

August 10, 2021

The August 10, 2021 City Council meeting was called to order via teleconference at 7:33 p.m., Mayor Nikylan Knapper presiding.

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

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON: No need.

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 she asked that the minutes reflect that we are still under the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA: Mayor Knapper motioned to amend the agenda to delete Item 14, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt. Mayor Knapper explained Item 14 is the Library project presentation report which was just completed by Lorraine Frazier. The report is lengthy and the Mayor wanted the City Council and Library Board to have ample time to review the report before discussing at a future meeting. The Council was in favor of the amendment to the agenda. Councilmember Schmidt motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Faulkingham, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON A REQUEST BY CARLOS LARDIZABAL, OWNER OF CASA MAYA RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 2726 SUTTON BLVD. FOR A FULL/SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSE: No one spoke.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON HOW THE CITY SHOULD ALLOCATE \$64,000 IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS WHICH WILL BECOME AVAILABLE AFTER JANUARY 1, 2022: Library Director Ashley Bryant asked the Council to consider the following ideas:

- Hotspot and laptop allocation among staff during staff outreach programs
- Expansion of the room that houses local history items for public access
- ADA upgrades for Library entrance and bathrooms
- Funds to host program *Opening Minds Through Art* which are 8-week sessions

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilmember Wood made the following announcements:

- Mid County Chamber Concert in the Park series resumes August 25 from 6-8 p.m. The elected officials will have a booth there.
- Maplewood Restaurant Week started August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit the city's website for a complete list of participating restaurants and what they are offering. Donation cards for the MRH Weekend on Wheels program will also be available at participating restaurants.
- Today is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Missouri Statehood.

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY 13, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:**

Councilmember Schmidt motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Faulkingham, which motion received the approval of the Council.

(7:51 p.m.), YALE “OPEN SPACE” UPDATE: Public Works Director Anthony Traxler updated the Council on plans to promote utilization by area children of the open space at 2270 Yale. Plans include hosting an annual scary movie night for children around Halloween, adding fencing and signage to make the park more welcoming. Last, city staff will promote use of the park through targeted promotions of the open space area to residents and children. Mayor Knapper asked if the Parks Board had thoughts on these ideas. Mr. Traxler stated the Parks Board is currently doing a master park plan for each and every park and may have suggested changes for this park in the future. Councilmember Crosley stated she thought the ideas were creative and innovative and believe they will help promote the open space to area children and let them know the space is available for anyone to use.

**SPLASH PAD EXTENDED HOURS AND MAPLEWOOD RESIDENT WEEKEND AT THE POOL UPDATE:** Public Works Director Anthony Traxler stated he’s been in contact with St. Louis County Department of Health regarding extended hours for the Maplewood splash pad. He said the county agreed that this could be done with approval of a use permit and from this point forward staff is making plans for the splash pad to be open to the general public from April 1 to the opening of the pool, and then again after the pool closes through October 1 each year. Mr. Traxler also stated he is working to create an annual City of Maplewood resident event at the pool where any resident who resides in the City of Maplewood could attend the pool the week after the pool closes. Mr. Traxler said he hopes to implement this program this summer but due to staffing issues, it may have to wait until next year. He finished by saying either way, this is a program staff will implement and make available to Maplewood residents on an annual basis.

**COVID-19:** Mayor Knapper discussed a call made by the President to localities about COVID-19 requesting localities to determine if there were any CARES Act Funds or American Rescue Act Funds to be used as incentives for people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

(8:19 p.m.), **DISCUSSION OF 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS:** After a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to use \$10,000 for the Subsistence Program and the remaining \$54,000 for the Sidewalk Repair Program.

**MOTION TO APPROVE A FULL AND SUNDAY LIQUOR LICENSE FOR CARLOS LARDIZABAL, OWNER OF CASA MAYA RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 2726 SUTTON BLVD.:** Councilmember Schmidt motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Faulkingham, which motion received the approval of the Council.

**BILL 6167, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF BRENTWOOD, CLAYTON, MAPLEWOOD AND RICHMOND HEIGHTS TO PROVIDE A SHARED FIRE TRAINING OFFICER** was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Schmidt, duly seconded by Councilmember Faulkingham, that Bill No. 6167 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 Schmidt, duly seconded by Councilmember Faulkingham, that Bill No. 6167 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by vice vote, of the Council.

(9:22 p.m.) OLD BUSINESS: None.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION: Councilmember Schmidt asked about the agenda setting process and requested that with the help of the new City Manager, rules and procedures be established for adding agenda items to the Council meeting agendas.

Councilmember Crosley mentioned that scoring the Request for Proposals for the equity resolution was scheduled for the next council meeting and wondered if the deadline should be extended so the new City Manager and new Councilmember could review and comment on the RFP. The Council agreed to extend the deadline.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Knapper addressed issues neighbors are having on the 2600 block of Lyle with the recent rezoning. She stated she met with residents on Lyle who expressed they would like to see the city do a better job communicating with residents and find more equitable ways to alert residents who have concerns with such developments.
- Maplewood resident and executive director of the non-profit Keep Pushing Inc. Shana Poole is having a back to school supplies giveaway on August 21 beginning at 11:00 a.m. More information can be found at [keeppushinginc.org](http://keeppushinginc.org).
- Mayor Knapper wanted to spotlight our US Representative Cory Bush for conducting the sit-in in our nation's capital to get the extension of the eviction moratorium.
- The St. Louis County Council recently voted 5-2 to overturn the mask mandate and Mayor Knapper wanted to spotlight our representative, Councilmember Lisa Clancy, for voting in favor to uphold the mandate.
- The Mid County Chamber of Commerce is holding its 35<sup>th</sup> annual dinner on October 8.
- The St. Louis County NAACP Freedom Fund awards dinner will be held on October 4.
- Mayor Knapper will be signing up for the challenge *Move with the Mayor* which is a national initiative asking mayors to get out and do a physical activity and challenge their community to do it with them to help reduce heart disease and other sicknesses in the community.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Reese stated he is happy to be here and looks forward to working with everyone.

(9:05 p.m.) PUBLIC FORUM: Laine Schenkelberg, 7328 Marietta, who stated she is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, discussed the upcoming park master plan process. Laine stated that each park board member checks on a specifically assigned park and asks patrons their thoughts on the park. She added they just recently assigned the skate park to a board member to ensure each and every park was monitored.

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.