

## St. Charles County Council Journal

### Work Session – August 24, 2020

A work session of the St. Charles County Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m. to discuss the 2021-2025 Capital Plan.

Council Member Joe Cronin	present
Council Member Joe Brazil	absent
Council Member Mike Elam	present
Council Member Dave Hammond	present
Council Member Terry Hollander	present
Council Member Nancy Schneider	present
Council Member 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:

John Watson, County Counselor

Council Chair Hollander explained the session was intended to discuss large capital requests and better understand the upcoming needs of County departments, clarifying that each item will still come before Council for approval.

Joanne Leykam, Director of Administration, explained a balanced Capital Plan is presented for 2021 with department needs having been weighed against available funding and with many critical projects deferred to future years. Approximately \$13 million is collected annually in Capital Improvement sales tax. Without new revenue sources, renovations to the Justice Center, maintenance and improvements to the Family Arena, and replacement of failing systems in various county facilities will be unaffordable.

Discussion was held with Christine Ramsdell, Facilities Management Director, who explained her request for 3.5 million is less than the \$5 million needed to keep buildings up to date. There are unavoidable large expenses for HVAC, roofing replacement and repair that have been rolled to future years. Upkeep of the Justice Center will cost \$8 million. Further discussion concerning the Justice Center included the issues of backlogged cases and unpaid money from the State for prisoners housed in our jail. Councilwoman noted the new booking center in the Justice Center is being completed by contractors who have put thought and expertise into the design and build

Matthew Seeds, IS director, explained the IS department has recently completed many large capital projects is now on track to budget for a solid maintenance plan. Seeds is confident in his request of nearly \$4 million for maintenance, systems consolidation, updates to doors and cameras, continued fiber networking, cyber security, and application upgrades.

Ryan Graham, Director of Parks, explained the County operates 17 parks covering nearly 4,000 acres. Park attendance hit a record high in 2019. Operations and acreage increased as well as the need for programming and personnel. The Parks Department has budgeted 11.2 million for operating costs and capital transfers and is budgeting to develop the Youth Activity Park and the Park at New Melle Lakes which bring in revenue.

Diminishing sales tax revenue, current purchasing habits and possible revenue solutions including bond refinancing, new bonds, internet sales tax, use tax and fuel tax were discussed. Robert Schnurr, Director of Finance noted a slight decrease in 2020 sales tax figures and that the Family Arena bonds will be paid off in 2025.

Councilman Elam suggested further work sessions to discuss the Justice Center plans and funding solutions or possible income streams. Leykam stated the County Executive staff will continue to see that departments stay within budgets and work towards solutions for revenue shortages in the face of operational increases.

Councilman Elam motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Cronin and agreed to by all members present. The work session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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Terry Hollander, Council Chair  
St. Charles County, Missouri

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