

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd.
City of University city, Missouri 63130
June 23, 2014
6:30 p.m.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University city held on the fifth floor of City Hall, on Monday, June 23, 2014, Mayor Shelley Welsch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

In addition to the Mayor the following members of the Council were present:

Mr. Rod Jennings
Dr. Paulette Carr
Mr. Stephen Kraft
Mr. Terry Crow
Mr. Michael Glickert
Mr. Arthur Sharpe, Jr.

Also in attendance was the City Manager Lehman Walker.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Welsch asked for any changes to the agenda. There were no changes presented and Mayor Welsch asked for approval of the agenda as presented which carried unanimously.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 9, 2014, Study Session Minutes for the 2015 Legislative, Finance, Courts, IT, and Administration were moved for approval by Mr. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Jennings and the motion carried unanimously.
2. June 9, 2014, City Council Regular Session Minutes were moved for approval by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Sharpe and the motion carried unanimously.

F. APPOINTMENTS

1. Robyn Williams was nominated for appointment to the Advisory Board/Washington University by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Sharpe and the motion carried unanimously.

G. SWEARING IN

1. Bwayne Smotherson was sworn in to the Arts & Letters Commission by the City Clerk.
2. Mary Ann Zaggy was sworn in to the Youth Commission.
3. Barbara Santoro was sworn in to the Arts & Letters Commission.

H. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (Total of 15 minutes allowed)

Mayor Welsch reminded members of the audience that if they would like to speak to Council on agenda or non-agenda items they should fill out a Speaker Request form.

future". She stated that she never used the word hope in her email, because wishing and hoping will not get the job done. Ms. Santoro stated that the citizens of University City hope that tomorrow will be a good day; they hope that their local government will be back on track. However this Council and the City Manager are in no position whatsoever to rely on hope and certainly does not have the luxury of taking the easy way out or the option of avoiding difficult votes. She stated that each member of this City's administration had assured residents that if they provided their support that they could make the hard choices and that they would be committed to establishing a more ethical and transparent government. Ms. Santoro stated that she has observed and worked with every member of Council in better times and is confident that everyone would prefer to be operating on a higher plane than they are today. Ms. Santoro would respectfully encourage Council to take that first step sooner, rather than later.

Sarah Davoli, 7378 Milan Avenue, University City, MO

Ms. Davoli stated that she had noticed Mayor Welsch demonizing certain Councilmembers in the press. Ms. Davoli stated that the emotional climate of this Council is established by the Mayor, so disparaging comments about colleagues also hurts their constituents. She stated that working with those who do not hold your same views will always be a part of the Mayor's job because it is not possible for all viewpoints to be the same. Ms. Davoli stated she would like to see a more diplomatic approach and statements made by the City's Mayor to the media and reflect a more stable style of governance.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. The public hearing for the map amendment – rezone 7416 Bland Drive from General Commercial District(GC) to Limited Residential District (LR) was opened at 6:48 p.m. Hearing no requests to speak the hearing was closed at 6:49 p.m.
2. The public hearing for the draft Parkview Gardens Neighborhood Development Plan was opened at 6:49 p.m.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Rick Salamon, 8342 Delcrest Drive, University City, MO

Mr. Salamon stated that as a five-year resident and member of Parkview Garden's Board of Directors, he believes that the plan has a lot of solid positives. He stated that even though there are still a number of questions surrounding the plan the concept is worthwhile and will aid tremendously in the development and growth of the eastern portion of University City. Mr. Salamon stated that unfortunately Parkview lost some grant opportunities due to the fact that there was a lot of political foot-dragging on this project, so he would urge Council to support this plan, because a divided Council would not be good going forward. He asked Councilmembersto keep in mind that what they are being asked to support is a concept. Mr. Salamon said Parkview Gardens draft plan is a 10, 15 or 20-year plan and it is impossible to nail down every nuance or detail on a project which could take that long to come to fruition. Mr. Salamon asked Council to get behind this plan and support it as much as possible.

Joe Edwards, 6504 Delmar, University City, MO

Mr. Edwards stated that Mr. Salamon's comments to consider the overall plan were well worded and he certainly could not have said it any better. He stated that as President of the Loop Special Business District he wanted Council to know that the businesses and building owners are in agreement with almost all aspects of the plan and are very supportive.

Gary Nelling, 850 Warder Avenue, University City, MO

Mr. Nelling provided Council with a three-page letter covering in more detail some of the topics previously presented. He thought it was marvelous that the City desired to have a trolley system however there were four metrics that every successful trolley system that he has looked at follows, and currently University City only met one of the criteria.

The first criteria is that they all originate in a downtown area; typically a central business district with a population of 12 to 18,000 people per square mile. University City has approximately 6,000 people per square mile and maybe a half to two-thirds of that in St. Louis north of Delmar.

The second criterion is that every successful system has multiple desirable destinations. Currently University City's system has the Loop and the History Museum. Mr. Nelling stated that the museum however, is not a well-attended destination.

The third criterion is that these systems interface with other forms of public transportation, which University City does meet by interfacing with Metro-Link and busses.

The fourth criterion is that they traverse broad boulevards and travel in a loop system which allows the trolley cars to be spaced no more than ten or twelve minutes apart in order to minimize the wait time. He stated that the only time these systems traverse a single boulevard is when it is broad enough to have two parallel tracks, with one series of cars going up, while the other series is going down.

Mr. Nelling stated that he is not suggesting that the City abandon the trolley project, just that serious consideration be given to incorporating some of the criterion to ensure that University City reaches the point of other cities that operate successful systems. Primarily, to make a loop pattern on streets that are broad enough to handle traffic. He stated that the problem with the Loop Trolley system is the very narrow street. There is a center turn lane, two drive lanes and two parking lanes. So it will be difficult to sacrifice any of that to a trolley system and still maintain the kind of traffic and parking that the City now has, which is already at a deficit. Mr. Nelling stated that what he would suggest is to make a loop that starts at Delmar and Skinker, runs through the broader part of Delmar up to DeBaliviere, south on DeBaliviere to the History Museum and Forest Park; and then returns along Lindell through Forest Park; picking up at the Forest Park Trolley bus and Washington University bus; comes back down Skinker forming a loop. He stated if there was any chance of relooking at the City's plan in light of the four criteria, he would certainly encourage it.

Mayor Welsch stated that Council had received a letter from Ms. Carol Wofsey of 7171 Kingsbury Boulevard, University City, MO. She stated that Ms. Wofsey could not be at tonight's meeting and asked that her communication be placed in the public record. Mayor Welsch stated that the letter has been passed on to the City Clerk.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Welsch closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

J. CONSENT AGENDA

K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Approval of award to R.V. Wagner for Chamberlain Avenue bridge replacement project for \$355,603.30.

Mr. Glickert moved to approve, was seconded by Mr. Sharpe and the motion carried unanimously.

Shelley Welsch

From: Carol Wofsey <wofseystl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 10:10 AM
To: Joyce Pumm; Shelley Welsch; Terry Crow; Stephen Kraft; michael glickert; Paulette Carr; Rod Jennings; Arthur Sharpe Jr.
Subject: Park View Gardens Plan

To: University City City Council, and it's Clerk

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am not able to attend tonight's public hearing on the Parkview Gardens Neighborhood Sustainability Plan, so am submitting these written comments and ask that such be placed in the public record.

First, I would like to commend staff and the various commissions and planning groups who have been involved in this process for their time, care, trouble and tenacity. It has been a long, convoluted journey, but one that ultimately holds big rewards for our city. In particular, I would like to congratulate all on bringing Washington University to the table to cooperate in planning the future of our city. I hope this is the first of many successful cooperative efforts with the university as we learn how to intelligently and creatively manage our relationship with our major neighbor to the south.

This plan, which is fully in line with the U City Sustainability Plan, may well serve as a model of how to refresh inner ring suburbs like U City. Pursuant to this plan, Parkview Gardens, as a walkable/bike-able/close-to-mass transit neighborhood, will attract more and younger residents to our community, residents who covet location, convenience, and a sustainable lifestyle. The enhancement of this neighborhood also enhances our U City Loop, and as this neighborhood becomes more attractive, will spur other development along Olive and help continue the progress we see in the City of St. Louis edge of the neighborhood.

The working groups charged with developing the plan identified several interrelated issues to be addressed in order to ensure the sustainability of the Parkview Gardens neighborhood:

- a lack of neighborhood connectivity
- a need for additional affordable housing
- a need to improve the quality of existing open spaces so that they can be better utilized for both recreation and transportation.

The plan in its current form has suggested answers to all of these challenges. It is a thoughtful, forward-looking approach for the development and enhancement of what I believe has been the most neglected area of our community in recent years. This plan is a vision for a generation - great cities move forward because they have a vision. Visions may change, be adjusted over the years.....But visions, ideas for a better future, are what make cities great. This is such a vision.

I encourage everyone to carefully review the plan in all its details, and that it be adopted and incorporated as a supplement to the University City 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Very Truly Yours,

Carol Wofsey
7171 Kingsbury Blvd.
University City, MO 63130