

MINUTES

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI
July 28, 2020**

INTRODUCTORY

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on July 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Akers called the meeting to order with the "Pledge of Allegiance," the Preamble of the Missouri Constitution and Jamie Rouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Westfall called roll: Mayor Akers presiding, Jamie Whiteis, Bob Simmons, Bill Skains, Larry Milton and Jeff Seay. Absent: Kevin McConnell.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING ALDERMAN:

Mayor Akers and Alderman Simmons made a presentation on Alderman McConnell's years of service to the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Akers began the Public Comments section of the Board of Aldermen meeting and made an announcement pertaining to speaker decorum. He explained there is a five minute time limit and additional questions may be asked by the Board. He requested any speakers to please state their name, address and any affiliation they may be speaking on behalf of.

Richard White, 99 Royal Vista Drive, Branson, Missouri, congratulated the Board for passing the mask mandate ordinance. He stated he'll be giving a talk this evening at Hollister High School for Honors Night and giving out awards for biology and chemistry to some very special students, so he'd like to read his statement and go. He mentioned speaking at the June Board of Aldermen meeting regarding the importance of recycling and how Branson has a vested interest in keeping the area clean and beautiful. After the meeting he started a petition to re-open the recycle center, which has nearly 1,000 signatures to date. He emailed it to the Board because he didn't want to waste paper. He commented the City Administrators want to discount the petition because many of its supporters do not live in the city limits of Branson. They believe those in the community who live outside city limits do not count, but he's here to argue that not only do they count, but the City of Branson depends on them. Mr. White stated he's a member of the community and his family moved here in the 1850s. They've worked, played and shopped in Branson for decades and there are many like him in the community. They fuel Branson businesses on both sides of the counter as customers and employees and they prop up Branson businesses during the slow times such as this pandemic. The community gives Branson the customer base to attract investors and big chain stores and the community fills Branson's coffers with sales tax revenue. The businesses in Branson appreciate them and they have local discounts, not city limit discounts and they have area appreciation. These businesses sell these people cars, trucks and clothes among other things and mentioned the glasses, clothes and shoes he's wearing and the car he drove here tonight all were purchased in Branson. Mr. White

added, these people have procedures done at the community hospital, their teeth cleaned at the local dental office, buy their groceries and so much more right here in Branson. He believes the City of Branson would be a shell of what it is today without the outlying community as they are Branson businesses' most loyal customers and supporters. The Branson Recycle Center was built and equipped using grant money, intended to benefit the entire community. He recalled the grant money was awarded so Branson could be a leader in education, conservation and preservation of the environment. For over 20 years, Environmental Specialists at the recycle center have worked with the community collecting recyclables, keeping hazardous chemicals out of the lakes and teaching businesses how to reduce their waste and environmental impacts. He added, they work with schools and have been in his classroom teaching young people how to be environmentally conscientious. He asked if a contract with an outside entity would replace the recycle center and said no they would not; they won't even accept glass and if recyclables are contaminated they'll just take them to the landfill. They have no interest in the community beyond our money and if the City permanently closes and cannibalizes the recycle center, it will have squandered hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money. He feels the City's shortsightedness will poison the well for anyone writing a grant proposal in the future and sets a precedent that Branson puts profit over responsibility. He respectfully proposed the Board table the vote on permanently closing the recycle center until a task force can be appointed; a committee that includes members from the community with the sole purpose of researching all possible outcomes for the center. He believes people deserve a voice and there must be alternatives other than selling the equipment or forcing citizens of Branson to pay for everybody else. He asked the Board to see if they can find alternatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Akers asked if there were any citizens who had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked if any member of the Board had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda. Alderman Milton requested Item Number 9 and Item Number 10 to be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as the first and second items on the Regular Agenda. Mayor Akers asked City Clerk Lisa Westfall to read the items on the Consent Agenda as amended. City Clerk Lisa Westfall read the following Consent Agenda items by title.

Approval of Board of Aldermen Minutes:

- a) July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

- a) Human Resources Committee meeting of February 19, 2020
- b) Budget & Finance and Capital Improvement Committee joint meeting of May 28, 2020
- c) Advisory Park Board meeting of June 16, 2020

BILL NO. 5828

Ord. No. 2020-0073

Approving an Easement for Right of Way for recreational trails, trailhead and parking located on the Preserve Property and authorizing the Mayor to execute said Easement with the Leza Stenger Foundation, 75% and the Fall Creek Partners LLC 25%.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5828, an ordinance approving an Easement for Right of Way for recreational trails, trailhead and parking located on the Preserve Property and authorizing the Mayor to execute said Easement with the Leza Stenger Foundation, 75% and the Fall Creek Partners, LLC 25% was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0073 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5829
Ord. No. 2020-0074

Accepting the proposal of Central Salt, LLC pertaining to the purchase of sodium chloride (rock salt) and enhanced deicer.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5829, an ordinance accepting the proposal of Central Salt, LLC pertaining to the purchase of sodium chloride (rock salt) and enhanced deicer and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0074 was duly enacted

BILL NO. 5830
Ord. No. 2020-0075

Amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of an online module for employee self service.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5830, an ordinance amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of an online module for employee self service and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0075 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5831
Ord. No. 2020-0076

Amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of Central Square payment processing technology.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5831, an ordinance amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of Central Square payment processing technology and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0076 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5832
Ord. No. 2020-0077

Amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of an online module for business licenses and tourism tax payments.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5832, an ordinance amending the contract with Central Square Technologies pertaining to the purchase of an online module for business licenses and tourism tax payments and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0077 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5833
Ord. No. 2020-0078

Accepting the proposal of JCI Industries, Inc. for the rebuild or replacement of lift station pumps.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5833, an ordinance accepting the proposal of JCI Industries, Inc. for the rebuild or replacement of lift station pumps and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0078 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5836
Ord. No. 2020-0081

Approving the Sale of Real Estate to Rodriguez Real Estate Investment LLC.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5836, an ordinance approving the Sale of Real Estate to Rodriguez Real Estate Investment LLC and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0081 was duly enacted.

Mayor Akers opened the floor for a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as amended. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Seay. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: None. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Akers stated it's my responsibility as Mayor under state law to take care of the ordinances of our City and the state laws regarding our City are complied with. Under one of our ordinances, Branson Municipal Code 2-64, I am tasked with the responsibility of being the Presiding Officer of the Board and am required to preserve strict order and decorum at all meetings of the Board. We've had in recent history abstentions; the citizens of Branson elected us to make decisions on policy matters and we make those decisions by voting. We are obligated to vote unless a conflict of interest prevents us from doing so. The common law of the State of Missouri supports this. Although I cannot force any member of the Board to cast a vote, and no member can be required to cast a vote, I do have the ability to control the order and decorum of these meetings. As a result, I'm announcing under my authority to preserve order and decorum of these meetings that any abstention by any member of the Board during the meeting may or can be recast as a no vote.

BILL NO. 5834
Ord. No. 2020-0079

Amending Section 2-136 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Dealings with employees by Board or Mayor.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5834, an ordinance amending Section 2-136 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Dealings with employees by Board or Mayor was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5834. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Simmons. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains and Seay. Nays: Milton. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0079 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5835
Ord. No. 2020-0080

Amending Section 2-77 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Abstentions.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5835, an ordinance amending Section 2-77 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Abstentions was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5835. Alderman Simmons so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains and Seay. Nays: Milton. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0080 was duly enacted.

**RESOLUTION NO.
DEFEATED**

Approving the permanent closure of the Branson Recycle Center.

A Resolution approving the permanent closure of the Branson Recycle Center was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by Assistant City Administrator John Manning. Mayor Akers asked for a motion adopting the resolution. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Seay. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Laney Richards, 265 Buzz Street, Branson, Missouri, feels it's a moral obligation to help the planet we live in. She stated paying to recycle is kind of like a money scheme and understands the budget, but for the ecosystem to keep surviving there needs to be a focus and investment in recycling. She continued, she feels like tourists want to recycle; tourists want to invest in our City because they love coming here for the lakes, to see shows and go to Silver Dollar City and she expressed she's tired of seeing trash along the streets. She feels the recycle center staying open with tax dollars is beneficial with option one. Ms. Richards concluded she was concerned and feels the need to keep the safety of the ecosystem going in Branson.

Joshua Pope, Neihardt Street, Branson, Missouri, stated it's important to keep the recycle center open. He mentioned living in England for six months and there's mandatory recycling there with doorstep pick up. Every household has two trash cans they set out on a certain day of the week; trash and recycling are done on certain days of the week and every citizen does it because they care about their environment. Mr. Pope reported some household plastic items such as water bottles can exist in the environment without deteriorating for over a thousand years, so it's only a matter of time before that catches up with us. He feels it's important to take the steps necessary to slow down the damage being caused to the planet for future generations so we can at least say we put forth the effort. He suggested instead of shutting down the recycling center, the City needs to make an effort to educate citizens on the benefits of recycling, on the process of doing so and the proper disposal of materials. Mr. Pope believes this would cut down on costs of unwanted materials if people actually knew what to recycle. He added, it's important to take the appropriate action and do our part to try and make sure Branson and its lakes are beautiful for tourists and future generations.

Debbie Redford, 1462 Carlton Road, Hollister, Missouri, mentioned she was the first Environmental Specialist for the City of Branson in 1995 and held this position for 15 years until becoming a grant writer and Communications Director of Hollister Schools. She clarified Hollister Schools doesn't nor has it ever brought its recycling to the Branson Recycle Center as it's used Tantone Industries for at least eight years. She explained Richard White has used it for four trash can loads of water and pop bottles from the high school which is all Hollister Schools has done. She commented the recycle center is operating on a model established 25 years ago and there's been no attempt to modernize like other recycling centers have done. She added, like what Monett, Christian County and Rolla are doing that requires less manpower and cuts down on the price. Ms. Redford continued, the City currently doesn't use community service workers and when she was here, they had 300 to 400 community service workers from five different courts working 10 to 125 hours a year. She recalled using volunteer groups on Saturdays such as Central Bank, Hollister Schools and the Rotary Club. These groups would be responsible for a Saturday and would advertise, wear t-shirts and brag about how they recycled which advertised their business. She reported Nestle Purina Company in Springfield will take mixed paper for free and Ripple Glass takes glass to make insulating material; all of these things would keep costs minimal. Ms. Redford mentioned the County is interested in taking over the recycling and has attempted to explore and find out exactly what the costs are from the City. She commented for some reason the recycle center's labor costs include three full-time employees and a quarter employee. She added, an administrative assistant and another full-time employee, both of whom reside in City Hall, yet none of them are involved in the labor on a day-to-day basis for the recycle center. She mentioned the State's Recycling Convention will be held in Branson in September and feels it would be very embarrassing for Branson to say it doesn't recycle anymore after all these years. She added, what a terrible black mark on the City in terms of an insult to the rest of the state. Branson led the State in water quality issues as it had the first wastewater treatment plant, removing phosphorus to protect lakes and streams. It also led the State in recycling initiatives by partnering with small communities to make it possible for small communities to recycle. She feels this is very important and reiterated the County is willing to take it over and mentioned there will be a County Commission meeting to discuss how to it could take over the

recycling efficiently. She explained every piece of equipment at the Branson Recycle Center was paid for with grant money through the Solid Waste District. She added, even though it belongs to the City after five years, she's talked to the Solid Waste District Planner who talked to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and both will send very strong letters to the City if it attempts to sell the equipment. She explained the money was allocated for recycling in this area and feels this would be another black eye to Branson. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Jim VonBehren, 959 East Iron Bridge Circle, Springfield, Missouri, introduced himself as the owner of Greenway Recycling which is a recycling processing company with three facilities in Springfield, Fordland and Mansfield, Missouri. He mentioned his company has a contract with the City and receives the materials from Branson and all the stuff that was said is not true. Mr. VonBehren explained he sells three thousand tons of material a month and doesn't have any problem selling his material. In 2018, China did pass an environmental protection act, but all it did was tell the United States the materials it sends China has to be cleaner. He reported China then came to the United States, started buying up paper mills that were shuttered and opened up plastic operations. He added, now instead of shipping to China, it's shipped to facilities in the United States to be processed and made cleaner. Mr. VonBehren is a huge proponent of the Branson Recycle Center and the Christian County Recycle Center as they are two of the most efficiently ran centers. He mentioned telling people who have closed recycle centers in Rogersville, Ava, Alton and other cities they need to go see the Branson and Christian County recycle centers to see how they're ran. He explained Branson's Staff put the entire onus of recycling on to the citizen, so when citizens come to its recycle center, they have to sort it out themselves while other communities have shut down because of blatant inefficiency. People dump bags full of trash and create a big mess which is what happened in Rogersville. He feels Branson's Recycle Center is run to model efficiency and he shared his operation has 30 employees, the direct labor with overhead is \$37,800 per employee and he knows Christian County's labor costs are \$80,000 to run its center. The products Branson puts out are all marketable and currently, companies like Walmart, Target and other huge food chains are requiring post-consumer recycling content in their products. With natural milk bottles, there's a 30% requirement for recycled materials to go back into bottles and it's the same with PT water and soda bottles. His belief is once the pandemic is over, there will be a big boom to the industry since everyone will start restocking their products, increasing the need for recycled materials. Mr. VonBehren feels it would be an eyesore for this community to shut down the recycle center, because people take pride in their centers and the Branson Recycle Center is a source of pride. He commented, people like getting in their cars, going to the recycling center and they just want to recycle. He explained Branson is a progressive town and rather than talk about restricting people from the outside coming to the Branson Recycle Center, the Board should consider it's going to get sales tax from people stopping at other places while they're here. Discussion. In response to the Aldermen's questions, he explained Republic or the waste company would provide a separate container for recycling with the theory being recycling materials go in one container and trash in another. He clarified for Alderman Skains the stuff submitted by Republic is processed and Greenway Recycling is currently processing 175 to 200 tons of recyclables in a month from Republic alone. He mentioned there's also other companies such as Waste Corp, but that's just one sector of his business as it's primarily a commercial company that services municipalities, small businesses and large commercial companies like the Kraft plant, Bass Pro Distribution and O'Reilly. Mr. VonBehren explained commodities are selling better and admits 2019 was the worst year in 25 years of his business due to low fuel prices which affects plastic. Water bottles have petroleum product in them and natural gas affects the polyethylene market which is mainly colored plastic and milk jugs. He explained, depressed fuel prices bring the price of pellets, or the virgin material, way down and what's being seen now in the business is there's a private sector requirement for companies to provide plastics that have a percentage of recycled content. He added, so what's already being seen with the natural plastic markets and natural milk bottles is the price is huge on natural milk bottles and he reported it was the biggest he'd ever seen at the beginning of the year. He mentioned this will also be seen in the PET industry which is the soda and water bottle industry and he pointed out this carpet is made out of recycled plastic. He explained this will be seen more because companies are becoming more environmentally conscious and sustainable. He stated Nike's and Under Armor's clothes are being made out of PET. These companies drive these industries and they want to see more recycled content in their packaging and product line. Mr. VonBehren clarified the things he referred to that were not true is about China and explained it didn't kill the business, only shifted the business back domestically. He reported the biggest paper mill in the world was just built in Monterrey, Mexico and can process 3,000 tons of cardboard a day. There were

mills on the East Coast that the Chinese bought in the United States, because now they're getting the paper there. There's a huge mill in Wickliffe, Kentucky that can process about 2,000 tons a day and is ran by Nine Dragons, a Chinese company. He added, they're going to get the paper over there, process, pulp, dry and send the pulped paper to China, so the thought that the Chinese are not buying our products is just not true. Cardboard and other materials are going to China, but they just want it cleaner and right now there's a fight going on in Washington with the Chinese on trade policies, so now they're bucking up and saying they don't want our stuff. If this item were tabled and given another look, he expressed interest in serving on a committee to talk about it. He thinks it should've been the City's obligation to reach out to area processors in the private industry to discuss what's going on in the business at the very minimum. He thinks it should be tabled and the recycle center should be opened while this is being talked about and he asked why it was closed. He reported Springfield's is open and if everyone has to be masked to go in there fine, but it needs more discussion. He disagreed with Ms. Redford's and Ms. Branson-Jones' comments regarding the equipment and explained the equipment is the City's because granted equipment belongs to the grantee five years after it's received. So the City could sell that equipment if it's been depreciated out; but they're right, it's also antiquated as he's seen it. He expressed he's a proponent of the Branson Recycle Center as it's the best run center he's ever seen in his 25 years of business. He believes Sharon White is the best manager of the recycling and he wishes she was working for him because she puts the onus back on the person who's bringing stuff in to sort it out. He added, Christian County does very well also and explained Branson's recycling is just a drop in the bucket for him as it's just a load of mixed materials a month and a load of cardboard a month. He commented, he ships three loads of cardboard a day and five or six loads of PET a month, so he's just a proponent of the center. He's seen what the centers mean to the community and sees what political bodies have to deal with after centers close and gave an example of the small city of Ava, Missouri, where people are still upset about it. He mentioned it was a shelter workshop-run organization and sheltered workshops have gotten out of it. He feels the numbers really need to be studied more accurately, because he thinks the labor numbers are skewed and there should be a focus committee to discuss it more and the center needs to be opened up.

Chuck Pennel stated he recycles his paper at the courthouse and is encouraged to hear the Commissioners will be discussing this and agrees there's pride in recycling. He hates to see it go away, but understands budgets and asked for the item to be tabled. He feels it's been a good deal and thanked the Board supporting it this far.

Audrey Richards, 265 Buzz Street, Branson, Missouri, mentioned her dad worked for the U.S. Corps of Engineers at Table Rock Lake when she was younger, so she has intense appreciation for the nature and beauty of Branson and would like the recycling center to remain open for that reason. She believes it's a good resource to help keep trash off the roads and people thinking about ecology and conservation. She explained she'd like to address how the recycle center impacts tourism and reported according to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), the City's marketing hits on two demographics she's a part of; millennials and people from Washington D.C. She understands a substantial amount of marketing dollars is spent on these two and mentioned Branson has been in the news recently for a lot of things that aren't great and while watching the news she feels Branson looks kind of bad. Ms. Richards mentioned most of her friends are in Washington D.C. and they've expressed Branson isn't what they thought it was and she said she's here to say it's not and isn't always how it's been presented in the national media. She recalled Alderman Milton talked about Branson's news headlines and she thinks if the recycle center closes, the headlines will read: Branson keeps racist shop open and closes recycle center. She believes that's how it's going to look to the public because the recycle center is important and agreed with previous speakers who said there's a sense of pride people feel when going to the recycle center. Ms. Richards expressed concerns over restricting access to just people inside city limits and feels it's kind of offensive to outlying communities. She thanked the Board for its time.

Marvin Groote, 471 Table Rock Heights, Hollister, Missouri, mentioned living in the Branson area for five years now out in the County and an additional two years some time ago. He reported recycling is not available where he lives, but if he lived in Hollister he could have a bin to recycle for \$4 a month. He's tried to do that but it's not possible, so he brings his recycling to the Branson Recycle Center. He believes American citizens have a responsibility to care for planet Earth as much as possible and he was dismayed to see the recycle center close when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He added, now he's even more dismayed

to learn of the plan to close it permanently. He knew the recycling services have been open to anyone who brought items to be recycled which attracted many citizens of nearby cities and people who live in the County. Mr. Groote agrees it's probably not fair the City has been footing the bill for most of this and felt it would be appropriate for non-residents of the City to pay a fee for services. He expressed concerns with the plan presented as it looks very complicated, would be difficult to administer and would require a lot of additional people working with it. He suggested a flat fee which would be fairly simple and said he would be willing to pay \$10 a month to use the recycle center as often as he'd like. He added, this would be his preference and he's not afraid of signing up for that sort of thing. Mr. Groote commented, closing the recycle center and putting everything that could be recycled into a landfill just means people are going to have to find more landfills just to take care of this City, let alone all of the other cities. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Korina Branson-Jones, introduced herself as the Board Chairperson of Earthwise Recycling Center in Reeds Spring, Missouri. She works with various businesses, schools, park boards and understands the value of priority-based budgeting and balancing the costs and benefits of services. She expressed she's very passionate about recycling and environmental stewardship and is excited the Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) will be holding it's convention in Branson in September and announced she will be a speaker at it this year. Ms. Branson-Jones expressed her concerns over the lack of information and misinformation presented at the Board of Aldermen Study Session. She mentioned Alderman Whiteis works for Tanger which has implemented electric car charging stations and recycling within the outlet mall which is based on a business move, not just the bottom dollar as there's a cost-benefit analysis to this. She explained she'd like to clarify a few things, which includes items that are brought to the Branson Recycle Center from outside entities which is actually revenue for the recycle center. She mentioned the Stone County Courthouse brings its cardboard to her recycle center and right now cardboard is probably the most profitable commodity it has. She added, so to say non-residents bringing materials is costing taxpayers money is completely false; they're actually bringing the City revenue. She mentioned emailing the Board a lot of information today and explained a business inside city limits wouldn't only sell or service Branson residents and feels it's the same with the recycle center. She added, people are actually taking their time to bring the City a commodity which is revenue to help offset the costs of the center. She referenced Assistant City Administrator John Manning's presentation about the market being dead which is completely false. The Plastics Recycling Publication of July 2019 reported the plastic market is optimistic and oversees import restriction fallout has been exaggerated. Ms. Branson-Jones explained she owns a construction company and her husband had to order composite decking, but it was on back order because they didn't have enough manufacturing product from these recycled materials. She added, so there is high demand for recycled materials. The Business Insider from July 2020 reported the global market is valued at over \$400 billion with an estimated annual growth rate of 3.2% from 2017 to 2020. This is due to rising product demand from various industries and she explained she's using this information as motivation to not close the City's recycle center operation which is top notch and used as a model at her own facility. She addressed the financials from Assistant City Administrator Manning's presentation which stated expenditures are well over \$250,000, but from her calculations using his information, it's \$25,000 less than he stated. She feels it would be beneficial to know the exact costs of personnel versus operations. She noted even with closing the recycle center, the City's not gaining \$250,000 but reallocating that personnel to other departments. That's not 100% cost savings to citizens or tax payers and needs to be looked into. Ms. Branson-Jones commented on the grant money awarded to the City and reported since 1999 the City of Branson has received close to \$220,000 in grant revenue and questioned where the money showed as expenditures in the recycle center budget. She added, just in the last six years the City received \$64,000 in grant revenue and she explained that equipment will not be able to be sold because of a lien preventing it from being sold. She inquired how this money is accounted for on the budget; is it getting revenue from the reimbursement or getting allocated back to the City's revenue on the recycle center budget? She addressed the action plans and feels there's a perception that recycling needs to be farmed out to a private industry. She explained closing it would create a monopoly with Republic Services which she didn't know if the Board had thought about as it would force all residents and businesses to utilize its services without competitive pricing. She expressed concerns that closing the recycle center could be more detrimental to small businesses. She explained a large portion of small businesses utilize Earthwise Recycling Center because they don't want the expense of a large bin due to their small volume. She asked the Board to consider what it would do to small businesses since they would have to incur additional costs. She assumes

the City utilizes its own recycle center and pointed out this would be another cost incurred by the City which needs to be factored in to the cost savings and benefit. She feels the tiered system, using Beacon to analyze people's addresses and adding personnel is a red herring and not an option. There are many other ways a fee basis could be utilized for residents and non-residents such as a flat fee and she recommended keeping the recycle center open. In that process the Board could figure out how to whittle down that budget and possibly implement a fee-based system on a flat-fee schedule instead of a complicated system. She offered to answer any of the Board's questions, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to speak and shared she's passionate about recycling. She mentioned a lot of tourists come to the area who recycle in their homes and it would strike them as odd why a City as progressive as Branson wouldn't be recycling. Discussion. In response to the Board's questions about what would happen to the City's equipment if it were to do a co-op with the County, she said it's her understanding they would try to reallocate it. She ventures to say it would probably be something where the County and City would both be listed on the lien until the five-year requirement was fulfilled. She mentioned she loves the City's trailers and they are probably within the five-year period. She recalled the City's pole barn was part of a grant ordered through DNR and the City should consider utilizing or repurposing it instead of tearing it down if the recycle center were to close. She expressed it's encouraging to hear there could be cooperation with the County if it's 100% not feasible budget-wise to keep the recycle center open. She would love to work with that even though she's in Stone County as she's passionate about recycling. She's from Branson and has ties, heritage and genealogy all the way back to the origins of Branson, so she's a Branson resident by heart and would love to help. She added, she thinks it's something the City can make work without having the black eye of completely closing the recycle center in the area.

Jerry Buckley, 202 Windy Ridge Drive, Hollister, Missouri, said he's volunteered at the Branson Recycle Center for the last two years and feels Jim VonBehren's comments have been the closest to reality that he's heard. He feels Korina Branson-Jones and Debbie Redford made a lot of assumptions and he mentioned he comes from an aerospace business where accounting for wages is a lot different than the regular workplace. He feels a lot of what was said is simply not true and a lot of what was said is true and hopes what was said with regards to working with the County is true. He mentioned Environmental Specialist Mona Menezes has worked with the County and supervisors for years and they've just thrown her out and Greenway Recycling refuses to return her calls. Mr. Buckley explained he's on the Missouri Recycling Association's (MORA) planning committee for the upcoming conference in September and feels if Branson closes its recycle center it will send the wrong message. He thinks option number three of Assistant City Administrator John Manning's assessment is too complicated and not doable. He mentioned being on the City's Capital Improvement Committee and understands the City can't afford that fund of money to run this thing either. He reported all of the other cities have dropped out and he toured the facilities of Christian County, Bentonville and Monett and Branson has the finest people, facilities and capabilities he's ever seen. He's noticed court volunteers have started falling off a little bit, because the work is hard and tedious and they've found other ways to do what they need to do. He explained the machines are with the grants; there's no overhead which was one of the big concerns for District N, Joplin and Springfield. They use their grant money for salaries and trucks, while Branson does not because the people pay for all of that. He reported the latest grant money received was for a trailer that was set up at the Methodist Church and all the other bailers at the recycle center are quite old and were when they were donated. Their useful life is coming to an end, so selling that equipment would almost be for scrap as they're not much usable anymore. He expressed interest in volunteering for the City's committee if this is postponed and thinks everyone's assumptions are very clear and there's a real, difficult dichotomy here. He reported it's a very low period of resource costing for cardboard and plastic, which is still down around \$0.10 to \$0.15 a pound, and takes a ton of labor to get plastic suitable and clean enough. He added, about 15% to 20% is trash and has to be hand-picked out before it goes to Greenway Recycling. Mr. Buckley commented it's really tough, the money isn't there right now and it may not come back for a long time. He reiterated he volunteers to be on that committee if the City decides to cancel or postpone this as he has 30 years of recycling experience. He thanked the Board for its time.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: None. Nays: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Absent: McConnell. Motion failed.

BILL NO. 5838

Approving the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between the City of Branson Police Department and the Pulaski County, Missouri Sheriff's Office pertaining to the donation of Digital Ally in-car camera equipment.

First Reading of Bill No. 5838, an ordinance approving the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between the City of Branson Police Department and the Pulaski County, Missouri Sheriff's Office pertaining to the donation of Digital Ally in-car camera equipment and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by Assistant Police Chief Eric Schmidt. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5838. Alderman Milton so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5839

Amending Chapter 94 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Zoning.

First Reading of Bill No. 5839, an ordinance amending Chapter 94 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Zoning was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5839. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Whiteis. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5840

Approving Medium Density Residential (MDR) and Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning for the properties located at 3855 Fall Creek Road, Branson, Missouri.

First Reading of Bill No. 5840, an ordinance approving Medium Density Residential (MDR) and Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning for the properties located at 3855 Fall Creek Road, Branson, Missouri was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5840. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Seay. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains and Seay. Nays: Milton. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5841

Approving High Density Residential (HDR) Zoning for the property located at 135 Lake Front Drive, Branson, Missouri.

First Reading of Bill No. 5841, an ordinance approving High Density Residential (HDR) Zoning for the property located at 135 Lake Front Drive, Branson, Missouri was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5841. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5842

Approving High Density Residential (HDR) Zoning for the property located at 150 Gunner Hill Lane, Branson, Missouri.

First Reading of Bill No. 5842, an ordinance approving High Density Residential (HDR) Zoning for the property located at 150 Gunner Hill Lane, Branson, Missouri was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5842. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Seay. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

MAYOR/ALDERMEN/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Alderman Whiteis mentioned he's served on the Board for about 60 days now, but it feels more like 60 years. He expressed his appreciation working with the other Board members.

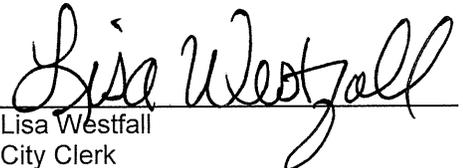
Alderman Simmons agreed with Alderman Whiteis' sentiments and said it has seemed like a long few weeks here, but that's what they signed up for and guesses they have to take the good with the bad.

ADJOURN

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Whiteis. Voting aye: Whiteis, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Seay. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



E. Edd Akers
Mayor



Lisa Westfall
City Clerk