

THE CITY OF CLAYTON

Board of Aldermen
City Hall – 10 N. Bemiston Avenue
February 26, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Alderman McAndrew that the Board adjourn to a closed meeting, with a closed vote and record, as authorized by Section 610.021(1), (2) and (3) Revised Statutes of Missouri, relating to legal issues, real estate and/or personnel, and to discuss matters related to negotiation of a contract pursuant to Section 610.021(12), RSMo. and/or proprietary information pursuant to Sec. 610.021(15), and/or information related to public safety and security measures pursuant to Section 610.021(18) and (19) RSMO. Alderman Harris seconded the motion.

Alderman Winings – Aye; Alderman Boulton – Aye; Alderman Berkowitz – Aye; Alderman Harris – Aye; Alderman McAndrew, and Mayor Sanger – Aye.

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City Hall – 10 N. Bemiston Avenue
February 26, 2019
7:10 p.m.

Minutes

Mayor Sanger called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. The following individuals were in attendance:

Aldermen: Mark Winings, Joanne Boulton, Ira Berkowitz, Michelle Harris, and Bridget McAndrew.

Mayor Sanger
City Manager Owens
City Attorney O’Keefe

Absent: Rich Lintz

Alderman Boulton noted that earlier this evening she had sent an email to the City Clerk a few minor edits for the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes draft. City Clerk Frazier acknowledged that she received the edits.

Motion made by Alderman Boulton to approve the February 12, 2019 minutes as corrected. Alderman Winings seconded.

Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PETITIONS

None

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH 21ST CENTURY POLICING SOLUTIONS (21ST CPS)

City Manager Owens reported that 21ST Century Policing Solutions, LLC (21CPS) have been asked by the City of Clayton to assist with developing and implementing a process to assess and build stronger relationships with the Clayton leadership, the Clayton Police Department, and the community they both serve. Over several months, 21CPS and Strategic Applications International (SAI) facilitated 80 structured interviews as well as attended numerous meetings with community groups, police command, and police staff. The findings of these conversations presented an opportunity to continue these important dialogues regarding race and equity in the Clayton community and how these relate to all services the City provides.

Taz Villaseñor, Partner, 21st CPS, addressed the Board providing a brief bio, stating that he served the Tucson Police Department for 35 years retiring as Chief of the Department. In 2014 he was appointed by President Obama to the President's National Task Force and then they created the 21st Century Policing Solutions Corporation to serve as subject matter experts on a variety of police and community issues. He introduced Commissioner Chuck Ramsey, former co-chair of President Obama's task force and Jim and Colleen Coppel of Strategic Applications International (SAI).

Mr. VillaSeñor explained that 21st CPS was brought in to review the event of the IHOP incident and they looked at the policies and the actions of the department. They felt that the Department acted within their policies and according to their guidelines. During the investigation it did come up that there were other issues that they felt as a community could be worked on within Clayton. SAI interviewed over 80 different community members on a variety of topics. They met with almost every member of the police department to talk about the event. They are back now continuing the small group sessions developing information based upon the 80 interviews revealed about the atmosphere in Clayton and working with the police department and how to improve things. They feel that Clayton has an excellent police department and they did everything according to policies, but there is not a department in the world that cannot stand to improve their communication aspects with their community. They met today with command staff and representatives of rank to talk about what the next steps are and how they can increase that communication within the community.

Ms. Colleen Coppel, SAI, addressed the Board stating that it has been an honor for them to participate with the City of Clayton in this process and it has been a great learning experience. The interviews were conducted with names provided by both the police department, the City and several other sources which gave them a broad cross section of perspectives. They designed a process that they have implemented over the last month of doing small groups that involve residents, business members, school representatives, Washington University students and staff in a facilitated process. They presented two scenarios of stories - a police prospective and a community prospective. They gave the different "truths" that are being experienced by people in Clayton and gave the groups the opportunity to think about both perspectives and then to walk through a problem-solving process. They focused on things that could be done as a way forward and what are some ideas or solutions. The format was not to come up with a final recommendation but to create a platform to which to hear each other in an environment that caused some rich discussion to happen. They recorded all the information both from the interviews and the small groups and they are in the process of "digesting" that information.

