

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2021

The regular Sikeston City Council meeting of April 5, 2021 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, located at 105 E. Center Street in Sikeston, MO. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Steven Burch, Karen Evans, Gerald Settles, Ryan Merideth, Brandon Sparks, Onethia Williams and Brian Self. Staff in attendance were: City Manager Jonathan Douglass, City Counselor Tabatha Thurman, City Clerk Rhonda Council, Finance Director Karen Bailey, HR Director Amanda Groves, Public Works Director Jay Lancaster, Street Superintendent Brian Dial, Parks Director Dustin Care, Public Safety Director James McMillen, City Collector Vicky Lewis, Community Development Director Lorenzo Ware, Code Enforcement Operations Specialist Amy Gosnell and Code Enforcement Officer Andy Barnes.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City Council minutes for March 1, 2021 was presented for approval. Councilman Sparks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Self seconded the motion and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

2nd Reading, Bill #6217, Re-adoption of Fair Housing Policy

Councilman Self moved for the second reading of Bill Number 6217. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merideth and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading.

BILL Number 6217

ORDINANCE Number 6217

THIS BILL AS APPROVED SHALL BECOME ORDINANCE NUMBER 6217, PROVIDING "FAIR HOUSING" FOR THE CITY OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI, DEFINING DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES, AND CREATING A FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIKESTON, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: This Ordinance shall not be codified in the City Municipal Code.

SECTION II: Declaration of Policy: The City Council of the City of Sikeston hereby declares it to be the public policy of the City to eliminate discrimination and safeguard the right of any person to sell, purchase, lease, rent or obtain real property without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, religious affiliation, handicap and without regard to whether a family has children. This ordinance shall be deemed an exercise of the police powers of the City of Sikeston, Missouri, for the protection of the public welfare, prosperity, health and peace of the people of Sikeston.

SECTION III. Definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein unless the context otherwise indicates.

- A. Person shall include any individual, firm, partnership or corporation.
- B. Aggrieved Person shall include any person who is attempting to provide housing for himself and/or his family in the City of Sikeston, Missouri.
- C. Discriminate shall mean distinctions in treatment because of race, sex, color, religion, handicap, familial status or national origin of any person.

SECTION IV. Discriminatory Practices. It shall be a discriminatory practice and a violation of this ordinance for any person to:

- A. Refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any person because of race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap, familial status, or national origin of any person.
- B. Discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap, familial status, or national origin.
- C. Make, print, or publish, or cause to be made, printed or published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.
- D. Represent to any person because of race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap, familial status, or national origin that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available.
- E. For profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap, familial status, or national origin.
- F. Bars discrimination in the sale or rental of housing on the basis of a handicap, and requires the design and construction of new multi-family dwelling with four (4) or more units to meet certain adaptability and accessibility requirements.
- G. Bars discrimination in the sale or rental of housing because a family has children, but exempts certain types of buildings that house older persons, e.g. Section 202 housing.

SECTION V: Discrimination in the Financing of a House. It shall be unlawful for any bank, building and loan association, insurance company or other corporation, association, firm or enterprise whose business consists in whole or in part in the making of commercial real estate loans, to deny a loan to a person applying therefore for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling, or discriminate against any person in the fixing of the amount or conditions of such loan, because of the race, sex, color, religion, religious affiliation, handicap,

familial status, or national origin of such person or of any person associated with him in connection with such financing.

SECTION VI. Exemptions. The provisions of this ordinance and particularly Section IV hereof, shall not apply to the following:

- A. The sale or rental of a dwelling unit in a building, which contains housing accommodations with no more than four (4) families living independently of each other, if the owner resides in one of the units.
- B. Housing need not be made available to a person who is a direct threat to the health or safety of others or who currently uses illegal drugs.
- C. Religious organizations and private clubs may limit the sale, rental or occupancy of housing owned or operated for other than a commercial purpose, to their members.
- D. Any single family house sold or rented by an owner provided that such house is sold or rented:
 - 1. without the use of sales or rental facilities or services of real estate brokers, agents, salesmen, or persons in the business of selling or renting dwelling, and
 - 2. without the publication, posting or mailing of any advertisement in violation of Section 3c of this ordinance.

provided however, that:

- 1. nothing in this provision shall prohibit the use of attorneys, escrow agents, abstractors, title companies, and other such professional assistance as necessary to perfect or transfer the title, and
 - 2. that any such private individual owner does not own any interest in, nor is there owned or reserved on his behalf, under any express or voluntary agreement, title to or any right to all or a portion of the process, from the sale or rental of more than three such single family houses at any one time.
- E. For the purposes of subsection e, a person shall be in the business of selling or renting dwelling if:
 - 1. he has, within the preceding twelve months, participated as a principal in three or more transactions involving the sale or rental of any dwelling or any interest therein, or
 - 2. he has, within the preceding twelve months, participated as an agent, other than in the sale of his own personal residents in providing sales or rental facilities or sales or rental services in two or more transactions involving the sale or rental of any dwelling or any interest therein, or
 - 3. he is the owner of any dwelling designed or intended for occupancy, by or occupied by five or more families.

SECTION VII. Administration:

- A. There is hereby created a Fair Housing Committee whose membership shall consist of five members, who shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City with the approval of the City Council.

- B. Every complaint of a violation of this ordinance shall be referred to the Fair Housing Committee. The Fair Housing Committee shall forthwith notify the person against whom the complaint is made. The identity of the aggrieved person shall be made known to the person against whom the complaint is made at that time. If the Fair Housing Committee, after investigation, finds there is no merit to the complaint, the same shall be dismissed. If the Fair Housing Committee finds that there is merit in the complaint, in their opinion, then and in that event, the Fair Housing Committee will endeavor to eliminate the alleged discriminatory practice by conference and conciliation.
- C. If the Fair Housing Committee is unable to eliminate the alleged discriminatory practice by a conference and conciliation, then and in the event, the Fair Housing Committee shall forward said complaint to the City Attorney for handling. The final determination of whether or not to prosecute on said complaint shall be left to the City Attorney.

SECTION VIII. Enforcement.

- A. Any person convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred (\$200.00) or confinement in the County jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or both such fine and imprisonment.
- B. The City Attorney, instead of filing a complaint in Municipal Court of said City, may, as an alternative remedy, seek to have the alleged discriminatory practices abated by an action for an injunction to be maintained in the appropriate Circuit Court of the State of Missouri.

SECTION IX: General Repealer Section: Any ordinance or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION X: Severability: Should any part or parts of this ordinance be found or held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, then the remaining part or parts shall be severable and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION XI: Savings Clause. This ordinance shall not affect violations of any other ordinance, code or regulation of the City of Sikeston existing prior to the effective date hereof. Any such violations shall be governed and shall continue to be punishable to the full extent of the law under the provisions of those ordinances, codes or regulations in effect at the time the violation was committed.

SECTION XII: Record of Passage:

- A. Bill Number 6217 was introduced and read the first time this 29th day of March 2021.
- B. Bill Number 6217 was read the second time and discussed this 5th day of April 2021, and voted as follows:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Absent, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

- C. Ordinance 6217 shall be in full force and effect from and after May 5, 2021.

1st Reading, Bill #6218, Adoption of 2012 International Zoning Code

Councilman Sparks moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6218. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merideth and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6218, adopting the 2012 edition of the International Zoning Code, regulating and governing the development, erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, movement, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, use, height area and maintenance of all buildings, structures and lots in the City of Sikeston, Missouri, providing for the issuance of permits, including conditional use permits and collection of fees therefore; amending Chapter 500, Building Regulations, of the City of Sikeston, Missouri and all other ordinances or parts of laws in conflict therewith.

1st Reading, Bill #6219, Amending Article XVII – Planning & Zoning Commission

Councilman Sparks moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6219. The motion was seconded by Councilman Settles and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6219 and shall amend Title I, Article XVII Planning and Zoning Commission in the Municipal Code of the City of Sikeston, Missouri. Amendment will include the Director of Community Development as a member of the Commission.

1st Reading, Bill #6220, Amending Title IV, Chapter 405 – Zoning Regulations

Councilman Sparks moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6220. The motion was seconded by Councilman Settles and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6220 and shall amend Title IV Land Use, Chapter 405 Zoning Regulations, in the Municipal Code of the City of Sikeston, Missouri.

1st Reading, Bill #6221, Designating Scott County Circuit Court as Municipal Court for City of Sikeston

Councilman Settles moved for the first reading of Bill Number 6221. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sparks and the following vote recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

City Counselor Thurman presented the bill for reading. This bill as approved shall become Ordinance Number 6221, designating the Scott County Circuit Court as Municipal Court for Sikeston, Missouri.

Local attorney Pete Burns spoke in opposition of this transfer as it would be an inconvenience to the citizens of Sikeston, as well as Department of Public Safety, to drive to Benton instead of keeping Municipal Court in Sikeston. He asked Council to take this into consideration and to study all information more thoroughly before making a final decision.

Mary White-Ross, who works at the law firm of Burns, Taylor, Heckemeyer & Green, asked for the caseloads that Municipal Court handles along with a breakdown of the loss the City would experience by keeping Municipal Court in Sikeston.

Other Items

Citizen Melvin Porter expressed his disappointment in the recent high electric bills he has received from Board of Municipal Utilities (BMU).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council, Councilman Merideth moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans and the following roll call vote was recorded:

Sparks Aye, Merideth Aye, Self Aye, Settles Aye, Evans Aye,
Williams Aye, and Burch Aye, thereby being passed.

APPROVED:

GREG TURNBOW, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RHONDA COUNCIL, CITY CLERK

SEAL: