CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI
MINUTES OF COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 29, 2024

A Work Session of the City Council of the City of Blue Springs, Missouri, was held on Monday, April 29, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Training Room of the Blue Springs City Hall, 903 W. Main Street with Mayor Chris Lievsay presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jerry Kaylor
Ron Fowler
Galen Ericson
Kent Edmondson
Susan Culpepper

Also present were City Administrator Christine Cates, Interim City Attorney John Mullane, Assistant City Administrator Dennis Dovel, Senior Director of City Development Mike Mallon and Assistant to the City Administrator Sheryl Morgan.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Lievsay called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Assistant to the City Administrator Sheryl Morgan confirmed a quorum of the Council was present.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ORDER

Mayor Lievsay led a discussion regarding the City Council Agenda. Council discussed options for potential changes to the Council meeting agenda format.

Mayor Lievsay stated he would like to amend the Council Agenda format to add a prayer at the beginning of the meeting before the confirmation of a quorum. He has spoken with Tom Worstell of the Ministerial Alliance in this regard.

The Mayoral Thoughts to Ponder will be replaced with brief Councilmember comments. This will give Councilmembers the opportunity to share information about events in their District, and report on any Board or Commission activities.

Council discussed the best timing to hold work sessions rather than the current schedule of every month with a fifth Monday.

Council gave direction to staff to:

- Change the Agenda format to add a prayer;
- Replace the Mayor's Thoughts to Ponder to Councilmember Comments; and
- Schedule planned work sessions beginning May 6, 2024 to immediately follow a Council meeting

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senior Director of City Development Mike Mallon presented information regarding Economic Development and addressed questions from Council. A copy of a presentation with staff's recommendation is attached to these Minutes and incorporated herein.

Council gave direction to staff to:

- Pursue the Hybrid Public/Private Economic Development

Organization as outlined in the presentation and draft a proposal for the Chamber of Commerce which outlines responsibilities and expectations for agreed upon services that may include business retention and expansion, proactive contact with existing businesses, marketing, etc.;

- Create a detailed job description for City staff for Economic Development functions;
- Arrange for Strategic Planning in summer;
- Consider contracting with grant writing professional

Mr. Mallon will send links to other cities' programs and successes to the Council.

NO TAX INCREASE BOND ISSUE

City Administrator Christine Cates presented information regarding a No Tax Increase bond issue and addressed questions from Council.

Council gave direction to staff to bring forward an Ordinance calling for an election for a No Tax Increase Bond Issue on the August ballot and schedule another work session to identify projects to be included in the ballot question.

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

Senior Director of City Development Mike Mallon presented information regarding Downtown Master Plan next steps and addressed questions from Council. A copy of a presentation with staff's recommendation is attached to these Minutes and incorporated herein.

Mayor Lievsay outlined his proposal to create a downtown implementation task force with a Councilmember from each District (Ericson, Edmondson and Culpepper, a property owner, resident, DTA, CID, MCRC, CDBG for Council to vote on at the May 6, 2024 meeting. Function would be to create and prioritizing actionable items as soon as soon as possible (six months or earlier) using the Downtown Master Plan presentation.

Council gave direction to staff to create a Resolution to be presented at the May 6, 2024 Council meeting creating the Task Force and outlining responsibilities.

ADJOURN

Mayor Lievsay declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The Special City Council Meeting began at 7:55 p.m.

CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS

Chris Lievsay, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheryl Morgan
Assistant to the City Administrator