

Monday, January 4, 2021
City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Pursuant to Governor Pritzkers Executive Order No. 2020-07 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5), Governor Pritzker has suspended certain rules of the Open Meetings Act specifically the Executive Order permits remote public meetings. In light of the current COVID-19 public health emergency and the prohibition of public gathering of 10 or more, the City Council has chosen to conduct the board meeting remotely.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85772704532>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13126266799,,85772704532# or +13017158592,,85772704532#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 857 7270 4532

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85772704532>

1. Meeting Opening

Subject :	A. Call to Order
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Procedural

1. Meeting Opening

Subject :	B. Roll Call
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Procedural

2. Communication from Visitors

Subject :	A. Public Comment
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Information

File Attachments

[public comment policy.pdf \(75 KB\)](#)

3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	A. Approval of Minutes
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approval of Minutes as presented

File Attachments

[CC12212020.pdf \(77 KB\)](#)

Consent

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

3. Consent Agenda

Subject :	B. Approval of Bills and Payroll
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action :	Approval of Bills and Payroll as presented

Public Content

File Attachments

[admin_20201230_141356.pdf \(641 KB\)](#)

[Accounts Payable by G_L Distribution Report 12_30_2020 2_26_55 PM_Mary McCormick_3D407D5U.pdf \(333 KB\)](#)

Consent

Our adopted rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules, provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Most of the items listed under the consent agenda have gone through Board subcommittee review and recommendation. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to assure an extensive and thorough review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

8. Business Items

Subject :	A. Discussion - First Avenue Road Project
Meeting :	Jan 4, 2021 - City Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Type :	Discussion

Public Content

The City intends to rebuild 1st Ave from 5th Street to Lefevre in 2021.

The idea of converting one-way streets to two-way streets has been brought up several times in recent years in various planning meetings including the comprehensive plan, strategic plan and riverfront plan, and in conversations with the national and local Main Street programs.

One-ways came to prevalence in the 1950s for the sole purpose of expediting travel times for vehicles, especially in and out of a downtown setting. This was valued in Sterling when the mill and other downtown factories were employing thousands of people in the area. Now that National, Lawrence and NWS&W are gone from the downtown, their appeal has diminished.

There is a growing push to convert two-ways to one-ways for the benefits the two-ways bring. Two-ways slow traffic due to friction as engineers call it and allow for better local access. These are benefits to both residential areas like 1st Avenue north of 5th Street, and to downtowns. Downtowns also benefit from having less confusion for people, especially out-of-town travelers.

- Pros of a two-way:
 - Directness of travel and ease of way finding
 - Economic Vitality and lower vacancy for downtown businesses
 - Safer vehicular speeds
 - Increase safety and convenience for pedestrian and bicycle travel
- Pros of a one-way
 - Lower vehicular travel times
 - Higher vehicular traffic volumes

If the City wants to work toward the earlier goals of a more pedestrian and commerce friendly downtown by eventually converting the one-ways, this is likely the easiest place to start. This is the best time to do it as the road will be under full construction and the new pattern will be easier to implement at reopening than at any other time.

Further, it's safer for pedestrians in the neighborhood, it should slow traffic, make navigating easier, improve the value of the properties and increase the sense of a residential neighborhood feel vs a throughway road. Once reconstructed, speeds will increase and a two-way will help mitigate some of that.

The staff and consultants strongly recommend the City move forward with the conversion of 1st Avenue, north of 5th, to a two-way.

Related Links:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/17/why-one-way-streets-really-are-the-worst/>

<https://louisvillefuture.com/archived-news/louisville-made-two-streets-much-safer-youll-never-guess/>