

MINUTES
ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORA A. VITEK, MAYOR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 – 12:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 E. MAIN STREET

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Vitek at 12:01 pm.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber

Absent: None

I. New Business

- A. Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Silkaitis to approve an Ordinance 2021-M-45 Amending Title 3, Entitled “Revenue and Administration,” of the St. Charles Municipal Code with Regard to the Imposition of a Municipal Push Tax on Plays of Video Gaming Terminals.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner; Ald. Weber; Nays: None.
Motion Carried

Mayor Vitek read the following statement:

Mayor Vitek and the Board,

Thank you for allowing my comments to be expressed prior to your vote.

My name is James Thom with WAMI GAMING and Western Automatic Music, Inc. We have been operating coin-operated amusement devices in St. Charles for almost two years. We hope to operate Video Gaming terminals in St. Charles in the very near future.

In the interest of time, I would simply like to ask the Board to reject the “PUSH TAX” idea. It is a bad idea now, it will be a bad idea in the future, and it could end up chasing players into businesses in neighboring municipalities that don't ask their players to pay a penny for every bet they make. Other municipalities were going to rush into passing the tax. But after learning about the difficulties it created and how unfair it was they decided it was a very bad idea and did not pass it.

I understand that on the first look the “PUSH TAX” seems like a great idea. It’s called a tax on the player. But who is the player? We are not allowed to track players. How will we collect this tax?

It sounds harmless, but the industry makes approximately 8 cents per push. A simple little penny turns out to be a 12.5% additional tax. That would give municipalities an increase from 5% to 17.5%...a 250% increase. That is excessive!

I don't believe St. Charles is anti-business. I've seen just the opposite over the two years I've worked there. Again, I ask you to vote No to this proposal. Help keep the businesses in St. Charles that depend upon their video gaming revenues strong. That way they can reinvest in their businesses, the community and employ citizens of your fine city.

Thank you in advance,
James Thom

Discussion:

- Heather McGuire explained that on October 27th there was an amendment added from the State of Illinois which requires the City of St. Charles to approve a push tax for video gaming by 12:00 am on October 31, 2021. She explained that we need to approve this now or would not be able to do so in the future. The intent of this tax is to be an end-user tax
- Mayor Vitek explained that the intent is not to impact businesses.
- Ald. Wirball asked about how much revenue will be collected.
- Ms. McGuire answered that it is hard to determine right now, will need to wait until after the tax is in effect.
- Ald. Weber said we need to have dialog with the businesses.
- Heather McGuire reiterated we will include businesses in the discussion.
- Ald. Lencioni asked how the tax would be collected?
- Heather McGuire said this is to be determined.
- Ald Lencioni said he supports currently but would like to allow businesses determine how to do this.
- Ald Paylietner asked in any other municipalities are implementing?
- Attorney Peppers responded that the numbers are low but tripled from Wednesday (4) to Friday. He also mentioned that the game commission is working on the software to track this tax, but it is a work in progress.
- Heather McGuire stated that she is available to discuss with any business owners and is always available.

3. No Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff, or Citizens

4. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Pietryla to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner; Ald. Weber; Nays: None.

Motion Carried

Nancy Garrison, City Clerk

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF ORIGINAL

Nancy Garrison, City Clerk

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377 4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).