

MEMORANDUM



TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator

FROM: Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Planning & Public Works Committee Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 6, 2014

A meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee of the Chesterfield City Council was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 in Conference Room 101.

In attendance were: **Chair Connie Fults** (Ward IV), **Councilmember Barry Flachsbart** (Ward I), and **Councilmember Dan Hurt** (Ward III). **Councilmember Derek Grier** (Ward II) was absent.

Also in attendance were: Mayor Bob Nation; Councilmember G. Elliott Grissom (Ward II); Councilmember Mike Casey (Ward III); Michael Herring, City Administrator; Libbey Tucker, Community Services/Economic Development Director; Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services; Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Tom McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director; Kathy Juergens, Recording Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

A. Approval of the January 9, 2014 Committee Meeting Summary.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to approve the Meeting Summary of January 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Chair Fults and **passed** by a voice vote of 3-0.

II. OLD BUSINESS

None.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Forks and Corks

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services gave a brief explanation as to why this item is before the Planning and Public Works Committee instead of the Parks and

Recreation Committee. Mr. Geisel explained that Chairman Grissom, Mr. Herring and he have been trying to schedule a meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee for the past month. For various reasons, the meeting could not be scheduled. There is a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled February 27, and a full agenda is planned. The City has been approached by the organizers of Taste of St. Louis, as they have decided to relocate the event from the City of St. Louis, and it is their desire to permanently relocate "Taste of St. Louis" to Chesterfield's Amphitheater/Central Park area. They have a meeting scheduled with their main sponsor on February 18. Before this meeting, they need to know whether the City of Chesterfield is willing to participate in this event.

Taste of St. Louis is an existing, recognizable, well-sponsored culinary and cultural event. It is in its tenth year and has been very successful. It is the best known culinary festival in the City of St. Louis. The organizers want to bring the festival to Chesterfield because they want a more upscale event and to focus on an internationally-acclaimed culinary event. This is a million dollar event with \$600,000 to \$700,000 in cash and another \$300,000 to \$400,000 in trade. It is generally a free event for the public. The organizers want to have a separate ticketed area for more robust entertainment. They already have a substantial, established named sponsor, Anheuser Busch.

The organizers desire to move forward and initiate contacts with various potential partners, but all such contracts are dependent upon the City of Chesterfield's willingness to host such an event. This is a three day event scheduled for September 19-21. This is one week before our annual Forks and Corks event is scheduled. Obviously, these are very similar upscale, culinary competitive events. Given the schedule, content and demographics of these two events, City Staff is proposing to merge Taste of St. Louis with Forks and Corks.

The organizers will obtain all necessary insurance and fulfill the contractual requirements. They will hire their own security and will coordinate the effort with the City of Chesterfield Police Department. With an event this big, there is always a concern about crowd control, but in the past nine years, there has not been one arrest made at the festival.

Mr. Geisel then showed a map of the proposed event grounds which includes Central Park as well as the adjacent Sachs Properties ground known generally as "downtown Chesterfield." Veteran's Place Drive will be blocked off. Chesterfield Arts will also be involved and will have a designated area around The Awakening. There will be two culinary stages with food-related vendors. There will also be tiered ticket levels. Sachs Properties is interested in participating from a marketing standpoint as their goal is to have Sachs Properties become synonymous with the City of Chesterfield. Chesterfield Mall will be utilized for parking and shuttles will be utilized. Many logistics remain to be worked out once the City has confirmed its participation.

Celebrity chefs will be showcased and approximately 30 premium local restaurants will participate.

The Amphitheater, Veteran's Place Drive and the improvements at Central Park were designed for festivals and community events. Since its inaugural opening event, the Amphitheater has steadily increased its visibility as a regional asset and has established a growing reputation as an entertainment venue. Such reputation and visibility has not only provided for high quality free entertainment for our residents, but has also created opportunities for commercial promoters to bring in high quality performers for ticketed events that our residents would not otherwise have convenient access to. Central Park and the Amphitheater have allowed the City of Chesterfield to reach a broad spectrum of our community.

City Staff believes that the City would benefit tremendously from the type of media exposure such an event would provide.

Given the magnitude of the event, Mr. Geisel asked for a consensus to move forward with partnering to host the event before we give the organizers the permission to move forward.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Flachsbart asked what the original purpose was for doing Forks and Corks. Mr. Geisel stated that it was an opportunity for a community gathering and to attract people to the City of Chesterfield. The Amphitheater was built to attract events and this is another opportunity to create visibility and revenue.

Councilmember Flachsbart stated Taste of St. Louis would provide a much broader opportunity for the residents and for the whole community and will create more publicity for Chesterfield. He could not see a reason why we would not want to participate. Chair Fults concurred.

