

**City of St. Clair  
#1 Paul Parks Drive  
St. Clair, MO 63077  
City Council Meeting  
April 5, 2010**

**Mayor Blum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:**

City Clerk, Chris Fawe called the roll. Present were Mayor Blum, Administrator Arndt, Alderman Marrocco, Alderman Tate, Alderman Pierce, Alderman Counts and Attorney Voss.

Mayor Blum led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Blum asked for approval of the monthly bills from March 12, thru March 31, 2010 the Board of Alderman meeting minutes from March 15, 2010 and the Board of Alderman Executive Session minutes from March 15, 2010.

Mayor Blum asked if everyone had a chance to review the bills and if there were any questions.

**Alderman Marrocco made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted and Alderman Counts provided the second.**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Awards and Recognition:**

Mayor Blum stated the business of the month is Firehouse Signs.

**Ordinances and Resolutions**

**1. Bill No. 2010-10- AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RESUBDIVISION PETITION FILED BY TERRY BOLAND FOR LOTS 10, 11, 12, 13 AND 14 IN THE HIBBARD SUBDIVISION.**

Alderman Marrocco introduced Bill No. 2010-10 for 1st and 2nd reading twice by title only. Mayor Blum read Bill No.2010-10 twice by title only. Alderman Marrocco made the motion to approve Bill number 2010-10 as read and Alderman Counts provided the second.

Mayor Blum asks if there were any questions before the vote.

**Board Polls as follows:**

<b>Alderman Tate</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Marrocco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Alderman Pierce</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Counts</b>	<b>AYE</b>

***Bill 2010-10 becomes Ordinance 1578***

**2. Bill No. 2010-12-AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CORPORATION OF ST. CLAIR, MISSOURI TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH**

**GEORGE BUTLER ASSOCIATES FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE WATER PRE-TREATMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES.**

Mayor Blum asked if everyone understood what was trying to be accomplished.

Alderman Counts introduced Bill No. 2010-12 for 1st and 2nd reading twice by title only. Mayor Blum read Bill No.2010-12 twice by title only. Alderman Pierce made the motion to approve Bill number 2010-12 as read and Alderman Marrocco provided the second.

Mayor Blum asks if there were any questions before the vote.

**Board Polls as follows:**

<b>Alderman Tate</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Marrocco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Alderman Pierce</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Counts</b>	<b>AYE</b>

***Bill 2010-12 becomes Ordinance 1579***

**3. Bill No. 2010-13- AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE POSSESSION, SALE, OR OFFERING FOR SALE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS KNOWN OR SOLD UNDER PRODUCT NAMES SUCH AS “K2,” “GENIE,” DaSCENTS,” AND “ZOHAI” FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PURPOSES THROUGHOUT THE CITY SETTING FORTH A PENALTY CLAUSE.**

Alderman Marrocco introduced Bill No. 2010-13 for 1st and 2nd reading twice by title only. Mayor Blum read Bill No.2010-13 twice by title only. Alderman Pierce made the motion to approve Bill number 2010-13 as read and Alderman Counts provided the second.

Mayor Blum asks if there were any questions before the vote.

**Board Polls as follows:**

<b>Alderman Tate</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Marrocco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Alderman Pierce</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Counts</b>	<b>AYE</b>

***Bill 2010-13 becomes Ordinance 1580***

**4. Bill No. 2010-14- AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE SALE, DELIVERY OR DISTRIBUTION OF EPHEDRINE, PSEUDOEPHEDRINE, THEIR SALTS, THEIR OPTICAL ISOMERS, OR SALTS OF THEIR OPTICAL ISOMERS, AND SETTING THE PENALTY THERETO.**

Alderman Counts introduced Bill No. 2010-14 for 1st and 2nd reading twice by title only. Mayor Blum read Bill No.2010-14 twice by title only. Alderman Counts made the motion to approve Bill number 2010-14 as read. There was not a second motion provided. **Motion dies**

**5. Bill No. 2010-15 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF THE CORPORATION OF ST. CLAIR, MISSOURI TO AMEND THE 2010 REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS.**

Alderman Marrocco introduced Bill No. 2010-15 for 1st and 2nd reading twice by title only. Mayor Blum read Bill No.2010-15 twice by title only. Alderman

Tate made the motion to approve Bill number 2010-15 as read and Alderman Marrocco provided the second.

Mayor Blum asks if there were any questions before the vote.

