

March 9, 2021

The March 9, 2021 City Council meeting was called to order via teleconference at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Barry Greenberg presiding.

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

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON: Councilmember Wood motioned to excuse Councilmembers Crosley and Pardini, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

The City Attorney 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 the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PUBLIC FORUM: No one spoke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilmember Wood made the following announcements:

- March 10 is the last day to register for the April 6 General Election. March 24 is the last day that absentee ballots will be accepted.
- Congratulations to City Attorney John Hessel on being recognized as Lawyer of the Year for Litigation Municipal. This is his 8<sup>th</sup> recognition in the last 11 years.
- Community Development Director Laura Miller will be on FOX 2 on March 11 at 8:40 a.m. to promote the Coffee Crawl event. Tickets are still available.
- The Summer Concert Series will be held in May, June, August and September in Ryan Hummert Park.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2021 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND MEETING MINUTES: Councilmember Wood motioned to approve, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips. Councilmember Wood asked that the Work Session minutes reflect the following: When reviewing the ordinances, limit the groups to 5 people or less, if more than 5, the chair will choose the people to be on the committee; Add Councilmember Schmidt as a participant to the Chapter 36 Parks and Recreation Committee. Councilmember Wood motioned to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

(7:35 p.m.) **BILL 6160**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, TO REZONE A PORTION OF 3117 S. BIG BEND BOULEVARD, ALSO KNOWN AS 7534 FLORA AVENUE, FROM PUD PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO SR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6160 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. 6160 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6161**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING A MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF 3117 S. BIG BEND BOULEVARD, ALSO KNOWN AS 7534 FLORA AVENUE was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6161 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. 6161 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6162**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO AMANDA FEDOR OF THE STUDIO, INC. TO OPERATE A DANCE STUDIO AT 7405 MANCHESTER ROAD was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6162 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. 6162 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6157**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI AUTHORIZING A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND APPROVING A PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 16,200 SQUARE FEET OF LAND AT 3723 COMMONWEALTH AVE. was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6157 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Bill No. 6157 was approved by the City Council on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 as Ordinance Number 5952.

**BILL 6158**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING ORDINANCE 4121, THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED BY AMENDING CHAPTER 36, PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE IV., DOG PARK, SECTION 36-115, LICENSE SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6158 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Bill No. 6158 was approved by the City Council on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021 as Ordinance Number 5953.

**BILL 6159**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 36-PARKS AND RECREATION was given its third and final reading. Councilmember Schmidt noted that she had received emails in opposition to food pantries being located in parks and wanted to acknowledge some of these concerns to make sure these voices were heard. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6159 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Bill No. 6159 was approved by the City Council on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021 as Ordinance Number 5954.

(7:52 p.m.) OLD BUSINESS-EQUITY DISCUSSION: Mayor Greenberg wanted to revisit the concept of establishing an Equity Commission. He stated the Council has talked about diversity, equity, justice and inclusion and feels it would make sense to have our citizens weigh-in and would allow the Council to move forward in a quicker fashion. Councilmember Wood agrees and feels an Equity Commission would be dedicated to that issue and could do it more efficiently and quickly. Councilmember Phillips disagrees that having a Commission moves the Council more quickly and efficiently. She stated the Council needs to do the work themselves with an equity lens and should not move forward before the Council has done the work themselves. Mayor Greenberg stated that Council does not direct staff and an Equity Commission could make recommendations to staff that would be considered by staff and department heads. He feels that in that respect it would move faster than having to wait on Council to pass legislation. Councilmember Schmidt agrees with Councilmember Phillips and would like to further this conversation when Councilmembers Crosley and Pardini are present. She said we are working on an RFP to hire a consultant to advise the Council and begin the work. Councilmember

Faulkingham agrees with Councilmembers Phillips and Schmidt. He would like to wait to hire a professional to help with the process, to which Mayor Greenberg agreed. Councilmember Schmidt added that they would hate to appoint volunteers to this commission without having a good understanding and guidance to give the commissioners.

(8:04 p.m.) OLD BUSINESS – BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DISCUSSION: Councilmember Faulkingham will organize the spreadsheet of groups and will email to the Council. Mayor Greenberg will reach out to the four volunteers who haven't responded to see which of the 10 chapters of ordinances they are interested in. Councilmember Phillips clarified the five-person limit to each group and stated there are already four councilmembers on Zoning. Mayor Greenberg said he would remove himself from the Zoning chapter since he is already chair for the Historic Preservation, Advertising and Building Regulations chapters. Councilmember Schmidt said that maybe 6 people could be on Zoning since it is almost 60 pages of ordinances. After hearing from all of the volunteers, Councilmember Faulkingham will put everyone into groups and email to the Council.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION: Councilmember Schmidt asked about the Concert Series and setting up an information booth or table for the Council. This will be added to the next Council meeting's agenda as a discussion item.

MAYOR'S REPORT: During a meeting with District 5 mayors, Mayor Greenberg expressed his desire to raise the priority for teachers in the COVID process. He will participate in a phone call tomorrow with the Department of Health to see how we can facilitate vaccinations for our teachers. The mayors had also asked the Department of Health to establish guidelines for upcoming festivals and activities in their cities. He also reported that the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis has indicated they've come up with numbers that they feel might be representative of what cities will receive from the Federal Relief package. These funds will go into the city's General Fund.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC FORUM (8:15 p.m.): Owen Skoler, 7521 Rannells, asked about the Federal funds coming to the Municipal League and if the impetus is just COVID? Mayor Greenberg said previous iterations of the relief program left out state and local governments and the impact this has had on local governments due to reduced tax revenues and increased costs to protect our citizens.

Heidi Hellmuth wanted to speak regarding the Equity Commission discussion and appreciates this is discussed so often within the Council. She does have some agreement with Mayor

Greenberg on this and involving citizen discussion sooner rather than later does have some benefit. She wondered if having an ad hoc citizens advisory committee on equity to represent community concerns in the interim before an Equity Commission can be established would be possible. Mayor Greenberg said the discussions will continue when all Councilmembers are present.

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER AND, 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:

Councilmember Wood motioned to hold a closed session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

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