

**MINUTES
THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
ALD. STEVE WEBER, CHAIR
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Weber called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni,
Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner

Absent: None

3. Administrative – None

a. Video Gaming Statistics, July 2023, Information Only – no comments

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.

Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Pietryla to approve the Omnibus items.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

5. Police Department

a. Recommendation to approve An Ordinance Deleting Section 2.32.040 “Fee for Bail/Bond Administration,” Chapter 2.32 “Police Department,” Title 2 “Administration and Personnel,” of the St. Charles Municipal Code.

Chief Keegan shared that the Illinois Supreme Court has ruled that the Pretrial Fairness Act and Cashless Bail will begin on September 18, 2023. The City Ordinance needs to be updated to accommodate this new Act. Incidentally, the City has historically had a very low collection rate on bail fees and most are sent to collections.

Motion by Ald. Bongard, second by Ald. Lencioni to recommend approval of An Ordinance Deleting Section 2.32.040 “Fee for Bail/Bond Administration,” Chapter 2.32 “Police

Department,” Title 2 "Administration and Personnel,” of the St. Charles Municipal Code.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

6. Information Systems

- *a. Recommendation to approve a Resolution Authorizing Staff to purchase one year of NorthStar Hosting, Software Support, and Maintenance from Harris Computer Systems for \$99,676.

Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Pietryla to recommend approval of a Resolution Authorizing Staff to purchase one year of NorthStar Hosting, Software Support, and Maintenance from Harris Computer Systems for \$99,676.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

7. City Administration

- a. Recommendation to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 10, “Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 10.41, “Handicapped Parking,” Section 10.41.010, “Handicapped Parking Placards,” And Section 10.41.020, “Applications,” of the St. Charles Municipal Code.

Heather McGuire explained the current practice. The City issues temporary handicap parking placards to all who request and qualify, including non-residents of St. Charles. The number issued has declined over the last several years. Eliminating this service would reduce cost and staff time. Now that there is a State of Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles in St. Charles which issues these, it may not be a necessary service for the City to continue to provide. Nearby municipalities who offer this service do so only for their own residents, and may be referring others to St. Charles.

Comments from alderpersons included the following:

- Residents may not be aware that the City offers this service, and it could be publicized more.
- Since the placards must be applied for in person, it should be considered the ease of access to the City building is better than at the DMV.
- For the low cost, this service is a great convenience for residents and should be continued.
- The City should concentrate efforts and resources on tasks that are our specialty.

Motion by Ald. Lencioni, second by Ald. Gehm to recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 10, “Vehicles and Traffic,” Chapter 10.41, “Handicapped Parking,” Section 10.41.010, “Handicapped Parking Placards,” And Section 10.41.020, “Applications,” of the

St. Charles Municipal Code.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bongard, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Bessner. Nays: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Denied.**

Motion by Ald. Muenz, second by Ald. Gehm to recommend approval of an Ordinance Amending Title 10, "Vehicles and Traffic," Chapter 10.41, "Handicapped Parking," Section 10.41.010, "Handicapped Parking Placards," And Section 10.41.020, "Applications," of the St. Charles Municipal Code to include St. Charles residents only.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

b. City Council Initiatives – Discussion Only

Heather McGuire asked the Committee to develop a consensus about which initiatives City Staff should dedicate efforts to. The original list was developed at the June 26, 2023, City Council Workshop. The intention is to schedule quarterly City Council Workshops, rather than semi-annual, to continue to get feedback on which items are a priority for the City Council.

The Committee proceeded to discuss each of the initiatives.

- ***Positively promoting the City, possibly through team building or leadership training.***
 - This was raised with the City Council in mind. Spend time creating a culture of leadership. Tone of how we argue. Facets to being a leader, what say and do, how conduct ourselves. Staff could bring a variety of potential training options to the Council. The package would include both in-person and virtual training options.
 - Other items that were originally listed separately and added to this initiative.
 - ***City Council Member discussion to discover the Council's collective vision for the City.***
 - ***Prioritize the Community's interests and encourage participation by discussing topics that resonate with them.***
 - It was suggested that MetroWest or the Illinois Municipal League could provide training options.
 - The Committee agrees that this item should be pursued.
- ***Enhancing the requirements of the existing Ethics Ordinance.***
 - It was suggested that the City adopt an Ethics Ordinance that is more robust than the minimum that is required by the State of Illinois. Possibly add more

verbiage around “transparency,” especially to understand when supporters of an issue have a financial investment in it.

- It was suggested that the City’s Ethics Officer be involved in the discussion.
- It was requested that the City review the role of non-profit organizations that are funded with City tax dollars. Also assess their compliance with Internal Revenue Service tax code.
- A question was raised about whether there have been past situations where ethics violations happened. Multiple contributors to the conversation indicated that while instances have been reviewed as needed, they are unaware of any ethics violations.
- The Committee agrees that this item should be discussed at a future City Council Workshop.
- ***Present a financial dashboard to offer a quick overview of the City's financial wellness.***
 - Another item that was originally listed separately was added to this initiative.
 - ***Quarterly progress reports on budgets.***
 - This item will be pursued.
- ***The role of the City Council in Management Initiatives.***
 - This item will not be pursued at this time.
- ***Supporting local businesses via purchasing policies.***
 - This is something City Staff currently does when possible. Exceptions are due to significant timing delay, quality difference, or significant cost increase if a local supplier is used.
 - It was suggested that local resources be used as long as the cost is no more than 10% higher than non-local suppliers.
 - It was requested that Staff get policy examples from other communities.
 - The definition of local is important.
 - The Committee agrees that the current informal policy will continue. Heather offered any Committee members to meet with Public Works Staff to further understand the efforts and serious attention that are ongoing to attempt to make local purchases.
- ***Placing a limit on the number of liquor licenses allowed in the City.***
 - An idea was raised to limit the number of licenses by “zone”.
 - Possibly limit the number of liquor licenses by type., i.e. limit bar licenses and not restaurant licenses.
 - Competition creates a type of self-regulation since some businesses will fail in an overly saturated market.
 - Complaints about the number of bars have been received by alderpersons.
 - Encourage a diverse business base while being careful not to target a specific industry for limits. Want to maintain a business-friendly environment.
 - It was requested that if this item is pursued, to provide specific direction to Staff, and not ask for a vague change.
 - This item will be discussed at a future City Council Workshop.

- ***Piano Factory Bridge revitalization, a timeline of the project, and perhaps a historical designation.***
 - This likely an expensive project. Possibly grants could be obtained if the bridge has a historical designation.
 - The Committee agrees that this item will be pursued.
- ***Common visual elements to connect downtown.***
 - In a past visit to Greenville, SC, connections of water, music, art, restaurants were seen.
 - The Committee will keep this initiative in mind as opportunities arise.
- ***Burying overhead powerlines on Riverside.***
 - This is a costly project. While this change is desired, the funds are not currently available. Staff can assess the cost and bring that back to the Committee.
 - It was suggested to pursue adding a requirement to bury power lines for new developments.
 - The Committee agrees that this item will be pursued.

8. **Public Comment** - None

9. **Additional Items from Mayor, Council or Staff** – None

10. **Executive Session**

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Ald. Pietryla to enter executive session at 8:03 pm for discussion of Pending, Probable or Imminent Litigation – 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

11. The regular session was reconvened at 8:36 pm.

12. **Adjournment**

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Wirball to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Voice Vote: Ayes: Ald. Silkaitis, Ald. Foulkes, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Muenz, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Gehm, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball, Ald. Bessner. Nays: None. Absent: None. Ald. Weber did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

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