

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 7:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Administrative

a. Fuel Tax November, 2020 – Information Only

b. Video Gaming November 2020 – Information Only

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. Fire Department

a. **Recommendation to approve the purchase of a Pierce Velocity 100-foot Aerial Ladder Truck for the Fire Department**

Fire Chief Scott Swanson explained that the current ladder truck is ready for replacement. Units are kept for 24 years (12 years front line, 12 years reserve). This was originally budgeted for May 1, 2020, however due to the pandemic it was delayed. It's being recommended now to avoid the price increase that will happen on February 1, 2021. Chief Swanson mentioned that several discounts were implemented and making the purchase prior to February 1, 2021 would save an additional 3.5%. This equates to substantial savings if the purchase is made at this time.

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Silkaitis to recommend the approval of the purchase of a Pierce Velocity 100- foot Aerial Ladder Truck for the Fire Department.

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

Motion Carried

6. City Administration

a. **Follow-up on Deer Management as Discussed at the City Council Meeting on Monday, December 7.**

City Administrator, Mark Koenen reminded the Council Members of a discussion that

took place at the City Council Meeting on December 7, 2020 when a resident of St. Charles brought up concerns regarding deer and chickens in residential areas (a discussion regarding chickens will be had at the Planning & Development meeting on January 11, 2021). The specific issues regarding deer are the destruction of residential landscaping and traffic/vehicle safety issues due to the increase in the deer population. Mr. Koenen pointed out that there is a City Ordinance in place that prohibits the use of weapons and that hunting is not permitted.

Mr. Koenen stated that the police department researched how many motorist accidents involved deer over the last 3 years. Accidents that have taken north of Rt. 31 or Rt. 25, and the Randall Road area, and its 3-5 accidents per year.

Mr. Koenen reached out to Tim Preuss, Urban Deer Project Manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) about damage to residential landscape. Mr. Preuss has good information for residents who are having trouble with deer damaging their yard and is more than willing to share that information. The City of St. Charles could perhaps do some PR on this as well. The IDNR is responsible for wildlife in the State of Illinois. If you want to act to minimize the deer population you need a permit. The Kane County Forest Preserve submits information on the local deer population to the IDNR annually.

Mr. Koenen noted that Chronic Wasting Disease is an issue with deer in the area, and is a result of overpopulation. There are 17 counties in Illinois that see Chronic Wasting Disease. Kane County has three zones, Big Rock, Gilberts, and Elgin. The City of Elgin was contacted for more details and they said they didn't have deer management program. Likely it's because it's a program from the IDNR.

Police Chief Jim Keegan reaffirmed that we have an ordinance in place prohibiting the use of firearms and hunting. The Chief said that he wouldn't be in favor of changes to the ordinance.

Chief Keegan looked at the past three years motor vehicle accidents and how many involved deer or wild animals. The average amount of accidents reported annually for the City of St. Charles is 1000-1100 per year. In 2018 the number of accidents was 1100 and 5 were due to deer. In 2019 the number of accidents was 1000 and 4 involved deer. In 2020 there were over 1000 accidents and 3 involved deer. All three accidents that took place this year were around the Rt. 31 corridor. In prior years the accidents were more wide spread over St. Charles.

Chief Keegan looked into what Kane County and surrounding areas do for deer management. DuPage had a deer control environment that is done in the forest preserves and unincorporated areas. Kane County has a deer management program that allows archery hunting only. Firearms are not allowed. Chief Keegan mentioned that he is familiar with deer management from his previous positions in other

communities. Looking at this from a municipality perspective, he would not be in favor of the use of firearms or hunting. Although the deer are a concern, it's not as prevalent as some might have thought.

Ald. Silkaitis agreed, and said that the use of archery or shooting in St. Charles would open up more problems. He's not in favor of any weapons in City Limits.

Ald. Payleitner agreed it's best to keep the status quo, and liked the fact that St. Charles citizens have representatives at the Forest Preserve District and Kane County Board to contact. She also appreciates that PR will be done from the City.

Ald. Lemke noted that he'd like to work with the Kane County Forest Preserve moving forward.

Ald. Lewis said that she's not sure how deer can be regulated, and agrees that no weapons should be permitted. She agrees that keeping the status quo is the best solution.

Mr. Koenen asked Chief Keegan to reach out to the resident with the IDNR contact information and to explain the discussion that took place during the meeting.

7. Finance Department

***a. Recommendation to Approve Funds Transfer Resolutions authorizing budgeted transfers in the aggregate amount of \$8,331,794 for miscellaneous transfers.**

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

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

Motion Carried

***b. Budget Revisions for the City of St. Charles November, 2020.**

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

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

Motion Carried

c. Recommendation Approve an Ordinance Abating a Portion of the 2020 Property Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles.

Chris Minick explained that the ordinance recommended would remove \$10,836,271 representing the amount of principal and interest payments on the City's outstanding

general obligation bond issues from the tax levy, leaving the operating component as the only component in the City's tax levy. That would result in a 2020 property tax levy for the City of \$13,069,216.

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Ald. Pietryla to recommend the Approval of an Ordinance Abating a Portion of the 2020 Property Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles.

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

Motion Carried

8. Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff, or Citizens.

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Ald. Payleitner to enter into executive session at 7:34 pm to discuss Risk Management, Established Reserves, or Settle Claims - 5ILCS 120/2(c)(12)

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

Motion Carried

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Ald. Lemke to exit executive session at 7:43 pm.

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

Motion Carried

9. 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)
- Risk Management, Established Reserves, or Settle Claims - 5ILCS 120/2(c)(12)

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Ald. Vitek to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

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

Motion Carried

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