

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
ALD. MAUREEN LEWIS, CHAIR  
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 7:26 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Ald. Stellato, Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Lemke, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Gruber, Ald. Vitek, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Bessner

**Absent:** None

**3. Administrative**

- a. Fuel Tax January, 2021

**4. Omnibus Vote**

Items with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a council member/citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda.

**5. Police Department**

- a. **Recommendation to Approve Street Parking and Lot Closures for the 2021 Fine Arts Show.**

The plan for the St. Charles Business Alliance, Fine Arts Show scheduled to take place May 29 – 30, 2021 was discussed. Street closures, and temporary electric service have been requested from the City.

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Ald. Vitek to recommend the approval of Street Parking and Lot Closures for the 2021 Fine Arts Show. Should the Governor's orders change, the event could be cancelled.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

- b. **STC Live 2021 – Information Only**

- c. **Recommendation to Approve the use of Langum Park for the 2021 Train the Trooper Event.**

Camp Kane is requesting use of Langum Park from 10am – 3pm for the 2021 Train the

Trooper Event, Civil War reenactment. The event will take place on May 15, 2021. A request to detonate the cannon, twice using half loads, has been made. The hours would be identified, and the event planners will do their best to post on social media. Provisions have been put in place to ensure Covid compliance. Should the Governor's orders change, the event could be cancelled.

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Pietryla to recommend the approval of the use of Langum Park for the 2021 Train the Trooper event.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

**d. Recommendation to Approve a Proposal for a New C-1 Liquor License and 2 am Late Night Permit for Trilogy Lounge, located at 2051 Lincoln Highway, St. Charles.**

This item was on the agenda of the Liquor Control Commission meeting that took place earlier the same evening and passed with a vote of 4-0.

The owners David Brown, and Cherman Wilson were present to answer questions. Chief Keegan explained that he met with the applicants, and discussed their business plan in detail. Their plans include on site security, dancing, live karaoke, DJ, events with different age groups, and comedy shows. Chief made several suggestions, and the applicants worked with him to make some changes.

- Late night permit until 2am on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only.
- No food truck. This will avoid patrons leaving and reentering the establishment. Instead they will have catering, pop up kitchens, food delivery services and offer light snacks.
- All drinks will be served in plastic cups, no bottles or cans.

Off duty police personnel will be hired for security. Representatives from the City visited the site. A discussion was had with the landlord. Chief Keegan discussed his Covid and safety concerns with the applicants. Additionally, he discussed his concerns with lounges bringing a large and young crowd. He alerted the owners that the police will monitor the location and do so with a no tolerance approach as is done with all liquor establishments. There was also a discussion about the 55 and older housing project planned near the establishment.

Chief Keegan proposed a 6-month probationary period and that an update be presented to City Council November 1, 2021.

David Brown indicated that there will be a cover charge for entrance after 9pm.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Lemke to recommend the approval of a Proposal for a New C-1 Liquor License and 2 am Late Night Permit for Trilogy Lounge, located at 2051 Lincoln Highway, St. Charles.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

**e. Recommendation to Approve the Late Night Permits for Class B & C Liquor Licenses of the City of St. Charles.**

This item was on the agenda of the Liquor Control Commission meeting that took place earlier the same evening and passed with a vote of 4-0.

Chief Keegan presented the class B and C late night permits to be approved for FY 21/22. Permit requests are reviewed by Police, Community Development, the Fire Department, and Finance Department. Police activity, building issues, and outstanding liability to the City is reviewed. Out of the 26 businesses requesting permits, 3 had outstanding liability. Two of the 3 have paid, 1 has not. Phone calls and emails to the business owner have not been answered. When seeking renewal of a liquor license and late night permit, applicants should have no outstanding debt to the City. This year there is a reduced fee structure for licenses and permits.

Chief Keegan recommended that the late night permit requests be approved. The establishment that has an outstanding liability to the City would not receive their license or late night permit if they haven't paid by April 30, 2021.

Ald. Silkaitis asked that we be sure that no license or late night permit is issued to the establishment if they haven't paid their debt to the City. He then asked about Alley 64, and the 7 arrests that happened over the last year. Chief Keegan explained that the volume Alley 64 does is significant compared to other establishments. If the police are called, and someone has an outstanding warrant, or they execute an arrest outside Alley 64, their address is used. It doesn't mean all the arrests took place inside the building. Alley 64 has a sophisticated ID checking system, and some of the arrests are from bad ID's. Ald. Silkaitis asked that they stay on top of this for all establishments.

Ald. Bancroft added that the report gets better every year because of the effort of Chief Keegan. The reaction from seeing a high number of arrests in the report is concerning, however, we don't want to deter people from calling the police.

Ald. Lemke asked that a reason for arrests be added to the information going forward.

Ald. Silkaitis asked that the Chief keep the Council updated on the status of the establishment that owes the City.

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, Second by Ald. Vitek to recommend the approvals of the Late Night Permits for Class B & C Liquor Licenses of the City of St. Charles.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

- f. **Recommendation to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 5 “Business Licenses and Regulations”, Chapter 5.08 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 5.08.090 “License Classifications” of the St. Charles Municipal Code. (Addition of a D-1 Liquor License Classification for the St. Charles Park District.)**

This item was on the agenda of the Liquor Control Commission meeting that took place earlier the same evening and passed with a vote of 4-0.

