

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

The regular Sikeston City Council meeting of January 27, 2022 was called to order at Noon at the City Hall, located at 105 East Center Street, Sikeston. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Greg Turnbow and Councilmembers Ryan Merideth, David Teachout, Vest Baker and Onethia Williams. Councilman Brian Self was absent. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Clerk Rhonda Council, Finance Director Karen Bailey, HR Director Amanda Groves, Public Safety Director James McMillen, Public Works Director Jay Lancaster, Street Superintendent Brian Dial, Parks Director Dustin Care, Community Development Director Lorenzo Ware and DPS Captain Ryan Smith. City Counselor Tabatha Thurman was absent.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Update: Legion Park

Legion Park is in downtown Sikeston and hosts several large community events including the St. Patrick's Day Festival, St. Patrick's Day Cornhole Tournament, Farmer's Market, Christmas Tree Lighting, and the Family Fall Festival. The primary users of the park are the Sikeston Parks and Recreation Department and Historic Downtown Sikeston. There have been several discussions for the future development of Legion Park to increase activity and add additional amenities to serve those who utilize the park for events or for their own leisure.

Downtown Restroom: The Parks and Recreation Department has budgeted to construct a restroom facility downtown over the course of several years. The need for a public restroom downtown is critical due to the amount of people that utilize Legion Park; plus, the downtown businesses restrooms are intended for customers or private use. The location of where to construct the restroom has been a major discussion point and has delayed the construction process. The preferred option to build the restroom is across the street on the west side of Legion Park. There is already a lift station in place in the preferred location to accommodate building a restroom in that area.

Farmer's Market: Each year the downtown Farmer's Market occurs every Saturday from March – October. There are local vendors who set up tables and tents from 8am-12pm at Legion Park and sell goods; the Farmer's Market is overseen by Historic Downtown Sikeston. There have been discussions to construct a Farmer's Market pavilion in the parking lot area west of Legion Park behind the Depot. The expense to construct the pavilion would be funded by an outside donor.

Playground Features for Legion Park: The addition of the fountain in Legion Park has made a larger impact than anticipated on drawing the number of users to Legion Park during the summer months. The success of the fountain has resulted in a non-profit group, Levi's Children's Charity, to express interest in the installation of additional play features at Legion Park. There are some obstacles to installing new play features within the park due to the usable space, but the play features would address a need of having inclusive equipment for children of all ages and abilities.

Levi's Children's Charity has reached out to the Parks and Recreation Department, and as part of a potential partnership, the Parks and Recreation Department was asked to apply for the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant (LWCF). The grant is a 50/50 match grant meaning that Levi's Children's Charity would donate 50% of the grant donation and the other 50% of funding would be received through the grant funding. The deadline to apply for this grant is Wednesday, February 16, 2022, if we were to proceed with potentially obtaining funding for this project. Viney Mosley spoke on behalf of Levi's Children's Charity who indicated that it is too late to apply for

funding this year but suggested applying next year. This would give ample time to get the proper information needed for the grant application.

Councilman Teachout suggested blocking off New Madrid St. by Legion Park to give more room for future upgrades to the park.

Discussion: Use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

The City of Sikeston will receive \$3,233,210.22 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The first half of those funds was received in August 2021, and the second half will be received in August 2022. All of the funds must be obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

While there are many potential uses for the funds, staff recommends spending them on basic government services for which the City is responsible:

- **Police \$100,000**
 - Camera Replacements/Upgrades: \$100,000
- **Fire \$1,000,000**
 - Fire Apparatus Replacement: \$1,000,000 (Estimated \$750,000 for Pumper or \$1.2M for Ladder)
- **Streets and Stormwater \$1,250,000**
 - Anderson stormwater project: \$600,000
 - Leaf machine: \$300,000
 - Miscellaneous street and stormwater projects \$350,000
- **Parks \$800,000**
 - Rail Trail (downtown to Sunset): \$600,000
 - Misc. Playground Replacements: \$200,000
- **General Government: \$80,000**
 - Upgraded accessibility for website \$20,000
 - Council meeting broadcasting equipment \$20,000
 - Misc. scanning/digitizing projects \$40,000
- **TOTAL: \$3,230,000**

Councilman Merideth motioned to approve the recommended uses of the ARPA funds as presented in the amount of \$3,230,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baker, discussed and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Merideth Aye, Self Absent, Baker Aye, Teachout Aye,
Williams Aye, and Turnbow Aye, thereby being passed.

Resolution 22-01-01, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding (walk-on)

RESOLUTION 22-01-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, STATING INTENT TO SEEK FUNDING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURSUE ACTIVITIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE FUNDING.

WHEREAS, Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 does state as its primary objective "the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding

economic opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income”; and

WHEREAS, Title I does offer to communities the opportunity of monetary assistance in accomplishing its stated primary objectives; and

WHEREAS, The Missouri Department of Economic Development is designated to award Community Development Block Grant funding under Title I; and

WHEREAS, The city does have areas of need which may be addressed through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Sikeston, Missouri that it desires to participate with the Missouri Department of Economic Development in the improvement of our community under the activities authorized pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of Sikeston, Missouri hereby is authorized to submit documents which are necessary in applying for funding and establishing an administrative organization to implement activities pursuant to the aforementioned act.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant will dedicate \$195,600.00 of local cash and funds and \$0 of in-kind labor to be used in this project.

Councilman Baker moved to approve Resolution 22-01-01 to seek funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Teachout, discussed the following roll call vote was recorded:

Merideth Aye, Self Absent, Baker Aye, Teachout Aye, Williams Aye, and Turnbow Aye, thereby being passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Merideth moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Teachout and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Merideth Aye, Self Absent, Teachout Aye, Baker Aye, Williams Aye, and Turnbow Aye, thereby being passed.

APPROVED:

GREG TURNBOW, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RHONDA COUNCIL, CITY CLERK

SEAL: