of Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce, served as Past President of Whiteman Base Community Council, spoke on behalf of President Carl Kramer who could not be in attendance for this meeting. Taylor handed out a brochure on the Base Community Council and said it is made up of sixteen communities that surround WAFB with a mission to support airmen and their families. The military members are encouraged to engage and be part of the local community and, on occasion, return after service has ended. The council supports special events including a family Easter egg hunt and Independence Day celebration and programs of Adopt an Airmen, Scholarship and Home for the Holidays. Taylor appreciated the city's support and requested FY24 funding of \$3,000.

Dawn Ashurst, Operations Manager II for OATS Transit, said OATS Transit was established in 1973 and provided service in 87 counties of the State of Missouri and operates out of Sedalia. OATS Transit had provided services as Old Drum since 2003. Ashurst said in the past year, 2,400 curb-to-curb rides and one-way trips and service contracts with Care Connections, Medicaid and Headstart programs. Ashurst said FY24 operational costs are \$127,248 (estimated fares of 2,892) minus \$15,000 contract and \$8,895 fare collections leaving \$103,353 in funding needs. Ashurst said OATS Transit will keep fares at \$1.50 and curb-to-curb at \$2.50. Ashurst said the funding request for FY24 is \$18,000.

Bill No. 06-07-2023 being for an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to Enter into an Agreement between the City of Warrensburg and Johnson County Emergency Management for the Use of the Emergency Operations Center, was read for a first time. Chief Jennings said an emergency operations center (EOC) is often opened to provide a central operating point during a multiple discipline response in emergency management. The City has previously maintained toolboxes that contain basic items to establish an EOC however, those resources are limited and require additional time to deploy and set-up. The Johnson County Emergency Management Agency maintains a facility with access to radio communications and computers equipped to quickly activate and function as an EOC while also providing a location removed from the city which would likely be impacted by an event requiring the EOC. Councilmember Jones asked if mobile units were still in use. Chief Jennings answered that

mobile units are used but not deployed for all emergency management incidents. There were no further questions. Jones moved said bill be passed to a 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: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none. Said bill was duly adopted and given Ordinance No. 5804.

Mayor Kushner read a Resolution in Support of the City of Knob Noster State Park Road Annexation. City Manager Dulin heard from Knob Noster's City Administrator that their city proposed to annex portions of Highway 23 and DD Highway adjacent to the Knob Noster State Park Road to provide the city's police and emergency services along those highways. The proposed annexation of roadway is not in the city limits of Warrensburg and stops at the boundary line of the Knob Noster State Park. Dulin said that MoDOT required a resolution in support from surrounding municipalities. There being no questions, Jones moved to adopt said resolution. Roll was called as follows: Yes: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none. Said resolution was duly adopted and given Resolution No. 2257.

Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director Villegas requested to table discussion of Downtown Warrensburg Parklets and Sidewalk Dining until the next city council regular meeting.

Under Mayoral Appointments, Mayor Kushner recommended the following appointments with an exception for the removal of No. 3 (Bryan Jacobs) who did not want reappointment, as listed below:

1. Appoint Claude Owen as Director for the Parks and Recreation Board to fill an unexpired vacancy through June 2024
2. Re-appoint Dawn Gauvin as Director for the Parks and Recreation Board for a three-year term through June 2026
3. Re-appoint Bryan Jacobs as Director for the Parks and Recreation Board for a three-year term through June 2026
4. Re-appoint Brandon Campbell as Director for the Parks and Recreation Board for a three-year term through June 2026
5. Appoint Heather Salazar as a Non-Voting Member to fill an unexpired term for the Diversity and Inclusion Commission through June 2025 (Kennethea Berry)
6. Appoint Ellie Boman as the University of Central Missouri Student Non-Voting Member to fill an expired vacancy for the Diversity and Inclusion Commission for a three-year term through June 2026
7. Removal of Hannah Clark as Member of the Warrensburg Arts Commission for failure to achieve the percentage attendance requirements pursuant to City Code Section 2-395
8. Appoint Maya Kucij as Member of the Warrensburg Arts Commission to fill an unexpired term through October 2023 (Hannah Clark)

9. Re-appoint Terry Vair as Non-Voting Member for the Energy & Sustainability Task Force for a two-year term through February 2025
10. Re-appoint Jeremiah Robison as Member for the Energy & Sustainability Task Force for a two-year term through April 2025

Jones moved to approve the appointments with the removal of No. 3 (Bryan Jacobs) as presented. Roll was called as follows: Yes: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none.

Under Appearances to the Council not listed on the Agenda, Mayor Kushner offered a reminder that public comments were limited in length to three minutes.

Vicky Gibson, 99 SW 101 Rd, Warrensburg, handed a photo to the city council and said she was part of a protest on June 3 of the all-age drag show event held in Warrensburg. The protest was peaceful, and the police were awesome at communicating with protestors, making their presence evident and who thanked the protestors at the end for making it a peaceful protest. Gibson said she did not attend the last city council meeting but heard the speakers refer to threats made to them and stated that her group made no threats. Gibson was shocked that the city council quickly accommodated the agenda of the Pride event. Gibson said the event brought confusion, division and utter madness to our community and the nation especially given our elected officials whose whole purpose is to represent all of us including the children. Gibson said she watched the city council pledge allegiance to the flag, and said it seemed touching but hypocritical pledging one nation under God indivisible. Gibson said indivisible means something that cannot be broken or divided yet after receipt of hundreds of names on petitions asking to protect the children from this immoral and obscene nonsense, and receipt of photograph evidence of just how inappropriate the event was for children, the city council did nothing but praise and reward the divisive and immoral agenda. Gibson said that city council did not have the right to allow any group or individual to steal the innocence of children especially a group that is chanting and singing we are after your children. Gibson referred to the photo from a New York City Pride event.

