



MINUTES

City Council Meeting Online Zoom Meeting May 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Jeff Ussery, Mayor
Brandon Self, Ward I
Garry Wilson, Ward II
John Jones, Ward III
Charlie Brashers, 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 6:30 p.m. via Zoom Online Meetings. Council Members in attendance via Zoom were: Eric Franklin, Jim Deichman, Garry Wilson, Brandon Self, John Jones, Matt Russell, Charlie Brashers, and Gerry Pool. Others in attendance were: City Administrator David Cameron, Assistant City Administrator Jared Keeling, Assistant City Administrator Lisa Addington, Police Chief Brian Sells, City Attorney Scott Ison, Assistant Public Works Director Garrett Brickner, Public Information Officer Mike Landis, Principal Planner Karen Haynes, Public Works Director Andrew Nelson, IT Director Josh Jones, Finance Director Debbie Parks, 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 6:31 p.m. No one came forward so Mayor Ussery closed Citizen Participation at 6:31 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-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

1. Approve City Council Special Session Minutes from April 30, 2020.
2. Approve City Council Minutes from May 5, 2020.
3. 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.
4. Approve Vendor List.
5. Approve Utility Billing Adjustments

Board, Commission, and Committee Schedule

Board of Adjustment	May 7, 2020
Planning and Zoning	May 11, 2020
City Council Meeting	May 19, 2020
City Council Meeting	June 2, 2020



Old Business and Tabled Items

20-20 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the Execution of a STP-Urban Program Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the Design and Right of Way Acquisition for the Extension of the Shuyler Creek Trail.

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

New Business (First Reading of Ordinances)

20-21 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 23.5 Acres, Located at the 7500 Block of West Farm Road 174, from Agricultural (Ag) to High Density Single-Family Residential (R1-H).

Council Member Wilson motioned for the first reading of Bill 20-21 by title only. Council Member Franklin seconded. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Ussery reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with Ms. Haynes with any questions prior to the next meeting.

20-22 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Vacating a Water Line Easement on Lot 1 of the Old Stone PDD.

Council Member Jones motioned for the first reading of Bill 20-22 by title only. Council Member Russell seconded. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Ussery reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with Ms. Haynes with any questions prior to the next meeting.

20-23 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter into an Infrastructure Development Agreement with Turner Residential Holding, LLC for Infrastructure for Phase 1 of the A'vila Residential Subdivision.

Council Member Wilson motioned for the first reading of Bill 20-23 by title only. Council Member Brashers seconded. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried. Andrew Nelson provided an overview of the bill. Mayor Ussery reminded Council that this was a first read and to get with Mr. Nelson with any questions prior to the next meeting.

Other Business (Resolutions)

20-R-10 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving the Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of a Nonprofit Corporation for Ozarks Transportation Organization.

Motion was made by Council Member Pool and Seconded by Council Member Russell to approve Resolution 20-R-10. David Cameron provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

20-R-11 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving a Preliminary Plat for Olde Savannah, a Residential Subdivision Consisting of Approximately 24.48 Acres Located at the 6300 Block of South Farm Road 89.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and Seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-11. Karen Haynes provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

20-R-12 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Approving the Water and Wastewater Master Plans.

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and Seconded by Council Member Russell to approve Resolution 20-R-12. Andrew Nelson provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

20-R-13 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Awarding the Bid for the Phone System.

Motion was made by Council Member Deichman and Seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-13. Josh Jones provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

20-R-14 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Authorizing the Establishment of a Bank Account and Authorized Signers for the Municipal Court.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and Seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-14. Debbie Parks provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

20-R-15 A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Republic, Missouri, Providing for Phase Two of the Covid-19 Recovery Plan for the City of Republic.

Motion was made by Council Member Wilson and Seconded by Council Member Pool to approve Resolution 20-R-15. David Cameron provided an overview of the Resolution. The vote was 8 Aye-Self, Franklin, Pool, Wilson, Deichman, Russell, Brashers, and Jones. 0 Nay. Motion Carried.

Reports from Staff

Report from City Administrator:

City Administrator David Cameron shared he hopes this is the last zoom meeting as we hope to host the next meeting in the Council Chamber or another larger room. Mr. Cameron thanked Josh, Laura, and anyone that has participated in planning these zoom meetings. We worked hard testing to ensure everyone had training. The first 30-40 seconds were questionable, but Josh does a great job and managed microphones throughout the meetings. Mr. Cameron shared he is proud of the effort to continue city business as we are approving development tonight. There is a back log already and it would have delayed a lot if we stopped business.

City Administrator David Cameron congratulated Backwoods Golf on their soft opening tonight and welcomed them to the Republic community.

City Administrator David Cameron reported good news that Debbie sent out the financials and revenues are up at 40% for the first quarter. We should be at 33% in revenue but are at 40% and our expenses should be at 33% but are at 29%. Our expenses are much lower than budgeted. We are still bracing for the impact of COVID-19, but this is a good trend. We should receive the new data June 5 to see how that is trending. Mr. Cameron thanked Debbie for the hard work.

City Administrator David Cameron shared that Have A Blast will be moved to Labor Day weekend to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread due to the number of attendees projected up to 10,000-12,000 people, many of which are from other communities. It is right thing to do and we must plan with the band, fireworks, and vendors to make a decision and notify the vendors for that event. This is the right thing at the right time for the right reason and not based on fear.

City Administrator David Cameron reported that Jared sent out a schedule with the parks reopening. Mr. Cameron asked Mr. Keeling to share the reopen plans with Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Jared Keeling shared the formal Have A Blast announcement will be tomorrow as well as the update on reopening. The Aquatic Center will open June 1st with a maximum capacity of 175 people, June 15 the capacity will increase to 350 people, and July 26th is to be determined. There will be a reservation system that will have open time blocks for 3 hours twice a day, Saturdays will have 3 blocks. Admission tickets will go on sale the Sunday prior to the week at 3:00 but will be open for Republic residents to buy tickets at 2:00. There will be no season passes. Those who have already paid will be receiving a refund or can use the money paid towards credit to purchase tickets.

On May 21st, the playgrounds and the gymnasium will reopen June 1. The Amp will open on June 5-6 with a limit of 150 people using a ticket system. Baseball and softball games will begin June 21st with game rules changed to protect the players. Additional measures are being taken to reduce crowds including removing bleachers and encouraging everyone to bring their own chairs, additional dugout space, and game times spread apart to give time for people to leave before the next teams enter. Cox fitness is meeting Saturday to decide what to do.

City Administrator David Cameron David spoke regarding the Shuyler Trail and thanked the OTO for allocating the funding to that addition. Mr. Cameron thanked all the cities and county officials that are part of the OTO for voting unanimously to allocate the entire funding to this project rather than distributing amongst all the cities. This is about a \$1.6 million dollar project that is \$50,000 out of our pocket.

City Administrator David Cameron thanked Josh for getting the phone system done with computer speed improvement without spending \$90,000 out of our pocket and providing a net positive instead.

City Administrator David Cameron reminded everyone the Highway 174/60 Highway project is coming soon. It is going to be difficult during the road work but will be a great improvement for the community when it is done. There is a lot of growth and development in Republic.

Mr. Cameron shared he is thankful for the vision Jared and all the staff had for being able to open and get things moving again. Mr. Cameron shared it is disappointing to have to postpone Have A Blast, but we look forward to it on Labor Day weekend. It will be a great event and we will do it right.

Report from Mayor:

Mayor Jeff Ussery shared we have been fairly aggressive allowing normalcy in people's lives, but with 10,000 people from who knows where, it would not be responsible for us to move forward with Have A Blast as scheduled. We have a lot of irons in the fire leading up to that event and we want to give the same level of service as in years past. It is a hard decision to make as cases are likely to increase as things reopen, but testing remains at a low capability. We had to make the right decision responsibly and want to be able to practically social distancing. We also do not want to be an epicenter of a spike in cases due to our decisions. It is important for our businesses to be able to continue operating as they are, and we don't want to jeopardize that since we have so many small business owners.

Mayor Jeff Ussery shared he spoke to Clay Goddard about the 8 cases that have occurred recently. He confirmed they are not from reopening business but rather from travel or close physical contact with known COVID-19 cases. Mayor Ussery thanked Council since this has been a pressure cooker and they get a lot of questions and comments on a polarizing topic. Council has maintained a cool head and it makes it so much easier for us and staff when there is a cool-headed Council making decisions based on facts and not fear.

Mayor Jeff Ussery shared with Jared he has heard many positive comments about reopening the pool and starting games so kids can get out and play. Mayor Ussery shared he is thankful for the work put into it to give kids some normalcy in a safe way. Mayor Ussery shared it is good for the kids to get back into activities.

Report from Council:

Council Member Franklin shared he agrees with everyone that Republic has done a great job and is privileged to be a part of it. Mr. Franklin shared he is thankful for the work done from parks to the water plant. Mr. Franklin shared it has been a joy for the Zoom meetings running as smooth as possible.

Adjournment

Mayor Ussery adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laura Burbridge, City Clerk


Jeff Ussery, Mayor