

**CITY OF WATTERSON PARK  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

Zoom Video Conferencing Legislative Meeting

**May 11, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Roll Call** — Roll was called. Present via Zoom video conferencing were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson; Treasurer Jerry Wild; Clerk Aggie Keefe; and Attorneys John Treitz and Stephen McCallister.

**OLD BUSINESS**

---

**Sanitation** — Present at the meeting representing Republic Services was Todd Preher. Bids were opened and read at the April meeting, at which time Council members were asked to review the bids, research the three bidding companies, and be ready for discussion at the May meeting. Mayor Chesser called on each Council member to give his or her opinion on which company would best fit the needs of Watterson Park.

Mrs. Arnold said she reviewed the quotes and based her decision on performance, price, the number of phone calls Mayor Chesser receives from residents regarding problems, and the quality of the carts. Based on these criteria, she recommends going with Republic Services.

Mr. Ashley based his recommendation of Rumpke on the quality of service, quality of carts, and ability to do large trash pick-up. He doesn't want to deal with switching out carts that could be contaminated during this COVID-19 crisis. He hasn't noticed any issues with Rumpke and feels they have given us good service. He feels their cart quality is better than other providers.

Ms. Garrett said that even though Rumpke might have a better cart, she questions how much money that cart is worth. She doesn't feel that the quality of the cart is worth the difference in the cost. She would like to go with Republic.

Mr. Johnson feels that everyone so far has covered all of the issues. He's going with Republic Services because they have the lowest bid.

Mrs. Welsh feels that the carts provided by Republic are not necessarily sub-par. It could just be a result of the way in which they are handled. Rumpke has indicated that they have improved the way they handle the carts now. Based on this criterion, as well as the cheaper price, she prefers Republic.

Ms. Woodson said she has found no trash on her streets and no broken wheels, so she is going with Rumpke.

Mayor Chesser asked Mr. Preher about the broken-wheel issue that has plagued Republic Services in the past. He stated that Republic now uses the Rehrig cart, which is the same cart used by Rumpke. Mayor Chesser reported that she did send to Council members the video of the new truck Republic is buying. Mr. Preher said Republic will provide all new carts, and they will be replaced if they break. He also stated that Republic has new local leadership and internal management. They are asking their drivers to pick up only one cart at a time to prevent damage to the carts. They're hoping to use one of the newer trucks in our city, as it would be a better fit when maneuvering the Fort Bluegrass Mobile Home Park, but he can't promise it.

When asked by Ms. Woodson if they use these trucks in the City of Louisville, Mr. Preher responded in the affirmative. Ms. Woodson asked him how many of the newer trucks they have. Mr. Preher said at least eight but that he can get her a definitive number if she needs one.

Mayor Chesser asked Mr. Preher if Republic Services has a customer service number. Mr. Preher said they do, and he indicated that they have made some improvements since the last time they serviced Watterson Park. He said their call center developed a POD, which is a group of customer service agents. Using the POD, the same group of people answer calls for a particular area so that their personnel become accustomed to the contract and more familiar with our residents.

Mr. Preher said they use a cushion on the truck, called a pillow, when they are lowering the carts. This pillow is very high on their preventative maintenance list. He said their maintenance shop is now considered a five-star. Their oldest truck is a 2010 model.

Ms. Garrett asked if Republic's phone number is on the cart. Mr. Preher responded that only the web address is on the cart. He said that in addition to their call center, they have a Republic Services app for smart phones whereby a resident can schedule a bulk item or report a missed pick-up. He can also communicate directly through Mayor Chesser via phone. They can also provide a private email address to be used only for Watterson Park.

There was discussion regarding how to handle the minutes when someone leaves the meeting for a short period of time. During a typical face-to-face meeting, we don't discuss anything until that person returns to the meeting. Attorney Treitz said that although that is a good practice, it is not necessary. He said that if someone is gone for an extended period of time, we should note it. When that person returns to the meeting, we can fill him or her in on what was discussed if we are asked to do so.

Ms. Woodson asked why Todd [Preher with Republic] is joining us tonight when we had all three bidders at last month's meeting and they were able to give us their pitch at that time. Why was Todd invited to tonight's meeting when Andy [Reynolds with Waste Management] and Chris [Pierce with Rumpke] were not? Mayor Chesser responded that none of the bidders were personally invited to the meeting, but since it is a public meeting, anyone can attend. Ms. Woodson said that it seems kind of strange and asked how Todd got the Zoom meeting number. Did we send it to the other bidders as well? Mayor Chesser responded that she didn't invite Mr. Preher to the meeting. She explained that the Zoom meeting information and link are on our website and can be obtained by anyone. Mr. Preher clarified that he saw the meeting invitation on our website and signed on using the provided link. He stated that the Mayor did not ask or invite him to attend, but that he took the initiative himself.

Mrs. Welsh offered to have her name and phone number, in addition to Mayor Chesser's, listed as a contact for residents who have questions or concerns regarding sanitation in the future.

Ms. Garrett asked if Republic will be able to accommodate our handicapped residents with backdoor pick-up service, to which Mr. Preher responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Woodson made a motion to award the sanitation contract to Rumpke Sanitation; seconded by Mr. Ashley. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Vote was as follows: Helen Arnold (nay), Brett Ashley (yea), Gina Garrett (nay), Phil Johnson (nay), Marlene Welsh (nay), Tiffany Woodson (yea). Motion was defeated by a vote of 4 nays and 2 yeas.

The Mayor asked if there is another motion. Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the sanitation contract to Republic Services; seconded by Mrs. Arnold. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Vote was as follows: Helen Arnold (yea), Brett Ashley (nay), Gina Garrett (yea), Phil Johnson (yea), Marlene Welsh (yea), Tiffany Woodson (nay). Motion was carried with a vote of 4 yeas and 2 nays.

Mr. Preher left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Chesser and Attorney Treitz will work with Mr. Preher to draft a contract with Republic Services.

**Sanitation Award Process** — Ms. Woodson asked to speak. She said she feels that we shouldn't send emails supporting anyone who has put a bid in while we are in action. She added that anything that can be influential while we're reading out bids needs to wait until after the motion and the vote has been taken, adding that sending out information about a certain company while we are thinking about bidding is not a very good idea. Mayor Chesser responded by first clarifying that Ms. Woodson is apparently referring to emails Mayor Chesser sent to Council members regarding Republic Services. The first email was regarding a segment that aired on WDRB that featured the launching by Republic of a \$20 million initiative to help employees and stimulate the economy. Mayor Chesser also forwarded to Council members an email she received from Mr. Preher regarding the new truck that Republic Services had purchased. Mayor Chesser felt that this was information about which Council should be made aware.

Mayor Chesser explained that prior to sending the emails, she checked with Attorney Treitz to make sure it didn't appear that she was advocating for Republic Services. Attorney Treitz said that he took the position that all information be made available to the Council that relates to the services provided by a bidding company. Nothing negative was said about any of the bidders. Attorney Treitz stated that it is important before making an informed decision that Council be provided with any relevant information that is available to us. It would be different if it was an advocacy email as opposed to a factual email; it was the latter. He further stated that prior to a vote, Council members are able to openly advocate for a bidding company if they so choose. Attorney Treitz believes that nothing inappropriate was done with regards to this contract and that Mayor Chesser did not attempt to unduly influence any member of the Council.

Ms. Garrett clarified that one of the most important considerations when she votes on an issue is how she is going to back up her vote when a resident asks why she voted a particular way. She also reminded Council that over the past two years, Rumpke missed three of the four scheduled large trash pickups. Mayor Chesser also mentioned that she again had to pick up the cans at a handicapped residence because Rumpke left them in the middle of the driveway at the street instead of returning them to the rear of the property. This has happened a number of times.

Mrs. Welsh said that since both Rumpke and Republic provide basically the same service, she feels that it's worth going with Republic to save our City roughly \$8,000 a year.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

---

Mrs. Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mrs. Welsh. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

## **APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

---

Mr. Wild reported receipts for the month of April 2020 in the amount of \$95,413.40 with expenditures in the amount of \$42,864.64, giving a surplus of \$52,548.76. Mrs. Arnold made a motion to approve the report as submitted; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

---

**Appreciation Gift for City Clerk** — Attorney Treitz reported that a few weeks ago he was asked whether it would be appropriate to give Mrs. Keefe a gift card using City funds in appreciation for the extra time and effort she put into learning and hosting the Zoom Video Conferencing meetings. He determined that, rather than do a lot of research into it, he thought it was appropriate under the circumstances. If it was later determined that it wasn't appropriate, he would personally pay for the gift card. Since then, Mayor Chesser advised Mr. Treitz that there was actually a constitutional impediment as well as a statutory impediment to making any type of additional compensatory payment to any officer beyond what's authorized by our ordinance. Mr. Treitz apologized for giving the wrong advice and stated that he will reimburse the City for the \$150 gift card. Mrs. Welsh mentioned that she talked with the owner of a large computer company and asked what it would cost to set up our Zoom meetings. He responded that the basic cost by a third party would be anywhere between \$300 and \$500.

**KLC Virtual Training Sessions** — Mayor Chesser reported that Kentucky League of Cities offers virtual trainings on June 16 and 17 at a cost of \$20 per session, and she would like to attend four of these trainings. Mr. Johnson made a motion to allocate \$80 each for Mayor Chesser and any interested Council member to attend; seconded by Ms. Woodson. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting aye were Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

**Budget Ordinance** — Mayor Chesser presented the budget proposal that she put together in consultation with Mr. Wild and Attorney Treitz.

Attorney Treitz reminded Council that one of the Mayor's executive functions is to perform a budget analysis and put together a budget proposal for Council's consideration. This proposal is based on what happened this last year and where we anticipate the financial statement of the City to be at the end of June, and included discussions about potential costs we will have with regard to sidewalk construction, other construction projects, road repairs, private police contract, landscaping, and the tree program. Attorney Treitz and Mr. Wild determined what the income would be from various sources.

