

04/04/22 City Council Meeting

1. Agenda

2. Approving agenda

3. Approving annual agency plan to include 2022 Capital Improvement Grant, Public Housing Admissions and continued occupancy policy and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Admin. Plan (7-0)

Proclamations:

Public Works Accreditation

Public Safety Telecom Week (includes info about mental health professional being added to EMS calls)

Roll taken

Approving agenda

Approving consent agenda: items 3-32; 30 withdrawn, ordinance amended on 33, 42 withdrawn; item 5, Cownie votes no (7-0 Yes)

Reviewed rules for public comments

33. On vacation of portions E. 41st St, E 41st Ct, etc. right of ways in Lower Fourmile Creek Floodplain

1. Public comment from Heather Armstrong, Ward 2: my concern is it reminds me of Chicago streets that flooded every time it rained. This is a concern, that we need to fix the floodplain
Indira asks for clarification, Westergard states it is a very good thing that the land will be dedicated Polk Co. park land

34. On request from Hom Investments 6, LLC (Danny Heggen, Officer) to rezone 740 18th street from residential to mixed-use

1. Danny Heggen: requested change allows for neighborhood-scale commercial use; fixing 30+ year abandoned building back into commercial use. Series of neighborhood meetings and met with association. Agreed to no larger than 1600 sq feet of dining area, limited hours for public safety. Reducing speed and parking along alley.

No other public comments

Mandelbaum happily moves; received word that people in the neighborhood are happy
7-0 Yes

35. Request from Holt Sales and Services LLC (Josh Holt, Officer) to amend PlanDSM Creating Our Tomorrow Plan to revise future land use from Low Density Residential to be a parking lot

1. 7-0 Yes

36. Request from Christian Life Assembly of God to revise future land use class. From Low-Medium Density Residential to Public/Semi-Public Use and to rezone 9001 Fleur Drive

1. No parties or interests or public comments

2. 7-0 Yes

37. A City-initiated request for properties generally located north of Vanalia Road to revise Business Park to Industrial, rezone property from EX Mixed Use to 12 Industrial.

1. Applicant, Louis Hockenberg for Sam's Riverside: worked closely with staff, glad to answer any questions

2. Public comment from Taylor Weber: a lot of plots being rezoned, can't see purpose or intended use. Do you guys know?

3. Cownie to Hockenberg: could you clarify. Hockenberg: 13/18 properties will remain the same. Other 5, there are some restrictions placed to limit ability to be used as salvage yards. No new salvage yards will be allowed at any of these properties.

4. Gatto: would like to thank our city staff. "Appreciate getting this back to what the existing use would be"

5. 7-0 Yes

37B. 7.0 Yes

38. The Oaks on Fleur LLC to revise from N3A residential to limited NX1 Neighborhood District

1. Person for The Oaks on Fleur: revisions to frontage on Fleur - reduced drives from 16 to 14 feet, planned around tree

2. From 12 feet to 15 feet from back retaining wall, ~10 feet from street, 25 total. Private fence and sidewalk. Talking through wall height.

3. Cownie: so these will be slabs how above the street? Probably 7.5 feet above the curb. Roofline will probably be 27 feet. 34-37 feet above the curb. Comfortable with storm water requirements.

4. Interested party: Patty Noonan. To clarify, 30 feet from the curb? Is that consistent with other properties? In the redesign, is it still meeting maximum height of two stories? Council, if you are to pass this, the Gray's Lake neighborhood association is still very opposed. Removing one historical brick house. Leaving 2 houses isolated between this and apartment, offset will cause them to be blocked off as well. Will impair light and air space of two houses in particular but with the neighborhood in general.

5. Interested party: Tony Gardener. Apologizing for comments at previous meeting due to frustration with this process. Residents have voted this down 3 times, Planning and Zoning voted it down. 550 signatures against it. Quoted Indira re: silenced public voices. People without large pocketbooks are without a voice. Calls on Indira to be his voice in this process and vote against this.

6. Public comment: Heather Armstrong (Ward 2). Oppose. How are people going to afford 500k property? This property sounds ridiculous. We could have low income housing instead.

7. Public comment: Lucia Hale. In Gray's Lake neighborhood association. Will someone coming up Willowmere be able to see over/past retaining wall to Fleur? Very busy street with a wall blocking this view.

8. Public Comment: Taylor Weber. Scott Sanders does make 200k, to be clear. Sad that people have to reach out to other representatives since their own doesn't listen. Have been having flood water issues that were ostensibly OKed by city planners.

9. Public comment: Natalie Harwood. Elevating actual citizens who live in this neighborhood. Why have P&Z meetings where people clamor against it and not give a shit?

10. Dave Barry, Gray's Lake neighborhood association. On behalf of board, opposing this on behalf of their members.

11. Mandelbaum moves. "Appreciate the comments." Have been 9 months of meetings. Been at 3 different neighborhood meetings on this project. Where there is disagreement between myself and neighbors: this is a major corridor. Density is more appropriate on this corridor. Amended plans and conditions to address concerns. "I recognize there is still disagreement." "On a corridor like Fleur, the density is appropriate." Asserts there are other corridors that require density. Home shortages. "This doesn't have the affordability component, but does have the form component." Boesen seconds.

12. Indira: questions about lack of environmental study and sight-lines

13. Scott Sanders calls Steve to weigh in.

14. Steve: the wall is to get sidewalks in. Sights will

15. Michael L: don't have a specific requirement for environmental study

16. Indira: completely understand feeling ignored by the council. The quote was re: social and racial justice. "Are we going to deny housing and density where I do believe it is appropriate?" The petitions and public comments are extremely convincing. Thinks the price point is too high, will attempt to lower prices moving forward. We need to build housing, need density for myriad of reasons, so I have to support this project.

17. 6-1 Passes (Cownie is the single No)

39. Modifying codes re: pedestrian signal, accessible parking, parking restrictions

1. 7-0 Yes

40. Amending Chapter 114-1 and 114-632 relating to trailers and trailers on public streets

1. Westergaard: this started because semi trailers were parking on residential streets for long periods of time. "I've been working on this for like 2 years now." Police said they can't do anything because its a truck route. Despite being residential. Calls on SueAnn from zoning for clarification.

2. SueAnn Donovan: the street you are talking about is a truck route. Wants to look at ways to tie it back to companies, look at 24 hour parking tickets. If that doesn't work, look at a city-wide ordinance. Wants to look at other options first. Some back and forth.

3. 7-0 Yes

41. Ritter Farms wants to demolish Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall aka Fairgrounds Hardware at 2951 E Walnut Street.

1. Dan Manning for Reeder Farms: would salvage historical items/fixtures etc.

2. Pat Miner: in favor of moving this to Landmark Review committee. Believes building should remain, reports about bad condition are highly exaggerated. Questions of damage from vandalism or car accident (cut off by timer)

3. Taylor Weber: I don't see a downside to reviewing this, if its a historical building. Considering "nuisance property" measures of the city in general, why not send this to landmark review board

4. Garland Armstrong: how many years has this been on landmark designation. Suggests reaching out to Chicago board for help with landmark status.

5. Cownie: went over today and walked around it. Looks like there have been some problems and potentially more. Its been empty 4 years.

6. Michael Ludric: brick facade 5-10% was repaired for \$30,000. Contacted owners, attempting to get bid for repairs but contractor wouldn't supply. Estimating 400-600,000 to repair facade.

7. Sue Donovan: more significant damage, bricks are pulling away. Believes it should come down before catastrophic failure.

8. Gatto: concerned that its a public safety hazard

9. Also

10. Indira asks for clarification on impact of Landmark review process on salvage/demolition

11. Boesen: current owner is showing no interest in putting money into it

12. Pat Miner asks to make a statement, denied by Cownie

13. 7-0 Passes

42. Public speakers (Cownie reads the rules as per usual). Wants to make a quick comment. Believes in strengthening police. Asks Sanders to set up a meeting with police force. 1. Set up third party review party to receive national accreditation. 2. To bring enforcement policy review committee.

1. Taylor Webber: super late but appreciates Cownie's calls. Issues with skywalk. Should cancel program to encourage female police recruitments. Third time having recent violent police footage. Fire Scott Sanders and Dana Wingert, actually do something.

2. Adam Callanan: in January, controversy re: rules about individual councilperson's actions. One rule is not to be able to bring up things on the fly like Cownie just did. Statement on George Flagg: updates/repairs are planned, millions of dollars should not go into this without a public conversation about its namesake. Flagg was xenophobic, denied licenses to "ethnic-sounding names," hateful actions.

3. James Grimm: not present

4. Natalie Harwood: outrageous to throw in announcement about police consultants etc. Echoes concerns re: sexual harassment in DMPD. Awarding subsidies to companies who have said they don't need or ask for. Linda has said we need to "raise taxes or raise revenues" but why don't we just cut some of these? Asks for clawback ordinances.

5. Harvey Harrison with CCI Racial Justice: footage of unjustified use of pepper spray on elderly man. Footage of attacking disabled black man. Not a call for investigation but for systemic reform.

6. Bridget Pedersen: not present

7. Laurel Clinton: CCI racial justice member. Took less than 30 days to suspend contact with Russian sister city, but we show up month after month, year after year talking about humanitarian crisis of police actions. Can act quickly when they want to. Call to fire Wingert is not because "we don't like him" but because of his actions. Calling for review board, not "accreditation"

8. Jean O'Donnell: CCI racial justice team. Hope you have all seen video of police brutality against intellectually disabled black citizen. Hope you felt revulsion I felt when you saw this. Reflect on what you did with this revulsion and discomfort. Wingert provided justification "Officer Button had no choice but to intervene" due to "public safety." I do not trust what the police say and that makes me feel unsafe. More money to people's well-being instead of violence and incarceration.

9. Bradford Titus: CCI racial justice team member. Accreditation is welcome, but it is not a substitution for independent third party investigation. We need a citizen review board. We need change of leadership. People of color experience disproportionate stops, resistance to transparency. DMPD culture presents as “testosterone-challenged occupying force.”

10. Jolene Prescott: I don't really have a problem giving my address. Some do, and they are afraid of retaliation from others in the public. Whats to keep those same people from coming up here? Its our checkpoint out here and our police officers. They are here to protect everyone in this room. And we need to respect that. I've heard criticism of their presence and the checkpoint. “I am speaking, shut up.” Is our police perfect? No. But I really think they are trying their hardest. And we need them. Do they need some reform? Yes. I want the police to stay here, because I don't feel safe here. Don't ever reduce them.

11. Chris Robinson: not present

12. Noah Notch: not present

Gatto moves public comments are filed

Boesen: at what point is the work session? May?

Gatto: makes motion to adjourn. Seconded, and voice voted.

Adjourned