

**ROLLA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021; 6:30 P.M.  
ROLLA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
901 NORTH ELM STREET**

**Presiding:** Mayor Louis J. Magdits, IV

**Council Members in Attendance via Zoom Videoconferencing:** John Meusch

**Council Members in Physical Attendance:** Rachel Schneider, Lister Florence, Christine Ruder, Terry Higgins, Matthew Crowell, Ann Murphey, David Schott, Carrolyn Bolin, Marie Allen, and Deanne Lyons

**Council Members Absent:** Jody Eberly.

**Department Directors in Attendance via Zoom Videoconferencing:** Parks Director Floyd Jernigan, Community Development Director Steve Flowers, and Public Works Director Steve Hargis

**Department Directors and Other City Officials in Physical Attendance:** City Administrator John Butz, Fire Chief Ron Smith, City Engineer Darin Pryor, City Clerk Lorri Thurman, and Rolla Police Captain Doug James

Mayor Magdits called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and asked Councilperson Christine Ruder to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Marie Allen and seconded by Rachel Schneider to approve the consent agenda as submitted. A roll call vote on the motion showed the following: Ayes; Schott, Meusch, Higgins, Bolin, Schneider, Ruder, Allen, Murphey, Lyons, Crowell, and Florence. Nays; None. Absent; Eberly Motion carried.

The consent agenda consisted of the following:

**(A) Consider Approval of the Rolla City Council Minutes for the following:**

- 1) City Council Meeting, December 7, 2020
- 2) City Council Closed Session Meeting, December 7, 2020
- 3) City Council Meeting, December 21, 2020
- 4) City Council Closed Session Meeting, December 21, 2020

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**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**III. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS and SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None

**IV. REPORT OF MAYOR and COUNCIL/REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS/ CITY DEPARTMENTS**

Mayor Magdits referred the Council to the **(A)** the November 2020, Environmental Services Department Monthly Report; **(B)** the November 2020, Parks Financial Analysis; **(C)** the November 2020, Centre Financial Analysis; **(D)** the November 2020, Police Department Monthly Report; **(E)** the November 2020, Animal Control Division Monthly Report; **(F)** the October 2020, Rolla Municipal Utilities Monthly Report **(G)** the Rolla Board of Public works Meeting Minutes; October 27, 2020; **(H)** Development Review Committee Minutes for December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**(A) Resolution** authorizing the application for Transportation Alternative Program grant funding. (City Engineer, Darin Pryor) – **Final Reading**

City Engineer, Darin Pryor, requested authorization to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP). The TAP funds would be utilized to construct approximately 3,000 lineal feet of ADA compliant curb, gutter and sidewalk along one side of Route E from Vista Drive to Danata Street if the project is selected for funding. This sidewalk would provide a safe means of non-motorized transportation for students and residents wishing to travel along Route E. The estimated cost of this project is \$400,000.00 of which \$80,000 (20%) would be required from the City of Rolla for matching funds.

After some discussion regarding the middle portion of this project located in county jurisdiction, a motion was made by Crowell and seconded by Lyons to set aside this Resolution until the next meeting, giving Mr. Pryor the opportunity to make a

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presentation to the County Commission for support and possible financial participation.  
A roll call vote on the motion showed the

following: Ayes; Ruder, Murphey, Higgins, Schneider, Allen, Bolin, Lyons, Crowell, Meusch, Florence, and Schott. Nay; none. Absent Eberly. Motion passed.

(B) **Ordinance** to Amend Ord. NO 4591 – Facial Coverings & Religious Services. (City Administrator John Butz) **First and Final Reading Requested**

City Administrator John Butz recalled that on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, City Council did a 1<sup>st</sup>/final reading of the ordinance adopting facial coverings in all places of public accommodations. The ordinance identified several business and organizational activities and adopted various provisions to reduce the spread of COVID. Fortunately, over 4 weeks later, positive cases in Phelps County have dropped from 600+ to 300+ cases. There is no certainty or direct cause and effect but renewed focus by citizens during the risky holiday season has made a positive difference.

Shortly after passage of Ord. No 4591, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a series of rulings on various restrictions imposed, somewhat uniquely, on religious services. In light of same and upon legal input, the attached amendment re-adopts facial coverings (now Ordinance No 4595) but removes the specific occupancy limit (25%) on religious services and places them on the same level as restaurants and other businesses (except “enhanced risk activities”) – facial coverings, and six (6) feet spacing between “individual households and/or family units.” The 6’ spacing between rows and seating in effect limits capacity. A motion was made by Crowell and seconded by Higgins to amend the modified extension date from March 2<sup>nd</sup> back to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. A roll call vote showed the following results: Ayes; Bolin, Schneider, Meusch, Higgins, Florence, and Crowell. Nays; Murphey, Lyons, Allen, Ruder, and Schott. Absent; Eberly.

City Counselor Lance Thurman read the following proposed ordinance for its first reading, by title as amended. ORDINANCE 4595: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4591 IN THE CITY OF ROLLA, MISSOURI, ALLOWING ALL BUSINESSES TO REMAIN OPEN WITHIN THE CITY OF ROLLA WITH PROPER SAFEGUARDS INCLUDING FACE COVERINGS, OCCUPANCY LIMITS, GATHERING SIZE, AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. A motion was made by Crowell and seconded by Schneider to suspend the rules and the ordinance be read for its final reading as amended. A roll call vote on the motion showed the following: Ayes; Bolin, Higgins, Ruder, Schott, Allen, Murphy, Lyons, Crowell, Meusch, and Schneider. Nays; Florence. Absent; Eberly.

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Motion carried. Mr. Thurman then read the proposed ordinance for its final reading by title. A motion was made by Schneider and seconded by Crowell to approve the proposed ordinance. A roll call vote on the motion showed the following:

Aye; Lyons, Allen, Murphey, Bolin, Schneider, Meusch, Higgins, Eberly, Crowell, Schott, and Ruder. Nays; Florence, Absent; Eberly Motion carried. The ordinance passed.

**VII. CLAIMS and/or FISCAL TRANSACTIONS**

**VIII. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

(A) Open Citizen Communication: Mayor Magdits opened the floor to anyone wishing to address the Council.

Megan Johnson, 1601 Broadway: Commented on the rising crime statistics reflected in the Police Department's Monthly Report.

Victoria Culver, 2143 Vichy Road: Stated she feels that Council needs to shift their focus to rising crime rates and not just the mask mandate.

Robert Miller, 2101 Vienna: Spoke on the need for unity and leadership by example. Also commented on the amount of mask litter in the area and urged Council to discuss ways to communicate with the public regarding this as well as active enforcement for littering.

Wesley Crutcher, 590 Basswood: Expressed displeasure towards mask mandate.

Councilperson Schott read a letter from Cynthia Harris on Sandstone, who asked for further breakdown on COVID hospitalization statistics regarding residents verses non-resident admissions.

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**IX. MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

A) Councilperson Schott asked about jurisdictional boundaries within the Phelps County Courthouse regarding COVID regulation. Attorney Lance Thurman advised the inside of the Courthouse was under the direction of the Circuit Judge and was County Jurisdiction.

**X. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

(A) Candidate filing for the April 6<sup>th</sup> Municipal Election is open until Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

**XI. CLOSED SESSION**

None

**XII. CLOSED SESSION ACTION**

None

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Lorri Thurman.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR

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