Mrs. Arnold gave first reading in full to an ordinance adopting the City of Watterson Park annual budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Attorney Treitz clarified that on page one, the amount of \$63,000 for Total Estimated Current Revenues under Municipal Aid Fund should be changed to \$22,000. He will have that correction made prior to the next reading of the ordinance. There was no further discussion.

## OLD BUSINESS

---

**Newburg Road Sidewalk Project** — There was nothing new to report this month.

**Stober Road Flooding** — There was nothing new to report this month.

**Labeling Trees on Walking Path** — Ms. Garrett reported that at Mayor Chesser's request, she went to the Lillian Wild Walking Path to compare the map of tree plantings with the actual trees to insure that we have a brick for each variety of tree. The goal was to make sure that every tree that is different is identified. Ms. Sullivan will order the bricks and handle their installation.

**Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings/Activities Report** — Mayor Chesser emailed copies of the most recent Monthly Shift Postings and the Small City Activity Sheet to all Council members except for Ms. Garrett, to whom she mailed a hard copy. She also sent a copy to Major Bogan.

**Street Signs** — Mayor Chesser reported that she put together a chart indicating the additional decorative signs to be installed in the City. She emailed this information to Ms. Woodson for her to review prior to proceeding but did not hear back from her. Mayor Chesser doesn't want to proceed until she gets the approval from Ms. Woodson. Ms. Woodson said she didn't recall receiving this email but will look for it.

**Contractors Court** — Mayor Chesser located a letter dated September 22, 2014, from the City of Watterson Park addressed to the President of Louisville Drywall Distributors. She emailed a copy of this letter to all Council members except Ms. Garrett, to whom she gave a hard copy. The letter explains why Watterson Park did not add Contractors Court to its system of official City roadways. Attorney Treitz explained that the position our City took at that time is that we will put up a street sign, but we will not take over responsibility for the street. The businesses had built over utility easements and had actually constructed a building on top of the sewer line. We advised them at that time that we wouldn't take responsibility for Contractors Court because many of the easements are encumbered with structures.

**Hackmiller Way** — Attorney Treitz reported that he has run into roadblocks in determining whether this road is public or private. Due to COVID-19, there have been logistical problems getting into the Court House to run a title search. His firm will continue to research it.

**Speed Alert Sign for Gardiner Lane** — Mayor Chesser followed up with Geoff Wohl at District 10, but she hasn't received a response from him.

**Homeless Camp** — Mayor Chesser reported that Brandon Vincent with County Wide Lawn and Landscaping cleared out the homeless camp and said he will check the site periodically to see if there is any new activity.

**2020 Census** — Mayor Chesser reported that Carolyn Franklin with the U.S. Census Bureau sent an email to City mayors giving an update on the Census response. As of the end of April, Louisville was at 53.7% on self-response; Jefferson County was at 63%; Broeck Pointe was No. 2 nationally at 89.7%; Strathmoor Village was No. 4 nationally at 88.3%; St. Regis Park was No. 6 nationally at 87.7%; and Norbourne Estates was No. 8 nationally at 87.5%. Watterson Park was at 54%. Mayor Chesser reached out to Angie, the Manager at Fort Bluegrass Mobile Home Park, asking for her assistance in encouraging their residents to respond. Mayor Chesser noted that 8 of the top 10 Kentucky cities who have responded are in Jefferson County; 10 of the top 50 cities nationally are in Jefferson County.

**COVID-19 Update** — Mayor Chesser reported that Mayor Fischer’s office continues to send to the mayors of home-rule cities in Jefferson County daily email updates regarding COVID-19. Since our last meeting, there have been two conference calls with Mayor Fischer; a conference call with Governor Beshear; and a conference call with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, where he spoke with city leaders about federal aid for local governments, the effort to protect cities from pandemic-related litigation, and transportation funding. Senator McConnell also thanked local leaders for helping to control the spread of the virus.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

---

**LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting** — The May meeting has been canceled due to the COVID-19 virus.

**Street Signs** — Ms. Woodson reported that the rusted screws on the street signs appear to have been changed out.

**Census** — Ms. Garrett asked if we should send out a flyer to residents regarding the need for their participation in the 2020 Census. It was noted that residents have already received at least two mailings from the Census Bureau. Ms. Woodson reported that she knows someone who works at the Census Bureau and thought about asking her if the Census Bureau can provide any promotional materials that we could hand out to our residents to encourage their participation. Ms. Woodson will check into it.

**JCLC United in Purpose Initiative/Gov. Beshear’s Executive Order** — Mayor Chesser reported that she sent a copy to Council members of correspondence she received from the Jefferson County League of Cities regarding their United in Purpose initiative. She also sent a copy of Gov. Beshear’s Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency relating to travel.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

---

Ms. Woodson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Arnold. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting aye were Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:18 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 by Aggie Keefe.