

CITY OF BUCKNER
Board of Alderman Meeting Minutes
Business Session

08/06/2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Buckner, Missouri, met in a Business Session on August 6, 2020 in the Council Chambers located in Buckner City Hall. Mayor Darrel Box called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Aldermen were present:

Alderman Jones Alderman Norris
Alderman Ross Alderman Hohler
Alderman Walcott

The following Aldermen were absent: None

The following staff members were present: City Administrator Bobadilla, Police Chief Sutherland and City Attorney Steve Mauer.

MINUTES

Alderman Hohler made the motion to approve the July 16, 2020 Study Session Minutes. Alderman Jones seconded; all Aldermen voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

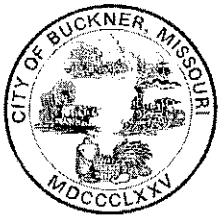
OLD BUSINESS

1. **Bill NO. 20-09 Ordinance No. 1042 An Ordinance of the City of Buckner , Missouri Amending the Buckner Municipal Code and Moving the Contents of Chapter 645 to Chapter 650.**

Mayor Box explained that we had two ordinances that were labeled with the same number, and this will get them in proper sequence for the code book. Aldermen Jones made a motion to suspend the rules to allow for a second reading. Alderman Ross seconded the motion. Roll call vote **AYE'S-** Alderman Hohler, Alderman Norris, Alderman Walcott, Alderman Ross, and Alderman Jones. **NAY'S-**none. The ordinance passed.

2. **Discussion on Placing Sales Tax Increase on the November 3, 2020 General Election.**

Mayor Box stated that several Aldermen asked if we were going to go forward with placing the sales tax increase back on the ballot. Mayor Box also stated that we were going to place it on the past election, but that deadline was missed so he wanted to know what the desire of the Board is on placing this issue on the November election. Alderman Hohler stated that this issue has been asked and answered twice already and that it is undemocratic to keep asking this question until you get the answer that you want. Alderman Jones stated that sales tax has not been raised since 1978 and he believes that it is worth another shot and try to get the word out to the citizens on the benefits the city will received from this increase. Alderman Walcott stated that he thinks



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the citizens were not informed. Once that they are completely informed, then he would agree with Alderman Hohler, but the Aldermen should go out and inform the citizens. He wants to put in on the ballot again. Alderman Norris stated that he would like something put on the City's Website that shows the citizens how much this will cost each individual and where the money is going. Alderman Ross stated that he believes that this is not an informational issue but rather a trust issue. Alderman Hohler explained that city ordinance 130.130 (B) raises the parks capital use tax by the same amount. He also stated that if this sales tax increase is passed that he will come back in the spring and ask for a referendum to see if the citizens want to keep the new tax rate of 2.5% or reduce it back down to 1.5%. In response to Alderman Hohler's concern that the city would effectively be doubling down on the taxes if a sales tax increase were passed, Mayor Box stated that the parks capital use tax does not stack on top of a sales tax increase. The use tax is for internet purchases only and the sales tax is for brick and mortar purchases.

Alderman Walcott made a motion to place the 1% sales tax increase on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot. Alderman Norris seconded the motion. Roll call vote **AYE'S-** Alderman Norris, Alderman Walcott and Alderman Jones. **NAYE'S-** Alderman Hohler and Alderman Ross. Motion failed (since the motion needed 4 AYES vote to pass an ordinance).

3. Discussion and Consideration of Purchasing Patrol Cars for the Police Department. Mayor Box stated that the Admin & Finance committee is working on the budget and spoke with Chief Sutherland with Board's approval using the Asset Forfeiture Fund to purchase a new patrol car and working on the feasibility of an additional purchase of a car in 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion and Consideration of Proposal from Billings Farm LLC to Maintain and Grow Crops on City-owned Vacant Property.**
City Administrator Bobadilla explained that he was approached by Brock Billings about mowing and maintaining 3 empty lots that are currently owned by the city. Alderman Ross gave a brief statement on some research that he did and stated that while he understood the cost savings this proposal creates; he would like to see some monetary compensation for use of the land. The Board of Aldermen directed the City Administrator to put out a Request for Proposal on maintaining and farming these lots.
2. **Bill No. 20-10 Ordinance NO. 1043 An Ordinance Establishing Section 130.155 "Transfer Amount to Buckner Parks and Recreation Operation Fund" of the City of Buckner, Missouri Municipal Code to Pay for the Operation and Maintenance Cost Necessary to Operate the Parks and Recreation Department.**
Mayor Box explained that the city has had several discussions on how to maintain and mow the city park. He asked our legal staff to research the ballot language of the Parks Capital Improvement tax that was passed. The results were that by State Statute part of



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the revenue produced by this tax may be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the assets. Mayor Box stated that we have a similar ordinance for the water and sewer fund. This ordinance will be 10% of the yearly revenue and will produce between \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year which will go towards maintaining the park. Attorney Mauer stated that this ordinance will put a cap of 10%; otherwise right now on our ordinance based on the ballot language the Board of Aldermen could take as much as they want as long as they could tie it back to a particular maintenance cost. Alderman Norris made a motion to suspend the rules to allow a second reading. Alderman Ross seconded the motion. Roll call vote **AYE'S**- Alderman Hohler, Alderman Norris, Alderman Walcott, Alderman Ross and Alderman Jones. **NAYS**- none. The ordinance passed.

3. Discussion and Consideration of Fairs and Festivals Funding.

Alderman Hohler stated that since Covid-19 there have been no events in Jackson County including here in Buckner and stop any funds that is due to transfer over from the General Fund to the Park Operation fund. Alderman Hohler also stated that any money that was raised by the Fairs and Festival committee is theirs and is not what he was talking about using. Mayor Box stated that currently the Fairs and Festival fund has \$4,083.04 and there was no outside funding from the city to that fund. After the discussion Alderman Hohler stated that if there is not any money that is pending then it is a non-issue.

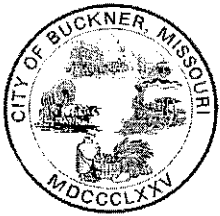
4. Discussion and Consideration of a Mass Notification System.

Mayor Box explained that during the 4th of July weekend a fire hydrant was hit and drained the water tower causing a boil advisory. The city does not an efficient mechanism to notify the citizens and there are 3 emails from different service providers. Alderman Hohler stated that two of the providers costs are \$2,000 a year or more but Textcaster is \$1,000 per year plus a one-time set-up fee of \$200. Mayor Box stated that currently the General Fund has around \$88,209; payroll still must come out but taking \$1,200 will have minimal effect. Alderman Ross agreed that the services are justified. Alderman Hohler made a motion to approve Textcaster proposal. Alderman Ross seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted aye.

ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS

Alderman Hohler thanked City Administrator Bobadilla for putting the agenda and minutes on the City's website, fixing the wrong number that was on the building permit form, and for having the tall grass mowed by Osage Springs.

Alderman Hohler asked about the water tower maintenance. The City Administrator explained that we have a contract with Suez; they are responsible for cleaning the inside and outside of the water tower once a year. Suez schedule is: one year they do the inside and the next year they do the outside. Painting the tower is as they deem necessary. Last year the inside of the tower was scheduled but couldn't because the main bypass valve from the tower was not working so the tower could not be drained. The City Administrator stated that there are two options; one is to replace the valve which would shut water off to the entire town, or, use an Inserta Valve which is put in live and does not require shutting water off to the entire town. The cost for the Inserta



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Valve is around \$13,000 installed. His plan is to go out to bid and bring it back to the Board for their approval. Alderman Hohler stated that he had two citizens complaints about the storm drain system that runs in the back yards at Tarsney Lane and Millview Dr. City Administrator Bobadilla stated that he was aware of the problem and that the fix would be very expensive because it would require tearing out fences, digging and replacing the old pipe, replacing the fences and regrading all properties back to their original condition. He was also looking into a less invasive process like Insituform; the company comes in a basically pulls a plastic pipe through the existing metal pipe. Alderman Hohler instructed the City Administrator to come back with cost estimates to fix the drainage problem.

Mayor Box thanked everyone for attending and asked if anyone is interested in the vacant Alderman spot to let him know; his plan is to make a final decision by next Friday.

ADJOURN

- Alderman Norris made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Ross. All Aldermen voted aye.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Darrel Box, Mayor

Attest

Joe Bobadilla, City Administrator/Clerk