

August 11, 2020

The August 11, 2020 City Council meeting was called to order via teleconference at 7:40 p.m., Mayor Barry Greenberg presiding.

ON ROLL CALL, the following members were present: Mayor Greenberg, Councilmember Crosley, Councilmember Faulkingham, Councilmember Pardini, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Schmidt and Councilmember Wood.

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON: No need.

Attorney John Hessel asked that the record reflect that pursuant to Section 610.015 of the Missouri Sunshine Law provides that members of the City Council who are not physically present in the Council Chambers can participate and vote remotely on all matters when an emergency exists and he asked that the minutes reflect again that we are still under the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA: Councilmember Wood motioned to approve, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: Emily Lemonds Ewing, 7142 Kensington, voiced support for food pantries.

Halley Moore, 3908 Burgess spoke in favor of the food pantries and MapleGOOD.

Laurie Schenkelberg, 7328 Marietta, provided a background of MapleGOOD and their food replacement and monitoring process for the mini food pantries. She indicated these mini food pantries allow people to remain anonymous and keep their dignity.

Jennifer Ridgeway spoke on behalf of the Mid County Chamber and the numerous complaints they have received from business owners and residents regarding safety concerns and human waste due to the recent increase in unhoused. She reiterated that she's proud of the City of Maplewood and their efforts but wants to make sure the business district remains safe for its struggling businesses.

Shana Jones, 7659 Folk, founded the grab and go table at fold and Bredell which services 45 families per day, both housed and unhoused individuals. She spoke in favor of keeping the mini pantries open.

Gina LaRose, 7394 Flora, stated that she grew up with the myth of the American dream but realizes it is not based on reality. She said those in poverty are there at no fault of their own and now more will be homeless due to the economic downturn. Because of this, we need to make sure to keep the mini pantries open.

Sheila Suderwalla, 3546 Commonwealth and 7190 Manchester, Artists First member, stated that she has not seen an uptick in homelessness or any negative issues as a result. She stated that based on her observations, the complaints are not valid or real.

Jeannine Beck, Mid County Chamber Director, clarified the chamber is not against helping people in need and their concerns are based on the interest and livelihoods of Maplewood businesses that are going up in smoke. She mentioned that there are numerous complaints she's receiving about people sleeping on benches and aggressive panhandling. She requested people show up for the Taste of Maplewood to help support the businesses in need.

Becky Flynn, said there was food insecurity in town before the pandemic and the mini pantries are not the problem but rather a solution to a long term preexisting problem.

Cara Harlan Kramer, 3625 Commonwealth, was concerned that the Chamber Director is more interested in the wellbeing of businesses as opposed to people living on the streets. She stated she was so upset that she was shaking that someone would be more concerned about a business over an individual. She closed by saying that if someone on the street is demanding money, they are not evil but more than likely mentally ill.

Heidi Hellmuth, stated there are no demons here and everyone is doing what they feel or represent is right, there are people that need food and business owners looking to keep people employed. We need to look at all of our options to deal with the previous issues discussed while keeping the pantries open.

Neil Suthar, owner of Foundation Grounds, stated the concerns of business owners that were previously expressed are in fact real. He stated due to COVID, his business has moved outside and he's having a lot of patrons tell him they are uncomfortable with the aggressive panhandling that is taking place when they are sitting in his outdoor dining area. He said he is losing business as a result and his business is already hurting due to COVID and he even had an individual threaten to sue him and close his business down when he approached this person.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Councilmember Wood stated the MRH School District will begin September 1st with full time virtual instruction for grades K-12.
- Concerts in the Park will be August 26 and September 23

#### APPROVAL OF THE JULY 28, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilmember Wood motioned to approve, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY PEDESTRIAN TRAIL PRESENTATION: Will be in attendance at the next Council meeting.

**BILL 6145**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING A MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF LOT 3 OF THE SUNNEN STATION REDEVELOPMENT TO CREATE LOTS E1 AND E2 AND APPROVING A FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LOT 31 was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6145 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6145 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6146**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING A MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF 2918 BREDELL AVENUE was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6146 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6146 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6144**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING ORDINANCE 5573, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE III-WEEDS, SECTION 54-57 DEFINITIONS was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6144 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Mayor Greenberg, Pardini, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

**BILL NO. 6144** was approved by the City Council on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020 as **Ordinance Number 5939**.

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:** Councilmember Crosley stated in 2008 her family had to use food pantries so she supports mini pantries.

Mayor Greenberg announced to the crowd that they will continue to discuss boards and commissions and recapped the prior discussions for new audience members.

After Council discussion, they agreed boards and commissions should update the City Council on at least an annual basis but possibly more beginning with Sustainability.

Mayor Greenberg indicated the entire council is going to attend an equity training seminar on August 15 to begin our equity work as a council.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Greenberg mentioned the City of Maplewood community has a lot of compassion and concern for issues people are currently facing. He stated the City Council will work with the community to find solutions and continue to make Maplewood a great place to live.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Acting City Manager Traxler provided an update on the City Manager search, stated there will be storm damage pickup through August 19 and added that Laura Miller will be on KTRS 550 AM on August 18 at 1:35 p.m. to promote Wandering Wednesdays.

PUBLIC FORUM: Amber Withycombe, 3339 Cambridge, stated that MapleGOOD put together a community letter signed by over 300 members.

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION, IF NEEDED, TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO LITIGATION, LEGAL ACTIONS AND/OR COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 610.021(1)RSMO. AND/OR SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR SEALED BIDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SEALED PROPOSALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR PERSONNEL MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(13)RSMO. AND/OR EMPLOYEE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(3)RSMO. AND/OR REAL ESTATE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(2)RSMO. AND/OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT UNDER SECTION 610.021(12)RSMO: No need.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Phillips.