

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2022
4:30 P.M.**

The Marshall City Council met in Special Session at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the City Office Building, 214 N. Lafayette, Marshall, MO 65340, with the following members present: Mayor Julie M. Schwetz; Council Members Dewey Hendrix, Kirk Arends, Robert Ashford, Craig Thompson, Dan Brandt and Phesa Wright; City Administrator JD Kehrman, City Counselor Josh Taylor and City Clerk Julie Lewis. Council Members Leon Thompson and Charles Guthrey absent.

The following MMU Staff and Board of Public Works Members were in attendance: Jeff Bergstrom, Tony Bersano, Steven Mills, Ken Bryant, Chuck Hines and Spencer Fricke.

The members of the Board of Public Works called their meeting to order.

Mayor Schwetz said Council has spoken with the BOPW regarding some ideas for potential funding in lieu of an administrative fee.

MMU General Manager Jeff Bergstrom said MMU is currently going through a peer review conducted by Missouri Public Utility Alliance. They will review all current operations and compare to other utilities. Internet services cannot be taxed however there is a possibility of a transfer fee. He anticipates some positives will come from the peer review that will allow for improved customer relations. The peer review will be presented during a Council meeting and Council Members will have a copy of the review one week prior to the meeting.

Council Member Guthrey present at 4:39 p.m.

Council members discussed the creation of an Economic Development Fund with transfers from MMU.

Council Member Leon Thompson present at 4:42 p.m.

Council Member Arends explained Council Members are looking at ways to build growth and Lebanon, Missouri is an example of a community with an Economic Development fund. Mr. Arends will obtain a copy of the ordinance from Lebanon for everyone to review. He went on to say the City is looking at ways to grow, not take money. The Council does not want to ever hurt MMU.

BOPW Member Steven Mills inquired about immediate needs.

Council Member Arends indicated there are some budget issues that need to be settled in order to know which direction to go. An Economic Development fund makes more sense than the previously proposed administrative fees.

BOPW Member Chuck Hines asked if the funds would go into a special account or the general fund.

Council Member Arends explained it would be a subset of the general fund.

BOPW Member Spencer Fricke asked if there was a list of projects the Economic Development funds would be used for.

Council Member Leon Thompson gave an example of the engineering project for the Gieringer property.

MMU Controller Tony Bersano spoke about the possibility of utilizing funds for helping new businesses with discounted rates and construction of infrastructure.

Council Member Arends said the funds would not be drawn if there were no projects that year; it would only be as needed, however, there has not been growth in 30 years. The funds would not be used on a new fire truck, new police cars or existing streets.

Council Members and BOPW Members discussed the process of creating the transfers and the mechanics of how the accounting would work.

Mr. Bergstrom suggested a formula be created that would be based upon what type of a year MMU had. Unexpected events create exposure to higher costs so protecting rate payers is important. He explained MMU wants to help grow Marshall but needs to perform their duties first.

Council Member Wright said we are all on the same team so what does it matter where it comes from; just ask when there is a need.

Council Member Arends explained that has not gone well in the past. If we have it in writing it is easier to work on and plan.

American Rescue Plan Act funding was discussed.

Mr. Bergstrom said MMU has several projects that could potentially be funded by ARPA funds; however, they will still move forward with the projects if they are not funded through ARPA.

Council Members discussed the MMU projects in relation to funding options including interdepartmental loans.

Mayor Schwetz summarized the Council and BOPW are leaning towards the development of an Economic Development Fund.

Board of Public Works members agreed and indicated the need for more discussion on the matter.

BOPW Member Chuck Hines said a draft agreement would be a good starting point allowing the Council Members and BOPW Members to reach an agreement that works for everyone.

Council Member Arends agreed and said Lebanon's ordinance outlines it well; we would need to adjust it for us.

Council Member Brandt made a motion, seconded by Arends, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RSMo. 610.021 (1,2) concerning legal actions, causes of actions or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys; leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body with the meeting being adjourned at the completion of such session. A roll call vote was taken with Leon Thompson, Ashford, Guthey, Craig Thompson, Brandt, Wright, Hendrix and Arends voting aye. Motion carried and the meeting went into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. and adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Julie A. Lewis, City Clerk