

**MINUTES
DES PERES BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FEBRUARY 11, 2019
DES PERES GOVERNMENT CENTER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Des Peres, Missouri was held at the Des Peres Government Center, 12325 Manchester Road commencing at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 28, 2019.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk took roll with the following board members present: Alderman Pound, Alderman Sansone, Alderman Kleinschmidt, Alderman Concagh and Alderman Barrett. Mayor Becker was also present. Alderman Fitzpatrick was absent with excuse.

Staff Members present included City Administrator, City Attorney, Assistant City Administrator, City Clerk, Director of Public Works, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Director of Public Safety. The Director of Finance was absent with excuse. At this time the Board of Aldermen, staff and citizens rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Becker acknowledged four boy scouts in attendance from Troop 685, working on the citizen badge.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Presentation on Better Together Proposal

Mayor Becker stated that he requested staff make a presentation to the Board of Aldermen on the current status of the proposal by Better Together on reorganization of government in St. Louis City and County.

Mayor Becker requested that prior to the presentation that he'd like the following statement entered into the record:

“First, I think we can all agree that no-one would design a county with nearly ninety municipalities with fifty below a population of 5,000 people. Certainly, there is some logic to and some efficiencies in combining and reducing the number of cities but that decision should be a local one not a statewide vote.

Second, the fact that our county government is trying to be both a county for all of its residents and a city for unincorporated areas creates conflict between cities and the county. It creates issues of taxing fairness as county taxes are county wide but county services being provided from those taxes are not county wide.

The problem was recognized when a Board of Freeholders in 1988 recommended that the county be fully incorporated and proposed to establish minimum sizes for cities. That goal was also included in the original state law creating a boundary adjustment commission for St. Louis County. But that goal has somehow been forgotten over time.

Third, the issue of St. Louis City not being part of the county does make regional cooperation more difficult. However, that problem can be resolved without creating a single uni-government.

All that have been said, decisions on local governance should be made locally by those citizens with skin in the game not by a statewide vote as being proposed by Better Together. That fact alone, without delving into the weeds of the overall details of the Better Together proposal and how it was developed, is reason enough to be opposed to any proposal that involves a statewide vote.

There are other ways besides Better Together and a state constitutional amendment to study and resolve governance issues in our region.

The state constitution allows for creation of a Board of Freeholders specifically to allow St. Louis City and St. Louis County to address regional issues.

That the process involves appointment of local residents and a transparent process for discussion and decisions. More importantly it requires a public vote of the residents of the city and county to approve any recommended changes. That process was used previously to create MSD to address regional issues.

The state constitution allows for counties to adopt a county charter with very broad powers. County voters adopted a St. Louis County Charter in 1968 and that charter has served us well for fifty years.

County voters recently approved creation of a Charter Review Commission, just appointed by the County Executive and County Council in January. That Commission can examine and address many of the issues being currently debated about governance in St. Louis County.

The important part of using the Charter to address local issues is that the recommendations are subject to local voter approval not a statewide vote”

Mayor Becker invited any member of the Board of Alderman to submit their own comments.

Mayor Becker acknowledged a larger crowd than normal, presumably for the discussion and anticipated vote on the zoning text amendment to allow microbreweries and craft-distilleries as a conditional use in commercial districts. Mayor Becker stated that at the prior meeting the Board voted to delay the vote until a full Board was present, and with one alderman absent, asked if the Board wished to remain consistent with that decision.

Alderman Pound made a motion to table Bill 19-2845, second by Alderman Sansone. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Barrett, AYE; Sansone, AYE; Pound, AYE; Kleinschmidt, AYE; Concagh, AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

City Administrator Harms provided a power point presentation outlining some of the changes introduced by Better Together, and the impact those changes would have on the residents of Des Peres.

Mr. Harms directed staff to post the power point presentation on the front page of the city website for residents to reference.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA - None

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The Mayor acknowledged the following written reports submitted to the Board of Aldermen:

- a. Report on the Audit & Finance Commission Meeting of January 28, 2019
- b. Report on the Public Safety Commission Meeting of February 4, 2019

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Becker advised that the Consent Agenda consisted of six (6) items. Under the Board Rules, all items on the consent agenda can be approved by a single motion and any item on the warrant list may be removed prior to the vote at the request of any individual member of the Board of Aldermen. Items on the consent agenda included:

1. Minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meeting of January 28, 2019
2. Warrant List Dated February 7, 2019
3. R19-3270 Authorizing Contracts with Kienstra and Western Ready Mix for Purchase and Delivery of Ready-Mix Concrete

4. R19-3271 Authorizing a Contract with Sweetens for Cracksealing Streets Within the City of Des Peres
5. R19-3272 Authorizing a Lump Sum Contract with St John Painting Company for Outdoor Pool Painting at the Lodge Des Peres
6. R19-3273 Authorizing Submission of an Application for a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant for Improvements to Des Peres Road Relating to Construction of a Roundabout

Alderman Kleinschmidt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, second by Alderman Pound. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Barrett, AYE; Sansone, AYE; Pound, AYE; Concagh, AYE; Kleinschmidt, AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

LEGISLATION (UNFINISHED)

1. B19-2845 An Ordinance Amending Appendix C; Zoning District Regulations of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Peres, Missouri to Allow Micro-Breweries and Craft Distilleries as Conditional Uses in the C-1, C-2, PD-C and PD-MXD Commercial Districts

Bill 19-2845 was tabled earlier in the meeting.

LEGISLATION (NEW)

1. B19-2848 An Ordinance Amending Article VI of Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code Relating to Setting User Fees and Collection Policies for Emergency Ambulance Transportation Services (Introduction)

Alderman Kleinschmidt introduced Bill 19-2848, and read it for the first time.

2. B19-2849 An Ordinance Establishing Fees to be Charged for Emergency Medical Transportation Services Based on the Level of Emergency Medical Treatment and Effective Date (Introduction)

Alderman Barrett introduced Bill 19-2849, and read it for the first time.

REPORTS OF STAFF

City Administrator Harms stated that the Deer Sampling Survey has been completed and it has shown that the deer population has increased substantially since 2016. Mr. Harms stated that the City may request that the Department of Conservation allow a managed hunt on the 33 acres of conservation land where our largest concentrations of deer are found, however, that request must be submitted by next Tuesday.

Alderman Kleinschmidt made a motion to authorize staff to submit a letter requesting hunting be allowed in the conservation area.

Alderman Barrett stated he was concerned about the confusion it may cause, if we request the hunt but later retract the request.

Not hearing a second, the motion failed.

Mayor Becker stated that a public forum be held in the future discuss deer management.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before the regular session of the Board of Aldermen, Alderman Barrett moved to adjourn into executive session pursuant to Section 610.021.1, second by Alderman Sansone at 8:14 PM. A roll call vote was then taken with the following results: Barrett, AYE; Pound, AYE; Kleinschmidt, AYE; Concagh, AYE; Sansone, AYE. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes prepared by:

Stacey Mann, City Clerk

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Aldermen.

Mark Becker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacey Mann, City Clerk