



**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
GLADSTONE, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020**

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

City Manager Scott Wingerson  
Assistant City Manager Bob Baer  
City Clerk Ruth Bocchino  
Attorney John Mullane

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

**Mayor Suter** opened the Regular City Council Meeting Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 7:30 pm.

**Item No. 2. On the Agenda.** ROLL CALL

All Councilmembers were present.

**Item No. 3. On the Agenda.** Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Mayor Suter** asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Item No. 4. On the Agenda.** Approval of Agenda.

The Agenda was approved as published.

**Item No. 5. On the Agenda.** Approval of the May 11, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

**Councilman Mallams** moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 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. 6. On the Agenda.** PROCLAMATION: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

**Mayor Suter** read and presented the Proclamation to Su Bacon from the Clay County Senior Citizens Services Board. Ms. Bacon thanked the Council for supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

**Item No. 7. On the Agenda. CONSENT AGENDA.**

Following the Clerk's reading:

**Mayor Pro Tem Moore** moved to approve the Consent Agenda as published. **Councilman Mallams** 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 Pro Tem Moore** moved to **APPROVE OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Children's Garden Day-Saturday, July 11, 2020  
Sounds on the Square-Friday, July 10, Friday, August 7, 2020  
Cutie Pie Tri/Kids Fest-Saturday, July 25, 2020  
Fiesta on the Square-Saturday, September 12, 2020  
Big Shoal Country Fair-Saturday, September 12, 2020  
Scarecrow 5K Run/Walk-Sunday, October 4, 2020  
Whiskey Fest-Saturday, October 10, 2020  
Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting-Tuesday, November 24, 2020  
Cookies with Santa and Holiday Night-Saturday, December 12, 2020

**Councilman Mallams** 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 Pro Tem Moore** moved to **APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 10 MONTHS ENDING APRIL 30, 2020.** **Councilman Mallams** 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: *"While I think the Big Shoal County Fair is on that agenda, I understand that they have made a decision to not hold that event. That is unfortunate. It's hard to organize things in the midst of this pandemic."*

**REGULAR AGENDA.**

**Item No. 8. On the Agenda.** Communications from the audience.

There were none.

**Item No. 9. On the Agenda.** Communications from the City Council.

**Councilman Yarber** stated: *"Three things; and one quick question about all the outdoor events. Certainly we would be paying attention to what Clay County Public Health Center says and so that could be modified at any time. I assumed that but I thought I would go ahead and ask. Another interesting item, which all of us here on Council just got to experience, is that last year the voters of Gladstone approved an increase in the sales tax for Public Safety and we got to see one of the benefits of that just a little while ago; a brand new ambulance. It is pretty amazing how the ambulance works and how much easier it is for our Emergency Responders to operate it and how it puts them less at risk. This is a time when we have to show extra care to our Emergency Responders. They are on the front lines. We've had, I believe, the latest figure is 43 cases here in Gladstone. Luckily, we have had no deaths here in Gladstone. Part of that, a lot of that, is due to our staff. The fact that we very quickly understood the emergency we were facing; the unusual times, and that we put into place policies that some people thought went too far, but I think we can say that they were the right things at the right time because of how we have not seen it as bad here as we have seen it in other places. You see crazy things on the news like all the parties at the Lake of the Ozarks over the weekend and you just cringe. We hope no one from Gladstone was in the midst of that. The fact that we have done an excellent job making sure that our First Responders have Personal Protection Equipment that they have been able to safely respond. We depend on them. The fact that we have been able to provide the things that they need in order to keep us safe-I just want to compliment staff; everyone on staff; for the plans they put in place along with all of the different procedures and protocols that got us through this first stage. This isn't over; we have not heard the 'air-raid' siren declare all clear. This isn't over, but we have made it this far and I just have to tip my hat to all of our people who have adjusted to new work schedules; adjusted to new responsibilities, and especially our First Responders who are out there putting themselves on the line to keep us safe. We need to continue to do everything we can to keep them as safe so they can keep us safe. Hats off to all of you. The last thing I'll say is, unfortunately, my barber is still not back. We will see how long this gets. Thank you."*

