

Wednesday, May 31, 2023
BOARD OF ALDERMEN - SPECIAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Call to Order – Mayor Dimmitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM (In-person) Pledge immediately followed.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

A. Roll Call – Seven Members were present.

Alderman Plufka – Present- In Person

Alderswoman Tice – Present - Virtual

Alderswoman Sims – Present - Virtual

Alderman Wegge – Present - Virtual

Alderman Gould – Present – Virtual

Alderman Lochmoeller – Present-In Person

Alderswoman O’Neill – Present-In Person

Alderman Shelton – Absent

Additional people present at the meeting included: Eric Gruenenfelder (Director of Parks and Recreation - Virtual), Ronnie Cottrell (Fire Chief), Ed Beirne (Assistant Fire Chief), Jason Hildebrandt (Fire Department), Michelle DePew (Finance Director), Bola Akande (City Administrator), Robert Jones (City Attorney - virtual), and Kelle Silvey (Deputy City Clerk).

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Approval or Amendment of Agenda - The agenda was approved by acclamation.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments - None

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bill No. 6456 - Central Core Fire Training Center Commission Intergovernmental Agreement - An Ordinance Authorizing An Intergovernmental Agreement With The Cities Of Clayton And Richmond Heights To Create A Commission For Fire Department Training Services.

The City Attorney, Bob Jones, did a second reading of the Bill.

Mr. Jones then explained the changes to the Intergovernmental agreement and the By Laws. He noted that to adopt, amend or repeal the By Laws would now require ratification by Boards of Aldermen of member cities. And also any contract or agreement that binds the commission for a year or an amount in excess of \$60,000 (\$20,000 per each city – roughly the spending limit for city administrators) will now require ratification by the Boards of each member city.

The lease itself was completed this afternoon, and sent to the counsel for the landlord, and addresses all the issues that he was aware of.

Alderman Plufka confirmed that they are voting on just the Intergovernmental Agreement tonight and not the lease agreement this evening. This was correct.

Alderman Wegge confirmed that while the ordinance references Exhibit A, this is the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), not the lease. This was correct,

Mr. Jones stated that the By Laws will later be enacted by the Commission, but with the changes to the IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) the Boards will have to review and ratify that as well. There was one change to the By Laws – Section 513 which requires the presence of all Board Representatives of the member cities.

Alderman Lochmoeller asked about the status of the other two cities and their approval process. It was shared that Clayton is on hold, awaiting Brentwood’s decision. Richmond Heights approved the original Intergovernmental agreement which will now go back to them for amendment with the new changes.

Alderswoman Tice questioned if the IGA is approved, if there is a way to get out of it if the construction costs end up being elevated beyond our financial means. Mr. Jones responded that we can debate that and stated the lease will require ratification from the Board. The Lease has a provision of 18 months of time – if cities are not satisfied with construction costs, the lease can be terminated.

Alderswoman Tice also asked for an explanation of why this training facility is critical/why this is needed for training firefighters when we do a good job with this already, without the expenditure (Do we get higher ISO scores or will insurance go down, etc.) Chief Cottrell explained that this is “visionary” for the next 50 years and enables all firefighters in the region to train at a consolidated site with less fragmentation, and it is also a closer location. It provides consistent access (on a weekly/monthly basis) instead of on a quarterly basis and allows us to bring in additional partners to train with us from other communities and increase performance and proficiency in our communities. For the insurance, we have a good ISO rating, and this will help us maintain that.

Alderman Wegge asked if the By Laws were just noted for reference. Mr. Jones stated they were included so the Board could see some of the suggested changes (like unanimity) that were made. The By Laws will be ratified by the Commission and then by the respective Boards. The IGA now requires it to be ratified by the Boards of each city as well.

Alderman Tice noted that in the IGA – paragraph 9 - it gives the commission “the ability borrow money from any public or private source, issue bonds or other obligations and provide security for repayment of the same as provided in state statute”it appears as if we are giving the Commission the authority to issue bonds. Is this true?

City Administrator stated not without the approval of each of the Boards, that all these items (bonds, etc.) have to come back to the Cities Boards to be fully ratified – Mr. Jones shared that once the Commission ratifies, it comes back to the Boards, as noted in subparagraph 2.

Alderman Wegge inquired about Paragraph 7 – Commission would have the right to levy and collect member municipal assessments – is there a path where there would be an assessment that would come back to the Muni’s without some say by the Board?

City Administrator and Mr. Jones stated they do not see that happening –even though the authorization is up to \$20,000, it would be brought before Ways and Means Committee of the Board for approval.

Mayor Dimmitt stated that by operation of law, for example if the IGA needs to make a change “like a change order”, it will still come back to the Board.

Alderman Sims stated concern that the threshold is \$20,000, because there is no budget that has been approved for that kind of expenditure. In granting that level of authorization where there is no approved budget to be spent without Board approval, she wondered if the threshold should be lowered.

Mr. Jones said it is possible that we would be responsible for our share, but the City Administrator would be the one who would be authorized to do this and have confidence in this ability. Also, the agreement states that the commission requires unanimity from all member cities - all expenditures require unanimous approval from the commission members, as a level of protection, so that no city is outvoted.

Alderman Wegge clarified that there really are no By Laws right now, and they will be put together after the IGA is formed. Mr. Jones confirmed this is Correct, the By Laws will be formally put together after the Commission is formed, and they have to come to the Board for approval, so the Board will have the opportunity to make sure that unanimity for decisions and things are included.

Motion was made by Alderman O’Neill and seconded by Alderman Lochmoeller to perfect Bill 6456 into Ordinance form and approve the formation of the Intergovernmental Agreement Commission. Roll Call:

Alderman Plufka – Yes	Alderman Tice – Yes
Alderman Sims – Yes	Alderman Wegge – Yes
Alderman Gould – Yes	Alderman Lochmoeller – Yes
Alderman O’Neill – Yes	

By a vote of 7 (Yes) to 0 (No) Bill #6456 will become Ordinance #5095

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1445 - Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment - A Resolution Authorizing The Amendment Of The Fiscal Year 2022

The Director of Parks and Recreation explained the budget amendment for 2022. He noted this was brought before the Ways and Means Committee and it was unanimously approved. This is something we do every year to make sure we are compliant with the audit.

Motion was made by Alderman Wegge and seconded by Alderman Sims to approve Resolution #1445.

Roll Call:

Alderman Plufka – Yes	Alderman Tice – Yes
Alderman Sims – Yes	Alderman Wegge – Yes
Alderman Gould – Yes	Alderman Lochmoeller – Yes
Alderman O’Neill – Yes	

Motion carried by a vote of 7 (Yes) to 0 (No).

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Citizen Comments – None

8. ADJOURN

A. Adjournment – The Mayor noted there was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

This meeting was livestreamed and recorded. Recording will be made available on the City’s YouTube channel.