



MINUTES

City Council Meeting Republic Community Center, 711 E. Miller July 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Jeff Ussery, Mayor
Brandon Self, Ward I
Garry Wilson, Ward II
Christopher Updike, Ward III
Jennifer Mitchell, Ward IV

Eric Franklin, Ward I
Gerry Pool, Ward II
Matt Russell, Ward III
Jim Deichman, Ward IV

Call Meeting to Order

The regular session meeting of the City Council of the City of Republic, Greene County, Missouri, was called to order by Mayor Jeff Ussery at 6:31 p.m. at the Republic Community Center. Council Members in attendance were: Eric Franklin, Jim Deichman, Garry Wilson, Brandon Self, Christopher Updike, Matt Russell, Jennifer Mitchell, and Gerry Pool. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, Assistant City Administrator Jared Keeling, Police Chief Brian Sells, City Attorney Scott Ison, Assistant Public Works Director Garrett Brickner, Public Information Officer Mike Landis, IT Director Josh Jones, Principal Planner Karen Haynes, Public Works Director Andrew Nelson, Fire Chief Duane Compton, and City Clerk Laura Burbridge.

Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by City Administrator David Cameron.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Jeff Ussery.

Citizen Participation

Mayor Ussery opened Citizen Participation at 6:32 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Ussery closed Citizen Participation at 6:32 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Deichman to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 8 Aye-Deichman, Russell, Pool, Franklin, Self, Wilson, Updike and Mitchell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

1. Approve June 16, 2020 City Council Minutes.
2. As per RSMo. 109.230(4), City records that are on file in the City Clerk’s office and have met the retention schedule will be destroyed in compliance with the guidelines established by the Secretary of State’s office.
3. Approve Utility Billing Adjustments.
4. Approve Vendor List.

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

Board of Adjustment Meeting	August 6, 2020
Planning and Zoning Commission	August 10, 2020
City Council Meeting	August 18, 2020
City Council Meeting	August 25, 2020

Old Business and Tabled Items

5. **20-25 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving Amending the Zoning Code and Official Map by Changing the Classification of Approximately 0.47 Acres, Located at 127 East Mill, from Medium Density Single-Family Residential (R1-M) to Two-Family Residential (R-2).**



Motion was made by Council Member Russell and seconded by Council Member Pool to have the second reading of Bill 20-25 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Franklin, Pool, Russell, Deichman, Mitchell, Updike, Wilson, and Self. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes was available to answer any questions from Council. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 Aye-Russell, Updike, Franklin, Pool, Mitchell, Deichman, and Wilson. 0 Nay. 1 Abstention-Self. Motion Carried.

6. **20-26 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving Amending the Zoning Code and Official Map by Changing the Classification of Approximately 0.47 Acres, Located at 616 North Phelps Avenue, from Medium Density Single-Family Residential (R1-M) to High Density Single-Family Residential (R1-H).**

Motion was made by Council Member Pool and seconded by Council Member Franklin to have the second reading of Bill 20-26 by title only. The vote was 8 Aye-Franklin, Pool, Russell, Deichman, Mitchell, Updike, Wilson, and Self. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes was available to answer any questions from Council. Council Member Russell motioned for the passage of Bill 20-26. Council Member Pool seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye-Mitchell, Self, Deichman, Wilson, Franklin, Pool, Updike, and Russell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)

7. **20-27 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, to Establish a Procedure for Disclosing Potential Conflicts of Interest and Substantial Interests for Certain Officials.**

Council Member Franklin motioned for the first reading of Bill 20-27 by title only. Council Member Pool seconded. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Scott Ison provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Ussery reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with Mr. Ison with any questions prior to the next meeting.

8. **20-28 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving the Annexation of Approximately 5.0 Acres of Land Located at 688 South Kansas Avenue and Adjacent Right-of-Way.**

Council Member Wilson motioned for the first reading of Bill 20-28 by title only. Council Member Franklin seconded. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Mitchell, and Updike. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the bill. The applicant, Todd Wright, was available to answer questions. Mayor Ussery reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with Ms. Haynes with any questions prior to the next meeting.

