

CITY OF FLORISSANT



WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2020

The City Council met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:30 pm for a work session in the Council Chambers at 955 rue St. Francois, Florissant, Missouri. Council members in attendance included: Eagan, Caputa, Schildroth, Pagano, Parson, Siam, Harris, Manganelli. Henke was excused. Also in attendance were Mayor Timothy Lowery and City Clerk Karen Goodwin. Council President Jeff Caputa stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was brought to order at 6:30 pm.

Business License Fee Increase:

Kimberlee Johnson and Chris Keisker.

Mrs. Johnson explained the history of attempts to increase the business license fees and what the finance department is recommending.

Councilwoman Pagano clarified the issues with why the increase in business license fees did not pass in 2009.

Mrs. Johnson gave an overview of some of the proposed increases. She outlined the amount of revenue that would be produced from the increases if passed by the voters. Mrs. Johnson discussed Article XII, fee Schedule Generally. The discussion involved deleting this section and whether or not it could be added back to the code without a vote of the people.

Councilman Harris asked what the impact of removing Article XII.

Councilwoman Pagano feels that the license fees need to be increase to a level that is appropriate for the current time as compared to other cities.

Councilman Manganelli asked about travel agencies. Mrs. Johnson explained the proposed changes and stated that she would need to do more research.

Mrs. Johnson explained the licensing of professional businesses as opposed to an individual professional person. She discussed the business license increases and calculation for car sales.

** Mayor Lowery asked about the removal of the license fee for organizations. Mrs. Johnson stated that they need to look at closer at that category.

** A question was raised regarding the licensing of Uber and left drivers. Mrs. Johnson stated that she would need to research how those issues are handled.

Economic Development Sales tax

Travis Wilson, Economic Development Director, provided an overview of the Economic Development Sales tax. He presented a list of other cities that have the tax and their total tax rates. He stated that an oversight board that needs to be appointed for this tax. He discussed potential uses for the funds.

Councilman Siam asked about the definition of retail... development of retail.

Council discussed what other cities have used their tax for. Mr. Wilson stated that Hazelwood has a loan program and they are using funds for the Power Plex.

Council discussed other possible uses for the tax revenues.

Discussion of when the Economic Development tax would make sense to put the tax on the ballot.

Use Tax:

The use tax allows the city to collect taxes for out of state purchases. Council discussed whether or not they would like the \$2000 cap.

Council discussed the benefits of having the use tax. They discussed the Wayfair bills that are being considered in Jefferson City currently. Councilwoman Pagano stressed that this issue should go on the next available election ballot.

Update on A&R:

Kimberlee Johnson and Todd Hughes

Mrs. Johnson explained the revenues and expenses for the proposition A & R funds.

Councilman Caputa asked about the numbers of property owners who are participating in the. Crime free program. Officer Perry stated that 95% of the property owners are in the program.

Mr. Hughes stated that the number of vacant properties has gone down.

Councilwoman Pagano questioned the expenses being taken out of the rental property funds.

Councilman Caputa stated that at one time there was a discussion of hiring a handyman to fix up houses.

Mayor asked what the council feels is not being done in the program.

Officer Perry stated that now that most of the property owners have gone through the program, they are having classes quarterly and other cities are looking to start programs of their own.

Councilwoman Pagano asked if some property owners are ready to go to Phase II and Phase III. Officer Perry answered, stating that they do have an apartment complex that will be in phase II.

Mayor asked Mr. Hughes if some things are not being done for lack of funds. Mr. Hughes answered that they do prioritize but the projects are getting done when funds become available.

Mr. Hughes stated that residential rental is at about 30%. He presented a map and graphs with rental properties vs. owner occupied.

Mr. Hughes stated that they have built a good relationship with the owners.

Mr. Robert Smith asked about handouts at the meeting and where the numbers are for the A & R funds.

There being no further business to discuss Councilwoman Pagano moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm, seconded by Manganelli, motion carried.

Karen Goodwin, MPPA/ MMC/MRCC
City Clerk