An ordinance has been drafted to allow the Park District to operate similarly to the large and small event venues. If a caterer license is in place, there would be no need for the Park District to have a license; a special event would require the approval of City Council if there is no caterer license. There is a BYOB option, the Park District would take control and serve the alcohol, and would be required to be Basset trained. There is no fee for this license.

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Ald. Pietryla to recommend the approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 5 “Business Licenses and Regulations”, Chapter 5.08 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 5.08.090 “License Classifications” of the St. Charles Municipal Code. (Addition of a D-1 Liquor License Classification for the St. Charles Park District.)

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

- g. **Recommendation to Approve an Ordinance Amending Title 5 “Business Licenses and Regulations”, Chapter 5.08 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 5.08.090 “License Classifications” of the St. Charles Municipal Code. (Addition of a D-13 Liquor License Classification for the St. Charles Library.)**

This item was on the agenda of the Liquor Control Commission meeting that took place earlier the same evening and passed with a vote of 4-0.

This ordinance is pursuant to 235 ILCS 6/16-15 and codifies the Library Board’s ability to hold a liquor license. The statute states that the Library must have a written policy in place, which has been supplied. The statute states that alcohol can only be served in a special event venue/room away from the central areas of the library. Alcohol will not be

allowed outside the special event venue/room. Steps must be taken to prevent the sale and distribution of alcohol people under the age of 21. There must be Dram Shop Insurance in place, and be licensed. Similar to the Park District, a caterer or restaurant can come in for events, and BYOB. This will not be applicable to the Haines location; the Board does not allow alcohol on school property.

Ald. Lewis clarified that this will be for events only.

Motion by Ald. Gruber, second by Ald. Pietryla to recommend the approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 5 “Business Licenses and Regulations”, Chapter 5.08 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 5.08.090 “License Classifications” of the St. Charles Municipal Code. (Addition of a D-13 Liquor License Classification for the St. Charles Library.)

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

## **6. Finance Department**

### **\*a. Budget Revisions February, 2021.**

Motion by Ald. Bancroft, second by Ald. Vitek to approve the omnibus vote.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

### **b. Recommendation to approve an Ordinance Reserving and Authorizing the Transfer of Volume Cap in Connection with Private Activity Bond Issues and Related Matters.**

Under IRS regulations the City has the ability to lend its ability to issue tax exempt debt to private developers, and companies for certain types of private use for improvements to facilities that would not otherwise qualify for the issuance of tax exempt debt. This pertains to the expansion of industrial facilities, and creation of jobs. Each year a decision is made whether to keep its allocation of volume cap, or allow the volume cap to remand back to the State of IL. Traditionally we have kept the allocation of volume cap in case we have any projects for local establishment that would qualify. This would allow companies to borrow at a lower interest rate reducing costs for improvements. If an ordinance isn't passed by May 1, 2021 it would automatically remand back to the State.

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Ald. Stellato to recommend the approval of an Ordinance Reserving and Authorizing the Transfer of Volume Cap in Connection with Private Activity Bond Issues and Related Matters.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Gruber, Vitek; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

**c. Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Presentation – For Information Only.**

Director of Finance, Chris Minick went over the highlights of the City of St. Charles FY 2021-2022 Budget Draft.

*Objectives of the presentation:*

Review the status of FY 20-21, the forecast results of FY 20-21, and the impacts going into FY 21-22.

Review the current status of FY 21-22 budget draft, the lingering COVID impacts, structural issues, and that the pace of the recovery coming out of COVID will dictate the results.

No proposed changes are expected for the Electric Fund in FY 21-22, the rates will remain the same as the past 3 years.

Water and wastewater funds have significant capital projects planned for maintenance of the existing infrastructure and to provide for growth and economic development.

Smaller increases proposed for the rate structure than anticipated one year ago.

The budget must be adopted prior to May 1, 2021.

Ald. Silkaitis asked that Spring Clean-up be added back next year or sooner if possible. Chairman Lewis added that possibly it could be looked at for the fall. Chris answered that the program is costly, but it can be looked at later in the year to see if it can be managed.

Ald. Lemke confirmed with Chris that the increase in utilities is mostly capital.

Ald. Pietryla asked how many years are left on the IEMA contract, and if it can be negotiated down. Chris answered that there are 15 years left, and when the time comes the situation will be evaluated, and there may be an opportunity to lower costs.

Ald. Bessner asked about the possible funding from the Federal Government and what

percentage of that could make it back into the budget to make up the deficit. Chris said that the estimate is that the City would receive approximately \$4M, and it's not yet known what expenditures will be allowed. We will wait for guidance to propose uses of the funding to the Council. If there is an ability to replace lost revenue it would have a significant positive impact on the FY 21-22 projections.

Ald. Bessner asked if there was a change in the deficit number, Chris said it increased approximately \$20,000.

The public hearing on the budget will take place at the City Council meeting on April 5, 2021.

**7. Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff, or Citizens.**

**8. Executive Session**

- Personnel – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
- Pending Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- Probable or Imminent Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)
- Property Acquisition – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- Collective Bargaining – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)
- Review of Executive Session Minutes – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Silkaitis to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

**Voice Vote:** Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. Chairman Lewis did not vote as Chairman.

**Motion Carried**

:tc