

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

August 9, 2021

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

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

Councilmembers Steve Fortwengler and Marlene Welsh joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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

Address from the 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 Aggie or myself.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Ewan noted that the minutes should be revised to say that the KLC Annual Convention will be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center instead of Northern Kentucky University. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Mrs. Welsh. 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 July 2021 in the amount of \$49,745 and expenses in the amount of \$34,552, giving a surplus for the month of \$15,194. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Ms. Ewan. 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

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) — Mayor Chesser reported that we received a check in the amount of \$132,069.09 from this plan. Mr. Wild said we have already invested those funds with Baird. Mr. Treitz reported that we received a notification from KIPDA stating that they are willing to help us manage the paperwork that needs to be filed with these funds for one percent of the funds. At Mayor Chesser’s suggestion, we have invited KIPDA to come to our September meeting to discuss it. Council agreed that it would be worth checking into.

House Bill 413 (Court Costs Distribution) — Mayor Chesser reported that although we turned in to the state all paperwork that was requested, they said they didn’t receive it; consequently, we weren’t awarded any first-round money. Mr. Wild sent the paperwork again, and it was confirmed to him that it has been received. Funds from last year have already been distributed, so we missed out on those. We hope to start receiving current year distributions sometime this year, although Mr. Wild isn’t sure exactly when that will be. Ms. Ewan was thanked for calling this to our attention at the July meeting.

Tax Ordinances — Mr. Treitz said that we haven't received the necessary updated assessments from the PVA in order to make the calculations.

Mr. Treitz left the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Mrs. Keefe placed him in the virtual Waiting Room, which will allow him to re-join the meeting.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser provided Council members with a copy of this report. She said they are having trouble filling all of the shifts. Mayor Chesser reported that she sent John Aubrey a note from us expressing sympathy on the death of Deputy Brandon Shirley.

Homeless Camp — Mayor Chesser reported that KYTC sprayed the vegetation along Poplar Level Road by the I-264 eastbound ramp, and they will be replacing a section of the fence. This is the area where a homeless camp is located. She has not received an update on the status of the camp from the Office of Resilience and Community Service. Ms. Ewan mentioned that there was a homeless camp at I-264 and Southern Parkway, and the Office of Resilience and Community Service executed a 24-hour notice citing health and safety concerns because of the camp's close proximity to the Watterson Expressway. This camp was then given 72 hours to vacate. Mayor Chesser will contact Councilman Mulvihill's office to see if they can expedite the removal of the camp at Poplar Level Road and I-264. Once the area is cleared and cleaned up and we receive the memo of understanding from KYTC, we will begin maintaining the area.

BTM Study of Stober Road — Mayor Chesser reported that she has not yet heard from Craig Mount with BTM regarding the study that he is working on for Stober Road. We have already approved the funds for this study. Mr. Johnson agreed to take charge of this project and will contact Mr. Mount to get an update.

Mr. Treitz returned to the meeting at 7:25 p.m. He reported that he hasn't heard from BTM regarding the Stober Road study.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Ordinances — Mr. Treitz said we will probably need to do a special meeting in September to approve the tax ordinances.

Mailing Lists/Newsletter — Mrs. Keefe reported that we purchased mailing lists for both residents and businesses from United Mail. The business list contains 329 addresses; the residential list contains 279 addresses, which doesn't include the mobile home park. Mrs. Keefe sent the summer newsletter to United Mail last week. They will be printing 739 total newsletters, which is double what we usually have printed. Mrs. Keefe will email the residential list to Council members so they can review it to determine if there are any missing addresses.

National Night Out/LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mr. Bourke attended the National Night Out on August 3. He reported that they had a good turnout. There were booths, fire trucks, a helicopter, police cruisers, and a lot of giveaways. Officers from the Sixth and Seventh Divisions were present. Mr. Bourke said that at the July Advisory Board Meeting, Major Robinson reported that LMPD changed commanders in six of the eight divisions. Major Robinson's position was not affected. There is still a shortage of officers; overall LMPD is down approximately 240 officers. In the current class, there are only 16 officer recruits; three of those officers will go to the Sixth Division. Mr. Bourke reported that there won't be an Advisory Board meeting in either August or September.

General Updates —

1. Mayor Chesser encouraged everyone to subscribe to Councilman Mulvihill's District 10 enews, as it covers a wide range of interesting and pertinent topics.

2. Mayor Chesser provided everyone with the following two articles from the July 30, 2021, District 10 enews:
 - a. The first article was about ADUs (accessory dwelling units). An ADU is a smaller, secondary dwelling located on the same property as a main home. The property owner can use or rent out this unit, with the goal of creating greater housing diversity and more affordable housing. In June, Metro Council approved a regulation change of the Land Development Code, opening the door for more property owners to build ADUs on their land for family to use or to rent out. Discussion ensued regarding current deed restrictions for single-family dwellings and whether this new regulation could override those restrictions. In addition, some subdivisions have in their deeds that the property owner cannot rent. Mr. Treitz will take a look at the ADU regulations on his own to get more information.
 - b. The second article announced a four-phase plan to transition residents who are unsheltered from the streets to sustainable housing, potentially by leveraging American Rescue Plan funds. The plan addresses chronic street homelessness through immediate, intermediate, and long-term solutions.
3. Mayor Chesser reported that Code Enforcement was called about extremely tall grass at a home on Newburg Road. The resident was given until August 11 to cut the grass. It has since been cut, brush was cleared, and the trash cans that had been at the curb for months were removed.

Attorney Treitz left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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 7:56 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 from notes and Zoom recording.