**Councilman Garnos** stated: *"Thank you, Mayor. I have a brief rant this evening about Clay County if that is OK. As you know, we have Municipal Elections one week from today. There are three issues on the ballot that I know are of great interest to our Gladstone residents. The first being the zero-tax increase bond issue for the North Kansas City School District that we have been briefed on here. The second, as you know, there are two seats on City Council up for election. I won't say anything about that but I will say that we are very fortunate and blessed and thankful to have four very good candidates; all of whom I know care a great deal about the City of Gladstone. We are fortunate for that and that is an important thing for everybody up here. The thing I wanted to mention was the third item, that being Proposition C; which, if approved, is going to form a Commission to draft a new County Constitution which would then be submitted in the future to the voters for approval. Proposition C does not change the structure of Clay County Government; that would still have to be approved by the voters at a later date. The question on the ballot is: 'Shall a Commission be chosen by the Seventh Circuit Court to frame a County Constitution which shall be submitted to the voters of Clay County; yes or no.' That is the question that we are voting on. We went down this road in 2013. Mayor Suter served very capably as the Co-Chair of the Constitutional Charter Commission at that time. I was young and naive back in 2013 and was disappointed when that effort failed; however, the effort was defeated, in my opinion, by a campaign of misinformation and fear mongering at the time. In*

*pulling out my folder, these are some of the mailers that went out in 2013 on the issue of the Clay County Charter. It says: 'If you voted for a new Clay County Government Structure, it would eliminate all Senior Funding in Clay County, would close County Government for six months, schools will be closed, there will be no prosecution or jailing of criminals for six months; we are going to be giving up our voting rights and powers and it would make us "just like Jackson County." None of which, of course, was true. That was why I was particularly disheartened this weekend when I receive this mailer against Proposition C saying 'Do you want to be like Jackson County, do we want all officials appointed like Jackson County, County Executives in jail, appointed Assessors, and we don't want to lose electing the Sheriff or the Prosecutor.' Besides the fact that this is more than a little bit insulting to our neighbors and the good people of Jackson County, I want to make it clear that Proposition C, as I read it, does not make all officials appointed like in Jackson County. It does not put County Executives in jail. It does not provide for an appointed Assessor, and it does not take away the election of the County Sheriff or the Prosecutor. I believe the voters of Gladstone are smarter than this and will see through it. I'm hopeful that the rest of Clay County will also, and see through the misinformation and fear mongering on that issue. That's all I have this evening, Mayor. Thank you.'*

**Mayor Suter** stated: *"Thank you for that, Councilman Garnos. A little clarity is a good thing."*

**Mayor Pro Tem Moore** stated: *"Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to acknowledge the death this weekend of Freddie Nichols. Freddie has been a long-time loyal Gladstone resident who committed her time and talents to both this City and the Northland for many, many years. She served on the City's Parks and Recreation Board for a very long time. She served as on the Clay County Health Board; she served in the past on the North Kansas City School Board, she was active in DAR and her church, and she will be very missed by all Clay County residents and all of her many friends."*

**Mayor Suter** stated: *"She was an institution. I have just a couple of updates on the COVID Pandemic that we have all been so involved with. First, I want to thank, again, the citizens and residents of the City of Gladstone who have been so cooperative through this entire process and as we have rolled to being more open since the beginning of the month of May. I'm always just pleased to see people at our parks and trails social distancing. People are taking it seriously. I know many of our businesses and restaurants are being very meticulous about complying with the recommendations of the Clay County Health Director. We are in the first phase of roll-off, which according to the plan in Clay County should last about 28 days, which will be up at the end of the week so that next week we really anticipate we will be rolling to the next phase which will increase capacity and not change a whole lot else because social distancing stays in place; it just allows restaurants and other public places to have a larger capacity, again, as long as they can accommodate it with some social distancing. In theory, there is one more phase down the road to roll off to be back to normal. Our numbers are holding well according to our expectations and the Public Health Director's expectations. Again, a lot of that is because of the great cooperation from the people in this area. Also, I have to say, as I have worked with the region on the roll off plans and this whole shutdown process, I'm continually just proud to be part of Clay County because I think we had the simplest, sanest, best to understand plan from the beginning. We are the only jurisdiction around who has not changed our plan. It's been operating the way we expected and the timetable has been accurate. All of the other jurisdictions*

around, I swear, every day they are changing; every two days people are changing what they said; now it is not that, it's going to be something different. It's just really unfortunate the level of confusion that exists in this complicated geo-political environment right now. Again, I appreciate that we have been able to have a plan, stick with it, and often simple is best. When people understand it, they can accept it better than having it be way too complicated. The Regional Coordination Process has moved on. Instead of meeting almost every day, we are now meeting every other week and we are focused on trying to get some consensus around the metrics that would be used to determine phasing. Everybody's phasing is in different times and different ways and it would be really helpful if we could agree on what things shall we measure. We won't all agree on the timetable because our experience with the illness will be different as it is different now all around this region. At least we would be able to look at other people's metrics and say, OK, because of that, I know why you are going to make your decision and this is why we are going to make our decisions. That is what we are hoping to achieve; cooperation among some of the public health folks is a really difficult thing to achieve, so we have not gotten there yet. That is the last process that the Coordinating Committee is trying to achieve in this phase and then, hopefully, we are going to try to do some debriefing of the whole process and how things have gone in the region so that we can see what we learned, what can we do better if there is a resurgence, or when there is some other kind of issue that we have to deal with. It's been really helpful. A reporter asked me last week what two things, if you could name two things that you learned out of this so far that might be helpful to others in the future; I said one, managing through a pandemic is way more complicated than the public has any idea how complicated it is. The second thing was that we are so lucky to have a Regional Council like the Mid America Regional Council to provide this mechanism for us to try to cooperate together and work together. Many regions don't have that and so that has been helpful; even though we haven't been hugely successful all working together, at least we have had the forum and we have this mechanism now that is pulling all this data together and trying to help us sort through it all for the future. My last item, it echoes Councilman Garnos' concerns about the election next week. My concern just is that our local newspaper has not covered any of the issues or candidates. I think this is the first time ever. They always would send out a questionnaire to candidates and you would at least know that here are four people and here is who is running for the School Board, and its objective, and based on the same questionnaire. They have not done anything on any of these issues or asked for any information from candidates this year and I find that very disappointing and very concerning because I don't know how people, in this day and age, how do you find that information? You can get the biased opinion coming from a campaign, but that is not the same as being able to say, these four people answered the same four questions and here is their answers; these two people answered these questions. I'm really concerned about the future and I don't know about the viability of the newspaper industry anyway. Just as a city, a democracy cannot exist if people don't have information. You have to have an educated electorate in order to have an effective democracy. I don't know if there is anything that we can do long-term in the city that can help to facilitate some kind of source where people can go and find out otherwise. Right now, there are a bunch of people on the ballot next week and most people have no idea who they are. They have never heard anything about them or seen anything and that is so unfortunate to ask people to vote when they have not been able to get information. I just wanted to share that as a concern. I did drop a note to the Dispatch today to just ask if they have some kind of policy change or something that has made it different this year from every other year, but I haven't heard back from them yet. Just a concern."

**Item No. 10. On the Agenda.** Communications from the City Manager.

City Manager Scott Wingerson stated: *"Thank you, Mayor, and members of the Council. Good evening. I just wanted to say thank you more than anything for being here. It's great to see all of you in person. It seems like it's been forever but it has just been six or eight weeks as the Mayor said. Two quick things from me tonight. Clay County Public Health reports 408 cases confirmed of COVID-19 in Clay County. There have been four deaths, as Councilman Yarber mentioned. About 43 of those cases live in Gladstone and then finally, just a follow-up on Mayor Pro Tem Moore's comments about Freddie Nichols. Just an unparalleled community leader. She never met a person she didn't like; a tremendous role model to me and more importantly, a friend. She will definitely be missed. Thank you, Mayor."*

**Item No. 11. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 20-15** An Ordinance directing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the North Kansas City School District No. 74 for providing a School Resource Officer at Antioch Middle School.

**Councilman Mallams** moved Bill No. 20-15 be placed on its First Reading. **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). The Clerk read the Bill.

**Councilman Mallams** moved to accept the First Reading of Bill No. 20-15, waive the rule, and place the Bill on its Second and Final Reading. **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). The Clerk read the Bill.

**Councilman Mallams** moved to accept the Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 20-15, and enact the Bill as **Ordinance 4.515**. **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. 12. On the Agenda. FIRST READING BILL NO. 20-16** An Ordinance amending Title V, Chapter 110, Article 3, Section 5.110.3900, of the City of Gladstone, Missouri, Municipal Code regarding the issuance of permits for persons employed in the retail sale by the drink of alcoholic beverages.

**Mayor Pro Tem Moore** moved Bill No. 20-16 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.

**Mayor Pro Tem Moore** moved to accept the First Reading of Bill No. 20-16, 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.

**Mayor Pro Tem Moore** moved to accept the Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 20-16, and enact the Bill as **Ordinance 4.516**. **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.

There was none.

**Item No. 14. On the Agenda.** Adjournment.

**Mayor Suter** adjourned the May 26, 2020, Regular City Council meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth E Bocchino  
Ruth E. Bocchino, City Clerk

Approved as presented: ✓

Approved as modified:       

Carol J Suter  
Mayor Carol J. Suter