**Board Polls as follows:**

<b>Alderman Tate</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Marrocco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Alderman Pierce</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Alderman Counts</b>	<b>AYE</b>

***Bill 2010-15 becomes Ordinance 1581***

**Unfinished Business:**

**1. St. Clair Home Owner Rehabilitation Project**

Administrator Arndt stated the training seminar is this Saturday April 10, 2010 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center. Farmers and Merchants Bank is sponsoring the seminar, they are providing the trainers and the snacks for the financial empowerment seminar. Mayor Blum stated this is a really good program and 69 people have applied for this grant. Mayor Blum stated he did not think there was going to be any problem giving away 100 grants.

**New Business:**

**1. Antique Tractor Pullers Request**

Mayor Blum stated Richard Dickinson is seeking Board of Alderman permission to conduct their annual antique tractor pull on City property adjacent to the sewer plant on Happy Sac Rd. They will provide a certificate of insurance before the event. Alderman Counts made the motion to allow the antique tractor pull and Alderman Marrocco provided the second. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**2. Deactivation of Municipal Airport**

Mayor Blum stated the Administration is seeking Board of Alderman approval to select and work in conjunction with special airport counsel to accomplish the City's long-term development vision, which includes the deactivation of the City's municipal airport. Administrator Arndt stated this is not a vote to deactivate the municipal airport; this is taking one more step in the process to deactivate the airport. Administrator Arndt stated since he has become City Administrator almost two and a half years ago, one thing has been clear from the community and has been made clear to the board as well, the community seeks the deactivation of the St. Clair Municipal Airport. Administrator Arndt stated through the Comprehensive Plan Study, goals and objectives were established; they included economic development, strengthening the city's commercial and industrial base, and land use to continue the city's efforts to pursue the development of the I-44 corridor. Administrator Arndt stated that our City Attorney, Kurt Voss, and our TIF Attorney, Tom Cunningham, both recommended that the city contract to hire an expert regarding the airport deactivation.

**Board comments:**

Alderman Tate stated he thinks it is clear many of the people want economic growth, and they want places to shop and eat locally. Alderman Tate stated numerous people have asked him why the city keeps the airport, that it doesn't make any money, it is only costing the city money. Alderman Tate stated he would like to pursue this to see if it is possible or feasible and move on from that point.

Alderman Marrocco stated the airport is part of the area the city needs to achieve the growth the citizens want and she feels the board needs to approve finding the consultant for the deactivation of the airport.

Alderman Pierce stated the airport is a very valuable piece of property for the city. Alderman Pierce asked what the consultant was going to cost. Administrator Arndt stated that has not been determined yet. Alderman Pierce stated he felt this was going to be a hard job.

Alderman Counts stated she feels the airport has been an albatross around our necks since 1964 because it has not benefited everyone in the community; it has just benefited a small minority of people, but we all pay taxes for it. Alderman Counts stated she feels we could all pay taxes for something that would be beneficial to everyone in the community.

**Public Participation:**

Art Viehland, 1230 North Main, stated he agrees with almost everything that has been said; it is not how much it is going to cost, it is how much it is costing us. Mr. Viehland stated he was tired of his tax dollars being stuck in that white elephant; close it down.

Barb McGlenn, 915 Mill Hill Road, stated she feels the city should not put any more money into the airport. Mrs. McGlenn stated she would like to see the money go to a swimming pool or something that 100% of the town could enjoy. Mrs. McGlenn stated she does not feel it is worth the effort to keep the airport open.

Bob Fawe, 320 Wall Street, stated this airport is part of our tax increment financing area and he is the chairman of that commission. Mr. Fawe stated he was a member of the Comprehensive Plan and is currently on the economic growth committee. He stated all of these things are plugged into the community at many levels. These interactions show widespread, overwhelming community support to close down the airport and redevelop the land for something that is usable for St. Clair. With economic retail occurring there, that would decrease the tax burden on our citizens and create much-needed jobs for our community and we will be able to finally shop locally and not have to go and support other cities. The extra traffic coming into the city would help other businesses as well. People should no longer have to pay taxes to subsidize the white elephant of the airport. The airport has had over four decades to prove itself but it has not. The land has been blighted. He hopes the board will unanimously vote to take this first step to permanently close the airport.

**Mayor comments:**

Mayor Blum stated he would like to answer Alderman Pierces question about the cost. Mayor Blum stated the city is losing significant tax revenue by not having retail stores at that location, so we are losing a lot of money at the present time. Alderman Pierce stated that what he was concerned about was the grants, that when you have a government grant there was a certain time that it was good for. Mayor Blum stated those cost have been anticipated and we are prepared for that. If it has to be paid back, we will pay it back, what is \$500,000.00; we will make that back in the first quarter with sales tax revenue once it is developed. Alderman Pierce stated he heard what had to be paid back was 3 million dollars. Mayor Blum stated someone has misled you deeply. Mayor Blum stated he believes it is less than \$500,000.00 in grant money that would have to be paid back. Alderman Pierce stated he was not against this; he was just worried about how they are going about it. Mayor Blum stated from the information that has been received from legal council, and the council working with the TIF project, it is recommended to take this approach. Alderman Counts stated she feels this is the right way to go about this, because we are doing our first step as to seek legal council.

Mayor Blum asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, **Alderman Counts made the motion to hire an attorney to start the process to deactivate the St. Clair Municipal Airport, and Alderman Marrocco provided the second.**

**Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

**3. Aquatic/Recreation Facility RFQ's**

The St. Clair Bond Committee is seeking Board of Alderman approval to send out a request for qualifications for aquatic facility design consultants.

Alderman Marrocco stated the city needs a new pool and a new recreation center, if they could both be combined, the city could get multiple uses.

Alderman Marrocco stated the bond committee is working hard toward reaching the goal that was in the comprehensive plan to find land and put in a nice facility that 100 % of our citizens can use and surrounding communities. Alderman Marrocco stated we do not want something that only 12 to 15 people use that does not live in our area.

Alderman Counts stated this would benefit every person in our community; there are numerous senior citizens that drive to Washington for swim therapy.

Alderman Counts stated this would help our senior citizens and our children and just be a tremendous asset to our community.

Mayor Blum stated to keep in mind this committee is putting together a package to take to the voters. This would be the voter's choice whether to proceed with this or not.

Alderman Pierce asked if this would include the Senior Center and if there was a place picked out for this. Mayor Blum stated that yes it did include the Senior Center and there was not a piece of ground picked out for this yet. Alderman Pierce stated he thought this idea would be great.

Alderman Tate stated it sounded great to him and asked if it would be handi-capped accessible. Mayor Blum stated yes it would.

**Alderman Tate made the motion to send out request for qualifications for an aquatic recreation facility and Alderman Pierce provided the second. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**City Attorney: Kurt Voss – no report**

**Departmental Reports:**

**1. Administrator Jim Arndt**

**A.) Franklin County Municipal League dinner**

The dinner is scheduled for Wednesday April 21, 2010 at the City of Union Municipal Hall. The social hour will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner served at 7:00.

**B.) 2010 Census**

According to the statistics as of today, St. Clair is above the national and state average in response rate. There have been 63% out of 100% census forms returned for the city of St. Clair. If there are any questions regarding the census forms, on April 19, 2010, there will be a member of the census bureau at the Chamber of Commerce from 9:00 until noon and at the Community Center from 1:00 until 4:00 pm., Administrator Arndt is asking the board to remind everyone to fill out their census forms and return them.

**C.) Relay for Life**

There will be a relay for life ceremony Thursday May 13, 2010 at the downtown gazebo. This event will start at 6:00 pm., and the Mayor will be reading a proclamation.

**D.) Budget quarterly adjustment**

Administrator Arndt stated he is working on a quarterly budget adjustment after the first quarter of the fiscal year of 2010 and he hopes to have a budget reduction strategy put together for the board to consider at the next meeting or the first meeting in May.

**E.) Payroll adjustment**

Administrator Arndt stated that the payroll period adjustment is in process. The board approved this December 21, 2009. The pay periods for the month of April are April 2, 9, and the 30.

**F.) Comprehensive Plan**

Administrator Arndt stated he is happy that our comprehensive plan is being utilized. He stated it is a good tool to use and a good item to have.

**G.) Thank you to Alderman Counts**

Administrator Arndt stated he has been honored to serve with her and he appreciates what Alderman Counts has done for the city.

Alderman Counts stated it has been an honor to be in the position.

**2. Public Works: Butch Terry- vacation**

**3. Police Department: Chief Hammack**

Chief Hammack presented forms for the Alderman to sign that would allow them to apply for grants next year. Chief Hammack stated the police department received around \$10,000.00 in grants for overtime this year. Chief Hammack

thanked Alderman Counts for all the support she gave the police department in the years she has been a city council member.

- 4. **Building Inspector: Joe Davis** – no report
- 5. **Planning and Zoning: Myrna Turner** - absent
- 6. **Parks: Kim Arndt** – absent

**Other Business:**

**Mayor and Board Members**

- 1. Alderman Marrocco stated she would like thank Alderman Counts for her service and that it was a pleasure and honor working with her. Alderman Pierce also thanked Alderman Counts for being there when she was needed.

**Public Participation: none**


**Motion for Executive Session: none**

**Re-Opening of Open Meeting**

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** Monday April 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Blum called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. **Alderman Marrocco made the motion to adjourn and Alderman Tate provided the second.**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**



Ron Blum, Mayor

Date Approved **4-19-2010**

Attest:



James Arndt, Administrator



Chris Fawe, City Clerk