Mike Compton, 5 SE 230 Rd, Warrensburg, said that he was present again to express concern about protecting children in our community from inappropriate performances. Compton said they want to make this about discrimination or the denial of rights, but it is not and that was just a deflection from dealing with a critical issue of protecting the innocence of children. As I saw the videos across the nation of Pridefest events, the message was very clear as the last speaker said they are chanting they are coming for our children from New York. Other celebrations had men exposing themselves to children as they marched down the street. These celebrations confirm that what they are promoting is the right to practice any sexual behavior that brings them pleasure. They are not representing individuals that make honorable contributions to our society as scientists, first responders or business leaders who are role models to our kids but displays of vulgar debauchery. As offensive as these events were to me, I have already formed my moral compass, but very young children have not formed their moral compass, and that is why they demand to include them in these events. Compton said it is evil and would not have believed it five years ago that drag queens performing sexually provocative performances in front of children would happen now but here we are. I have to look at what happens next. This year we saw minor-attracted person organizations attempting and sometimes succeeding to be included in the LGBTQ movement, and, in fact, Connecticut State legislature recently passed a bill declaring them a protected minority group. This is the next step of this movement, and it will be here soon unless we act to protect the children now. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us

guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” What these groups are promoting and performing for children is evil. We must all take a side. I pray you will spend some time researching for yourselves and I hope you will ask yourself if you want to continue supporting these groups that are leading us down this path. Passing a city ordinance may not offer substantial penalties but it would allow our great police to immediately shut down any event that violated preventing children from being exposed in the first place and that should be a top priority for all of us.

Mayor Kushner noted that Dorothy Arvizu, 37-SE 250 Rd, Warrensburg, was not present.

Mayor Kushner noted that Karen Churn, 412 N Charles, Warrensburg, was not present.

Under Miscellaneous Matters from the Mayor and City Council, Mayor Kushner said with the 4th of July coming up and the lack of rain that Chief Jennings and the fire department are about to become very busy and asked if people would pay attention during their holiday celebrations.

Under the City Manager’s report, Fire Chief Jennings said the pumper truck parts came in today and repairs were made to it. The air conditioner had seven leaks which caused the problem, and it has now been resolved. Police Chief Munsterman commended City Manager Dulin, Finance Director McCoy and Courtney Christensen for their work on the competitive salary study. Parks Director Deal echoed Police Chief’s sentiments on the compensation plan. Deal said the pool pump motor for the outdoor pool affected the lap pool section but the kiddie pool and lazy river were still operational. Deal shifted the day camp kids to the indoor pool. Deal reported that Park membership has increased from 420 members to 1,527 in the past six months.

City Manager Dulin introduced Katie Taylor as the new Human Resources Assistant. Katie was hired in February and has been working with Christensen and Dulin on HR issues. Dulin said the Residential Development Lunch and Learn is set for Wednesday. An invitation went out to contractors, real estate developers and agents to share the WALC housing study and information on the city’s sewer revenue bond election on August 8th.

Tourism Director Barnhart traveled to Springfield Illinois and promoted Warrensburg Train Depot and Missouri River Runner for several days the week of June 20th. The marketing event was paid for by MoDOT and Missouri Tourism with free railway travel from Amtrak. The new Visitor Guides were receiving positive feedback upon circulation. Barnhart reported that the Visitor Center has new windows, subfloors, fresh paint on indoor walls and a new awning. The exterior windows were wrapped to prevent condensation and a drop ceiling will be installed for utility efficiency. The Nextstar Media Group: Springfield TV Stations the production team will be in the community on Tuesday, June 27 through Wednesday, June 28 for a digital media “Tell our Story.” The tentative date for renovation completion for the Visitor Center is this Fall 2023.

City Manager Dulin said that Finance Director McCoy announced her retirement effective September 29, 2023. McCoy had worked for the city for three years. Councilmember Osborne applauded McCoy’s good work.

Under the Finance Report, Finance Director McCoy said the liquor license fee renewal reminders were sent out by Chris in the Finance Department. The new sewer collections clerk, Jeff, is learning his role quickly. McCoy said there was an inquiry regarding franchise revenue sources and McCoy said those revenues are strictly from utility services of phone, cable, water, gas and electric listed as gross receipts budgeted in the amount of \$2.6 million dollars. McCoy

noted with utility rate increase notices the budgeted amount may need to be adjusted further. McCoy said property tax levies will be presented in August.

Mayor Kushner read motion to close part of this meeting pursuant to Section 610.021 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, relating to: (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential information or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys. Osborne moved to close part of this meeting pursuant to Section 610.021 RSMo. Roll was called as follows: Yes: Osborne, Uhler, Jones, Kushner. No: none.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Jim Kushner, Mayor

Attest:



Jodi L. Schneider, City Clerk