Other Business (Resolutions)

9. **20-R-24 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Awarding the Bid for the Parking Lot and Driveway Paving at the Republic Animal Control Facility.**

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-24. Garrett Brickner provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Updike, and Mitchell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

10. 20-R-25 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter Into an Agreement with Missouri State University for Services Related to the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and seconded by Council Member Deichman to approve Resolution 20-R-25. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Updike, and Mitchell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

11. 20-R-26 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing Task Order No. 9 with Burns & McDonnell to Develop and Evaluate the Current Rate Structure, Revenues, and Expenses of the Wastewater Fund to Provide Recommendations for Future Rates, Capital Improvements and Financial Sustainability.

Motion was made by Council Member Russell and seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-26. Andrew Nelson provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Updike, and Mitchell. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Reports from Staff

Report from City Administrator:

City Administrator David Cameron welcomed Council Members Jennifer Mitchell and Christopher Updike to the Council. Mr. Cameron stated he looks forward to working with them as part of our team.

City Administrator David Cameron commended Mike Landis for taking care of the microphones and the work Mike and his boys did to set up for the meeting.

City Administrator David Cameron thanked the Ussery family and shared it was great to see them here to support Mayor Ussery.

City Administrator David Cameron gave the Finance Report. Mr. Cameron talked about the Sustainability and Recovery Plan previously made in anticipation of COVID related decreases in revenue. Mr. Cameron shared that sales tax receipts showed a 1% decrease in June instead of the anticipated 30% down. Sales tax numbers were up 14% for July instead of the 40% anticipated decrease. This has been about a quarter million dollar benefit to the general fund. Our fund balance relief effort ranges around three quarters of a million dollars beyond anticipated between the savings we made and the revenue being better than anticipated. Mr. Cameron shared the impact has not been nearly as bad as expected. We stopped spending, hiring, and stopped capital improvement projects as part of the plan. We are anticipating what August numbers will be and there are different theories why the numbers are as they are. Mr. Cameron shared we have been blessed with our financial outcome to date but are staying vigilant. Mr. Cameron shared he has authorized filling the financial officer vacancy as internal controls and separation of duties are fundamental to what we do. Mr. Cameron notified Council he also authorized public safety positions. In addition to filling some vacant positions, starting next payroll, we will re-institute merit increases. To replace the COLA that was in the budget, we are taking those funds as a one time wage adjustment. This is to use the funds staff saved with their spending cuts and to recognize where the resources came from to keep us financially sustainable. Mr. Cameron shared we are in a strong financial position. We have a 3.5 million dollar cash position and can't finish the year in that position without acknowledging staff. We want to be prudent with the public resources, but recognize staff for doing more work with less resources. We are well below our expenditures and above our revenue at this time. Other communities are seeing increases as well, but not all communities.

City Administrator David Cameron notified Council he anticipates calling a special meeting between now and the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Cameron shared that anytime Council Members want to take a tour of what is going on in the City developmentally, he welcomes that opportunity to show them. Mr. Cameron shared how we are working with developers and property owners to install infrastructure and get reimbursed when development is complete. These agreements can include the developer buying the material and us providing labor. With these agreements, we are under timelines, but want Council to see those details prior to acting. There are a number of things we are working on that we hope to bring to Council prior to the next meeting.

City Administrator David Cameron shared permit approval reviews used to be difficult to get for development through the city. Mr. Cameron shared the process is taking 13-14 days, which developers comment is refreshing. Mr. Cameron shared the updated residential and commercial approval process time frame went from 12-15 days down to 2.8 days. Mr. Cameron commended staff and said it says a lot when outside developments come in and call it refreshing. This improvement goes to our mission statement focusing on processes, relationships, and trust. Staff worked through COVID and thrived while continuing to deliver a high level of service and improve their work. Mr. Cameron shared all the staff in Community Development took on different roles to make things happen and that should be celebrated.

Report from Mayor:

Mayor Jeff Ussery said it is great to hear all the great steps being made in the City of Republic.

Mayor Jeff Ussery shared he is going to say goodbye as mayor and stated it has been a journey. Mayor Ussery shared he loved doing this, but his family comes first. He shared he is lucky to have a promotion at work, but that takes more of his time. Mayor Ussery stated when he ran for Mayor again in December, nobody knew a pandemic would happen and things changed dramatically. Mayor Ussery shared he has worked a lot of hours and when you add talking 10-15 times per day during COVID while juggling his work, it has been like two full time jobs. Mayor Ussery shared he had to talk to staff, other cities, the health department, and County regularly. Mayor Ussery shared the election should have been in April but was held in June and the margin is not there. He stated he must do what is right.

Mayor Jeff Ussery thanked staff for all the hard work, Council for serving with him, and the citizens for electing him. Mayor Ussery thanked Bryan Penney for being on the campaign, running his financials, and keeping him in line with the Ethics Commission. Mayor Ussery shared he is grateful for his family; Cathy, Jace, and Juliana present at the meeting. He also now has two kiddos out on their own. Mayor Ussery shared he has served in a public capacity 20 years and watched 2 kids grow up from afar and he will not do it anymore. Mayor Ussery shared we have done some great things and changed the economic course of the city. What is going on now couldn't have been dreamed of in 2015-2016 and he is glad to have been a part of it. The City has paid off seventeen million dollars of debt and that affects our kids and employees.

Mayor Jeff Ussery asked Council to continue the path they have been on. Mayor Ussery shared we have taken a stand for what is right on numerous occasions and listened to the citizens. Mayor Ussery shared we have done what is right by those people and looked out for the citizens. Mayor Ussery shared he is thankful it has been these people on Council. Mayor Ussery spoke of our inalienable rights from Declaration of Independence for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these rights, the government is instituted among men deriving its power from the consent of the governed. Mayor Ussery urged Council to continue to always do that in everything you do.

Mayor Jeff Ussery shared this has been an honor and privilege.

Report from Council:

Council Member Franklin stated time flies when you are having fun. Mr. Franklin shared he met Mayor Ussery at the expo a few years ago. They had a great conversation and Mr. Franklin knew Mayor Ussery would make a great mayor and has lived up to that. Mr. Franklin quoted Ronald Regan stating the greatest leader isn't the one who does the greatest things but gets others to do great things. Mr. Franklin shared he is proud of the hard work and dedication Mayor Ussery showed to our citizens. Mr. Franklin shared Mayor Ussery is a huge part of the success for team Republic. He shared he is grateful for Mayor Ussery and his family, who allowed us to have a better city by allowing us to have such a great mayor elected to represent us. Mr. Franklin wished Mayor Ussery the best.

Council Member Pool stated she really appreciates the things we have seen happen in the last four years. Mrs. Pool shared she came to Republic when the population was 4,280 people. She shared she has no idea the population now but thinks it is over 16,000-18,000 people. Mrs. Pool shared she thanks the Lord for the growth we have seen and the cooperation we have seen from Council and Mayors. Mrs. Pool said she is thankful for Mayor Ussery and what he has done for us. She stated she is thankful we have Mr. Cameron and he will be the crutch until we get going again. Mrs. Pool shared Mayor Ussery and his family bring tears to her eyes as her husband neglected his family to serve as a pastor. Mrs. Pool shared it breaks your heart when your kids want you to stay home but you have things you have to do. She presented a card and gift card to Mayor Ussery on behalf of the Council to use with his family. Mrs. Pool shared we love Mayor Ussery and will miss him.

Council Member Russell told Mayor Ussery not to regret this for a second. Mr. Russell said Mayor Ussery is doing what is best for him and every one understands or should understand that. Mr. Russell thanked Mayor Ussery for his leadership, friendship, and reminded Mayor Ussery he still has his cell phone number and will be calling.

Council Member Deichman shared it has been a pleasure and Mayor Ussery will be missed but things will go on. Mr. Deichman shared it has been a tough month for him. Mr. Deichman shared he appreciates this Council, Mr. Cameron, and Mayor Ussery's supportive of him. Mr. Deichman told Mayor Ussery not to feel bad and that he has to take care of himself and his family. Mr. Deichman shared we will miss Mayor Ussery.

Council Member Mitchell shared she has not had much opportunity to work with Mayor Ussery and was in South Dakota so she didn't know what was going on. Mrs. Mitchell shared she had tears when she heard of his resignation because she was so excited to work with him. Mrs. Mitchell shared she respects Mayor Ussery and said it has been an honor serving with him. Mrs. Mitchell shared she understands why Mayor Ussery resigned and it is the right decision for him. Mrs. Mitchell shared she is happy for Cathy and the kids to have Mayor Ussery back home more. Mrs. Mitchell shared we love the family and Mayor Ussery will be missed.

