

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

March 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call — Roll was called by the Clerk. Present via Zoom video conferencing were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh; Treasurer Jerry Wild; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present was Attorney John Treitz.

Pledge of Allegiance — The Clerk displayed the American flag on-screen, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Address from Mayor — Regarding our meeting: *“The notification process is the same as for a special meeting. Watterson Park is conforming with the new law and the meeting will be a regular meeting. The process is transparent; the public can see and hear; and any votes will be taken by roll call. We are no longer asking you to mute yourself, but please be mindful of background noise. All Zoom meetings are being recorded and will be kept on permanent file. If you have any technical difficulties, please send a text to my phone 502.458.7613 and I will let Aggie know. Please do not call. I hope everyone is healthy, continues to practice social distancing, and wears their mask.”*

NEW BUSINESS

Major Corey Robinson, Guest Speaker — Major Corey Robinson, Commander of LMPD Sixth Division, was present. He introduced himself and gave a brief history of his time in law enforcement. He took over the Sixth Division in June of last year after Major Bogan retired. Major Robinson has sixteen years in law enforcement, thirteen of those with LMPD and three with the FBI. He reported that the Sixth Division is getting 10 new officers, which will allow them to beef up each of their squads. They are also getting additional detectives, so their solvability rate should go up exponentially. A quick snapshot of crime in Watterson Park shows that the majority has been property crime, specifically with the theft of catalytic converters. That has improved the last month or so, as they are being a lot more intentional about going after the culprits, they are putting a lot more pressure on the scrap yards, and Watterson Park has increased off-duty police patrols. Violent crime doesn't appear to be an issue in Watterson Park. Crimes of opportunity are a continuing problem, with people leaving doors open or unlocked. Major Robinson said that he is available and accessible whenever we need him. Major Robinson left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mr. Bourke. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of February 2021 in the amount of \$55,032 and expenses in the amount of \$40,000, giving a surplus of \$15,032. Mr. Wild clarified that the amount under Public Works was for snow removal. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mr. Fortwengler. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Stober Road Flooding — Mayor Chesser reported that work began today on clearing the ditch. Saf-Ti-Co removed the caution signs at the end of Watterson Park Road so they wouldn't be damaged. Mr. Treitz spoke with Joe Exely several times during the last few weeks and has been including Derek Sublette with the railroad on all correspondence. Mr. Exely told Mr. Treitz that they will also be working on the retention basin at the post office annex but didn't specify a timeline.

House Bill 246 — Attorney Treitz explained that a number of years ago, Metro Louisville decided they were going to start eliminating some of the responsibilities of the smaller cities in Jefferson County amid their concerns about possible inefficiencies resulting from the collection of sanitation being spread among 83 different municipalities. As a result, certain legislators in Jefferson County got together and passed House Bill 246, which is basically prohibition against a large municipality enforcing their own restrictions and obligations on smaller cities. The Bill is essentially an effort to stop the City of Louisville and Metro Government from taking over a fairly large part of local governments' responsibilities. It was subsequently challenged by the City of Louisville, and they were successful in getting one of the judges in Frankfort to rule that the bill was unconstitutional. It was then appealed to the Court of Appeals, which reversed the decision of the judge in Frankfort.

Attorney Treitz reported that it has been a year since the Court of Appeals ruled on it. In 7 to 10 days, there will be oral arguments before the Supreme Court on the issues. The different companies that haul garbage are opposing it also. At the moment, the effort by Metro to take over the responsibilities is currently being held in abeyance by the Court of Appeals. So House Bill 246 is currently still the law. Mr. Treitz said that the Jefferson County League of Cities has been very proactive in trying to prevent Metro from pursuing that particular goal, including a suit it filed against Metro several years ago to stop their efforts.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that she emailed the most recent Monthly Shift Posting to all Council members except for Ms. Garrett, to whom she mailed a hard copy. She said that we are doing a little better. Perhaps the snow events helped keep the stats low.

Sanitation Carts — Mayor Chesser reported that Attorney Treitz drafted a letter for her to send to residents who leave their trash carts at the curb for days after pick-up or do not retrieve them from the curb at all. Mayor Chesser sent the letter, along with the City of Watterson Park Sanitation Guidelines, to several residents. The guidelines state that carts left at the curb can make your home a target for burglary, are subject to being damaged or stolen, and are unsightly. Mayor Chesser was able to speak with a few of the residents about returning the sanitation carts to the rear of their property by the end of trash pick-up day. Most of the residents with whom she spoke understood and indicated they will comply. Mr. Treitz suggested that we wait to see the results from the letter before taking any further action.

NEW BUSINESS

Reallocation of the Kentucky Road Fund Resolution — Attorney Treitz said that all of the cities in Kentucky have been asked by KLC to pass a resolution encouraging the legislature to reallocate the funds for the Kentucky Road Fund Transportation budget. The resolution is a non-binding type of effort by the City of Watterson Park to indicate its preferences to the legislature. This will be a top legislative priority for the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Mr. Johnson proposed Resolution No. 1, Series 2021, urging the Kentucky General Assembly to enact legislation that increases transportation funding and modernizes Kentucky's road funding formula to provide a more equitable allocation of revenue to cities to ensure the safety, maintenance and construction of vital city streets and bridges, and strongly encouraging the Kentucky General Assembly to pass legislation in the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly that addresses Kentucky's growing infrastructure needs. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bourke. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Committee Chairs — Mayor Chesser asked for volunteers to chair the committees that we updated at the February meeting. The Committee Chairs will provide updates at our Legislative meetings. The following Chairs were established:

- Business Liaison Committee: Mayor Chesser
- Communications Committee: Mrs. Keefe
- Events Committee: Mrs. Welsh
- Finance Committee: Mr. Wild
- Health and Safety Committee: Mr. Johnson
- Property Violations Committee: Mr. Bourke
- Public Safety Committee: Mayor Chesser
- Public Works Committee: Mr. Fortwengler
- Sanitation Committee: Co-chairs Mayor Chesser and Ms. Ewan
- Urban Forestry and Green Space Committee: Ms. Garrett
- Mrs. Keefe suggested that we establish a Citizen Liaisons Committee, and Council agreed. Mayor Chesser will chair this committee, and Ms. Ewan will assist.

Mrs. Keefe will update the Watterson Park website with this new information.

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser reported that this Board will have a Zoom meeting on March 9. Mayor Chesser asked the Council to let her know if they have any questions or concerns they would like for her to address at the meeting.

General Updates — Mayor Chesser reported on the following:

- *Welcome Baskets* – At the February 8 meeting, following a discussion by the Council, it was decided that we would continue delivering welcome baskets to new residents in Watterson Park. Mayor Chesser said there are three new residents on Bantam Court, one on Champions Trace Lane, and one on Annshire Avenue. Ms. Ewan said there is a new resident on Regina Avenue. Mrs. Welsh reported that there are six new residents on Larkmoor Lane. Mayor Chesser will order welcome baskets and contact the appropriate Council members to assist her in delivering the baskets to the new residents.
- *Street Lights* – LG&E completed the street light audit that we requested. Watterson Park provides 174 street lights, 81 of which are the decorative acorn lights.
- *Snow Removal* – Everyone should have received a copy of the snow removal street listing. Watterson Park pre-treats and plows 21 streets during snow events. Mayor Chesser received several compliments from businesses and residents regarding the condition of the streets during the last snow event. Those compliments were passed on to Brandon Vincent with County Wide Lawn & Landscaping along with our appreciation for the fantastic job he did.
- *City Website* – Mayor Chesser reported that as she was looking through some old documents, she came across the summer 2012 Watterson Park newsletter where we announced the launch of our official web site on July 1, 2012. Mrs. Keefe spent months of planning, designing, compiling resources, and developing content, and she continues to maintain the website today. Mayor Chesser said she has received many compliments about our website from city officials, KLC officials, and just people in general.
- *Jefferson County League of Cities Meeting* – Mayor Chesser participated in the Jefferson County League of Cities meeting on February 18. LMPD's new Chief, Erika Shields, was the guest speaker.
- *CRF Reimbursement Project* – Mayor Chesser has completed the necessary documents to close out the reimbursement project with the Department for Local Government. The Completion Report has been reviewed and approved. Everyone should have received a copy of the approval letter from the Office of Federal Grants dated March 3, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Fortwengler. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

All those persons noted as being present at the beginning of this meeting, unless otherwise indicated, remained throughout.

Approved at the meeting of the City Council held on _____.

Linda Chesser, Mayor

Aggie Keefe, Clerk

Minutes taken and transcribed from notes and Zoom recording by Aggie Keefe.