The goal is to return to the City in the next two - three weeks "mapping" that into a framework and strategy that identifies what people came up with as the key areas of focus. Most of the discussion validated that there is high respect for the police department on many levels, but the challenge that they see across the board in policing in this country is often a way policing is experienced by the community, even if it's within policy. It doesn't feel as good as they would like it to, and they feel that there are some areas that they think they can strengthen both from a police perspective and areas that the community should work on. The goal is to create a platform that's a plan that the City owns as a starting point to build and to work on best practices.

The goal tonight, before moving further into the process, was to hear from the elected officials to answer questions and share their (the Board's) concerns.

In response to Mayor Sanger's question, Ms. Copple stated that half of the names of the 80 people selected came from the police department and the other half came from the City Manager and other sources. Although they had a broad range that represented Clayton, they also thought that they needed to get more diversity in the feedback, and they reached out to some students.

Ms. Copple acknowledged that they did have some level of conflict, but she also felt that the process of the two-hour discussion helped people throughout the facilitation. She feels that at the end of the sessions they heard that people who were coming at it from different viewpoints heard each other and agreed on areas that were some common ground. She felt that everyone who participated was heard, they saw their problems identified, and had a chance to prioritize those problems, and brainstormed about what potential solutions would look like which created an engaging process to where they all had a chance to give some meaningful input.

Regarding whether the group was acceptable to understanding the perspective of the minority population, Ms. Copple explained that it was almost universally acceptable and there was some difficulty for some to (recognize) that Clayton may have a problem. Because most do not experience Clayton the way some people have experienced Clayton.

In response to Alderman Harris' question regarding a report that can be shared on the issues uncovered or some of the end results, Ms. Copple stated that they will need a couple of weeks to process the rest of the information from the focus/small groups and incorporate that with the findings from the interviews. She anticipates having a report within three weeks that they should have a document that they have vetted with enough people to say whether they are on track or not which then can be circulated.

In response to Alderman McAndrew's question, Ms. Copple stated that they have no plans on more discussions with the community members after they come back to the City in three weeks.

In response to Alderman Berkowitz' question, Ms. Copple stated that all of the 80 participants were Clayton citizens. Mr. VillaSeñor added that they did interview random people on the streets of Clayton.

Alderman Berkowitz suggested that it would have been good to interview citizens who are attending the City's municipal courts to get their perspective.

Mr. VillaSeñor agreed that it was a good suggestion.

Other

Alderman Berkowitz reported on the following:

- CCF Major Gifts met and discussed the progress of seeking large donations for the Ice Rink Project.
- CRWSC met recently and they had a citizen complain about the aquarium located at the Center of Clayton.
- *All That Glitters* – wonderful event.

Alderman Harris reported on the following:

- Claverach Park held a meeting on the fire lanes.
- Attending lots of Municipal League meetings.
- State of the City event – complimented Mayor Sanger on an awesome finale.
- Met with the Plaza Condo Association and they are happy with the Centene wall.

Alderman McAndrew reported that Ward 3 met with the Clayshire residents at The Center of Clayton. City Manager Owens and Chief Murphy also attended.

Alderman Boulton reported on the following:

- CCF – looking at a name change to Clayton Community Foundation, meeting with Amelia Bond at the Community Foundation to discuss.
 - Seeking more staff.
 - Working on building relationships with other organizations
 - Working on their action plan and objectives.
 - Mayor Sanger donated his remaining campaign funds, \$7500, to go toward the picnic area.

Mayor Sanger reported on the following:

- State of the City.
- Proclamation signatures.
- Attending a CHIMES meeting at Washington University, conversation topic was “Voices.”

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Alderman Winings – Aye; Alderman Boulton – Aye; Alderman Berkowitz – Aye; Alderman Harris – Aye; Alderman McAndrew, and Mayor Sanger – Aye.

There being no further regular business the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk