

**St. Charles County Council Journal
Closed Meeting – February 22, 2021**

The St. Charles County Council met on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers, 100 North Third Street, St. Charles, Missouri. Council Chair Elam requested a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Hollander made motion to go into closed meeting pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (1), seconded by Council Member Brazil. A roll call vote was taken to go into the closed meeting as follows: Councilman Cronin – absent, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – absent, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes.

[The minutes of this closed meeting are currently a closed record pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The original minutes are in the legal file for this matter in the Counselor’s Office and will be added to the Council records after this becomes an open record.]

The closed meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**St. Charles County Council Journal
Regular Meeting – February 22, 2021**

The St. Charles County Council met on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:01 p.m. in the County Council Chambers, 100 North Third Street, St. Charles, Missouri.

Rabbi Chaim Landa, director of the Chabad Jewish Center of St. Charles County provided the invocation and Councilman White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following roll call was taken by the Clerk:

Councilman Joe Cronin	absent
Councilman Joe Brazil	present
Councilman Mike Elam	present
Councilman Dave Hammond	absent
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
John Greifzu, Assistant Director of Administration

County Counselor’s Office:

Rory O’Sullivan, Acting County Counselor

IN THE MATTER OF)
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PUBLIC COMMENTS)

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

Masks in Schools

Gavin Carnett, O’Fallon resident and student representative for Project Smile at Fort Zumwalt North High School, expressed objections to overly cautious COVID-19 restrictions in schools that are destroying the morale and the mental well-being of students. Carnett stated Project Smile supports the position of the Great Barrington Declaration that encourages those with minimal risk to live normally and build immunity to the COVID-19 virus while those at most risk of death can choose their level of caution. Carnett asked the Council, Executive and Health Department for change and more freedom.

Dane Bishop, O’Fallon resident and current Junior at Fort Zumwalt North High School, stated students struggle to learn and make friends due to COVID-19 restrictions. Bishop noted the lack of events where kids can engage with each other and cited health concerns for students who consistently touch and reuse their masks. Bishop stated he is ridiculed by students and teachers for his desire to return to normal and stated the fearful people control other’s rights to make their own decisions. Bishop stated kids can live a normal life while protecting the vulnerable.

Dylan Teglo, O’Fallon resident and current Senior at Fort Zumwalt North High School, cited some negative effects of the mask restrictions on students. Teglo supports the position of the Great Barrington Declaration that encourages normal activity for students. Teglo stated he appreciates being heard and wants changes to be made to COVID-19 restrictions in schools.

Brian Bishop, O’Fallon resident, stated the treatment of children in schools due to COVID-19 requirements is a disgrace and that the data doesn’t support requiring masks and socially distancing all activities. Bishop stated the harassment and fear that accompany enforcing added requirements cause stress and reduced learning and he considers them punishment. Bishop requested the County Executive put forth an exit strategy to end the dehumanizing requirements enforced in schools.

Kate Gatewood, O’Fallon resident, stated that masks cover smiles and block the positive stimuli of smiles. Gatewood encouraged the Council to consider the negative impact masks can cause including increased stress, depression, suicide and aggression in students, and delayed development. Gatewood questioned the effectiveness of masks, stated some experts say hand washing is more important to reduce spread of viruses, and doesn’t think the risk of infection versus death correlates to student requirements.

Councilman Brazil congratulated and thanked the student and parents who participated in public comments and encouraged peaceful action and strength to stand up for personal beliefs.

Miscellaneous

Arnie Dienoff, O’Fallon resident, thanked County employees who handled recent snow events, stated he opposes paid County lobbyists and requested more information and debate in the upcoming year

from the County Council. Dienoff stated he supports a profitable family Arena and recommends a 5-year period before elected officials get hired by the County. Dienoff questioned out of County spending, County workers line jumping for vaccines and stated he opposes the current MODOT I-70 Cave Springs project.

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

County Executive, Steve Ehlmann, addressed the students who participated in public comments and stated his appreciation for their interest in the subject of COVID-19 restrictions. Ehlmann clarified that masks were a condition by the School Boards and Governor in order to make an exception to the quarantine guidelines. Ehlmann noted that any complaints about school mandates should be made to the School Boards. Ehlmann cited the opposition by teachers to open schools in August and noted that St. Charles County worked for less restrictions.

Discussion was held clarifying that the School Boards control COVID-19 requirements and practices in the schools.

Ehlmann stated he is pleased with the efforts of Health Department to administer vaccines and stated although it is less than anticipated, 2,300 vaccines would be given this week at the Family Arena.

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

Council Chair Elam asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. There being nothing to remove, Councilman White motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Hollander and approved by all present. The approved items are as follows:

Approval of Journal of the previous meetings – 2-8-2021

Approval of Bids

Highway – 2021 Concrete Removal and Replacement A – M & H Concrete Contractors, Inc.

\$1,281,680.00

– 2021 Concrete Removal and Replacement B – M & H Concrete Contractors, Inc.,

\$1,544,160.00

– Tires – All Bidders: Tucker Tire Service, Inc., Froesel Tire, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., BestDrive, Best One Tire & Service/\$70,000

Construction Management – Justice Center Chiller Replacement/Nooter Construction Co./

\$735,082.00

Corrections – Prof. Services – Mental Health Services for Adult Detention Center/

S. Battula, MD, LLC/\$171,400.00

– Prof. Services – Mental Health Services for Adult Detention Center/Comfort Consulting, LLC/\$176,800.00

Information Systems – Barracuda Backup Solution/Software House International/\$1,388,845.28

Police, Sheriff and Emergency Communications – Omnigo Software (ITI) Support/Omnigo Software/\$62,677.26

IN THE MATTER OF)
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BILLS FOR FINAL PASSGE)

Bill No. 4928 - Sponsored by: Mike Elam - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 20-094 FOR POSITIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ST. CHARLES COUNTY FAMILY ARENA

There being no discussion, Council Chair Elam requested the following roll call vote: Councilman Cronin – absent, Councilman Brazil – yes, Councilman Elam – yes, Councilman Hammond – absent, Councilman Hollander – yes, Councilwoman Schneider – yes and Councilman White – yes. Bill No. 4928 was approved 5 – 2.

IN THE MATTER OF)
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BILLS FOR INTRODUCTION)

Bill No. 4829 - Sponsored by: Council as a Whole - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA") TO FUND 100% OF THE PROJECTED TOTAL COSTS OF ACQUIRING THREE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES SUSTAINING SEVERE AND REPETATIVE LOSS IN FLOOD-HAZARD ZONES OF UNINCORPORATED ST. CHARLES COUNTY, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS AND PERFORM ACTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR PURCHASING AND DEMOLISHING THOSE STRUCTURES

Bill No. 4830 - Sponsored by: Council as a Whole - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT, FEDERAL PROJECT STP-7303(619), WITH THE MISSOURI HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO 80 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION, SIDEWALKS AND TURN LANES ON DUELLO ROAD FROM MO N TO ORF ROAD.

IN THE MATTER OF)
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TABLED BILLS)

There were no Tabled Bills removed.

IN THE MATTER OF)
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND)
MISCELLANEOUS)

Councilman Brazil announced a Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Melle Community Center. The meeting will address District 2 issues including

5-year master plans for development, parks and roads, and police statistics.

Councilman Brazil announced a St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place in Defiance on March 13, 2021 beginning at Noon with live music beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the town square.

Council Chair Elam acknowledged Councilman Hollander for his participation in the 5-hour Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on February 17, 2021.

There being no further announcements, Councilwoman Schneider motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman White and approved by all present.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Examined and Approved

Mike Elam, Council Chair
St. Charles County, Missouri

/csf