

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 25, 2019**

The regular Sikeston City Council meeting of March 25, 2019 was called to order at 7:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 105 East Center, Sikeston. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Steven Burch and Councilmen Brian Self, Karen Evans, Mary White-Ross, Gerald Settles and Ryan Merideth. Councilman Jon Gilmore arrived at 7:37 a.m. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Chuck Leible, City Clerk Carroll Couch, City Treasurer Karen Bailey, Public Safety Director Mike Williams, Assistant Public Safety Director James McMillen, Street Superintendent Brian Dial, Street Supervisor Darren Martin, Park Supervisor Dustin Care, Code Enforcement Supervisor Lorenzo Ware (arrived at 7:47 a.m.), Sikeston Regional Chamber Director Mike Marshall, Brandon Sparks and Onethia Williams.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Interim Appointment to Housing Authority Board**

On February 25, 2019 staff received notification from Kathy Teachout of her resignation from the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Teachout was serving her first term, ending in September 2020. There was one Resource Bank Application on file for Britt McConnell.

Councilman Settles moved to appoint Britt McConnell to the Housing Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merideth the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Bill #6136, Fair Housing**

Councilman Gilmore moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6136. The motion was seconded by Councilman Self and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Counselor Leible presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6136, providing "Fair Housing" for the City of Sikeston, Missouri, defining discriminatory housing practices, and creating a Fair Housing Committee.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Bill #6140, Amend Title V, Chapter 505, Article III – Obstructing Public Way**

Councilman Self moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6140. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Counselor Leible presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6140 and shall amend Title V, Chapter 505, Article III – Obstructing Public Ways in the

Municipal Code of the City of Sikeston, Missouri. Staff would like to update the current ordinance to indicate three (3) feet as being the maximum height as the violation standard for fence height pertaining to corner conditions and a twenty-five (25) feet sight zone as the standard for corner lots as the violation standard.

#### Authorization to Purchase Salt Storage Building

Staff seeks to purchase a fabric building from Clear Span Fabric Structures International to replace the existing salt storage structure at the Public Works Complex. The cost of the new structure is \$30,214.00 and includes the structure, ventilation kits, a walk-in door, a 14' garage door and end walls. Clear Span Fabric Structures International holds the Source Well (NJPA) Contract and therefore does not require a bid-out procedure.

Councilman Gilmore moved to authorize the purchase of a new salt storage building from Clear Span Fabric Structures International in the amount of \$30,214.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merideth and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

#### Authorization to Execute Contract for City Counselor

Chuck Leible, the City of Sikeston's longtime attorney, has announced his intent to resign as City Counselor and scale back his law office practice in the coming year. His resignation is effective May 1, 2019. The City solicited letters of interest and qualifications from area attorneys. The Professional Consulting Committee reviewed the candidates and recommended to the full City Council that Tabatha Thurman be selected. On March 4, 2019, the City Council directed staff to negotiate a contract with Ms. Thurman. The effective date of the contract is April 1, which gives Mr. Leible and Ms. Thurman a month of overlap to transition active projects and historical records.

Councilman Gilmore moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract with Tabatha Thurman as the new City Counselor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Self and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

#### Award Farm Lease Bid

The City of Sikeston owns approximately 342.64 acres of farmable ground in the North Industrial Park. Every three years the farm lease is put out to bid. Recently the City advertised for bids on the farm lease and received two bids:

- Brian Ray: \$58,248.80/yr, or \$170/acre
- Shawn and Jason Byrd (S&J Farms): \$40,831.00/yr, or \$119.17/acre

Councilman Gilmore moved to award the farm lease bid to Brian Ray in the amount of \$58,248.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merideth and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Councilman Merideth recused himself.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Emergency Bill #6141, Option to Purchase from David Lape Farms, Inc.

Councilman Settles moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6141. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following vote recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Counselor Leible presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Emergency Ordinance Number 6141, authorizing the City of Sikeston, Missouri to enter into a certain real estate contract with David K. Lape Farms, Inc.

The Board of Municipal Utilities would like to purchase 58.5 acres of land for the construction of a future well/water plant. The cost per acre is \$12,000 for a total purchasing price of \$702,000.00. With the anticipation of building 5 wells, it is required that wells are 500' apart for protection from contamination. Second reading of this bill will be conducted April 1, with the closing date scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Merideth returned to the meeting.

Other Items

Dave Wyman of MoDOT presented a proposal to add a Sikeston bypass off of I57/US 60. Federal grants would give full credit to the City and if other properties were donated, it would credit against City's due amount. The City will schedule a meeting with property owners in that area to discuss this proposal.

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Self moved to adjourn into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

Mayor Burch called the executive session to order. Present were: Mayor Steven Burch and Councilmen Ryan Merideth, Jon Gilmore, Brian Self, Mary White-Ross, Gerald Settles and Karen Evans. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Chuck Leible, City Clerk Carroll Couch, City Treasurer Karen Bailey, Public Safety Director Mike Williams, Public Safety Director James McMillen and Public Works Director Jay Lancaster.

Councilman Merideth made a motion for Staff to meet with Attorney James F. Bennett out of St. Louis, MO. The motion was seconded by Councilman Settles and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

**ADJOURNMENT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Gilmore Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,  
White-Ross Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

APPROVED:

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STEVEN BURCH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CARROLL L. COUCH, CITY CLERK

SEAL: