



# MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES  
STRENGTHENING LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

## MEETING NOTICE

DATE: March 21, 2019

TO: Mayors, Board Chairmen Chief Administrative Officers & Associate Members

FROM: Pat Kelly, Executive Director

RE: Membership Meeting, 7:15 pm, Thursday, March 28, 2019  
**Overland Community Center, 9225 Lackland Rd. 63114**  
(two blocks east of Woodson Rd.)

The next membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28 at the Overland Community Center at the above address. **Note that the meeting had originally been scheduled for Wild Acres Park but has been moved to the Community Center.** Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm with the meeting getting underway at 7:15 pm.

**Program:** Professor Terry Jones of UM - St. Louis will give an overview of the Better Together Plan, including the financial implications. Staff will present an update on League initiatives including the Board of Freeholders petition drive.

The membership will also be asked to consider the enclosed resolution opposing the Better Together plan and supporting the creation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors.

Also enclosed for your review are the Minutes of the February meeting.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
**Norman McCourt**  
Mayor  
*City of Black Jack*

**Vice President**  
**Ruth Springer**  
Councilmember  
*City of Olivette*

**Finance Chairman**  
**James Knowles, III**  
Mayor  
*City of Ferguson*

**Darlene Bell**  
Alderman  
*City of Moline Acres*

**Terry Briggs**  
Mayor  
*City of Bridgeton*

**Errol Bush**  
Alderman  
*City of Northwoods*

**Chuck Caverly**  
Councilmember  
*City of Maryland Heights*

**Scott Douglass**  
Mayor  
*City of Clarkson Valley*

**Barry Glantz**  
Mayor  
*City of Creve Coeur*

**Michelle Harris**  
Alderman  
*City of Clayton*

**Rich Magee**  
Mayor  
*City of Glendale*

**Edward Mahan**  
Mayor  
*City of Rock Hill*

**Cindy Pool**  
Councilmember  
*City of Ellisville*

**Michael T. Schneider**  
Mayor  
*City of Overland*

**Thomas P. Schneider**  
Mayor  
*City of Florissant*

**Cara Spencer**  
Alderman  
*City of St. Louis*

**Gerry Welch**  
Mayor  
*City of Webster Groves*

**Pat Kelly**  
Executive Director

**MINUTES**  
**MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**February 28, 2019**  
**Rock Hill City Hall**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Norm McCourt at 7:15 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting were approved.

**III. REPORT OF THE FINANCE CHAIRMAN**

Finance Chairman James Knowles gave the monthly Financial Report as follows: Expenditures during the first seven months of the fiscal year, July 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019, totaled \$180,744.14 and were allocated as follows: General Expenses - A. Personnel Expenses \$124,597.63; B. Operating Expenses \$48,164.68; Special Events & Training Academy \$7,981.83. The total unexpended General Fund budgeted balance is \$208,935.86 – 54% of the budget with 42% of the fiscal year remaining. General Fund cash and investments as of January 31 totaled \$553,070.04. Expenses from the restricted settlement fund total \$56,364.44. The Settlement fund balance as of January 31 is \$854,490.81

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

A. President McCourt reminded the membership that the League had voted unanimously last month to approve beginning a signature petition process to create a Board of Freeholders/Electors to consider changes to the governmental structure of the City and County. The difference between this and the Better Together proposal is that any plan would be created with public input and would be voted on locally, rather than statewide. He noted that several cities have passed resolution in opposition to Better Together but the League has not taken a formal position to-date. This will be taken up later tonight.

He indicated the Better Together plan contains few hard budget expenditure numbers to suggest that their plan would result in more efficient service delivery. He said that the focus of the March meeting will be a thorough discussion of the plan and the consideration of a resolution in opposition.

B. He invited members who may be interested in serving on the League Board to consider sending a letter to the Nominating Committee through the office indicating interest. There will be at least one vacancy on the Board this year.

C. He announced that the Annual Muni Awards and Installation would be held on May 23 at the Renaissance Hotel in Berkeley. He encouraged members to submit application for the Muni Awards.

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Mr. Kelly said that he has been pleased with the response from members and the public to collect signatures for the Board of Freeholders/Electors. A big push for signatures will occur at the April municipal elections. He noted that Bridgeton has held two town hall meetings to inform citizens about the Better Together plan and the League effort. He suggested other cities consider similar sessions.

B. He said that the Training Academy held part 1 of 2 sessions on municipal bonds with speakers from Stifel Nicolaus. The second part will be held on March 28.

C. He provided an update on legislation related to disbanding small municipal police departments, court procedures, and local government restructuring. He reminded members that weekly legislative updates will continue throughout the session.

D. Mr. Kelly said that the next meeting would be held in Overland on March 28.

**VI. PROGRAM**

The program for the meeting consisted of panelists who had been invited to discuss issues related to medical marijuana. President McCourt introduced Attorney Carl Lumley, from Curtis Heinz Garrett & O'Keefe; Attorney Brain Hey from McMahon Berger; and Jim Pennington from Savoy Properties. Mr. Lumley said that the law passed by voters in November 2018 created new uses for medical marijuana - cultivating, manufacturing, testing and dispensing. Cities cannot prohibit these uses but can set some parameters for locations, such as not being close to schools or not within 1000 feet of another facility. Regulation of days and hours would be legal but cities cannot license the facilities.

Mr. Hey suggested that city officials anticipate potential problems for personnel who may be authorized to use medical marijuana.

Mr. Pennington introduced several members of MoCann who were in attendance. This group helped get the issue on the ballot. He said they wanted to create standards for how the industry should work. They have prepared a guide for cities, including model ordinances. Mr. Kelly said this would be posted on the League website. Mr. Pennington said the ballot initiative set out numerous guidelines for operations including: 51% of a facility ownership group must be residents; there may only be 24 dispensaries per congressional district (which are estimated to generate \$5-7 million in revenue); there can be only 60 cultivation facilities and 75 manufacturing sites. Following the presentation, the panelists answered questions from the membership.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Opposition to Better Together Plan - Councilman Chuck Caverly said that the League Board had met prior to the membership meeting and voted to oppose the Better Together plan as it is very detrimental for residents of St. Louis County and the municipalities therein. A resolution should be prepared for the March meeting that outlines League objections. Board members asked that this question be brought to the membership for consideration this evening.

**MOTION by Councilman Caverly, seconded by Florissant Mayor Tom Schneider, that the League. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ON A VOICE VOTE.**

- B. Additional Comments from League members
1. Councilmember Ruth Springer of Olivette noted that Page Selby of Ameren would be moving to a new position and no longer attending League meetings. Councilmember Springer thanked Ms. Selby for her work with League members. Ms. Selby introduced Marco Sifton and Lincoln Stoll who would be assuming some of her duties.
  2. Julie Stone, formerly of Bi-State Development, reminded members of the Economic Development Certification program for local leaders. She also indicated that her position at Bi-State had been eliminated.
  3. Mayor Schneider indicated that Florissant had passed a resolution in opposition to Better Together and the North County Chamber of Commerce had also done so. He noted that the statewide chamber supports Better Together and local chambers should share their concerns with the state association.
  4. Mayor Bob Nation of Chesterfield said that he had drafted a letter to the Governor asking that he denounce the Better Together plan and oppose the statewide vote. He invited League members to add their signatures.
  5. Mayor Jim Thomson of Richmond Heights commended Mr. Kelly for his recent debate on Better Together that is on the Post-Dispatch website.

**IX. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - President McCourt introduced County Councilman Mark Harder, who showed a yard sign supplied by the Republic Central Committee which oppose the Better Together plan. He said that bumper stickers and buttons would also be available

**IX. INTRODUCTION OF HOST** – President McCourt introduced Mayor Edward Mahan who introduced other Rock Hill officials and welcomed the membership.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**Attendance Record** – Representatives from the following members signed the register:

Ballwin	Bellefontaine Neighbors	Berkeley
Black Jack	Bridgeton	Chesterfield
Clayton	Dellwood	Ellisville
Ferguson	Florissant	Glendale
Jennings	Maryland Heights	Moline Acres
Northwoods	Olivette	Overland
Pasadena Hills	Richmond Heights	Rock Hill
St. Ann	Town & Country	University City
Uplands Park	Velda Village Hills	Webster Groves
Wildwood		

Also in attendance were representatives from:

Ameren	Armstrong Teasdale	Beyond Housing
Charter Communication	Cunningham Vogel and Rost	Curtis Heinz Garrett & O'Keefe
Daniel & Henry	General Code	McMahon Berger
Mo Hemp Trade Association	Republic Services	St. Louis Community Credit Union
Savoy Properties	SSM Health	Summers Compton Wells
Weis Design	Wood	Press

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING INITIATIVE PETITION 2020-042 AND  
SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS IN ST. LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE INITIATIVE PETITION (2020-042) REGARDING A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, ARTICLE VI AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A PETITION PROVIDING FOR THE BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS/ELECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, in late 2017, 57 St. Louis County municipalities and the St. Louis County Council passed resolutions opposing any and all legislation authorizing a statewide vote regarding or mandating a change in the government structure of St. Louis City and St. Louis County and the municipalities therein; and

**WHEREAS**, an initiative petition has been submitted to the Missouri Secretary of State regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to Article VI of the Constitution by repealing Section 30(a), 30(b), 31, 32(a), 32(b), 32(c), 33 and adopting one new Section to be known as Article VI, Section 30 which would provide for the formation of the Metropolitan City of St. Louis by consolidating St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis, including the municipalities currently located therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition was conceived, developed and written in secret, without the participation of those directly affected, by an unelected and unaccountable non-governmental organization, promoting their agenda, while the citizens in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County were not afforded the protection of the Missouri Sunshine Law which insures governmental transparency, openness and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid initiative petition contains multiple provisions which are offensive to the municipalities in St. Louis, its residents, and the businesses which operate within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the St. Louis County Council and the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and all governance therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid initiative petition would result in a statewide vote as opposed to the currently mandated constitutional vote requirement which is limited to the registered voters within the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, a statewide ballot dilutes the votes from within the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County and demonstrates contempt for the citizens of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County by denying them the sole right to determine their future and form of governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the destruction of local governance, for which the majority of citizens in St. Louis County voted, enacted and have enjoyed for many decades; or, as in the case of the City of Florissant, for centuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the elimination of all other municipal police departments in every municipality in St. Louis County, most of which are internationally accredited through CALEA or certified through the Missouri Police Chiefs' Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the elimination of all municipal public works departments in every St. Louis County municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the confiscation/seizure of property and assets that County municipalities have acquired and maintained over the years for the benefit its citizens and to provide services to them and directs these assets to be used by a thirty-three (33) member metro council headquartered in the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition mandates the confiscation/seizure of the tax dollars which are used by municipalities in the County to provide services to citizens and directs those tax dollars to a thirty-three (33) member metro city council operating out of the City of St. Louis to be spent however they choose; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the function of the elected municipal leaders to legislate and control development, planning, zoning and growth within their communities and mandates that those decisions will be made by a more distant thirty-three (33) member metro council operating out of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the legislative function of every municipality in St. Louis County, to control where tax dollars are spent and mandates that those decisions will be made by a thirty-three (33) member metro council operating out of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates each of the existing eighty-eight (88) municipalities within St. Louis County and supplants them with a 'metropolitan district' which is to be a subsidiary of and accountable to a metro government and no longer an independent municipal corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition mandates that the thirty-three (33) member metro council, headquartered in the City of St. Louis, will control all of the municipal tax dollars collected in St Louis County and for each of the eighty-eight (88) municipalities therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition permits the metro council to assume the financial obligations of the City of St. Louis whose debt is over \$2.8 billion; thereby forcing St Louis County residents to pay debts that they did not incur; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition suspends the regular scheduled election cycle and forces the citizens of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County to tolerate leaders for which they did not vote or approve; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition requires the elimination of every municipal court in St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Constitution currently provides for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors as authorized by Article VI; Section 30(a) and 30(b) who shall have the power to consolidate the territories and governments of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis into one political subdivision, to consolidate and reorganize the County governments of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis or to otherwise formulate and adopt any other plan for the partial or complete government of all or any part of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis desires to state its support for a Petition for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors, as currently authorized by the Missouri Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the League believe that all discussions and votes on any plans to change their local government structure within St. Louis City and St. Louis County should be limited to the residents of the City and County and believe that the governing bodies of all municipalities in St. Louis County should also have significant involvement in any such discussions to advance the best interests of their residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis states its opposition to the petition initiative filed by Christopher Pieper on February 11, 2019 (2020-042) regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to Article VI which proposes to unify St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis and which would eliminate local government resulting in the reduction of services provided to the residents of Chesterfield and affirms its support for a Petition for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors as authorized by Article VI: Section 30(a) and 30(b) of the Missouri Constitution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the League urges the municipalities in St. Louis County, the St. Louis County Council, and the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, on behalf of their respective residents, to pass a similar resolution opposing initiative petition 2020-042 and supporting the creation of a Board of Freeholders in the City and County.