

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
ALD. RON SILKAITIS, CHAIR
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Silkaitis at 7:05 pm.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: None

3. Human Resources Department

- a. Recommendation to authorize the City of St. Charles' Membership into the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC).

Jennifer McMahon explained that this cooperative is an insurance pool, and the City will benefit from participation due to the rising costs of claims. It spreads the expense risk among participating municipalities and therefore provides cost savings. There is no issue with the transition period.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Pietryla to approve the City of St. Charles' Membership into the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball; Nays: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Chairman Silkaitis did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

4. Finance Department

- a. Recommendation to approve an Ordinance Abating a Portion of the 2021 Property Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles.

Collen Lavery reminded the committee that the intention has always been to abate the amount of the 2021 property tax levy.

Motion by Ald. Payleitner, second by Ald. Lencioni to approve an Ordinance Abating a Portion of the 2021 Property Tax Heretofore Levied for the City of St. Charles.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball; Nays: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Chairman Silkaitis did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

5. Police Department

- a. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution, Street Closures, and Amplification Equipment for the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Chief Keegan described the plans for the annual parade as included in the executive summary.

Motion by Ald. Pietryla, second by Ald. Weber to approve a Resolution, Street Closures, and Amplification Equipment for the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball; Nays: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Chairman Silkaitis did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

- b. Recommendation to Approve a Resolution for Street and Parking Lot Closures, and Use of the Old Police Station Facility, for an Airboat Productions, LLC Movie Production.

Chief Keegan explained that there is some overlap in dates between the movie filming and the St. Patrick's Day Parade event. Various scenarios have been reviewed to ensure optimal support for the events. The film crew has experience and a solid plan for filming in St. Charles. There is a reimbursement agreement for personnel costs but no soft costs will be remitted for use of the police facility. The production company will notify businesses that may be affected.

Motion by Ald. Bessner, second by Ald. Wirball to approve a Resolution for Street and Parking Lot Closures, and Use of the Old Police Station Facility, for an Airboat Productions, LLC Movie Production.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball; Nays: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Chairman Silkaitis did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

6. City Administration

- a. Discussion Regarding Chicago/Cook County Vaccine Requirement for Certain Businesses.

Chair Silkaitis explained to the attendees that this item is for discussion only, and there is no request for a formal vote or action to be taken.

Heather McGuire reiterated that there is not a staff recommendation nor any policies or plans developed to implement any mandates at this time. The surrounding municipalities and Kane County have not indicated any intention to create such a mandate. The Chicago/Cook County policy information is provided for reference only. Today the City Administration offices received more than 200 messages in opposition to a vaccine mandate, and two in support (see Exhibit A). Additional phone calls were received (see Exhibit B.) The Mayor was approached by elected officials who felt it was important to discuss the issue and make clear to the public where the City stands on this issue.

Mayor Vitek shared that she is adamantly against instituting a requirement in St. Charles for

businesses to require proof of vaccination. The item is on the agenda to officially document the City's position and remove any doubt about where the elected officials stand on this issue.

The Committee discussed the issue. Several aldermen mentioned that they spoke with many constituents today regarding the issue, and happy that citizens are sharing their perspectives. The lack of a mandate is not an indictment of the vaccine. The committee is agreed that the City will not implement a vaccine mandate. No opposing opinions were voiced.

Attendees are welcome to comment and are asked to be respectful of others' opinions. The following persons stepped up to the podium:

- Marcy Miller spoke against the vaccines.
- Arthur Lemke spoke in favor of the Committee's discussion.
- Michael Stroud spoke in favor of vaccines.
- Kathy DeLoesch asked whether St. Charles may opt out of any current or future Kane County regulations, and it was explained that the City does not have a health department, so we default to the higher-level agency.
- Carmen Santiago-Keenon of Kane County spoke about her personal situation in which she cannot get the vaccine. She opposes any vaccine mandate.
- Amy Hartke asked about the City of St. Charles State of Emergency. City Attorney Nick Peppers explained that it preserves the right of the Council to conduct emergency action as needed.
- David Cohen thanks the committee for their commitment to the community. He spoke about the evolution of scientific knowledge, shared some information, and referred to the Nuremburg Code.
- Polly Deardorff of West Chicago is a former RN with active license advocates patient choice for the vaccine and opposes a mandate.
- Anonymous person spoke about a vaccinated person's ability to spread Covid.
- Chris Margowich repeated some of the previously shared comments and appreciates that the committee has made the right decision.
- Mitch Bridges asked about what St. Charles will do if Kane County creates a vaccine passport.
- Dr. Lauren Sisterold talked about the pharmaceutical companies influence on scientific research. She advocates people to be in control of their own health.
- Mike Maritas is a resident and business owner. He feels it is not his place to enforce a vaccine mandate and pleased about the committee's decision.

The committee reiterated that today's topic is regarding a vaccine mandate and not an evaluation of the vaccine. Most people who provided comments about a mandate, verbally and in writing, offered that they are personally vaccinated. People are encouraged to do their own research and make their own health care decisions.

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

None

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Weber, second by Ald. Bancroft to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ald. Bessner, Ald. Weber, Ald. Balla, Ald. Payleitner, Ald. Bongard, Ald. Bancroft, Ald. Lencioni, Ald. Pietryla, Ald. Wirball; Nays: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None. Chairman Silkaitis did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

:sb