Mayor Eckert called this meeting to order.


ROLL CALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

Roll Call Department Heads: Mayor Eckert; City Clerk, Jennifer Gain Meyer; City Treasurer, Dean Hardt; Assistant City Attorney Flynn; Lt. Col. Eiskant; Director of Finance, Jamie Maitret; Director of Maintenance, Ken Vaughn; Director of Public Works, Jason Poole; Director of Wastewater, Randy Smith; Director of Residential and Commercial Development Services, Annissa McCaskill; Director of IT, Scott Markovich; City Engineer, Michael Velloff; Human Resource Manager, Emma Qualls.

Police Chief, Bill Clay; Fire Chief, Tom Pour; Director of Library, Leander Spearman excused.

PLEDGE

Mayor Eckert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Eckert requested a moment of silence for the Wigginton family. In the past two weeks Alderman Wigginton lost his wife and his father passed away at the age of 98.

Mayor Eckert asked everyone to please include in the moment of silence for the 400,000 people that have lost their lives to COVID-19.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stewart Lannert
He apologized for being one of the seventy-five million Trump supporters. They will have to be deprogrammed since their heads are not on straight.
Jeffrey Couch and the Belleville News Democrat want people to buy the paper and he read yesterday, January 18, 2021, J.D. Dixon is running for Mayor of Belleville. This was written up in the St. Louis Post Dispatch by a Belleville News Democrat reporter. Nothing in the Belleville paper about J.D. running for mayor.

This summer two people were shot in Belleville. This was found in the St. Louis Post Dispatch and not the Belleville paper. He told this to Jeffrey Couch at the Belleville News Democrat, and he received a nasty telephone call from him and was told he was not good enough to get such an esteemed newspaper and he was going to cancel the subscription.

Telephonic issues...Alderman Elmore requested a reboot the system.


PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Alderwoman Stiehl made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Steven G. Thouvenot as Building Commissioner, effective immediately, pursuant to Section 31.056 of the City’s Revised Code of Ordinances, and finding that such position requires technical training or knowledge as set forth in the applicable job description within the meaning of Section 31.031(A) of the City’s Revised Code of Ordinances.

Discussion…

Alderman Ovian asked if he has any background with asbestos removal experience; Mayor Eckert advised this was never asked. Alderman Ovian stated asbestos removal experience will be in vacant housing and it will be a plus.

Alderman Ovian asked if he lives in the Belleville zip code; Mayor Eckert stated he lives in Millstadt. This was advertised for two months and he is the most qualified person for the job.

Alderman Barfield asked how many applications were received; Human Resources Manager, Emma Qualls, advised the City received four (4) formal applications. Mayor Eckert advised he spoke with three (3) non-applicants.

Members voting aye on roll call: Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield. (15)

Alderman Dintelman lost connection.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Weygandt made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve City Council Meeting Minutes January 4, 2021.

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella. (15)

CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND DISBURSEMENTS

Alderman Anthony made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve claims and disbursements in the amount of $1,004,959.05 payroll in the amount of $859,459.16.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel. (15)

REPORTS


Members voting aye on roll call: Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco. (15)

ORAL REPORTS

FINANCE

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve extending agreement with CJ Schlosser & Company for audit services through fiscal year ending April 30, 2025.

Members voting aye on roll call: Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa. (15)

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Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve engagement of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. as underwriter for potential municipal securities transactions for the possible refunding of SWIDA bonds, Series 2011A, B and C (Carlyle/Green Mount redevelopment project).

Members voting aye on roll call: Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa. (14)

Alderman Randle abstained. (1)
CRIME FREE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Alderman Kinsella made a motion seconded by Alderman Ferguson to approve extension of late fees for Rental Property Registration, if not paid in full by November 15, 2020 to March 1, 2021 (for Rental Registration calendar year 2020 only).


WALNUT HILL CEMETERY BOARD

Alderman Weygandt made a motion seconded by Alderman Ferguson to approve apparent low bidder, Hank’s Excavating & Landscaping Company in the amount of $56,213.00 for the Walnut Hill Niche Improvement Project (Perpetual Care Fund and TIF 3).

Discussion…

Director of Public Works, Jason Poole, advised the Niche will hold 96 urns with room for expansion.

Alderman Elmore asked if Hank’s was the only bidder; City Clerk Meyer advised Hank’s, Keller Construction, Calhoun Construction, Prado Construction, Stutz Excavation, KRB Excavating all submitted bids.

Members voting aye on roll call: Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony. (15)

PLANNING COMMISSION

Alderwoman Stiehl made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve McDonald’s c/o Farnsworth Group: Site Plan, Landscape Plan and Architectural Elevations for the development of an approximately 4,597 square foot fast food restaurant, at 906 Carlyle Avenue, a “C-2” Heavy Commercial District-zoned .96-acre site. (Parcel 08-23.0-401-023). Ward 7 Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

Discussion…

Alderman Elmore asked if this is the same ownership from last year; Director of Residential and Commercial Development Services, Annissa McCaskill stated yes, it is the same franchise owner and McDonalds Corporation owns the property.

Members voting aye on roll call: Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian. (15)
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Alderman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderman Ferguson to enter into a contract with Water Odyssey in the amount of $121,580.72 for splash pad amenities and a contract with Capri Pool & Aquatics in the amount of $305,278 for splash pad construction (DCEO Grant $300,000 and $126,858.72 Recreation Fund).

Discussion...

Alderman Elmore stated he received questions from residents for money being spent on a splash pad instead of their street. Alderman Elmore reassured them that there is no money of the $126,858.72 coming out a street fund and the recreation fund cannot be spent on streets. Alderman Elmore stated this is a great addition to our parks features. Alderman Elmore asked if this is 4001 square foot project; City Clerk Meyer advised this is 4001 square feet.

Alderman Weygandt asked if this includes lights and cameras; Mayor Eckert stated there are already lights, bathrooms and parking lot is already available at the location. If cameras are needed in parks that will have to be another discussion. Director of Public Works, Jason, Poole, advised lights were not considered since the splash pad will not be open after dark.

Members voting aye on roll call: Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian. (15)

STREETS & GRADES

Alderman Wigginton made a motion seconded by Alderman Rothweiler to approve the following motions:

- Motion to waive formal bidding procedure and approve Hank’s Excavating for Installation of PaverArt to southeast quadrant of Public Square with removal of two trees and greenspace, to be replace with concrete. (Fund by Ameren)

- Motion to approve Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC for engineering services for Lebanon Avenue resurfacing from the intersection with “F” Street to the intersection with IL-161 (excluding Metrolink Overpasses), in the amount of $199,416.00.

- Motion to approve Municipal Estimate of Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code in the amount of $1,962,105.00.

- Motion to approve the purchase of a new tandem axle dump/snow unit from Rush Truck Centers in the amount of $174,406 utilizing the State of Illinois contract.

Members voting aye on roll call: Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer. (15)
COMMUNICATIONS

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Duco to approve the following communications:

- **ART ON THE SQUARE TENTATIVE DATES**
  Request from Art on the Square to reschedule tentative dates for Art on the Square, Friday, October 22, 2021 through Sunday, October 24, 2021. Street closure request Thursday, October 21, 2021, 10:00am to Sunday, October 24, 2021, 11:00pm. ALL EVENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW COVID-19 MITIGATION ISSUED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT TIME OF EVENT.

- **EVENTS AT THE VENUE MARCH 2021**
  Venue on Main request to host Events at the Venue on Friday, March 5, Saturday, March 6, Sunday, March 7, Friday, March 12, Saturday, March 13, Sunday, March 14, Friday, March 19, Saturday, March 20, Sunday, March 21, Friday, March 26, Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28, 2021. Street closure request first block of South 2nd Street to alley, 3:00pm to 11:30pm on all dates. Additional request of barricades. ALL EVENTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW COVID-19 MITIGATION ISSUED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT TIME OF EVENT.

Members voting aye on roll call: Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl. (15)

RESOLUTIONS

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderman Barfield to read by title only Resolution 3400.

Members voting aye on roll call: Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler. (15)

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderman Ferguson to approve **RESOLUTION 3400** A Resolution of the City of Belleville, Illinois Authorizing the Execution of the Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation.

Members voting aye on roll call: Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore. (15)

ORDINANCES

Alderman Ferguson made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to read by title only Ordinance 8905-2021.

Members voting aye on roll call: Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt. (15)
Alderman Ferguson made a motion seconded by Alderwoman Schaefer to approve ORDINANCE 8905-2021 An Ordinance Delaying the Deadline for Payment of Fees for Annual Rental Property Registration in Calendar Year 2020.


UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Ovian asked if the TIF 3 expenditure in the amount of $37,000 paid to the State of Illinois was tax revenue owed to the State; Director of Finance, Jamie Maitret, advised this is a progress payment for the Centreville Avenue project.

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Alderman Ovian recommended requesting monies from the State of Illinois for the upkeep of Mt. Hope Cemetery.

MISCELLANEOUS & NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Ferguson made a motion seconded by Alderman Weygandt to approve the Motor Fuel Claims in the Amount of $2,722.04.

Members voting aye on roll call: Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield. (15)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderman Ferguson to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)), collective negotiation matters (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)), and personnel, litigation, workers’ compensation, property acquisition, transfer of property, (5 ILCS 120/2(c)).

Members voting aye on roll call: Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella. (15)

Entered executive session at 8:16 p.m.
Resumed from Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Roll Call Department Heads: Treasurer Dean Hardt; Assistant City Attorney Flynn; Human Resource Manager, Emma Qualls.

Alderman Ferguson made a motion seconded by Alderman Anthony to read by title only Resolution 3401.

Members voting aye on roll call: Duco, Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel. (15)

Alderwoman Schaefer made a motion seconded by Alderman Weygandt to approve Resolution 3401 Authorizing Execution of Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release.

Members voting aye on roll call: Pusa, Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco. (15)

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Alderman Elmore made a motion seconded by Alderman Weygandt to recall non-union employee, Sharon Straussbaugh, from unpaid-furlough status and to return as part-time employee, effective February 1, 2021.

Members voting aye on roll call: Randle, Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa. (15)

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Ferguson made a motion seconded by Alderman Rothweiler to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Members voting aye on roll call: Ferguson, Anthony, Ovian, Schaefer, Stiehl, Rothweiler, Elmore, Weygandt, Wigginton, Barfield, Kinsella, Hazel, Duco, Pusa, Randle. (15)

Jennifer Gain Meyer, City Clerk