Council Member Updike spoke about Mayor Ussery encouraging him to run and appreciates the nudge. Mr. Updike shared Mayor Ussery will be missed around here. Family comes first in everything and he wished Mayor Ussery the best in his future endeavors.

Council Member Wilson shared that Mayor Ussery will be missed but he understands why he is doing it. Mr. Wilson wished Mayor Ussery good luck in all his endeavors.

Council Member Self spoke about a lunch or phone call when Mayor Ussery shared he was going to run for Mayor. Mr. Self thought it was a joke but is so glad he ran. Mr. Self shared it has been an honor serving with Mayor Ussery and feel like we should get a year or two more. Mr. Self stated he understands why he is doing it. Mr. Self shared he has known Mayor Ussery and Cathy for years and it is the right decision for them. Mr. Self stated that we will miss Mayor Ussery.

Recognition of Mayor

City Administrator David Cameron shared he has logged more hours and time with Mayor Ussery and he has become a true friend for life. Mr. Cameron shared they have been through a lot together including when we realized we had \$2,000 after expenses left over while trying to figure out what are we going to do. Mayor Ussery was there when we signed a check to save a million dollars in expenses by refinancing. Mr. Cameron shared Mayor Ussery has been a great advocate for this city and loves this city. Mr. Cameron shared that he and Mr. Self had lunch when Mayor Ussery was running and Mr. Cameron knew Mayor Ussery was about getting things done and helping out. Mr. Cameron shared Mayor Ussery never overstepped his boundaries to the charter or tried to take advantage of his friendship. Mr. Cameron shared they argued like brothers but still had respect for each other. Mr. Cameron spoke of a day during the ballot initiative when Mayor Ussery called on a Sunday and had to talk about it. Mayor Ussery came to his house and they discussed it for an hour. Mr. Cameron shared it was not political, but they had a conversation on the citizen's behalf. Mr. Cameron shared he appreciates their differences on those issues, but it speaks to Mayor Ussery's character. Mr. Cameron said Mayor Ussery has been a great advocate to the community and staff. Mr. Cameron shared Mayor Ussery has been an advocate on step increases for staff because he cares about employees. He stated that Mayor Ussery is a true son of the city. Mr. Cameron shared he has been doing his job since 1999 and served under a lot of great mayors, but Mayor Ussery's respect and protection of Council members is second to no one. Mr. Cameron said to Cathy, Jace, Juliana, Jaydra and Paige: "you should be proud of your daddy". Mr. Cameron continued stating Mayor Ussery is a great man and one day they will drive through the city and say, "my daddy helped do that". Mr. Cameron thanked the family for sharing him with us. Mr. Cameron shared he is not shocked by Mayor Ussery's success in his job because he has a confidence and realness to him and has a calming and protective nature. Mr. Cameron said Mayor Ussery can walk away with his head held high putting his family first. He said Mayor Ussery is a great friend and reminded him he still has his cell number. Mr. Cameron shared he is proud of the way we worked through that together to drive this city forward and knows Mayor Ussery's heart and conviction for the city and as a man. Mr. Cameron presented Mayor Ussery with a card from staff and a plaque.

Mayor Ussery thanked everyone and thanked his family. He shared his wife has been supportive of every crazy idea he has had. His little girl is a daddy's girl and his 5-year-old boy looked at him and while he was on the phone with messages from citizens and work. Jace asked if he would ever get to play with them. Mayor Ussery said it just killed him. He shared he thought about it all night, the next day, and woke up with peace to do this that Tuesday. Mayor Ussery thanked everyone for everything.

Executive Session: *No further action, other than announcing adjournment by the Mayor, shall take place after an Executive Session that is scheduled as the last matter on the Agenda unless otherwise stated on the Agenda or as allowed per RSMo. 610.02.*

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Deichman at 7:18 to go into Executive Session under RSMo 610.021.3 Hiring, firing, promotion or disciplining personnel. Closed session. Closed vote. Closed record. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 8 Aye – Franklin, Wilson, Pool, Deichman, Updike, Mitchell, Russell, and Self. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Council Member Franklin and seconded by Council Member Wilson to adjourn the Executive Session Meeting at 8:34 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 Aye-Deichman, Russell, Updike, Franklin, Pool, Mitchell, and Wilson. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Adjournment

ATTEST:


Laura Burbridge, City Clerk


Matt Russell, Mayor