Councilmember Hurt stated that he was not opposed to the idea but inquired as to whether overtime costs would be incurred for the use of City staff. Mr. Geisel stated we would have a similar level of commitment that we would for Forks and Corks. As a partner in the event, the City will share in the proceeds for the event, which is expected to fully cover the City's costs. At worst, Staff believes that this would be a revenue neutral program.

In response to Chair Fults question, Mr. Geisel stated the Taste of St. Louis organizers are pitching the location and the new theory to Anheuser Busch on February 18, which is why this item is on the agenda. They have already had preliminary discussions with Anheuser Busch, and it was Anheuser Busch's idea to possibly bring the Clydesdale hitch to the event. Chair Fults wants to make sure that the Taste of St. Louis chose Chesterfield for the new location, not that Chesterfield stole the Taste of St. Louis from the City of St. Louis, resulting in negative publicity for the City of Chesterfield. Mr. Geisel confirmed that the organizers have independently decided that they are leaving the City of St. Louis regardless and Chesterfield is their first choice for the new location.

Mayor Nation asked if their desire to move the location from downtown had anything to do with the construction at the Arch grounds and Mr. Geisel stated that it did not.

City Administrator Herring commented that he, Mr. Geisel, and Tom McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Director, met previously and discussed the same concerns that the Committee has expressed. He further stated that he fully endorses the proposals and felt this could have a very positive result for the City of Chesterfield.

Councilmember Casey expressed his concern that this item should have gone before the Parks Committee first, but he does support the event. Mr. Herring stated they tried for the entire month of January to find a day and time that would work for the Parks Committee but were unsuccessful. Given the circumstances, it was decided to bring this before the Planning and Public Works Committee.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion that the Planning and Public Works Committee endorse the merging of Taste of St. Louis with the annual Forks and Corks event. The motion was seconded by Chair Fults and **passed by a voice vote of 3-0.** Chair Fults then polled the visiting Councilmembers Grissom and Casey who were both fully supportive of the City's participation in partnering with the organizers of the Taste of St. Louis to host the event in the City of Chesterfield.

A. Public Street Acceptance – Olive Street Road

STAFF PRESENTATION

Mr. Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer stated the St. Louis Premium Outlets development caused the construction of a new roadway and connection between Olive Street Road and Chesterfield Airport Road. St. Louis County will keep Olive Street Road as an arterial roadway, however, there is a section of Olive Street Road that will no longer be part of the County arterial system and they are asking us to accept this as a public roadway. The portion of roadway is on the south side, also known as The Wedge, and sandwiched between Wings of Hope Boulevard and Olive Street Road.

Discussion

Chair Fults asked if that part of Olive would be vacated completely. Mr. Geisel stated it would not be vacated.

Councilmember Flachsbart asked if that portion met City standards. Mr. Geisel stated that it did not, but that this differed from accepting a private street because it is currently a public street under another agency's jurisdiction. Since St. Louis County is not going to maintain this section of Olive Street Road any longer, it becomes the City's responsibility. However, if the Committee does not want to accept it, Staff will prepare an ordinance to vacate it.

In response to Councilmember Hurt's question, Mr. Geisel stated that St. Louis County, as a higher form of government, has the ability to add or subtract a street from their arterial list. This is a public street and would become the responsibility of the local level organization. Mr. Eckrich pointed out that it does not serve an arterial interest any longer. Now that Olive Street Road has been reconfigured, the main driving movement there is from Olive Street Road to Chesterfield Airport Road. This is still a public roadway in the City of Chesterfield but is no longer serving a County-wide interest.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to accept the portion of Olive Street Road that St. Louis County has vacated as a City street. The motion was seconded by Chair Fults and **passed by a voice vote of 3-0.**

**Note: One Bill, as recommended by the Planning & Public Works Committee, will be needed for the February 19, 2014 City Council Meeting.
See Bill #**

[Please see the attached report prepared by Jim Eckrich, Public Works Director/City Engineer, for additional information on Public Street Acceptance – Olive Street Road.]

A. Traffic on South Eatherton Road

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Geisel stated St. Louis County has created an ordinance that restricts through tractor trailer traffic on South Eatherton Road. In order for the City to have a municipal ordinance that allows our Police Department to ticket motorists under a municipal violation, Staff has created a companion ordinance. Both Chief Johnson and Mr. Geisel recommend that this segment of South Eatherton Road between Centaur Road and Wild Horse Creek Road be restricted to prevent no through tractor trailer trucks.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Flachsbart asked for clarification of the definition of a tractor trailer. Mr. Geisel stated it is a separate fifth wheel unit with a trailer behind it. It is not a pickup truck. Councilmember Flachsbart asked Mr. Geisel to provide a definition of a tractor trailer as defined in the City Code for the next City Council meeting. Chair Fults suggested providing photos of tractor trailers that have jackknifed and shut down that road. Mr. Herring noted that this recommendation is endorsed by Chief Johnson because of the numerous accidents caused by these trucks.

Mayor Nation asked for information on efforts to improve the safety of this stretch of road. Mr. Geisel stated there have been ongoing conversations for several years on

how to improve that section. St. Louis County estimates an improvement cost of \$60 million, however, they would prefer to seek an alternate route.

Councilmember Hurt made a motion to approve a municipal Ordinance restricting through tractor trailer trucks on South Eatherton Road between Centaur Road and Wild Horse Creek Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart and **passed by a voice vote of 3-0.**

**Note: One Bill, as recommended by the Planning & Public Works Committee, will be needed for the February 19, 2014 City Council Meeting.
See Bill #**

[Please see the attached report prepared by Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services, for additional information on Traffic on South Eatherton Road.]

A. Wilson Road Bridge

STAFF REPORT

As was discussed at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on two different occasions, Mr. Geisel stated there are a number of long term projects that need to be funded. One of which is the replacement of the one-lane bridge on Wilson Road. In 1992, the City received a Federal grant to improve Wilson Road. However, after receiving opposition from the residents, the City abandoned the grant and returned the grant money. The bridge has now reached the point where it has deteriorated significantly. There are multiple deficiencies and within the next few years, the City will have to restrict the weight limit on the bridge to a point that would not allow heavy trucks, such as trash trucks and school buses, to pass over it. The top slab of the culvert on the east side exhibits advanced deterioration in an area about four feet wide by seven feet long. The main reinforcing in this area has packed rust, spalling concrete and the transverse reinforcement bars are exposed. The reinforcement is in an advanced stage of corrosion. Since we abandoned the grant, the design and replacement of this bridge needs to be funded as this road no longer qualifies for any Federal funding. At this stage, we do not have a completed design, but we estimate the project to cost around \$565,000. Staff requests that Council authorize this as a project and earmark the money out of the General Fund – Fund Reserves. Staff will then seek a design contract which will be brought before the City Council for approval in the future. The design would include a cost estimate and bid package.

Councilmember Hurt pointed out that “*no right of way or easement acquisition is included in this cost.*” He felt there should be some indication of how much is required for easement or right of way acquisition. Mr. Geisel delineated the problems in providing such an estimate at this time. He indicated that the bridge dates back to the 1920’s and is substandard. We know that we have floodway and Corps of Engineers

issues. Since the City owns the upstream property, the 10 acre park acquired from Rockwood School District, we would propose to skew the bridge north to the extent possible. A survey of the area has not been completed. Until Staff has design documents indicating how much creek channel will be needed, it is difficult to determine how much easement will be required, and an accurate estimate cannot really be provided. Councilmember Hurt stated he does not have a problem with pursuing this, but is concerned that maybe another \$500,000 will be needed to acquire easements. Mr. Geisel estimated that an additional \$100,000 would be the worst case.

Councilmember Flachsbart expressed concern that the City previously abandoned the Federal grant that would have fixed the problem because the residents did not want the improvement. Chair Fults stated that the Federal grant was going to widen all of Wilson Road and not just the bridge. It was an all or nothing deal at the time.

Mr. Geisel stated that in order to obtain Federal funding, the project would have taken acres and acres of property. The residents objected to this because Wilson is a scenic byway. Chair Fults stated it would have become a major thoroughfare through Ward IV. She did not think it was fair to punish the residents by restricting trash trucks and school buses now.

As an outcome of the Finance and Administration Committee meetings, Mr. Herring stated the Committee suggested these types of projects be brought forward individually as needed and that is why this project is being presented. He stated that the City has more than enough funds to cover this expense and it is a worthy project.

Councilmember Hurt asked Chair Fults if the residents have any objection to the bridge replacement. Chair Fults stated that the bridge has always been a concern. She did not feel that the bridge replacement would be a problem for the residents. The City will likely not need substantial property acquisition. This is a whole different project than the one before. Councilmember Hurt was concerned about the residents' reaction. Chair Fults indicated that she has several upcoming subdivision meetings and she will discuss it with the residents at that time. If there is any opposition, then the project can be scrapped and the City can pursue the restriction of trash trucks and school buses. Mayor Nation stated if it is a safety issue, we have the responsibility to pursue the appropriate action.

Councilmember Flachsbart advised he does not want to pass this at the Council level until he has confirmation from Chair Fults that the residents will not object to the replacement of the bridge. He is willing to pass it out of Committee but will not pass it at the City Council level without assurance that the residents will not object to the replacement.

Mr. Eckrich asked the Committee for permission to seek professional proposals from qualified engineering firms for the design services related to the project. Councilmember Hurt consented as long funds were not expended.

Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to allocate funds for the replacement of the one-lane Wilson Road Bridge at the Planning and Public Works Committee level but to hold it at the City Council meeting until further feedback is received from the residents. The motion was seconded by Chair Fults and passed by a voice vote of 3-0.

[Please see the attached report prepared by Mike Geisel, Director of Public Services, for additional information on the Wilson Road Bridge.]

IV. OTHER

No other items were discussed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.