

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
via Zoom Video Conferencing
September 14, 2020

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

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 and continues to practice social distancing.”*

Roll Call — Roll was called by the Clerk. 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 Attorney John Treitz.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Road Resurfacing — Brandon Jones with BTM was present via Zoom to discuss the paving projects for Stober Road, Hodel Road, and Colonel Sanders Lane. Mr. Jones shared on-screen the bid specs and site construction drawings prepared by BTM Engineering. He said that with Council’s approval, BTM will post the bid specs in *The Courier-Journal* and will provide the specs to contractors who request them. Mr. Jones addressed the bid specs in detail, going over the time frames for publishing the notice, receiving bids, opening bids, awarding the bid, and completing the project. Mr. Jones proposed a due date and time of 2 p.m. on October 7 for the sealed bids, and we can open them publicly at the October 12 City Council meeting. He will need to add verbiage about opening the bids in a virtual manner if we are still meeting via Zoom. The bidding contractors would be invited to attend the October 12 meeting to be present at the bid reading. Attorney Treitz asked if the paving work could be completed this year based on this time frame. Mr. Jones said they typically give the contractor 30 days from the time we award the bid to complete the project. Attorney Treitz asked how critical it is to get the project completed this year, as he doesn’t want to limit the number of bidders based on a tight completion time frame. Mr. Jones doesn’t think it’s imperative that the work be done this year. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Jones to go over the site construction drawings before we approve the specs. Mr. Jones shared the drawings on-screen and explained what is being done to each of the three roads. He went over the construction keynotes as well as the general construction notes. When asked, Mr. Jones said he expects the total for the project will be approximately \$87,000. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the specs prepared by BTM for the road resurfacing projects as well as the submission of the notice to solicit bids to *The Courier-Journal*; 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. Mr. Jones left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Ms. Woodson. 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 revenues for the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$29,327.57 and expenditures in the amount of \$32,530.48, giving a deficit of \$3,202.91. Mrs. Welsh 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.

Tax Ordinances — Attorney Treitz explained the Calculation of Compensating Tax Rate chart. On August 25 the state certified the county PVA rolls and we were given the results.

We have a little more in appraised value than we had last year and nearly \$7,000,000 in new property. If we take the new number and apply the compensating rate of .073, we would get basically \$240,000 of revenue. If we do a 4% increase, we would get \$246,000. If we don't increase taxes, we would get \$233,000 in revenue, which is about \$3,000 more than last year. Mr. Wild suggested leaving the rate the same; Council concurred.

Ms. Woodson and Mr. Johnson conducted a sense of the Council as to their preference, which was to keep the rate at .071. To effectuate that sense, Mrs. Arnold introduced an ordinance on real property ad valorem taxation and gave it first reading by title and summary prepared by counsel, levying a tax of 7.1¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation; seconded by Mr. Johnson.

Attorney Treitz explained that although we actually gave first reading to this ordinance at the August meeting, in talking with his tax department, they suggested the better approach is to give first reading *after* the certification date, which is why we are giving the ordinance a first reading again this month.

An ordinance on tangible personal property ad valorem taxation was introduced by Helen Arnold and given first reading by title and summary prepared by counsel, levying a tax of 6.5¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation; seconded by Mrs. Welsh.

An ordinance on motor vehicles and watercraft ad valorem taxation was introduced by Helen Arnold and given first reading by title and summary prepared by counsel, levying a tax of 7.5¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation; seconded by Ms. Woodson.

Council agreed to a special meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 18, to give second reading to the three tax ordinances. Mrs. Keefe will set up the Zoom meeting after tonight's meeting, and Mr. Treitz will send out the necessary notices.

Stober Road Flooding — Mayor Chesser reported that there was another flood event on August 22. Both YUM! and Precision Collision suffered damages. The road was flooded from the Poplar Level Road overpass at Stober Road to the YUM! property. Mayor Chesser took pictures of the flooded areas and sent them to Attorney Treitz. She and Attorney Treitz sent emails and pictures to Derek Sublette at Norfolk Southern and Joe Exley with MSD. Attorney Treitz was in contact with both Mr. Sublette and Mr. Exley from that point.

Brandon Vincent, County Wide Lawn & Landscape, took pictures of areas along Stober Road that are washing out and emailed them to Mayor Chesser.

Attorney Treitz reported that Mr. Sublette said they are good to move forward on this project. Mr. Exley assured Mr. Treitz that he is working on the proposal and thinks it will take five days to clean it out. The railroad won't require flagmen. We are waiting to hear back from Mr. Exley.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that she emailed the most recent Monthly Shift Postings to all Council members except for Ms. Garrett, to whom she mailed a hard copy.

2020 Census — Mayor Chesser reported that Kentucky’s self-response rate is 67.3%; Louisville’s is 61.6%; and Watterson Park’s is 60.8%.

Newburg Road Sidewalk — There is nothing new to report at this time.

CARES Act — Mayor Chesser reported that she and Attorney Treitz will be participating in a JCLC call Thursday, September 17. Mr. Treitz will bring up his position on reimbursement for police protection at that meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser reported that due to COVID-19, there will not be an Advisory Board meeting in September. They will be holding a meeting via Zoom in October. Major Corey Robinson recently joined Mayor Chesser and Mr. Johnson for lunch. Mr. Johnson said he is very impressed with Major Robinson and feels he is a good choice for the position. Major Robinson reported that the Sixth Division is understaffed by 30%; they have lost 10 to resignations and 4 to retirements. By the end of the year, LMPD expects to lose 200 police officers overall. They are currently having a difficult time with recruiting. Major Robinson plans to join us for our next meeting in October. Attorney Treitz congratulated Mayor Chesser and the Council for initiating the effort to communicate and stay in touch with the police via this advisory board.

Bishop Lane Sidewalk — Mayor Chesser reported that Steve Kurowsky with Metro Government Transportation Department notified her that he received an email from Planning & Development regarding a sidewalk proposal for 4420 Bishop Lane, formerly the Dean Milk property. Apparently, there was some money for a sidewalk for Highland Preserve – a new development on Newburg Road. However, the developer didn’t see the need for a sidewalk in that area.

Installing a sidewalk on Bishop Lane was mentioned. Mayor Chesser thinks this idea came up because she had previously made Councilman Mulvihill aware that Flynn Brothers had safety concerns with the area along Bishop Lane and expressed interest in a sidewalk.

Mr. Kurowsky provided three areas along Bishop Lane to consider:

- 1) Bishop Lane from Newburg Road by the strip mall and Speedway: This would probably require a lot more work and money.
- 2) The Dean Milk property: They are doing some construction, so Mr. Kurowsky is going to look into that, as they may be required to install a sidewalk as part of the renovation. If that’s the case, then they may look at installing the sidewalk somewhere else along Bishop Lane.
- 3) Bishop Lane from Gardiner Lane going toward Champions Trace: This may require more work than they are willing to do since it could involve more utilities.

Mr. Kurowsky said they want to install the sidewalk in the quickest, easiest area. Mayor Chesser told him we will take whatever they offer. If they move forward with this, it could happen pretty quickly. Mr. Kurowsky said there will be approximately 600 feet of sidewalk. He will keep us informed.

Newsletter — Mrs. Keefe said she is in need of ideas for the fall newsletter. Mayor Chesser suggested including an article on the tax rate. Attorney Treitz suggested talking about the Stober Road flooding and our efforts to get it resolved. Mrs. Keefe suggested giving an update on the paving projects. Mayor Chesser would like to include information on how to properly place the sanitation carts at the street, as this is an ongoing problem. She also suggested including the calendar for recycling and composting pick-ups. Mrs. Keefe suggested an article encouraging people to vote in November. Ms. Garrett proposed putting information regarding the October 17 large trash pick-up on. Ms. Woodson said that since Brightside is not going to happen this fall, we can ask people when they are out walking, if they feel comfortable doing so, to pick up trash.

Council Resignations — Ms. Woodson said that she is resigning effective midnight tonight, as she is moving out of Watterson Park. When Mr. Ashley (Ms. Woodson’s son, who lives with her) was asked if he will be moving out of Watterson Park, he said that he will also be resigning effective midnight tonight. He said he will send his resignation letter tonight after the meeting. Mrs. Keefe asked what we are going to do about replacing Ms. Woodson and Mr. Ashley. Attorney Treitz said we could add that to the agenda for Friday’s special meeting. Mr. Wild suggested appointing Steve Fortwengler to fill one of the vacancies, since he is on the ballot and he previously served on the Council; everyone concurred. Also on the ballot are Jay Bourke and Rebecca Ewan. Council agreed to appoint Rebecca Ewan to fill the second vacant position. Mayor Chesser will try to find a notary for the swearing-in ceremony, which she is willing to hold at her house. Attorney Treitz said we can take the official vote on Friday as the first order of business. If we can arrange for a notary to be present, they can be sworn in and be active participants for the remainder of the meeting. If not, we can swear them in sometime next week. Ms. Woodson said she will take the necessary steps to remove her name from this November’s ballot; Mr. Ashley’s name isn’t on the ballot.

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 yea were Helen Arnold, Brett Ashley, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, Marlene Welsh, and Tiffany Woodson. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:40 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.