



RECORD OF PROCEEDING

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD AT 7601 MANCHESTER ROAD

DECEMBER 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Mayor Knapper presiding.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Mayor Knapper acknowledged that this meeting is being held on traditional lands of the Kickapoo, Osage, Miami, Iroquois and Great Sioux Nation people.

ON ROLL CALL, the following members were **PRESENT:** Mayor Knapper, Councilmember Coriell, Councilmember Faulkingham, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Homa, Councilmember Mattox and Councilmember Page.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA: Mayor Knapper asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item 14, which motion was made by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa. Mayor Knapper asked those in favor of amending the agenda to exclude Item 14 and received approval of the Council. Mayor Knapper asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Councilmember Faulkingham motioned to approved, seconded by Councilmember Homa, which motion received approval of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SEC. 12-23, INSPECTIONS, (D) FEES, TO LIST FEES FOR OCCUPANCY PERMIT INSPECTIONS AND TO WAIVE OCCUPANCY PERMIT INSPECTION FEES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS: Barry Greenberg spoke inquiring about the projected savings regarding the inspection fees and how the tenants would benefit from this since it’s the landlords who pay the fees. The Mayor responded to Mr. Greenberg that since this was time for public comment, his question could be answered by a member of Council when that item came up on the council agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SEC. 56-36, GENERAL BULK REGULATIONS, (D) PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS IN REQUIRED YARDS, (1) IN ALL YARDS, TO ALLOW WHEELCHAIR LIFTS AND RAMPS WITHIN REQUIRED YARD SETBACKS AND TO DELETE SEC. 56-42, PHYSICALLY DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY RAMP LICENSE: No one spoke.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SEC. 40-19, DEFINITIONS, AND SEC. 40-29, COMPOSTING TO UPDATE COMPOSTING REGULATIONS: No one spoke.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SEC. 10-100, LICENSE – FEE IMPOSED; INOCULATION CERTIFICATE PREREQUISITE TO ISSUANCE, AND SEC. 10-101, SAME-TAGS, TO DELETE THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS IN THESE SECTIONS OF THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES: Charlie Hinderliter spoke. He was in favor and commended the city for proposing the amendment to this ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V. – KENNELS, SEC. 10-133 – DEFINITIONS, TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF A KENNEL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS THAT ARE PERMITTED WITHOUT A KENNEL LICENSE: Barry Greenberg spoke. He asked the council how the number of dogs and cats allowed per residence was derived.

PUBLIC FORUM: Steve Terelmes presented a petition from the residents on Hazel Avenue expressing concern that the vacant lot at 7443 Hazel should remain residential and not commercial. He provided a brief history of the property. John Niehaus echoed Mr. Terelmes' concerns regarding the vacant lot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilmember Garcia stated there were several upcoming events: a Family Book Circle Kit and Winter Reading Bingo Card at the Library. The Sweet Tooth Tour is coming up at the end of January. Through December 31st support to our Police and Fire Department is appreciated for the Pillow Fight event.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION TO SCHOOL OF METAPHYSICS: Mayor Knapper read a proclamation requested by the School of Metaphysics proclaiming the Universal Hour of Peace on December 31, 2023 at 11:30pm through January 1, 2024 at 12:30am and presented the proclamation to Terrence Lamont Bellows.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO MAPLEWOOD 101 GRADUATES: Mayor Knapper recognized each graduate and presented to them a certificate of achievement for completing the 2023 Maplewood 101 program.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, APPOINTING AMBER WITHYCOMBE AS CITY MANAGER was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa to approved the resolution, which motion received the following roll cate vote: Ayes, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa and Page. Abstained, Mayor Knapper. Nays, Councilmember Mattox.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, ADOPTING THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING CITYWIDE 5-YEAR PLAN "WELCOME MAPLEWOOD" was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa to approved the resolution, which motion received the following roll cate vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Page and Mattox. Nays, none.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, APPOINTING THE MICKES O'TOOLE LAW FIRM TO SERVE AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO CITY OF MAPLEWOOD was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa. During discussion, Councilmember Coriell clarified the reason another law firm was brought in was due to the potential conflict of interest with the City of Maplewood and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch both being clients of Lewis Rice with regard to the Freedom of Information Act requests. Upon no further discussion, Mayor Knapper called for a roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa and Page. Nays, Councilmember Mattox.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN EQUITY LEASE FLEET SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT INC was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa to approved the resolution, which motion received the following roll cate vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Page and Mattox. Nays, none.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5573, THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING SECTION 12-23, INSPECTIONS, TO WAIVE OCCUPANCY PERMIT INSPECTION FEES FOR NATURALLY OCCURRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS WITHIN THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6238 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6238 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5573, THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED, BY REPEALING CHAPTER 10 ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE IV. DOGS AND CATS, SECTION 10-100 LICENSE – FEE IMPOSED, AND SECTION 10-101 SAME-TAGS, TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PET LICENSES AND TAGS AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE V. KENNELS, SECTION 10-133 DEFINITION, TO INCREASE THE TOTAL COMBINED NUMBER OF CATS AND/OR DOGS PERMITTED WITHOUT A KENNEL LICENSE TO FIVE TOTAL ANIMALS was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6239 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6239 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION IN THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, ON APRIL 2, 2024 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO AMEND ARTICLE IX. - DEPARTMENT OF LAW OF THE CHARTER, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO NOTIFY THE RESPONSIBLE ELECTION AUTHORITIES OF THIS ELECTION was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6240 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Page and Mayor Knapper. Nays, Councilmember Mattox.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6240 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Page and Mayor Knapper. Nays, Councilmember Mattox.

BILL 6235, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II. – CITY COUNCIL, DIVISION 2. – CODE OF ETHICS, SEC. 2-44. – PROHIBITED ACTS OR CONDUCT CONSTITUTING VIOLATIONS was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6235 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Mattox and Page. Nays, none.

Bill 6235 was approved by the City Council on the 12th day of December, 2023 as Ordinance Number 6030.

BILL 6236, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 56, ZONING, SECTION 56-36 GENERAL BULK REGULATIONS, (D) PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS IN REQUIRED YARDS, (1) IN ALL YARDS, TO ALLOW WHEELCHAIR LIFTS AND RAMPS WITHIN REQUIRED YARD SETBACKS AND TO DELETE SECTION 56-42 PHYSICALLY DISABLED ACCESSIBILITY RAMP LICENSE was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6236 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Mattox and Page. Nays, none.

Bill 6236 was approved by the City Council on the 12th day of December, 2023 as Ordinance Number 6031.

BILL 6237, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 40, SOLID WASTE, SECTION 40-19 DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 40-29 COMPOSTING, OF THE MAPLEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham, duly seconded by Councilmember Homa, that Bill No. 6237 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Mattox and Page. Nays, none.

Bill 6237 was approved by the City Council on the 12th day of December, 2023 as Ordinance Number 6032.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION: Councilmember Faulkingham thanked Matt Nighbor and the department heads for their endurance and diligent efforts the last few weeks.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Knapper wished everyone a very happy holiday, for whatever holiday they were celebrating and thanked her colleagues on the council for their caring and support. She expressed that although there has been much stress and many difficult situations for the council and city staff in recent weeks, that we would all get past this and mend. She heartily welcomed City Manager Amber Withycombe.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Matt Nighbor stood and thanked the city staff and had them stand to be recognized for their support and hard work during his time as Interim City Manager.

PUBLIC FORUM: Doug Miner spoke requesting clarification on Bill 6235. The council responded that it was put in place so that the too, as residents of Maplewood, can communicate with city staff regarding property, sewer lateral issues, etc. the same as any other Maplewood resident.

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION, IF NEEDED, TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO LITIGATION, LEGAL ACTIONS AND/OR COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 610.021(1)RSMO. AND/OR SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR SEALED BIDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SEALED PROPOSALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR PERSONNEL MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(13)RSMO. AND/OR EMPLOYEE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(3)RSMO. AND/OR REAL ESTATE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(2)RSMO. AND/OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT UNDER SECTION 610.021(12)RSMO Mayor Knapper asked for a motion to not hold a closed session which was moved by Councilmember Faulkingham and seconded by Councilmember Homa which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Knapper, Councilmembers Coriell, Faulkingham, Garcia, Homa, Mattox and Page. Nays, none.

ADJOURNMENT: The Council meeting adjourned at 8:00pm