

*City of Hannibal*

**OFFICIAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Tuesday January 4, 2022  
Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Council Members McCoy, Mayor Pro Tem Dobson, Franke,  
Mayor Hark, and Council Member Bowen - 7

**Absent:** -0-

**CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, Mayor Hark called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was then given by Mayor Pro Tem Dobson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hark then requested Council Member to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Veach to approve the agenda, as presented, and posted.  
The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch.

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting – December 21, 2021**

A motion was made by Council Member Veach to approve the agenda, as presented, and posted. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dobson.

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS**  
**Second Half – December 2021**

A motion was made by Council Member Veach to approve the payroll and claims for the second half of December 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bowen.

Motion carried.

**FAYE DANT – JIM’S JOURNEY**  
**Re: 2022 Black History Month – “*Our Story: African Black and American*”**

Faye Dant representing Jim’s Journey then approached Council, advising their organization has been in existence for eight years now. She then thanked the City for allowing them to be located in the City owned property. She is also representing the Juneteenth Committee, advising 2022 they are celebrating the 25th anniversary of celebrating Juneteenth in Hannibal. She has been involved in the celebrating for the past eight or nine years. Jim’s Journey and the Juneteenth are entities have been involved in black history month, which begins in February, also collaborating with a number of people and organizations to celebrate Juneteenth. The committee and Jim’s Journey are working very hard to keep the community engage, black history is American history, and Ms. Dant wants that to stay on top of everyone’s mind. The committee has been busy to make February 2022 a good month of celebrations. The first event they have collaborated with Parks & Recreation, co-hosting an event at the Armory on February 19<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will be a family affair, with educational, cultural activities, and food. Later in the evening music and a “street dance” will be held within the facility.

They are also co-hosting an event with Hannibal Arts Council, which will be closed the month of February, but have offered them a donation towards a collaboration with the Alliance Gallery, who will be displaying their store front windows in African American History. It is the hope to have these displays in most of downtown Hannibal. They are also partnering with the Hannibal High School history class to have students solicit businesses to display art and signs. Independent Sign Company has agreed to provide banners for discount to be displayed throughout the community. General Mills has also invited them to participate with the Hometown Grant program, in which they will be talking with senior management about placing a banner on their building along Highway 61. She is working with Robinson and Tri-Star to place digital banners, in which the committee has received funding from various individuals to do so. The theme is “Our History Black Americans”. She is appealing to the City to ask that they get involved, to be more engaged this year than what they have been in years past. She is

requesting the City to place banners on City grounds, place information on the website and engage the community in this event. She is wanting the City to partner with the committee to make this happen and do it right.

**MIKE MURPHY – BUILDING INSPECTOR**  
**Re: Annual Reporting – Nonowner Occupied Dwellings Program**

Building Inspector Mike Murphy then approached Council advising that this evening he is presenting his annual report on rental properties, along with a yearly review of the fee schedule. He explained that they are required to review the fee schedule annually which, was done last March, and adjustments (increases) were made and went into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The inspections on rental properties, with COVID, they did suspend them for a period plus with Joey Burnham leaving that left him by himself and not able to do the inspections. In June, the Fire Department picked up inspections to assist. Since that time, an assistant Building Inspector has been hired, Chad Collier and he has completed quite a few inspections. Since June they have conducted 225 inspections. Chad began November 1st, starting inspections mid-November and has done 121 of the 225 inspections. The Board of Public Works has helped, requiring proof of an occupancy permit before allowing utilities to be put into someone's name.

City Manager Lisa Peck then clarified that during the “down time,” due to COVID, etc., they did not turn anyone away for inspections for rental, businesses, etc., they were conducting all requested inspections. Council Member Franke indicated he feels requiring the occupancy permits before utilities are turned on is a good idea and helpful.

**BILL NO. 21-036**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HANNIBAL AMENDING  
CHAPTER 20 - PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE II - PARK  
RULES, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HANNIBAL BY  
ADDING A NEW SECTION 20-29 – CAMPING**

*Second and Final Reading*

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Dobson to have the City Clerk read Bill No. 21-035 and call the roll for adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member McCoy

**ROLL CALL**

**Yes:** Council Member McCoy, Mayor Pro Tem Dobson, Mayor Hark, and  
Veach - 4

**No:** Council Members Franke, Bowen, and Welch - 3

**Absent:** - 0 -

Motion carried.

Mayor Hark declared Bill No. 21-036 duly approved and adopted on this date.

Council Member Franke then addressed Council under the discussion of Bill number 21-036. He indicated while this Ordinance is about camping in our parks he feels to some degree it is actually about the homeless. He believes this Ordinance will create magnetism, and to fine and even imprison people who seek shelter in our parks, will force them to go elsewhere, likely into our neighborhoods. This is a brand-new problem, what is the virtue of saddling these homeless people with debt they cannot pay, thereby making it even harder for them to afford housing. It has been suggested that since he cares about this issue, he should create an idea or solution. That suggestion is not productive, because we have full time staff who that are paid to creatively solve problems like this. Regardless, his idea is to vote no, and to not create a new problem without first seeking a solution. He hopes this Ordinance gets voted down and that City staff reach out to pertinent stake holders to brainstorm, learn, and work together for a solution.

Mayor Pro Tem Dobson then advised that this rule has been on the books since he was at least 16 or 17 years old, with the parks closing at 10 p.m. The old power plant had a siren that actually went off at 10 p.m. years ago, he happened to be in the park at the time the siren went off. As he was exiting the park, he met Bob Gregory, a park police officer, and he received a ticket. His point being is you cannot be in a park after 10 p.m. therefore, what is the point of being able to camp otherwise you will be paying a fine like he had to for being in the park after 10 p.m.

City Attorney James Lemon advised he has “no dog in this fight,” and the Ordinance does not ban camping in the parks, it gives the Parks Director the authority to designate areas where camping can be done in the parks. In regard to the homelessness, most homeless people are homeless either due to mental illness or a drug addiction problem. We are lucky enough in this City to have access to three mental health centers, which all three have access to funds, which allow for housing assistance. One has a program where when someone ends up in the emergency room, they are not directed back to the emergency room. All three of the entities have COVID funds and have been helping individuals find housing. He spoke with a representative of Mark Twain Behavioral Health, and they have agreed to help individuals with locating housing. He has also spoken with Judge Bastian; in the event someone is ticketed for camping in an inappropriate location. They would have options to apply for assistance or at least an evaluation to see if there are resources from any of these three entities. Again, he has “no dog in this fight” but he did want to make Council aware what the Ordinance does and does not do and what programs are available

Mayor Hark then advised he was encouraged, less than a week ago, which he received a message, actually on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. from an individual who runs the New Embassy

Ministry, Homeless Outreach Emergency Shelter, which is located in the former Pettibone School. In his history in law enforcement, many of the homeless, some of which have not had the best experience with law enforcement or the best experience with Social Service programs. This is a Christian environment where a person can go without judgment and receive support. There are some programs available, there just may not be the “advertisement” of them that is necessary.

Chief Davis then approached Council, advising the Police Department has also been in contact with the New Embassy Ministries, and they have offered their services and PD has been working with them. Davis has even requested, that during the inclement weather, they extend their hours. The department also works with the Salvation Army in Quincy, who also have a shelter. The majority of the homeless that they deal with, is not an issue of homelessness often they refuse shelter. It is an issue of mental illness with combined substance abuse. They have to find an effective way to deal with mental illness and drug addiction and also working closely with the mental health agencies.

Council Member Franke then advised that fining them makes none of the situations better. Chief Davis responded to Franke advising he is misunderstanding how the police approach things. Typically, an arrest is not made, in a park. They will issue a warning first, then see if they are receptive to health treatment or other services. Davis does not feel there would be anyone that feels the pavilion in Central Park is adequate shelter in this weather and if there was an animal over there, they would have to get the humane society involved.

Council Member Welch then advised as discussed during the last meeting the parks are closed at 10:00 pm. However, when taking this issue to the community they feel the City is policing the homeless. When he talks to people he gets down on their level and asks what they want and what he has been told it was better sleeping in the pavilion with a roof over your head then sleeping in the open. He cannot turn a blind eye to what the community wants. He would like to see camping in the park system, without the fining and policing. Every single person he has spoken to in the community has told him they do not want to see this Ordinance passed.

Central Service Director, Andy Dorian then approached Council asking what should he do when the public calls every single day complaining that a homeless person is laying in the public restroom, and they are not able to use the facilities? If this Ordinance does not pass, it comes to no other way then to direct them the Council. Often times these are not people that are seeking help, they are antagonistic and come after Park employees. These situations are not all homeless, however, a section of them are convicted felons. Recently, one who was camping in the park left Hannibal and was arrested later for breaking into a 24-hour fitness and assaulting a woman. He needs some guidance for when the public calls.

City Attorney Lemon then advised that when someone is indigent the law in Missouri does not allow for that person to pay a fine. It does allow them to be brought in to have a discussion with the judge to see what has occurred and direct them towards help. If they are there with the judge, they typically listen to the judge. No one will be paying a fine or going to jail. To Dorian’s point it does give some ability for the staff to answer to the public that wants to use the facilities. He understands that Council does not want to be insensitive to the homeless and does not feel that is

the intent of the Ordinance. It does not ban camping in the parks, it allows the Parks Director to designate areas where it would be appropriate.

## **BILL NO. 21-036**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HANNIBAL AMENDING CHAPTER 20 - PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE II - PARK RULES, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HANNIBAL BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 20-29 – CAMPING**

#### ***Second and Final Reading***

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem to have the City Clerk read Bill No. 21-035 and call the roll for adoption. The motion was seconded by Council Member McCoy

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Yes:** Council Member McCoy, Mayor Pro Tem Dobson, Mayor Hark, and Council Member Veach - 4

**No:** Council Members Franke, Bowen, and Welch - 3

**Absent:** - 0 -

Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was then made by Mayor Pro Tem Dobson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member McCoy.

Motion carried.