

**MINUTES OF THE
BELTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018
CITY HALL ANNEX, 520 MAIN STREET
BELTON, MISSOURI**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Councilman Finn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Councilmembers present: Mayor Jeff Davis, Councilmen Finn, Fletcher, Lathrop, Newell, Peek, Savage, Trutzel, and VanWinkle. Also present: Alexa Barton, City Manager; Megan McGuire, City Attorney; and Patti Ledford, City Clerk.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Savage moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of **a motion approving the minutes of the December 5, 2017, and December 12, 2017, City Council Regular Meeting and December 19, 2017, City Council Special Meeting; a motion approving the November 2017 Municipal Police Judge's Report; and a motion approving Resolution R2018-01: A resolution authorizing the City Council of Belton, Missouri to appoint Jennifer Kailus and reappoint Donald Schuster to serve on the Belton Tree Board.** Councilman Lathrop seconded. All voted in favor. Consent agenda approved.

ORDINANCES:

Patti Ledford, City Clerk, gave the final reading of Bill No. 2017-102: **An ordinance of the City of Belton, Missouri, approving a training agreement between the City of Belton, by and through its Fire Department, and the American National Red Cross.** Presented by Councilman Trutzel, seconded by Councilman Peek. The Council was polled and the following vote recorded; Ayes: 9, Councilmen Newell, Finn, Trutzel, Mayor Davis, Councilmen Lathrop, Fletcher, VanWinkle, Councilwoman Peek, and Councilman Savage; Noes: None; Absent: None. Bill No. 2017-102, was declared passed and in full force and effect as Ordinance No. 2018-4403, subject to Mayoral veto.

Ms. Ledford read Bill No. 2018-01: **An ordinance approving a vacation of unimproved Belton Avenue in the Autumn Woods planned unit development, on the north side of Markey Road, just west of Scott Avenue, in the City of Belton, Cass County, Missouri.** Presented by Councilman Newell, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Vote on the first reading was recorded with all voting in favor. First reading passed.

Ms. Ledford read Bill No. 2018-02: **An ordinance of the City of Belton, Missouri approving a cooperative agreement between the City of Belton, Missouri and the Mid-America Regional Council for funding operations of operation green light traffic control system in the amount of \$9,600.** Presented by Councilman Trutzel, seconded by Councilman Lathrop. Vote on the first reading was recorded with all voting in favor. First reading passed.

Ms. Ledford read Bill No. 2018-03: **An ordinance approving the 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District and the City of Belton, Missouri relating to the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program.** Presented by Councilman Peek, seconded by Councilman Newell. Vote on the first reading was recorded with all voting in favor. First reading passed.

Ms. Ledford read Bill No. 2018-04: **An ordinance of the City of Belton, Missouri calling an election to authorize increasing the city sales tax rate from one percent (1.00%) to one and one half percent (1.5%) pursuant to the authority granted by and subject to the provisions of RSMO sections 94.500 to 94.550 and providing for submission of the City sales tax rate increase to the qualified voters of the City for their approval at the general election called and to be held in the City on April 3, 2018.** Presented by Councilman VanWinkle, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Councilman Lathrop said he thinks this is a bad move to put this on the people; we run over budget and for some reason we want to tack it on to get more money. Mayor Davis asked that the City Manager, Alexa Barton, speak and then hold questions until she is done.

Alexa Barton, City Manager, provided the following report. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached and made an official part of the minutes.

I would like to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget which is what led to the recommendation for the next 2 ordinances: a half-cent general fund sales tax and a use tax to be placed on the April 2018 ballot.

You will recall when submitting the fiscal year 2018 budget that the commitment was made to closely monitor the General Fund to ensure fiscal stability. Furthermore, the Council was informed that in order to balance fiscal year 2018, reserve dollars estimated at \$1.5 million would be utilized to balance the budget, thereby reducing our reserves.

In addition, sales tax revenues, which reflect approximately 27% of total General Fund revenues, were forecast conservatively. For these reasons the City Council was cautioned that should the conservative sales tax forecast meet projections, without substantial growth, the fiscal year 2019 budget year would require further reductions with no other option but to eliminate City Services in the form of staff reductions.

Most City tax revenues continued to show growth with core revenues equaling and/or exceeding prior year levels; except for two prominent areas:

- Telephone Franchise Tax (wireless and landlines), which is down 14% from what was budgeted, and
- Municipal Court Fines & Costs, which is down 19% from what was budgeted

As for the remaining revenues which saw improvement, it is noteworthy to mention the improved revenue position did not keep pace with the increased expenditure growth for vital City Services. Therefore, Departments were asked to cut spending to purchase only necessary items; thereby postponing and delaying needed items to future years.

Confronted with this revenue reality, strategic positions were not filled; i.e. Assistant City Manager, City Planner, Human Resources Director and Emergency Management Director. Additionally, filling vacant positions was delayed, when possible, to experience additional savings.

This graph demonstrates that revenues exceeded expenses allowing growth of reserves. In 2017 mid-year budget adjustments were made that affected personnel costs by increasing City services in the area of Fire Protection and Code Enforcement

This graph shows the decline of carryover, which is projected to be near the minimum required reserve of 15% for FY 2019.

As such, there are 2 scenarios for your consideration.

Scenario #1, which is reflected in the 2019 Proposed Budget which I will hand out at the end of the meeting, shows that in order to balance the fiscal year 2019 General Fund budget some definitive action steps occurred. Action steps to balance the budget include:

- Continued utilization of reserves: projecting to end the year at 16%, slightly above the minimum required 15% fund balance;
- Reduction in personnel costs via elimination of salary increases;
- Reduction in employee benefits via no increase of city assistance with health insurance as well as reorganization of health insurance plans; and
- Elimination of all requested new positions;
- Elimination of all requested and much needed capital items; i.e. police and fire vehicles, police and fire equipment, building maintenance, jail maintenance, lawn maintenance;
- Reduction and Elimination in projected operating expenses.
- Hiring Freeze for Assistant City Manager, City Planner, Human Resources Director and Emergency Management Director;
- Also, cutting services means the majority of reductions would come from police and fire positions, through attrition, with these positions not being replaced in these two departments that make up 67% of the General Fund. Reductions of First Responders would total 11 to 15 positions and must equate to at least \$720,000.
- Before discussing the 2nd scenario of adding revenue I would like to remind the Council of the Leadership Retreat.

In order for Belton to continue to be a full service City, we must address the revenue dilemma that exists. At the Leadership Retreat held December 1-2, 2017, three prevalent goals arose as a result of citizen and constituent feedback. Those goals include:

- Code Enforcement (address blight and beautification of Belton);
- Law Enforcement (address increased transient population accident and crime statistics via more patrol and specialized detective unit); and
- City Infrastructure, i.e. Streets, Curbs & Sidewalks. These 3 goals take into consideration the need to retain existing First Responders (Fire and Police) and professional staff.

All of these are imperative to the ongoing and continued improvements in essential and enhanced services expected by our community, yet they all come with a price tag.

As a result of the continued growth of retail and commercial business there are certain services and basic demands that must be addressed. The existing revenue stream will not allow for maintaining existing city services or address the goals desired by the citizens in correlation and aligning with priorities and objectives discussed at the Leadership Goal-setting Retreat.

Therefore, the second scenario means asking the citizens to approve a much needed half-cent increase in the general fund sales tax and a use tax on the April 2018 ballot. Two

separate ordinances, one for each initiative, are placed in front of you at today's City Council meeting. Both of these additional revenue streams are imperative to the stability and strength of the City of Belton.

Dollars generated by a half-cent sales tax would be shared by non-residents and residents of Belton. Belton has a retail pull of 17%, this means \$17 of every \$100 in sales are from non-Belton residents; meaning they contribute to the support of City Services.

The most critical revenue need for the General Fund is to address an increase in the general sales tax rate that has not occurred since the inception of the sales tax in 1979, almost 40 years ago, as well as a use tax. Both taxes require voter approval. Failure to gain voter approval of the half cent increase in the general sales tax and the use tax would require significant budget adjustments as previously outlined.

A half-cent increase in the general sales tax rate would enhance the fabric of our community by meeting the constituent and citizen goals as discussed at the Leadership Goal-setting retreat. Those goals, as previously mentioned, include: community clean-up, enhanced police presence, and best utilization of current First Responders and staff. In more detail:

- Code Enforcement through clean-up and abatement of unkempt properties by retaining the current Code Enforcement Officer and adding an additional Code Enforcement Officer;
- Law Enforcement through retaining and adding additional patrol officers and creating a specialized detective unit; and
- Retain the City's existing First Responders (Fire and Police) and professional work force; as well as hire the vacant and much needed Human Resources Director.

Meeting these goals set by our citizens will improve the City by creating a cleaner, healthier, safer community and maintaining a professional City government.

The growth of services provided by city government must match the growth of our community. Without the increased funds from an additional half-cent general sales tax the quality of life as well as safety, health and welfare of citizens and visitors in our community would see a definitive decline in City services.

The loss of services through the elimination of First Responders impacts the ability of the City to continue to attract high quality development, which is an economic driver for the City.

Also, a use tax would enhance the fabric of our community by supporting city services via much needed capital purchases. These funds would be for items such as police vehicles and equipment, fire vehicles and equipment, building and jail maintenance – i.e. ensuring the stability of our bricks and mortar otherwise known as City buildings and property to ensure they remain usable and in good condition.

This slide demonstrates all sales tax for purchases in the City of Belton as it relates to a \$100 purchase. Note: that the City General Fund receives only \$1.00 of the \$8.98 of total Sales Tax.

This table shows where the City of Belton is currently, outlined in a red box, and the proposed amount, outlined in the blue box.

I've been asked numerous times, what is the TIF Development impact to the City of Belton? TIF Developments have contributed to the growth of retail sales by 44% since 2011. The growth from 2016 to 2017 was an increase of \$17.7 million in retail sales.

This produced an additional \$177,000 of sales tax. Almost \$70,000 went to the General Fund and \$107,000 went to repay developers for public infrastructure improvements, which would not have been made without TIF.

This shows the total improvements within the City of Belton that would not have been made without these TIF Projects. They total over \$33 Million in infrastructure improvements.

However, there are some misconceptions about Tax Increment Financing, otherwise known as TIF's, which I would like to discuss with the Council.

In closing, the most difficult conclusion in my first year as City Manager was the realization that I must bring the need for additional revenues to the attention of the City Council. This is a pivotal time for Belton.

In the absence of new money it is difficult for City services to keep pace with the rapid growth within our Community. However, the City of Belton's First Responder services are the heart of our Community – as our Community grows so must the primary purpose to uphold the laws of Belton, provide patrol, and investigate local crimes; as well as Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that are strategically positioned to deliver time critical response and effective patient care with minimal response times.

When given the opportunity to vote on these initiatives, our hope is citizens agree that Belton is our home, it "is" a welcoming community, and our citizenry will choose to support and provide high quality public services and leadership to promote and achieve economic opportunity for all!

Remember, Council is not voting for or against these taxes, the Council is voting to give the Citizens a choice. A choice to vote on the future of their City.

Councilman Lathrop had a couple of questions on the charts. The economic development chart has zero taxes but the fund has a hotel/motel tax brings in \$220,000.00. Ms. Barton said it does not go into the general fund. Sheila Ernzen, Finance Directors, said that our economic development tax is a hotel/motel tax that is only on rental of transient guests that are staying in a hotel so that is not the same as communities that have an economic development sales tax. That economic development sales tax is imposed on all retail sales.

Councilman Lathrop said there is an estimated elimination. You had new positions at \$818,000 and then on the hiring freeze you show \$720,000. Ms. Barton said that \$720,000 would be for existing positions we already have within the city and that is on top of what we have already eliminated of the \$818,000 of new requests. One is about new positions and the other is existing staff that works for the city.

Councilman Lathrop said he is agreeable with the use tax which is the next item of business but he is not in favor of a sales tax at this time. We need to get back within budget.

Councilman VanWinkle said his concern and questions when looking at having a shortfall of \$2.5 million and needing to eliminate positions; if we did pass the tax we would be bringing in close to \$2 million. These new positions we are going to get are going to increase our need and expenditures even more. What do we do down the road next year if this gets us more or less even. Ms. Barton said when we are looking at the \$2.5 million that was reduced from department requests we need to look at the needs vs. desires and what are the long term goals. The \$1.5 million that would be generated would retain existing staff and existing services. If that sales tax generated is \$1.5 million we would not spend the entire amount, we would add patrol positions as well as a code enforcement officer and then possibly an HR director. We would look at how the sales tax performs. We would look at doing this over the long term ensuring the dollars are in place so as to not overspend. In addition, we have looked at some of the TIF projects that will be coming off the books and will be paid for. One will be paid for in three years and the other one paid for in four years. In addition, our sales tax and revenues they do continue to grow, but not at the rate we needed for the last year. With an increase of a ½ cent sales tax and the general fund revenue we would be able to retain those services. Councilman VanWinkle asked if there are other TIF's coming off sooner other than the two mentioned. Ms. Barton said no.

Councilman Trutzel said he is about as pro for anything that improves the city, but he is torn a bit from the standpoint of speed. We are just coming through a project we started many years ago and we are still trying to get that straightened out. He understands the need for the money and we have a large amount of work that needs to be done within the city. He understands we can't get it done at one time. We are an older city and we can't compare to Raymore which is a newer city, with newer infrastructure. He needs time to mull it over and to get more feedback. He is not for losing employees, but is just not sure exactly and he knows Sheila Ernzen, Finance Director, has a tendency to be extremely conservative in her projections. We always come out better than what her projections tend to be. Ms. Ernzen said she is conservative. We originally estimated that in this current budget that we would use \$1.5 million of reserves and it appears we that we are only going to only going to use \$958,000. The reason is revenues were a little higher overall. Also, a lot of that is the city manager asked departments to only make essential purchases and to hold off and delay purchasing to a future year.

Councilman Trutzel said the health insurance is always an issue for the employees and he really supports the employees getting their insurance as much as we can afford to do. He said he needs to spend more time in reflection.

Mayor Davis said we did not get this information until tonight and that puts us at a disadvantage. He said it is kind of like a blitz creed – we are not disputing the cause. It is nice that Raymore has higher sales tax then we do. But we are also in a TDD (Transportation Development District) which is most of our new development down I-49 and Y Highway which means another penny. Ms. Ernzen said yes, but all of these other communities have TDDs as well.

With that in mind, we should have gotten this information before now. Mayor Davis said the financial report would have also helped tonight. Belton is going through growing pains. Let's talk about TIFs. With Belton Marketplace TIF completion of obligation will bring in an additional \$60,000 to the general revenue; and the Town Center TIF will bring in another \$320,000. That means we won't have a TIF on the south side of 58 from Raymore to Kansas and we won't have another TIF along 58 Highway. We do have a TIF along the Y Highway corridor to I-49. We have a very small condensed area that is TIFd. He said there is no way he can vote for this because it would put sales tax up over 11% in some areas. It's all about timing. It is a rush because we have to get it on the ballot before January 23. He agrees with staff we have concerns and but we can't rush into hasty decisions. If we were going to run a ½ cent for police or first responders maybe the public would have it. He said he wanted trash on the ballot and

didn't get that. We have too much government. He can't blame people for being upset about the trash and we have to be more transparent. We have to get the information and budget out earlier and we have to be informed. Two wrongs don't make a right. He will not vote for it.

Councilman Savage said it was mentioned that in 2017 some amount of expenses were not in the budget and asked what that was. Ms. Barton said those were for adjustments for personnel costs for fire salary adjustment and a certified building official. He said he remembered that and asked what the amount was. Ms. Barton said it was approximately \$720,000. He asked how that was supposed to be paid in the future and how that was supposed to be sustained in the future. Ms. Ernzen referred back to the slides and in 2015/2016 there was a huge increase in revenues and then another increase from 2016/2017, but no one knew. She said she was not here at the time this was voted on, but her guess is that Council and anticipated that general fund revenues would continue increasing from 2015 to 2016. He recalls being told it would be paid for through reduction in overtime and he asked if that did in fact happen. Where is the balance sheet and why aren't we there? That is where he has a problem. We didn't balance and were told we would. That is why he agreed to go along with it because.

Councilman Lathrop commented he knows this has taken a long time to get where we are now and it is nothing against Ms. Barton as she was not here, and this is on the Council. However, we didn't see it coming but as a Council we have to take steps to correct it. We had four years to do the trash and we waited until the last minute, we had two months to take care of that.

Councilman Fletcher had a question. New positions will be \$818,000. What is the real number on the \$2.5 million. Ms. Barton said when the departments send in their requests and ask for 6 employees and they are given 3 in a realistic budget because they negotiate. Ms. Barton said we address what the needs are. Fire and Police both ask for additional staff. Ms. Ernzen said what happens is that they come back with requests and the city manager looks at the total revenues and funding that is available and then has to prioritize. If there were enough funds available, all those positions are needed and would be added if the funding was available. Councilman Fletcher said he understands but you still have a request and then what really happens. Ms. Ernzen said because that is all that can be afforded. What is the true number on the \$818,000? He doesn't agree with that because they ask for people all of the time and we don't give it to them. Ms. Barton said that is the difference between what is requested, which is looking at their needs down the road, and then looking at what is in reality available. If there was an increase, we would look at two additional law enforcement officers with a ½ cent sales tax and we would look to retain our code enforcement officer. There will be a small amount you can afford to look at. We are looking at retaining the one code enforcement officer and adding one and a adding a couple of law enforcement officers in that area, and looking at adding maybe an HR position.

Chief Person said if it helps, as department heads we have already been asked twice now to amend our budget requests giving three difference scenarios. So the real number is zero or less than zero. The last request was that in his budget that he trims \$100,000 then another \$200,000 on top of that. The only way to come up with that is to cut people. We are looking at reducing numbers of people hopefully through attrition. The other thing when comparing sales tax, we are not looking at apples and oranges. All of those cities fund their departments differently especially for public safety. Belton has its own fire department, some cities have a fire tax that go to district; some have a public safety tax to fund their police department. We fund a sizable police and fire department out of that one cent sales tax. Other cities may have 1 ½ to 2 cents to fund their general fund and public safety. We in Belton fund all of that out of the one cent sales tax. So as you look at this consider that we only have that one tax and some cities operate differently.

Councilman Newell said technically we have not eliminated any positions yet – those are future positions. Ms. Barton said the \$800,000 is future positions, but if you choose not to put this on the ballot and it does not get approved, 11-15 existing positions will be cut. Mayor Davis asked if that is based on estimates. Ms. Barton said it is based on necessary funding to balance the general fund. Mayor Davis said since he has been mayor we had an 8-9% reserve. Then we went from 27-29%, and each year we still hear the same thing. It is always doom and gloom and at the end of the year we are right at 30%. He said he is not disputing it because we are growing, but can only cry wolf so many times. Then the Council becomes speculative in wondering. He asked where the budget will end up this year. Ms. Erzen said at about 20.7%. Ms. Erzen said the reason we are actually using reserves and will continue to use reserves is because expenses are not keeping up with the growth and revenues. Mayor Davis said he gets that but sees in the audit that is from 2017 it shows a trend of moving up. Ms. Erzen said that audit is from 2016 and reserves were still building up. He said it would have helped to have financials. Ms. Erzen said there has been a 44% growth in sales in the city, which is 25-27% of the fund.

Councilman Trutzel said as he continues to mull this over. What staff is asking the council is to let the people make a decision on this. We have to educate the public to the situation and then they will make the decision. They will make the decision to move ahead or not. The big thing will be the police and fire and as well as some concerned about the roads. So, staff is really asking permission to put it on the ballot. He is still torn about it.

Councilman Savage said it is true we would be asking the people to look at it and he has to convince himself that he has done the best job he can without asking the people. With some of the information he received it did not prove out. If we will look six months ago and find the money that is supposed to be there and reduce our reserves to sustain where we are at and look at the future when the TIF's run out, I think there is another way to get to where we want to go from here. If we can work hard we can do this and until he has done his due diligence, he is not going to ask folks to bail him out.

Councilman Vanwinkle said it is a pretty wide encompassing subject. When we look back over quite a few years, this is how we got here. From what he has seen in the past, the Council has tried to do the best job providing the best benefits possible to employees because they like to recognize the value of employees, and he concurs with that. He has seen from the previous city manager going to a lower retirement system to the Lagers L-6 which is one of the top of the line. It is good for employees but it comes with a big price tag and we have tried to assist employees by not eating up pay raise and pay higher chunks of medical increases. All of it comes down to we are in a tough situation to grow as a city and see it grow and provide adequate services, but we are close to a point where we are going to have to make some significant cuts or pony up and go to the citizens. We have had benefits and improved the city overall and are at a good place at a good time. We are going to have to make some serious changes on how we operate and do business day to day. He concurs with the mayor and council and with Councilman Trutzel, it is a hard pill to swallow and digest in short amount of time. It is going to be a difficult situation because of the seriousness of it and the importance that it presents and we should not lose track of the fact that the sales tax increase, while significant, does at least allow us to pass on a considerable portion of that revenue costs to visitors coming through town as opposed to on the backs of citizens of the city. The is the first reading and he feels we need to move forward and at least discuss it because we do have a second reading and it will give us all time to digest it and give our managers and department heads time to provide more information and we can still keep moving forward on a time schedule that we can benefit down the road. It is really the public opportunity to access the situation and vote on it, it is not the Council's decision to enforce or impose the tax and he has no doubt the citizens will speak on it.

Being no further discussion, the following vote was recorded; Ayes: 2, Councilmen Trutzel and VanWinkle; Noes: 7, Mayor Davis, Councilmen Savage, Lathrop, Finn, Fletcher, Newell, and Councilwoman Peek; Absent: None. Bill No. 2018-04 failed.

Ms. Ledford read Bill No. 2018-05: **An ordinance calling an election to authorize a Use Tax in the City of Belton, Missouri.** Presented by Councilwoman Peek, seconded by Councilman Lathrop. Ms. Barton said this has been in front of the Council before and this is a use tax individuals would either a sales tax or use tax and is individuals that purchase outside the area. The first time this came through on the ballot the language was confusing. We have tried to clarify it and simplify it. Ms. McGuire, City Attorney, read the ballot language: Shall the City of Belton, Missouri be authorized to impose a local use tax at the same rate as the total local sales tax rate provided that, if the local sales tax rate is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be reduced or raised by the same action?

Ms. Ernzen said this is collected through the state. A use tax return must be filed for purchases of \$2,000 or more. Cass County and the state of Missouri have use taxes.

The Council was polled and the following vote recorded; Ayes: 9, Councilman Newell, Finn, Trutzel, Mayor Davis, Councilmen Lathrop, Fletcher, VanWinkle, Councilwoman Peek, and Councilman Savage; Noes: None; Absent: None. First reading passed.

RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Ledford read Resolution R2018-02: **A resolution of the City of Belton, Missouri authorizing and approving the renewal of supplemental agreement No. 1 to service agreement for on-call water, wastewater, and stormwater services between the city of Belton and Pyramid Excavation and Construction, Inc. for a term of one (1) year with the option of up to three (3) additional one (1) year renewals.** Presented by Councilman Lathrop, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

Ms. Ledford read Resolution R2018-03: **A resolution of the City of Belton, Missouri authorizing and approving the renewal of supplemental agreement No. 1 to service agreement for on-call water, wastewater, and stormwater services between the City of Belton and Precision Construction & Contracting, LLC for a term of one (1) year with the option of up to three (3) additional one (1) year renewals.** Presented by Councilman Lathrop, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

Ms. Ledford read Resolution R2018-04: **A resolution approving task agreement 2017-1 with CDM Smith under the on-call engineering agreement per Ordinance 2016-4184 to perform evaluation and engineering design for the sanitary sewer stream bank stabilization project in a not-to-exceed amount of \$65,595.00 under the scope of work attached and incorporated to the task agreement.** Presented by Councilwoman Peek, seconded by Councilman Trutzel. Councilman Lathrop asked if we have the cost of doing the project. Sheila Ernzen, Finance Director, said that is what this is going to determine. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

Ms. Ledford read Resolution R2018-05: **A resolution approving task agreement 2017-7 with Trekk Design Group to perform evaluation and engineering design for the Wastewater Collection System Master Plan in a not-to-exceed amount of \$187,480.60.** Presented by Councilwoman Peek, seconded by Councilman Savage. Councilman Savage said the estimate

sheet attached to the agenda is not readable and asked staff if they know what the results are. Michael Doi, Public Works Director, said yes. Ms. Barton said when the agenda was printed it reduced the page, but staff has reviewed it. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

Ms. Ledford read Resolution R2018-06: **A resolution of the City of Belton, Missouri authorizing and approving the renewal of on-call pump repair and service agreement with 1) Cogent, Inc. (Lee Mathews/fluid equipment), 2) JCI Industries, Inc., and 3) FTC Equipment, LLC, for a term of one (1) year with the option of up to three (3) additional one (1) year renewals as advertised and awarded by the City of Kansas City, Missouri.** Presented by Councilman Lathrop, seconded by Councilwoman Peek. Vote on the resolution was recorded with all voting in favor. Resolution passed.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Davis noted that Councilman Trutzel emailed the Public Works Committee report, which is attached and made an official part of the minutes. Councilman Trutzel highlighted a couple of items in the report:

- Mullen Road widening - the concept plan for a roundabout was approved by the TDD in December, 2017.
- Belton Gateway/Turner Road - the multi-tenant building is closed to being completed. The Turner Road signals have been installed and Dave Olson is working with an electrical contractor and KCP&L to bring power to the signals.
- Nexus Trail Project - Michael Doi, Public Works Director, informed the committee that the project was substantially complete. The committee discussed the flooding of the trail under the bridge. The report states that Mr. Doi informed the committee that flood hazard signs were ready to be erected.

Councilwoman Peek, Park Board Liaison, provided the following Park report:

Park Board-

- Finalizing FY19 budget-Will be presented to Park Board on 1/16
- High Blue is off to a good start for this new year
- Lining up all major special events for this year, including Summerfest and Oktoberfest
- Busy time of year for finding sponsors

Tree Board - No report

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Carolyn Yatsook, Economic Development Director, said the Chamber of Commerce job fair is coming up soon and the City, Chamber of Commerce and Cass County Corporation for Economic Development are going to have a work force forum for local employers on the Friday prior to the job fair. The event will be held at the school district. She will provide the date at the next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Alexa Barton, City Manager, provided a status update on Vicie Road and distributed a report and pictures of what is going on right now and how we got here. She provided historical data. The data which comes from KCI shows in July the area received 5.77 inches of rain but in Belton the

amount was closer to 8” and the second rainfall on August 22 was almost 10”. There has been concern from the Council on why the project has taken longer to install the pipe and culvert and replacing the road. In the pictures, this is a project beyond the road washing away. It came with the realization that this area had been under engineered previously and finding out in order to prevent this from happening in the future we wanted to be sure it was correct. We discovered there was a water line underneath this pipe that sat right on top of it and requires additional grading and digging to get further down to be sure our own infrastructure and water lines are in a safe spot so the concrete pipes don’t ride up against it and break. If there are additional questions she would be happy to answer them.

Upcoming meetings:

January 2018 meetings

1/16 special meeting – 7:00 pm

1/23 budget work session & regular session – 6:30 pm

February 2018 meetings

2/6 budget work session & work session – 6:30 pm

2/13 budget work session & regular session – 6:30 pm

2/27 regular session – 7:00 pm

Budget books are ready and will be distributed at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Davis said there was a major water line break in Carnegie Village, as well as a lot of water line breaks across the City. He asked if there is a procedure and who do we refer our constituents to. Ms. Barton said anytime there is a water line break call the city. When you have this type of extreme cold weather there is fluctuation in the pipes. All cities experience this and Belton is no different. We are approaching each repair that needs to be made very diligently and getting those taken care of just as Carnegie Village had a water line break in their lobby, which was not city infrastructure where that occurred. We approach repairs very quickly.

Mayor Davis asked for a report on trash which has been a hot topic. A lot of people have now received their trash barrel/carts. Ms. Barton said those barrels will be delivered at least through January 16, but they will be in town through January 21 to make sure everyone gets their carts. Unfortunately we are not getting much feedback from the prior companies. The concept and thought was that everyone was getting their trash picked up in a timely fashion but in all actuality that was not true either. So, they left some of our customers high and dry as well as leaving their carts at their homes. We are trying to eliminate some of that confusion by getting a hold of those carriers to encourage pick up of their carts. We have offered our services to Waste Management, Town and Country, and Deffenbaugh and those that have merged to let us know when they will be picking up the carts and the city will post that information on our website and Facebook, but they have not been forthcoming with that information. In the meantime, Jim’s Disposal carts are coming. If trash is not picked up we are encouraging residents to let us know the next day. We have brought in additional staff to help with the phone calls we are receiving, as has Jim’s Disposal. We appreciate the feedback. Whenever you start a new solid waste program you are always going to have kinks that need worked out and in actuality it takes about 4-6 cycles to work out all of the issues. We are getting fewer calls now and hope it continues to be a downward trend.

Councilman Trutzel said he had a question that since we have pulled the recycling bins from the fire department for those outside the city limits and want to recycle hopefully they will take care of their recycling and not dump on it on city property. He asked if it makes sense to keep the

recycling bins at the fire station. Mayor Davis said in talking with the North Cass County Commissioner that is really a job that they need to address. Councilman Savage said there is really a need but we need to remember that the firefighters are volunteering their time to take care of those. He has been contacted by some people that have always used that service. Mayor Davis said that is a segue into the next item - some people in the county have a mailing address in Belton but they are not getting their trash picked up. Ms. Barton said when they came and picked up the recycling containers at the fire station there was trash in the containers and not recycling and that has been the dilemma and one of the reasons why we wanted to promote recycling within the services that was included with the centralized solid waste is because the majority of the items that get dropped off at the recycling location was trash. So, the last time they came they took it all as trash because that is what it was. Mayor Davis said the firefighters were picking up trash all over. Chief Larkey added probably 10 people a day would come inside the fire station wanting to know where the trash bins were at and 90% of the people asking did not live within the city but within the county. They have been provided with a location where they can take their recycling. Mayor Davis said the discovery out of this whole thing is that a lot of people did not have trash service. They were using other people's dumpsters, or taking it into work or dropping it on the roads.

Councilman Lathrop has received some calls of trash not being picked up. Ms. Barton said if people are not getting their trash picked up they need to call Jim's Disposal and if they can't get a hold of Jim's they can call the City. We are keeping a list of those locations and reporting them back to Jim's immediately. She said there were three subdivisions missed on Monday but they came back today and picked those up and are probably still picking up trash tonight. Councilman Savage said they need to not be picking up at 10:00 A.M. at night. Ms. Barton said she hopes when everyone gets their carts that will increase the speed. She asked for people to have patience. Ms. Barton said she can't give enough kudos to the crew at the City of Belton for everyone pitching in and helping with the process. They are supposed to pick up trash from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. She has encouraged Jim's to pick up trash because people are complaining that animals are getting in their trash since they don't have their carts and we want to get the trash up off the streets at night. Councilman Savage said it is appropriate to give them a little time but does not want them to make it a habit.

Councilwoman Peek said she has had some questions on the recycling trucks and asked if the recycling trucks are separate from the trash trucks. Ms. Barton said we are continuing to encourage people to recycle and look at the recycling information on the city's website but she will confirm the recycling trucks are separate from the trash trucks.

Being no further business, Councilman Lathrop moved to adjourn at 8:37 P.M. Councilwoman Peek seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Patti Ledford, City Clerk

Jeff Davis, Mayor