

**APRIL 12, 2022
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MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION
VERSAILLES MUNICIPAL BUILDING/4:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL: MAYOR BRIAN TRAU GOTT PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING. ALSO PRESENT WERE COUNCIL MEMBERS MARY BRADLEY, LAURA DAKE, LISA JOHNSON AND FRED SIEGELMAN. ALSO PRESENT WAS CITY ATTORNEY BILL MOORE.

DEPT. HEADS: BART MILLER AND ELIZABETH REYNOLDS WERE PRESENT REPRESENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

Utility Fees

Public Works Director Bart Miller and Utilities Manager Mitzi Delius provided a water and sewer sales update. Mr. Miller stated that the gallons of water sold in 2021 is 22.4% less than their peak water sales in 2007. He noted that most water treatment and distribution costs, with the exception of electric and chemicals, are fixed; and even with rate increases, they are barely breaking even. The City's current capacity is 10 million gallons per day and we currently average less than 3.5 million per day. Mrs. Delius presented a list of proposed fee implementations which included the following:

- Fire Service Charges – ranging from \$15.00 to \$100.00 per month based on the size of the fire service main**
- Independent Water Meter Testing – \$40.00 for a normal residential meter, which includes actual testing by an independent agent, as well as shipping costs. The cost for any meters larger than ¾ inch would be at cost.**
- Waste Hauler Permit Fee – \$50.00 annually, insures we have current information on file for all haulers**
- Waste Hauler Fee – increase from \$37.50 to \$40.00 per 1,000 gallons**
- Waste Hauler Fee-Grease – increase from \$40.00 to \$50.00 per 1,000 gallons**
- Waste Hauler Fee-Woodford Reserve – increase from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per 1,000 gallons**
- Industrial Pretreatment Program Administration Fee – \$300.00 proposed to cover the City's licensed employee costs of administering the industrial pretreatment program**
- Water/Wastewater Plan Review Fee – \$250.00 minimum, plus \$5.00 per lot proposed to compensate the City for extensive time spent reviewing plans**
- Meter Tampering Fee – \$200.00**
- Hydrant Tampering Fee – \$200.00**
- ACH and Credit Card Reject Fee - \$30.00 (same as current returned check fee)**

Smart Meter Project

Mr. Miller provided an update on the ongoing Smart Meter Project. He noted that supply issues has caused delays in the project, but the company is anticipating supplies to be normal and available by the third quarter of this calendar year.

Mayor Traugott stated that a portion of the project, \$300,000, will be funded from the ARPA dollars. He noted that it can either be reported as a water and sewer expenditure or as general government use. He explained that the ARPA funds are for city taxpayers, but the smart meter project is for water customers in both the City and County. Mayor Traugott suggested that since all customers are benefitting from the ARPA funding, city customers should have less of a rate increase than county customers.

Utility Billing

Mayor Traugott stated that the City has been paying the credit card fees for customers paying online since March, 2020. The fees had always been passed on to the customer prior to COVID. Due to the increasing number of customers paying online, the fees are costing the City approximately \$3,000 per month. City Clerk Elizabeth Reynolds noted that they are planning to soon begin offering an ACH option for online payment which has much lower fees than credit cards. Credit Card fees are currently 2.9% with a minimum of \$3 while ACH fees are typically only 0.9%. Mrs. Reynolds also noted that customers who sign up for the automatic bank draft, do not pay any fees.

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Mayor Traugott also mentioned the possibility of stopping second notices. Currently, the utility office processes billing and they are mailed out on the 1st of each month. Second notices are processed and mailed out on the 16th. He noted that they have discussed adding information to the regular billing relating to a late fee being added after the 15th and not mailing second notices. This would save approximately \$1,500 per month.

Resolutions

Mayor Traugott presented three resolutions requesting community project funding to be earmarked for Versailles projects. He stated that the Big Spring Park upgrades request is for \$1,070,000, the fire station improvements request is approximately \$800,000, and the police equipment request is approximately \$80,000.

MOTION BY DAKE, SECONDED BY JOHNSON TO APPROVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-2 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BIG SPRING PARK.

The vote was as follows: Bradley, Dake, Johnson, and Siegelman voting aye.

MOTION BY SIEGELMAN, SECONDED BY DAKE TO APPROVE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-3 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VERSAILLES FIRE STATIONS.

The vote was as follows: Bradley, Dake, Johnson, and Siegelman voting aye.

MOTION BY BRADLEY, SECONDED BY SIEGELMAN TO APPROVE AND ADOPT R RESOLUTION 2022-4 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR TASERS AND RADARS FOR THE VERSAILLES POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The vote was as follows: Bradley, Dake, Johnson, and Siegelman voting aye.

RFQ – Transportation Study

Council member Dake stated that the Building Standards and Downtown Development committee had discussed completing a traffic study for the City. She noted that they will be requesting council approval on April 19th to solicit RFQs and Price Proposal for a Transportation Study with the following “tasks”:

- Task No. 1: Roadway Classifications, Level of Service and Design Standards in the Urban Services Boundary
- Task No. 2: KY33/Troy Pike/Bluegrass Parkway Corridor Study
- Task No. 3: Executive Summary and Presentation to the City Council
- Additional Task No. 4: US 60/Bluegrass Parkway Interchange to Marsailles Road

Ms. Dake stated that Task No. 4 is additional because a recent study of US 60 had been completed, dated March 30, 2022. She noted that the specifications ask for each Task to be priced separately. Council member Johnson reiterated that they are not asking for any money at this time, they are simply asking to solicit RFQs and price proposals. They would like to get the study completed prior to the Comprehensive Plan.

Zoning Buffers

Council member Johnson stated that the Landscape and Land Use Buffers Zoning Ordinance requires fifty foot wide buffers be provided and maintained anywhere in the city limits where the Urban Services Boundary abuts any portion of the Rural Service Area. The ordinance includes an exception for the Urban Services Boundary where it adjoins Bluegrass Parkway. The BSADD committee would like to remove that exclusion. Ms. Johnson noted that the buffers do not have to be a straight line, it can be areas with open space between. They would like to put a Resolution requesting the text amendment on the April 19th council meeting agenda.

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Communication

Council member Dake stated that the recent announcement regarding the downtown project received a lot of coverage on social media. She noted that the City needs to do something to provide clarity and further information on projects, events, and other city related topics which may help stop misinformation from being dispersed. Ms. Dake said that she had presented the idea of a city-wide newsletter in 2017 and the council had discussed it but it didn't go any further. She would now like for the council to consider an e-newsletter which would be much cheaper than printing and distributing a hard copy newsletter. She stated that the goal would be to inform, educate, and engage the public of potential topics, including: summaries of interesting ordinances, updates on city projects, grants received, RFP/RFQ opportunities, upcoming road projects and possible traffic impacts, the budget, public safety updates, available assistance, city events, etc. The council discussed a monthly or bimonthly newsletter. Mayor Traugott agreed to prepare a draft for the Council's review. Mayor Traugott reiterated that he didn't want the newsletter to promote any specific person or official.

Mayor Traugott adjourned the meeting without objections.

APPROVED:

BRIAN TRAU GOTT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH C. REYNOLDS, CITY CLERK