



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor Carol Suter
Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore
Councilman Bill Garnos
Councilman R.D. Mallams
Councilman Kyle Yarber

ALL COUNCILMEMBERS ATTENDED VIA ZOOM

City Manager Scott Wingerson
Assistant City Manager Bob Baer
City Clerk Ruth Bocchino
Attorney Chris Williams-via Zoom

Item No. 1. On the Agenda. Meeting Called to Order.

Mayor Suter opened the Regular City Council Meeting Monday, April 13, 2020, at 7:30 pm.

Item No. 2. On the Agenda. ROLL CALL

All Councilmembers were present via Zoom. The City Manager, Scott Wingerson, the Assistant City Manager, Bob Baer, and the City Clerk, Ruth Bocchino, were present in the City Council Chambers, 7010 North Holmes, Gladstone, Missouri.

Item No. 3. On the Agenda. Approval of the March 23, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilman Mallams moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020, Regular City Council meeting as presented. **Mayor Pro Tem Moore** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Item No. 4. On the Agenda. PROCLAMATION: OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mayor Suter recognized the Older Americans in our City, and declared May as Older Americans Month.

Item No. 5. On the Agenda. PROCLAMATION: EARTH DAY

Mayor Suter recognized Earth Day April 22, 2020, at the request from Climate Action Kansas City, and all next week it will be celebrated.

Item No. 6. On the Agenda. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Mallams moved to approve the Consent Agenda as published. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Councilman Mallams moved to approve **RESOLUTION R-20-15** A Resolution accepting easements from certain property owners in conjunction with the Northeast 76th Street Improvements Project from North Oak Trafficway to North Brooklyn, Project TP1818. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Councilman Mallams moved to **APPROVE TYPE 4 OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS:**

Rock the Block Client Appreciation Picnic, 602 Northeast 70th Terrace, Linden Square, Friday May 15, 2020, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Gladstone Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off, 7512 North Antioch Road, Happy Rock Park West, Saturday, May 30, 2020, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

NAWS Woofstock Charity Fundraiser, 602 Northeast 70th Street, Linden Square, June 13, 2020, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Councilman Garnos seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Councilman Mallams moved to **APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 8 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2020.** **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

REGULAR AGENDA.

Item No. 7. On the Agenda. Communications from the City Council.

Councilman Yarber stated: *"I just will mention one thing. I wanted to compliment Chief Hasty on the article that was in the Dispatch. There were all kinds of crazy rumors going around and so it was great to reassure people that the city is a source of accurate information. Good reassurance at this time. Thank you, Chief."*

Councilman Mallams stated: *"Thank you, Mayor. Again, I would like to thank our Mayor, also the City Manager, the city's Leadership Team, and every member of our city staff. They continue*

to work together and I know that they will continue to work as we move through this to meet the needs of our residents and our business owners. I'd like to go one step further. I'd like to extend thanks to Dr. Danny Clemens, Superintendent of the North Kansas City School District; his Leadership Team and every member of the School District, for their efforts to continue learning for their 40,000 students through the use of technology. Mayor, thank you."

Councilman Garnos stated: "Mayor, just a couple of things. Scott may be talking about this in his comments. I just wanted to check on some of the upcoming Gladstone events. I have not heard for sure whether we are cancelling the Parks and Rec Advisory Board next Tuesday and then also next weekend is that free bulky item drop off at Happy Rock Park. I didn't know if those were getting rescheduled. From what I understand, Mayor, the shut-down from Clay County Public Health runs through April 24. There is currently consideration being given to extending it one to three weeks and I just wanted to check to see if that is the current status as far as everybody knows and also I wanted to say I appreciate the rumor control efforts. That is valuable. I agree with Councilman Yarber on that. I appreciate Dominic's analysis of the impact on the financials for revenues and expenditures. We will, obviously, all be tracking that very carefully over the next several months. I appreciate his front-end analysis with the financial report for where we are going to get hit and when. That helps, thanks."

Mayor Pro Tem Moore stated: "Thank you, Mayor. It's difficult and challenging at these times for everybody. I think we are remiss if we don't take a moment to pause and express thanks to those individuals who have gone way above and beyond to do their jobs under circumstances that they absolutely had no way to anticipate. Tonight I want to express my gratitude again and deepest appreciation to our front liners out there; our Fire, EMS, and Public Safety Officers. I'd also like to piggy-back a bit on Councilman Mallams comments; I'd like to recognize all of our teachers, who all of a sudden have been called on to become online instructional experts; and also our students who had to adopt a new learning model. To our restaurants, who continue to feed us safely and well; and to our grocery store workers who are out there every day stocking the shelves and making sure that we are well fed. Finally, to all those volunteers who are working tirelessly to donate and deliver food to those individuals who are struggling to feed their families. I want to offer a special thanks to our friends at Antioch Bible Baptist Church under the amazing leadership of Pastor Bob and his wife Judy who are spearheading the food collection at their church and the distribution effort for North Kansas City School District. Thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Suter stated: "I would like to add to your list. I would like to express my appreciation to all of the residents of Gladstone and the surrounding area for their cooperation through this effort. It really has been a good experience with people voluntarily doing what we have asked them to do; to stay home, to keep distance in our parks. It is so important to keep our parks and trails open and I really appreciate the way that our residents have cooperated with all of us; with Public Safety and all those others who are doing extraordinary work. The best of good people really comes out in hard times. As for the hard times, the last time we met, I told you that in response to the request of area Mayors, the Mid America Regional Council was convening for the first time ever, it's called MAC, Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, and it's made up of elected officials and professionals from health care and public safety and emergency services from the nine county area that MARC serves. They had an introductory meeting week ago."

Tomorrow morning we meet again to really begin the coordination effort on the releasing of restrictions. The extension and/or releasing; we are kind of back where we were two weeks ago, where some jurisdictions seem content to just decide what they want to decide and tell everybody; others much prefer that we work together in unison. It was actually, comparatively, easier to shut things down than it's going to be to open things up. It was easier because the medical community was totally unanimous about shutting down, adamant about what needed to happen. Where we are now? There is no unanimity at all. Everybody has a different opinion; every location is actually in a different situation, and even in the metropolitan area we are having different experiences in different parts of the metropolitan area. As we know now, the virus is particularly prevalent among minority populations and that has been true all over the country in dramatic fashion. That means that some parts of the city or region are going to be much more severely impacted than others and we've seen it here as well. That makes this decision making about who is going to do what and when way more complicated. The hot beds in our area, of course, have been Kansas City, Kansas; basically just one nursing home is responsible for 50% of all of the deaths in the whole State of Kansas. On our side of the State it's pretty much been in the low-income communities, mostly in the urban core and kind of on the East side. That is where most of the deaths have been occurring. You might see why the Unified Government and why the City of Kansas City will want to keep things shut down longer than probably other jurisdictions who are not having a significant issue. Clay County in particular is not strained; most of the suburban areas around, our hospitals have capacity. We are sending healthcare workers to other parts of the country because we have plenty of folks who aren't needed here. We have some very different experiences going on right now. Shutting down was pretty much a non-political event, but opening up is going to be much more of a political event. There will be very much more input and rationale based on political philosophy and allegiances than there was when we shut down. We will see how things go tomorrow and with our first go-around with trying to have a conversation and trying to get the Core Four, as they like to all themselves; although Clay County is way larger than Wyandotte County; to get that Core Four to understand that there are lots of other folks in the region who may or may not agree with them, but we all need to understand the impact that happens when one or more districts decides to do something that the others don't want to do. I think, in theory, everybody is probably going to side with extending the shutdown for at least another week; at least till the end of the month. That seems to be, at least what the Kansas Governor is going to do, is extend hers; hers ends on the 19th and it is sounding like she is probably going to go to the end of the month. Nobody is quite sure what Parsons is deciding to do. He has not been very forthcoming in conversations about where he is. I think he is waiting for instructions from the White House to decide what he is really going to do in Missouri. If the State continues to shut us down then we don't have decisions to make. If the State backs off, then we will all have decisions to make and then it will be up to the individual jurisdictions and then hopefully some ability to work together in the region to do something that makes sense. I think everybody expects that what will happen will be some kind of a rolling of the restrictions cutting off one at a time and then we will work backwards to normalcy. I think even Dr. Fauci seems to be saying that should be able to get accomplished in May and by June we ought to be able to be kind of to the end of it. We will see. If some folks want to, like Mayor Lucas seems to be saying today that he's thinking things ought to stay shut down completely until the middle of May, then that would put the roll back into the middle of June before we could be back to normal. Just kind of whose opinion wins out. Like I said, we have been pretty much following the medical opinions expressed by the Clay County

Public Health Director, but he was pretty much in unison with everybody else in the region and I'm not sure that will continue to be the case here going forward. We will see. Is that helpful? I'm telling you as much as I know today. I know we've been having conversations all week and all weekend trying to lead up to this meeting tomorrow to see if we can't get some better cooperation this time. This time if there is not cooperation, the last time when we were shutting down, there was enough chaos and everybody looked like they didn't know what they were doing, but man that is going to pale in comparison to the mess that will be created if we don't all agree in the region to ease restrictions. People will just be so confused about who is allowed to do what, where, and when. So we will see. I'm trying to be on the positive side that we are going to be able to reach some agreements without just capitulating to the most strident, strictest shut down that people want because I'm not there but I think that by the end of the month we will be approaching an appropriate time to start rolling off. We will see. Supposedly our area is supposed to peak this week so by next week we will pretty much know it's going to be downhill from there and we have not anywhere near taxed our capacity. We actually have hundreds and hundreds of excess ventilators in this region so we have a long way to go to really tax most of our capacity yet. Again, that is different in parts of the region. In terms of the ongoing work over the weekend, the City Manager and I have been in conversations with Wal Mart who would like to do a drive through testing site and so I am going to ask the City Manager to tell you about that as he gets on to the rest of his comments as well. Thank you."

Item No. 8. On the Agenda. Communications from the City Manager.

City Manager Scott Wingerson stated: "Thank you, Mayor. I guess to start with, the testing facility, as the Mayor said, Wal Mart asked us late Friday night into Saturday morning if the Gladstone store could be a testing site for COVID-19. They have partnered with Quest Lab and another laboratory in another part of the country to offer drive through testing, like maybe you have seen on the news and on similar channels. How it works is the person downloads an app, puts their symptoms in, the symptoms are reviewed by a doctor, the doctor then prescribes a test. The person makes an appointment at their neighborhood Wal Mart through this app and it shows up with their appointed time where a Wal Mart Pharmacist provides the test. That person self-administers the test and then seals the container, the kit, and puts it in a drop box where the lab picks it up and takes it to the lab. There are a few logistical details to work out. The main one is the indemnification that they are asking for. Chris is in the process of reviewing that and will offer his opinion later. Many cases in Missouri don't allow indemnification so we may have a change of plans there, but I'm sure we can work something out. Their goal, Wal Mart's goal, is to have this open sometime next week, the first to middle part of next week, and they are asking for our support with 24 hour security and on-call EMS through 9-1-1. We are excited to partner with Wal Mart. They are a big part of our community and if they can pull this off we are excited. Any questions about that before I go on? As of late tonight, there are 122 cases of COVID-19 in Clay County with still two deaths. That has been a consistent number for the last few days. About eight of those are confirmed in Gladstone. We have been very fortunate in all the measures that the people in businesses are taking for social distancing and proper hygiene and all of that. They are working eight people out of 25,000 people and that is a small number so we are very, very proud of Gladstone residences and businesses for sticking with it. If we can just stick with it a little while longer I think we will be on the other side of this thing. I can't do the thank you's and the shout outs as well as the Council did in their report, but I'd like to just echo my thoughts

about our first responders and Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement; they continue to step up and serve on the front line without complaint and just completely mission driven and we are super proud of them. I'd like to shout out to Public Works for safely opening brush disposal to the delight of about 500 cars in the last two weeks which is probably some sort of record; maybe Tim can confirm that. Shout out to the Community Center for, among other things, painting the swimming pool themselves instead of contracting for it in their downtime and starting Facebook live fitness classes to keep a social connection with some of the Community Center members. Finally, just a heartfelt thank you to the Leadership Team and Emergency Managers who have met almost every day since March 14 through this thing. We are pretty much at status quo now which is a sad thing to say but if things don't change we are very well prepared to handle what is coming our way. With that Mayor, thank you very much."

Mayor Suter asked if there were any questions for the City Manager, to make sure everybody is able to stay informed as we go forward.

There were none.

Item No. 9. On the Agenda. RESOLUTION R-20-16 A Resolution adopting changes to the definition of medical expenses within the City of Gladstone's Flexible Benefits Plan.

Mayor Suter asked if there were any questions regarding the Resolution or any other information needed.

There were none.

City Manager Wingerson stated *"This is information regarding the CARES Act and broadens the definition of reimbursable or purchase expenses from the Flexible Spending Accounts."*

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve **RESOLUTION R-20-16** A Resolution adopting changes to the definition of medical expenses within the City of Gladstone's Flexible Benefits Plan. **Councilman Yarber** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Item No. 10. On the Agenda. RESOLUTION R-20-17 A Resolution amending or revising the 2020 Transportation Sales Tax Fund for the City of Gladstone, Missouri, and authorizing expenditures of funds.

Mayor Suter invited City Manager Wingerson and Finance Director Dominic Accurso to speak regarding Resolution R-20-17.

City Manager Wingerson stated: *"Yes, Mayor. Thank you very much. I'll start and then ask Dominic to fill in the blanks that I leave behind. This is actually the city's mid-year budget and it's only amending the Transportation Sales Tax Fund because of some grant funding that we were able to achieve and we need spending authority in that particular fund. Because all of the other funds are going backwards, they are becoming smaller because of revenue shortfalls in*

those funds, there is no need to actually amend the budget. That action also provides us some flexibility in that if we make reductions in the budget after tonight and this thing clears as the Mayor was talking about before the end of June, then we may be able to institute some of these programs for the residents such as recreation, Community Center membership, soccer programs, and all that sort of stuff. So we want the flexibility to offer these programs if there is a revenue connected to them and we would need to amend the budget to do that so we are choosing not to recommend amending the budget at this point but we are going to outline a pretty aggressive strategy to deal with the Corona Virus impact. In a very basic summary, general fund revenues are projected to be nearly \$1.2 million dollars below budget. Combine that with the fact that we are into 9/12 of the year, fiscal year, though, that doesn't allow us a lot of flexibility. There are reductions in sales tax, gross receipts taxes, charges for services, fines and forfeitures, municipal court is closed, and those are the areas that will be the hardest hit. The Community Center fund is also very difficult as the Council is very well aware; we talk about it twice a year. The Community Center is largely funded through user fees. When the Center is not open, there are no user fees to be earned in that regard. The Community Center budget is projected to be \$575,000.00 below budget, this is almost entirely in user fees. While the other funds are affected, the General Fund and Community Center are funded with the greatest impact. In this situation, the only response is to reduce expenditures. The process is complicated due to the fact that we are 9/12 of the fiscal year complete prior to the start of the virus situation. Our priority for reducing expenditures was first to reduce expenditures with program revenue attached, such as senior programs, rec programs, fitness classes and things like that. Of course, if gathering limits are lifted, we will make every effort to restore these programs before the end of the fiscal year. The second strategy was to review and freeze Capital Equipment purchases that have not been purchased. Because we are so far into the fiscal year, most of those things, police cars and things like that, have been purchased. Anything that hasn't been purchased we froze and postponed into the next fiscal year. The third strategy was to protect our existing full time employees with very limited exceptions and except in the Public Safety Department, vacant positions are frozen until at least July 1. Our part-time pool has largely been furloughed and will be called back as soon as the crisis is over. Finally, we are using CERF and the General Fund to balance and the use of fund balance in the Community Center to balance the budget based on anticipated revenues and expenditure shortfalls. Finally, we are preparing to issue a series of bonds that the Council is very interested in and up to speed on. It involved some important projects in the community; a fire station addition, a public safety headquarters, outdoor pool improvements, water main improvements, and many more. The crisis has adversely affected the Municipal Bond market nationally. Our municipal rating agency, which is SMP, has assigned a negative outlook to all public finance sectors. That is not just in Gladstone, that applies to every public agency looking to issue bonds. Our financial advisor here locally, our municipal financial advisor, has concerns that a possible increase in expenditures through a bond issue, and unknown revenue declines, will result in a negative bond rating. Based on this information, I recommend that we pause the issue of the bond until we believe the bond markets are recovered and our advisors believe we can achieve a positive outcome. It doesn't do any good for us to borrow this money right now and pay too much for it or put the financial reputation of the city on the line. Thank you for your consideration. A special thank you to Dominic, who has worked tirelessly under some pretty difficult circumstances to put this budget together, and if there are no questions for me at this point, I'll defer to Dominic and then we will both stand for questions."

Finance Director Accurso stated: *"Thank you, City Manager Wingerson. Good evening, City Council. I just kind of wanted to start out, I was talking to Scott about this earlier, this is probably the most difficult project I've had to work on. For the most part, when things are good, and you know you can rationalize how things are going to end up and increasing, modeling is easy, but when things are starting to decline, and this is something that has never happened before, everybody is asking, well, what do we do? What are we doing? And something I found out from a lot of my colleagues is no one is really saying what they are doing, they are just kind of stopping; it's too difficult, we have never had a crisis like this, it hasn't happened in a long time. We don't know what to expect, we don't know what to expect from sales tax, we don't know what to expect for charges for services. Something I did, I went in and analyzed some of our sales tax remitters and looked to see how things were going, you know, in their world. It got to be so difficult because there is no template for it; as Scott said, the one thing we can expect is that sales tax is going to decrease and charges for services will decrease; we cannot gather in groups so things like our programs can't get together and do it. So those are the items that are biggest hit. Honestly, the only thing we can do with that is to decrease expenditures. That came together; we did a great job of getting this worked out. I wish I could say I didn't lose too much sleep over it but I have and we made it work, so, you know, congratulations to everybody. Everybody worked hard on this and you know, we all came together to make it happen. You know, shining star; property tax; we got most of that already so property taxes are looking good. I don't foresee anything changing in that realm. Sales tax, you know, fortunately we have had $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year go by and sales tax has been very positive. The impact it will have on that on the General fund, I'm estimating probably about a 10% decrease in the General fund, so that what that \$450,000.00 represents. The gross receipts tax, you know we have been fighting with that for the past few years. We are just kind of coming to terms on that; that is going to decrease about \$230,000.00. License and permits were actually going very strong until all this happened and it has leveled off, so a lot of construction has stopped, permitting has stopped. I shouldn't say stopped, it has slowed down considerably. Of course charges for services, the majority of that is our senior program. Obviously there is not a lot of people taking trips or going out to restaurants or anything like that right now. Fines and forfeitures, that was actually doing very well this year. The State Supreme Court actually closed in person appearances so we are actually doing, there is some activity in there; not as much as we'd like to see, so that is significantly decreased, too. As far as miscellaneous revenue goes, essentially that is just the decrease in interest revenue. Interest rates two months ago were over 1%, we were almost getting 1.5% on our money; now it is down to .08%. Interest rates have just drastically dropped over the past couple of months. With that said, as Scott said, we're about \$1,193,000.00 down in total revenues. What we have done, and I'm just kind of going to go off the exhibits. Exhibit A kind of shows some of those adjustments that we have made to the different funds. Obviously the General fund is the largest fund so there was a lot going on there. Essentially we took a position that we are open, available payroll, available supplies and services, obviously we are not travelling right now so training is going to be decreased greatly if there is any training still available. Other items like fuel, well obviously we are not driving very many places so we can probably decrease fuel expenses. That was across pretty much all of the departments. All together we did find \$1.2 million dollars in decreases in expenditures. One thing I'm always excited about, usually the equity transfer, you would think that we would have to grab that but we managed to keep it the same so we are preserving the fund balance in the General fund. We are expected to end this fiscal year with an ending fund balance of \$3,643,031.00. I think that is*

very considerable considering what is going on right now. That's the General fund. Do you have any questions on any of that? I hate to repeat everything Scott said, he said pretty much everything I can say. The Community Center is kind of what he said and I've just kind of want to quantify everything. 83% of all revenues from the Community Center fund comes from sales tax or charges for services. So that is a lot. They are going to have a huge impact on that. We are hoping that things can clear up; again we are leaving the budget available in case we can't have those programs later on. I wish I could look into my crystal ball and say yes, everything is going to be fine June 1st, we can go outside and play in soccer tournaments and whatever else; but bottom line, I don't know. We don't know. What we did with that, we are hoping that we will have some area for revenue generation but we used that equity transfer to subsidize that so the ending fund balance of the Community Center fund is going to be about \$884,118.00. Going to Exhibit C with Public Safety Sales Tax, it will be affected. Again, thankfully we are $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the year so the sales tax we have is already there. There will be a little bit of a decrease. We have offset it with just additional equity transfer. We didn't touch any of the expenditures there; fortunately we had a good fund balance available in that fund so we should be ending the year with a fund balance of \$59,804.00. Something that has been more difficult for me to imagine, one of the things we did, was suspending all late fees, all shut offs, line items like that, so with that said, how are we going to collect it in the future, you know, what if this does last for another, till June, that is three or four months' worth of water bills that haven't been collected; not only water bills, but four months of gas bills, four months of electric bills, possibly four months of that; something we're trying to grasp ahold of is how we are going to collect those and is it possible that some of those are going to be uncollectable? We have had decreased water consumption this year and that is the adjustment in the revenue with the water and sewer so we are looking at a decrease of \$255,000.00 in that. As far as the equity transfer goes, the majority of the increase in the equity transfer is to facilitate the televising of the sewer; the sewer televising and cleaning actually ran over the fiscal year so we have increased the equity transfer for that to provide for that. The rest of it is to help out with the shortage in revenue. The good thing about having decrease sewer consumption is, you know, that is less that we pay to Kansas City. So, you know, you can see that as well in the decrease in the sanitary sewer. With that said, the Water fund is still very, is still doing very well, it is still very healthy. They are expected to have an ending fund balance of \$2,284,449.00. Moving on to the Capital funds; Capital funds, again, the same thing, they will be affected by the sales tax. On the CIST side, most of the projects have been completed. We still have a few projects remaining and Tim continues to work on that. We are expecting CIST to end within the suggested fund balance of \$153,908.00 for the ending fund balance. As Scott kind of said for the Transportation Fund, that's really the reason we need to increase the budget on that. It is really just an accounting adjustment so when we did Pleasant Valley Road, we used a different fund and so now that it has been built, we actually have to expense it so it's never technically been expensed and that is what that amount of money is for. So with that said, we are expecting the Transportation Sales Tax Fund to have an ending fund balance of \$59,812.00 by the end of this year. The Capital Equipment Replacement fund, or CERF, again as Scott said, this fund has given us a lot of flexibility over the years. It's given us the ability to do a lot of things and it's probably going to get used again this year a little bit. Fortunately we still do have some fund balance remaining in this fund that we are expecting this year to have an ending fund balance of \$256,096.00. Thankfully we still have some expenditures that we haven't budgeted so we do have a little bit of room in that fund. Other than that, I think I just want to say one more time that, you know, one of the things that we are not asking for

reductions as it does give us the flexibility to do other programs that we may be able to do later in the year so if everything clears up in June we could still have some of those events; do things like that, and help everybody out. The only thing that is actually on, the only increase in budget authority is for the Transportation Sales Tax. With that, I will answer any questions that you may have."

City Manager Wingerson stated: *"Mayor if I could just make a closing comment along the lines of who would have thought we'd harken back to the 'good ole days' of 1% interest."*

Mayor Suter stated: *"Scott, if you would just address the issue for the rest of the Council; you know we talked from time to time about our preference to maintain our 20% cash operating reserve which has never, ever, been tapped; we have always said that we have to have any disaster or emergency big enough or important enough to use it, and so my question to the City Manager was, this seems like a pretty big emergency. I just want to explain a little bit between you and Dominic of your decision around the use of that vs. other funds."*

City Manager Wingerson stated: *"Yes, the use of the fund balance would have been the fourth or fifth strategy down the list. This is an emergency, but it's a revenue emergency, not an expenditure emergency and the 20% fund balance policy is there for very short term expenditure emergencies such like you might have in a natural disaster or act of terrorism where a lot of money was necessary very quickly but it would be replaced in the subsequent budget year by incoming revenues. So because this is a revenue crisis, for lack of a better word, that money won't necessarily be replaced in a subsequent year so we need to be a little bit careful with that. I don't know if that hit on what the Mayor was asking me but...."*

Mayor Suter stated: *"Yes, that's it. You all have done a fabulous job again of financial gymnastics of figuring out how to move things around in ways that can maintain stability as much as possible and I hope that we never see a time when we actually have to use those funds but you know that begs the question, we keep saying, 'oh in some big natural disaster, or something,' well this is a national disaster so it probably kind of qualifies. But next year's budget will be just as big of a challenge. I know you are already working on that and the guess work that will go into next year's budget because revenues lag and so we won't know how bad sales tax fall off until two months after it happens. So I applaud, again, your creativity and your determination to make it work with what we have. It does mean that because we are not going to be doing the bond, it is likely that the projects that we hoped to get started in 2020 are not going to be 2020 projects, but 2021."*

City Manager Wingerson stated: *"Yes, I'm not sure of the dates yet. It kind of depends on when the bond markets clear up and it makes sense to issue them. Some of those projects are just flat ready to go. In the current sort of financial situation, I didn't feel comfortable in, for example, fronting the money for these projects on the hopes that we would be reimbursed from a future bond issue. We just don't know what that is going to look like yet and some of those projects, not the high-profile ones, but some of the secondary projects may drop off because of the overall bond issue size and scope. We will just have to play that by ear. We are consulting with our financial advisor, Dominic is, on a weekly or more often basis for the last six or eight weeks, so*

we are watching it very closely and we are getting advice from our bond counsel, financial advisors across the city, and of course the national rating agencies as well."

Mayor Suter asked if there were any questions or comments.

There were none.

Councilman Mallams moved to approve **RESOLUTION R-20-17** A Resolution amending or revising the 2020 Transportation Sales Tax Fund for the City of Gladstone, Missouri, and authorizing expenditures of funds. **Mayor Pro Tem Moore** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0)

Mayor Suter stated: *"Item No. 11 and 12 both have to do with the next section of the Rock Creek Greenway Trail so before we entertain motions, again, is there any information or questions you might have for Tim or others on that project?"*

There were none.

Mayor Suter stated: *"I'm just taking time to do it in these meetings because I know we just don't have as much opportunity to talk to each other and stay kind of informed as we go through this so I wanted to make sure that everybody has the opportunity before we proceed."*

Item No. 11. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 20-10 An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a License Agreement between the City of Gladstone and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the City to construct and maintain a segment of the Rock Creek Greenway Trail-Phase 2 on Missouri State Route 1 property between Northeast 66th Street and Northeast 67th Terrace; Federal Project #TAP-3323(412).

Councilman Garnos moved Bill No. 20-10 be placed on its First Reading. **Mayor Pro Tem Moore** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0). The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilman Garnos moved to accept the First Reading of Bill No. 20-10, waive the rule, and place the Bill on its Second and Final Reading. **Mayor Pro Tem Moore** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0). The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilman Garnos moved to accept the Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 20-10, and enact the Bill as **Ordinance 4.510**. **Mayor Pro Tem Moore** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0).

Item No. 12. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 20-11 An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Program Agreement between the City of Gladstone and the

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for federal transportation alternative funds to construct the Rock Creek Greenway Trail-Phase 2; Federal Project #TAP-3323(412).

Councilman Yarber moved Bill No. 20-11 be placed on its First Reading. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0). The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilman Yarber moved to accept the First Reading of Bill No. 20-11, waive the rule, and place the Bill on its Second and Final Reading. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0). The Clerk read the Bill.

Councilman Yarber moved to accept the Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 20-11, and enact the Bill as **Ordinance 4.511**. **Councilman Garnos** seconded. The Vote: "aye", Councilman Kyle Yarber, Councilman R.D. Mallams, Councilman Bill Garnos, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Moore, and Mayor Carol Suter. (5-0).

Item No. 13. On the Agenda. Other Business.

Councilman Mallams thanked Scott Wingerson and Bob Baer for working with Wal Mart on the removal of the trees, brush, and debris along 72nd Street.


Item No. 14. On the Agenda. Adjournment.

Mayor Suter adjourned the April 13, 2020, Regular City Council meeting at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Ruth E. Bocchino, City Clerk

Approved as presented: 

Approved as modified: _____


Mayor Carol J. Suter