

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
ALD. MAUREEN LEWIS, CHAIR
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lewis at 7:14 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke (by phone), Bancroft, Vitek, Pietryla, Bessner, Stellato

Absent: Turner

3. Administrative

a. Fuel Tax – May, 2020

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 an Ordinance Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property Owned by the City of St. Charles.**

Fire Chief Swanson requested approval to surplus a fire apparatus. He explained that the item has been kept in reserve and was removed from the equipment replacement schedule 5-6 years ago. After reevaluating operations due to COVID-19 and being approached by neighboring communities asking if we would want to sell the equipment, it was researched and found that the item has some significant value.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Silkaitis to recommend approval of an ordinance authorizing disposal of surplus property owned by the City of St. Charles.

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

Motion Carried

b. **Recommendation to approve a Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cortland Community Fire Protection District.**

Fire Chief Swanson asked for the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cortland Community Fire Protection District for the sale of surplus equipment for \$175,000.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Stellato to recommend approval of a resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Cortland Community Fire Protection District.

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

Motion Carried

6. City Administration

a. Recommendation to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 1 “General Provisions”, Section 1.12 “Corporate Seal” of the City of St. Charles Municipal Code.

Benjamin Nielsen, Intern for the City Administrator’s Office, explained that the addition of the word Illinois is being added to the City’s corporate seal in order to differentiate St. Charles, IL from several other St. Charles municipalities in the US.

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Pietryla to approve the recommendation to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 1 “General Provisions”, Section 1.12 “Corporate Seal” of the City of St. Charles Municipal Code.

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

Motion Carried

b. Presentation of the City of St. Charles 2020 Residential Survey from Jason Morado, ETC Institute.

This item was postponed and will be on the agenda of an upcoming Government Operations Committee Meeting. A date has not yet been determined.

c. Wearing Face Coverings in Public Places – Discussion Only

City Administrator, Mark Koenen explained that the conversation is intended to ensure that the City of St. Charles continues to be business friendly while focusing on being healthy, and the key to that is face coverings. Mark stated that the Mayor and St. Charles as a municipality have been very proactive to encourage the wearing of face coverings. He mentioned that the Governor's Office launched a mask awareness campaign and that the discussion being had plays nicely into that initiative. Mark shared that at the Municipal Center most visitors have been very cooperative and wearing face coverings when in the building. Mark introduced Police Chief, Keegan to share his and the Police Departments experiences.

Police Chief Keegan stated that there have been a number of calls to the Police Department regarding social distancing and wearing masks. He explained that they try to educate and work with people. Officers have been passing out brochures and offer free PPE. When complaints are received regarding local businesses, officers try to mitigate the situation. He stated that for repeat offenders the Health Department has been called.

Chief Keegan read an email he received from a customer of a local business. The customer was upset that an employee of the business repeatedly verbally accosted his wife because she believed her nose wasn't covered properly by her mask. The police were called. It was later explained that his wife has a certain ailment and she was offended that the proprietor of the business approached her.

Chief Keegan went on to say that this is a snapshot of the other side of things. He said that the police do their best to mitigate these situations and try to educate. He stated that there is an ordinance that was enacted on April 27, 2020 allowing the police to site appropriately, that hasn't been done, and he's proud of that. He said that there has been some repeat offenders and the Health Department was contacted. Chief Keegan said that he was happy to see the Governor's new campaign but that this is going to take time.

Mayor Rogina said that there was a period of time when people thought Illinois was open because of the decision in Clay County. A business in town contacted him and stated their employees having to wear masks is a burden. The Mayor stated to the business owner if someone were to come into his business wearing a mask and employees aren't wearing them, he could lose that customer permanently. The Mayor said that the City is trying to follow the science and make reasonable rules. The Mayor went on to say that the wording of the April 27th ordinance should be changed from essential businesses to all businesses.

Ald. Bessner asked if there are repercussions if a business don't enforce the wearing of face masks. Mayor Rogina answered that there is a small fine that could be administered, but we've been trying to guide and educate.

