

**St. Charles County Council Journal  
Budget Work Session – November 8, 2021**

The budget work session of the St. Charles County Council was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Council Chair Elam introduced Bob Schnur, Finance Director, to provide an overview of the 2022 Recommended Budget for St. Charles County Government.

Schnur reviewed the all-funds summary and the general fund. Sales tax numbers are currently at 10.8% but were budgeted conservatively for 2022 at 5%. Fees, license, and permit revenues are forecast to remain flat, while the Corrections Department has ever increasing demands on the budget. The Federal prisoner count is decreasing which relieves stress on the Corrections Department that is down 40 correctional officers. CARES Act funding ended in June of 2021, with a final transfer of \$3.3 million to first responder, jail, and sheriff salaries. The fund was closed and all audit requests were satisfied. There is an increase of 4.8% for operating expenditures mainly due to Corrections (medical costs), Health (medical supplies), Medical Examiner (autopsy costs and lab fees.)

The self-insurance fund required a \$2.31 million transfer covered by an allocation to each department and based on actual employees. There was an increase of 8% to County contributions and a 5% increase to employee health premiums. All employees will receive a 7% pay raise and 20 new positions were added to the budget out of 48 requested.

New funds were reviewed including the American Rescue Plan Act Fund of \$39.04 million in 2022 and another \$39.04 million expected in 2023. These funds are required to be obligated by 2024 and the projects completed by 2026. The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Fund was used for operational items like seats and video boards at the Arena and ARPA funds will be dedicated to the Arena's structural integrity because it is our primary mass emergency site. There is also a new Sheriff's fund to cover transfers.

Challenges remain with 63% of the budget being derived from sales tax, but the county has taken advantage of good economic times to maintain a healthy fund balance. There are continuing budget concerns due to lags in federal reimbursements, efforts to move employees through pay ranges, struggles to find and retain employees, inflation, and pandemic effects.

Discussion was held concerning the county plans for a recession or sales tax decreases. The County is currently emphasizing wise spending, non-overspending and increasing the fund balance to respond to a recession. No projections have been made for Wayfair revenue.

The budget numbers from ARPA funds are placeholders in the 2022 budget. The \$29 million held for the jail project will be reviewed and renovation costs will be presented to Council for approval. It is not yet known how the recently passed Federal infrastructure bill will affect our budget for jail and road projects. The County Executive has just started to study the bill.

Michelle McBride, Collector of Revenue, reported that an adjustment to a tax maintenance cost allocation will allow her to put \$50,000 back in the Collector's postage account.

Councilman Hammond motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Hollander with all in favor. The work session ended at 6:30 p.m.

**St. Charles County Council Journal  
Regular Meeting – November 8, 2021**

The St. Charles County Council met on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:03 p.m. in the County Council Chambers, 100 North Third Street, St. Charles, Missouri. Pastor Will VerDuin with Celebration Christian Church, provided the invocation virtually through Microsoft Teams and Council Chair Elam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following roll call was taken by the Clerk:

Councilman Joe Cronin	present
Councilman Joe Brazil	present
Councilman Mike Elam	present
Councilman Dave Hammond	present
Councilman Terry Hollander	present
Councilwoman Nancy Schneider	present
Councilman John White	present

County Executive Staff present:

Steve Ehlmann, County Executive  
 Joann Leykam, Director of Administration  
 Jennifer George, Assistant Director of Administration  
 John Greifzu, Assistant Director of Administration

County Counselor’s Office:

Rory O’Sullivan, Acting County Counselor

**IN THE MATTER OF**                     )  
    )  
**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**         )

Steve Ehlmann, County Executive, addressed the issue of Covid-19 quarantine policy in schools. According to new state guidance, if infection rates are low and vaccinations rates increase, then schools can allow exposed students to return to school if vaccinated or if they wear a mask. The reporting rate of close contacts of some schools is higher than others, but the trend of infection and quarantines numbers is going down.

Ehlmann informed the Council that a Spire pipeline that serves the County has been ordered to shut down on Dec. 13, following a lawsuit filed by an environmental group challenging FERC issuing the permit. The pipeline can operate under an emergency stay, but Ehlmann instructed our legal counsel to file a Motion to Intervene on the side of Spire to see how things are moving in the courtroom. But if a shutdown happens, the County is preparing for the emergency. The Council discussed passing a resolution in support of extending the deadline to operate the pipeline.

Councilman Brazil questioned Ehlmann when the COVID-19 restrictions would end and on what data his decisions are based. Brazil stated the health department gives guidance that the schools follow, but the data doesn't justify the restrictions and that 71% of our local population has been persuaded to be vaccinated is an abomination. Brazil stated "these aren't Republican values."

Ehlmann acknowledged that he and Brazil have been at odds on this issue since the beginning and that vaccination should be a personal choice but noted that other Republican counties have stricter quarantine guidelines.

Councilman Cronin noted everyone has the right to their own opinion, but Wentzville complaints have gone down since the modified quarantines.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION** )

Councilwoman Schneider motioned to amend the agenda to bring up Bill No. 5013 for introduction. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hollander with all councilmembers in favor.

**BILL NO. 5013 - SPONSORED BY COUNCIL AS A WHOLE - AN ORDINANCE TO RENAME THE ST. CHARLES COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER THE "RAYMOND J. GRUSH JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER"**

Councilwoman Schneider explained her sponsorship of this bill to put Raymond J. Grush's name on the Juvenile Justice Center in honor of his outstanding professional career. Jim Wallis, Judge Rebeca Navarro-McKelvey, Fran Pieper and Nancy Schneider all attested that Ray Grush's vocation was to protect the well-being of at-risk children; his focus up until his death was serving the kids of this County. Ray's commitment to these "little souls" was his life's work, his passion, and his responsibility. It was stated that there was no one more deserving of this honor and fitting that those entering the Juvenile Justice Center should see the name Raymond J Grush.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
**CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS** )  
**BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION** )

Council Chair Elam announced that Bill No. 5009 was inaccurately placed on the agenda as a CUP, and as the bill simply requests an amendment to a current CUP, it would be introduced later in the meeting with the bills for introduction

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS** )

Council Chair Elam opened public comments and requested comments be limited to three minutes per speaker with three alternating pro and con positions on a topic.

Arnie Dienoff, O’Fallon, congratulated all involved in securing the funding to straighten the curve and add lanes on Interstate 70 in Wentzville. Deinoff questioned a conflict of interest when our lobbyist serves on the governing arm of East West Gateway Council, questioned why the county pays multiple lobbyists, and requested telephone access and more transparency to Medical Examiner Commission meetings. Dienoff requested the Medical Examiner’s salary be exposed and stated Bill No. 5006 is an infringement of rights and Bill No. 5007 is corporate welfare.

Jen Olson, Wentzville resident, suggested the County Executive end all COVID-19 quarantines, mask mandates, required testing and vaccinations. Olson questioned Ehlmann’s authority to make these recommendations and the data used to justify them. Olson told Ehlmann to have the courage to end the government overreach and the direct violation civil rights which is leading to tyranny.

Mary Ann Boatright, St. Peters resident, stated election software services should be performed in house to support the community and questioned if the security risks had been analyzed. Boatright stated this software holds (PII) Personal Identifiable Information that should be safeguarded and not stored in a cloud that is owned by big tech who don’t have the best interest of citizens at heart. Boatright stated China is storing medical information including DNA and has an edge to create a bioweapon. Boatright pleaded that we stop giving away our information.

Aimee Benninghoefen, O’Fallon resident, stated she works with kids daily and it absurd to mask a 3-year-old. Benninghoefen stated the COVID symptoms that kids experience are like a cold and we don’t quarantine, vaccinate or wear masks for colds. Benninghoefen stated there is no proof that vaccinations work, the vaccinated still get COVID, and asked the Executive to lead by example and stop the restrictions.

Haylee Hurcules, Wentzville resident, requested Executive Ehlmann truly advocate for change and get kids in school without masks that hinder their ability to learn. Hercules stated contact tracing is only done in schools, not public events, public meetings, bars or restaurants. Hercules stated the modified restrictions are effectively a backhanded vaccine mandate and the vaccinated are given preferential treatment even though they can still spread COVID.

There were 5 additional speakers on Bill No. 5010 that Council Chair Elam requested speak when the bill was introduced.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
**ORAL REPORT** )  
**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE** )

Steve Ehlmann, County Executive, reiterated there was never a mask mandate in St. Charles County because it was unenforceable. Ehlmann stated the school boards had to make their own decisions and the Federal government issued the mandates to wear masks on school buses.

Councilman Brazil suggested the Executive do what the voters want and stop quarantines and masking.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**CONSENT AGENDA** )

Councilman Cronin motioned that removed consent agenda item, Professional Services – Elections Management Software/InTech Software Solutions, Inc./\$173,750.00 be placed on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Hollander with no one in opposition.

Council Chair Elam asked if there was anything to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Council man Brazil made a motion to remove the following, seconded by Councilman Cronin with no opposition:

**Nominations and Appointments - Convention and Sports Facilities Authority**

- Paul Woody (D), partial term expiring 4/27/22, current member
- Thomas Wapelhorst (R), partial term expiring 4-27-23, current member
- Frederick Dyer (R), partial term expiring 4-27-24, current member
- Timothy Green (D), partial term expiring 4-27-25, new appointment
- Kimberly Brinkmann (R), partial term expiring 4-27-26, new appointment

Councilman White made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as modified, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider and unanimously approved. The approved items are as follows:

**Approval of Journal of the previous meetings – 10-25-2021**

**Approval of Bids**

- Community Development – Professional Services – 2021-2023 CDBG Transportation Services Agreement/OATS, Inc./\$67,375.00
- Parks and Recreation – Professional Services – Design, Fabrication, and Installation for Heritage Museum/Riggs Ward/\$295,000.00
- Information Systems - Professional Services – Elections Management Software/InTech Software Solutions, Inc./\$173,750.00

**Nominations and Appointments**

Radio Communications Policy Commission - Kelly Cope, St. Charles County Ambulance District CEO, replacing Taz Meyer

Industrial Development Authority - Julie Bartch, City of St. Peters, partial term expiring 12-15-21

**IN THE MATTER OF )**  
**ITEMS REMOVED FROM )**  
**THE CONSENT AGENDA )**

Councilman Brazil explained that he proposed two very qualified candidates, each with an interest in the wine district for this appointment and was disappointed and upset that neither were selected. Brazil stated he does not oppose the appointments, but has been working for years to open up this funding to the wine district and felt this excluded his efforts and was not in the best interest of his district. Brazil took issue with a lack of separation between the executive and legislative bodies in our current County government.

Executive Ehlmann replied that his appointments represented all the districts, not just the wine country, and Ehlmann felt they would oversee a fair process of hearing proposals and awarding funding across the County. Ehlmann encouraged Brazil to have his candidates promote their causes to the Authority.

Councilman Cronin took exception to Councilman Brazil and didn't feel that the Executive's appointments played favorites.

Councilman Hollander motioned to accept the appointments, seconded by Councilman Cronin with all in favor but Councilman Brazil. The approved appointments are as follows:

**Nominations and Appointments**

Convention and Sports Facilities Authority

- Paul Woody (D), partial term expiring 4/27/22, current member
- Thomas Wapelhorst (R), partial term expiring 4-27-23, current member
- Frederick Dyer (R), partial term expiring 4-27-24, current member
- Timothy Green (D), partial term expiring 4-27-25, new appointment
- Kimberly Brinkmann (R), partial term expiring 4-27-26, new appointment

**IN THE MATTER OF** )

**BILLS FOR FINAL PASSGE** )

Bill No. 5003 – Sponsored by Mike Elam – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN ST. CHARLES COUNTY AND THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES FOR THE CITY'S OPERATION OF THE URBAN COUNTY'S 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

There being no discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – yes, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – yes, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 5003 was unanimously approved.

Bill No. 5004 – Sponsored by Mike Elam – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR USE OF COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR STORM SEWER, UTILITY AND ROAD WORK

There being no discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – yes, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – yes, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 5004 was unanimously approved.

Bill No. 5005 – Sponsored by Mike Elam – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING UNPAID LEAVE ACCESS TO EMPLOYEES WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE OR WHOSE FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE TO COMPLY WITH THE MISSOURI VICTIMS ECONOMIC SAFETY AND SECURITY ACT (VESSA) AND PAID LEAVE ACCESS TEMPORARILY TO CERTAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEES

There being no discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – yes, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – yes, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 5005 was unanimously approved.

Bill No. 5006 – Sponsored by Mike Elam – AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE FINGERPRINTING OF EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION FROM THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Councilman Cronin motioned to table this bill for more time to work with administration on how this relates to Ordinance No. 19-069. Councilman Brazil seconded the motion with all in favor. Bill No. 5006 was tabled.

Bill No. 5007 – Sponsored by Council as a Whole – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ST. PETERS FOR USE OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FUNDS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LAKESIDE 370 NORTHPOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Councilman Cronin noted this funding covers building the road which other companies will use and is good for economic development.

There being no further discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – yes, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – yes, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 5007 was unanimously approved.

Bill No. 5008 – Sponsored by Joe Cronin and Mike Elam – AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 275, OF THE ORDINANCES OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI (“OSCCMo”), RELATING TO REGULATION OF THE SALE OF EPHEDRINE AND PSEUDOEPHEDRINE RELATED PROJECTS BY ST. CHARLES COUNTY AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 11-062, AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 11-079

Councilman Cronin noted many County residents are happy to again be able to buy allergy medication. Councilman Elam thanked all involved in getting this bill approved and noted Mexican methamphetamine was a continuing problem.

There being no further discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – yes, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – yes, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 5008 was unanimously approved.

Councilman Brazil requested a point of order questioning if the Professional Services contract for Elections software was talked about. It was confirmed that Councilman Cronin motioned to place that item back on the consent agenda, which was seconded and approved by consent.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION** )

Bill No. 5009 - Sponsored by: Mike Elam - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 07-098 GRANTING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CUP NO. 682 FOR OUTDOOR STORAGE OF AUTOMOBILE, BOAT, AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES TO WELDON SPRING BUSINESS PARK, LLC

Council Chair Elam noted this requested expansion was behind a current storage lot.

Bill No. 5010 - Sponsored by: Joe Brazil - AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT'S DECISION ON APPLICATION VAR21-02

Councilman Brazil requested a summary of this request from Robert Myers, Planning and Zoning Division Director. Myers explained this ½ acre parcel at 5280 Hackmann Rd, just east of Augusta, is zoned agricultural, calling for a current minimum lot size of 5 acres. Myers explained there are 2,030 agricultural parcels smaller than an acre, but sewage disposal systems for 1-3 acres lots are considered on case-by-case basis. A building permit was issued for this parcel and later withdrawn due to the lot size incorrectly reported on a survey. The Board of Zoning Adjustment denied this variance at their September 2021 meeting and the applicants are appealing to the Council to reverse the BZA decision. Myers stated a hardship must be proven for the variance to be considered.

The homebuilder, Joe Moran, pled his case to the Council, arguing that there was a house on the parcel, zoned vacant residential when he bought it in 2008, and he believed he could build on it. Moran has since sold the property to the Weitzels. Moran explained a peat moss septic system doesn't require a large leach field which should open this parcel up for development. Moran stated the building department approved and issued a permit which they later withdrew. Moran addressed the 4 criteria that qualified his proposed project for a hardship variance, including his denied request to buy more land from his neighbor, and the land would be unusable if variance was not approved.

Donald Struckhoff, neighbor to this property for 81 years, stated a 20' x 30' house sat on this property and was torn down in 2011. Struckhoff stated the proposed residence is larger than 20 x 30 and comes within 10 ft of his property line which he uses for agricultural purposes because it is on high ground. He is opposed to this development and feels the house would be too close to non-peaceful farming activity.

Jann Weitzel, owner of the property with many ties to the St. Charles County community, stated this was her dream retirement home, she would appreciate the rural nature of the parcel, would be a good neighbor and requested Council approve the variance.

Michael Hurlbert, Community Development Director, explained the Council was being asked to confirm the ordinance that denied this request due to the parcel being less than an acre.

Councilman Cronin requested a site plan.

Bill No. 5011 - Sponsored by: Mike Elam - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH

**MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE KENNELING SERVICES OR KENNELING SERVICES AND ENFORCEMENT**

Bill No. 5012 - Sponsored by: Mike Elam - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 285.010, ORDINANCES OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI (“OSCCMo”), REGARDING THE ST. CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT CIVIL PROCESS FEE SCHEDULE

Bill No, 5013 – had been moved to the beginning of the agenda

Bill No. 5014 - Sponsored by Mike Elam - AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE DURATION WITHIN WHICH A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT MUST BE IN PLACE AND IN ACTIVE USE BEFORE IT IS CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID FOR ALL PERMITS SET TO EXPIRE DURING THE CURRENT NINETY DAY EXTENSION, FOR A TOTAL EXTENSION PERIOD OF TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY DAYS FROM AUGUST 31, 2021

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
 )  
**TABLED BILLS** )

There were no bills removed from the table.

**IN THE MATTER OF** )  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND** )  
**MISCELLANEOUS** )

Councilman Cronin noted Veteran’s Day on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and thanked all veterans for their sacrifices.

Councilman Brazil announced the Defiance Christmas Parade would be the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in December and is the “biggest Christmas parade in the littlest town.”

County Executive Ehlmann announced the County Veteran’s Day Ceremony would be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Veteran’s Memorial outside the County Executive Building, with Missouri Governor Parson, US Senator Blunt and US Congresswoman Wagner scheduled to attend.

Council Chair Elam announced he was officially a grandfather with Cason Michael Elam being born to John and Natalie Elam during the meeting.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Schneider made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Hollander and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 9:09 p.m.

Examined and Approved

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Mike Elam, Council Chair  
St. Charles County, Missouri

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