Ald. Payleitner thanked the Mayor and City Administrator for addressing this issue. She said that she would like to think that this issue is because people aren't educated and not because of callousness. She said she would like to see us take a friendly approach. Ald. Payleitner stated that she has seen the signs posted but it's possible we need more signage. She suggested signs on doors of restaurants, table tents, reminders, and said she thinks that it's possible people just aren't aware of the seriousness of this issue.

Ald. Lemke stated that throughout the country there is a common theme and it's wearing a mask.

Ald. Silkaitis said that he agrees with what Ads. Payleitner said. However, if businesses repeatedly break the rules that needs to be addressed. He said that we need to publicize wearing masks and enforce it as well.

Chair Lewis asked if it's more of a problem in the downtown area or the big box stores?

Chief Keegan answered and said it's been a mix.

The Chief addressed the statement from Ald. Silkaitis and said that when we repeat customers, he himself has talked to them, and if needed the Health Department has been contacted. He noted that there was already a business shut down in St. Charles due to COVID-19.

Chief Keegan said he has talked to the restaurant and bars and explained contact tracing. If contact tracing led back to a restaurant or bar it would be closed down.

Chair Lewis noted that a problem could occur in outdoor areas, people don't wear masks, there is more socializing and it can be crowded. She asked if there is anything that can be done?

Chief Keegan stated that with the Outdoor Dining Plan all areas were inspected and each location was approved. Once moving from phase 3 to phase 4, we looked at the inside of establishments,

did walkthroughs to make sure tables are 6 ft. apart. He said that the Officers do the best we can to ensure that the rules are being followed, but they can't be everywhere.

Ald. Vitek said that she doesn't think it's the role of the police to enforce this, and asked if this is something the Health Department be enforcing. Chief Keegan said that they work with the Health Department.

City Administrator, Mark Koenen he thinks that when people head out for dinner they make the mistake of thinking they don't need a mask at all because they will be eating outdoors. He said that PR is needed to remind people that masks are needed at all times, unless eating.

Chair Lewis asked how we will do the PR. Mark answered that he will work with Lisa Garhan, and get more signs on First Street, additionally we can work with the St. Charles Business Alliance and The St. Charles Chamber of Commerce.

Ald. Vitek said the message can be shared on social media

Ald. Lemke said a note in the electric bills would cover nearly every address.

Ald. Bancroft stated that he feels the virus is contracted because of exposure and time. He stated that large gatherings are when it really hits. Ald. Bancroft said that exposure in common areas is more likely, but it's not clear sometimes when to wear a mask. There is no consistency, no right and wrong. The Alderman commended Chief Keegan on how the Police Department is handling the situation.

Mayor Rogina stated that he watched the City suffer from March to May, we opened and for a while IL had great numbers, possibly from being tough for a couple of months. The Mayor stated that it will be a shot in all our hearts if we go back to phase 3 because we didn't address sensibility and attempt to at least exist with the virus until we are protected by a vaccine.

Chair Lewis agreed and said that none of the Council Members want to go back to Phase 3. She said if we can do something to prevent that from happening we should all do our part. She told a story of a 5-year-old neighbor boy that visited a garage sale she had recently. The boy kept his mask on during the entire time he was there. He left, came back a while later, and still had his mask on. Chair Lewis stated that if a 5-year-old can do this, everyone should be able to do this.

Ald. Silkaitis said that if we don't fix this situation now we may pay the price later.

Mayor Rogina explained to the Council Members that staff can adjust the current ordinance and present it to Council under Executive Order at the next City Council meeting. They would change the wording from essential businesses to all businesses.

Chair Lewis asked if they are looking for approval for this now.

City Administrator, Mark Koenen said that the process for and Executive Order is that the Mayor can offer that and it becomes effective with his signature. It would be presented at the next Council Meeting, with the extension of the declaration of disaster. Within the body of the ordinance we

would ratify executive order No. 6, which would require masks. Mark stated that if this is the Council's guidance, we would prepare that document with our legal counsel and move forward.

Chair Lewis stated that the Council would like to move forward.

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. Stellato, second by Ald. Pietryla to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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

Motion Carried

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