

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

December 13, 2021

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

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.”

Roll Call — Roll was called by the Clerk. Present 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 were Attorneys John Treitz and Duncan Crosby.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021, meeting as received; 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 November 2021 in the amount of \$139,920 and expenses in the amount of \$43,516, resulting in a surplus of \$96,404 for the month. Mr. Wild clarified that Legal and Professional included the cost of the audit. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mr. Johnson. 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) — Mr. Treitz reported that MSD wants to set up a meeting with us regarding flooding on Stober Road and Robards Lane/Robards Court. He believes that the ARPA money MSD is discussing using is money MSD received. It does not necessarily relate to the City ARPA monies. Additionally, we are trying to ascertain the cause of the flooding and then possibly utilize the City ARPA funds to alleviate the problem. Mr. Crosby said we are waiting to see if future federal legislation expands what we can use ARPA funds for. He said we’re hoping to get a better scope of the root causes of the Stober Road flooding. If federal legislation doesn’t further broaden what we can use the funds for, perhaps there is a water quality benefit that would allow us to use ARPA funds under the current restrictions.

Stober Road Flooding/BTM Study — Mr. Treitz reported that BTM has not had the opportunity to get to their part of the project. He will put Wesley Sydnor with MSD and Craig Mount with BTM in touch with each other, as he doesn’t want them to duplicate efforts. Mayor Chesser asked Dennis Diemer if he had any flooding this past weekend and he reported that he did not. Mr. Bourke said he noticed that the awning business on Bunton Road has built a curb around their parking lot, apparently to divert water away from their building.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for the month of December. She noticed that a few new officers and sheriffs are picking up shifts.

Homeless Encampment — Regarding the homeless encampment that was on Poplar Level by the I-264 Eastbound ramp, Mayor Chesser reported that we are trying to get a Memo of Understanding from KYTC to clear behind the public storage, as this is KYTC property. Mayor Chesser reported that obtaining an MOU is a complex process. She has provided the information requested by KYTC, so we're waiting to see what the next step is. She will not sign any documents until they are reviewed and approved by one of our attorneys.

Good Citizen Recognition — Mrs. Keefe did some online research on how other small cities recognize their citizens who make outstanding community contributions, and she turned the results over to Mayor Chesser. Ms. Ewan thinks we should give cash or a gift card instead of a plaque or award. Attorney Treitz countered that he's not sure we can give a monetary award for this purpose. Mayor Chesser said that some cities recognize the citizen in their newsletter. Mrs. Keefe suggested that we also include any recognitions on our website. Mayor Chesser said we would need to get the recipient's permission to post their name and picture; Mr. Treitz said an email would suffice for this purpose.

Sixth Division Shop with a Cop Event — Mayor Chesser reported that everyone was provided with a copy of the thank you letter from the Louisville Metro Police Foundation for Watterson Park's \$1,000 donation to the Sixth Division Shop with a Cop Program. Mrs. Welsh and Ms. Ewan will wrap presents that were purchased for this program on December 16 at the Sixth Division.

NEW BUSINESS

Recent Tornadoes — Mayor Chesser received a memo from Bonnie Jung, JCLC President, looking for ways in which our cities can help the communities affected by the recent tornadoes. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of donating money to the affected communities. Attorney Treitz will check into any restrictions regarding monetary contributions to other governmental agencies or entities.

Committee Reports — Mr. Johnson continues to see coyotes in his neighborhood. Their food source tends to dry up this time of year, so they are scavenging for food. We will put something in an upcoming newsletter about precautions that residents can take. Trapping is not a good option. Mr. Johnson will send Ms. Keefe some pics and an information source so she can post information on our website.

Info Session for Missing Middle Housing — Missing Middle Housing is a range of house-scale buildings with multiple units that are compatible in scale and form with detached single-family homes. Attorney Crosby will be participating in this information session on December 15. Ms. Garrett will try to participate as well. Metro Planning will be putting on the presentation. Mr. Crosby will attend and take notes; we can then decide if there is anything our City needs to do in response.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mr. Bourke reported that he attended two Board meetings since our last meeting. He reported that catalytic converter thefts are up. In addition, car thefts are on the rise because people are leaving cars unattended as they are being warmed up. He reported that officers currently have hands-off orders when dealing with the homeless. The Sixth Division is down to 51 officers right now. Shotspotter should be received in two to three weeks and will be set up in the Newburg neighborhood. License plate readers will be going up at interstate exits. An issue of concern is nightly gunfire in the Klondike Lane area. No one has been hurt, but police are patrolling that area pretty heavily.

Bids from County Wide Lawn & Landscaping — Mayor Chesser presented four estimates she received from Brandon Vincent.

- The first estimate is to trim and remove debris in the entire ditch line on Stober Road: 4 hours at \$150 per hour, for a total of \$700. Mr. Johnson said that this is the time of year when all the brush and weeds are dying down, so maybe we should wait until the spring to take care of this. Council agreed.

- The second estimate was for cleaning up the section on Poplar Level Road behind the homeless camp at a cost of \$4,200. We will hold off on this until we get the MOU from KYTC.
- The third estimate is to remove 13 river birch trees on Champions Trace along the back side of Bellarmine's parking lot. Mayor Chesser reached out to Bellarmine to find out if they have any plans for the property and was told that they do not at this time. County Wide's bid to remove the 13 trees and do stump grinding is \$4,645. Attorney Treitz asked why we are having to remove the trees when it cost us quite a bit of money to plant them. Mayor Chesser explained that they are single clump river birches that are weak and unsightly. Council agreed to hold off and see what Bellarmine decides to do with that property.
- The fourth estimate was for snow removal. The cost is the same as last year's bid except for an increase of 5¢ a pound for both ice melt and rock salt. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to accept the bid for salt and snow plowing; seconded by Ms. Ewan. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yeas 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.

General Updates Provided by the Mayor —

- Tommy Staffieri with Stoll Keenon Ogden prepared the 2021 Tree City Application and submitted it to the Arbor Foundation for approval.
- Louisville Metro moved their EMS unit to the former home of M&M Cartage located at 4106 Eastmoor Road about six weeks ago. Since they are open 24/7, it has helped deter catalytic converter thefts in that area. Scott Fitzhugh with Work-A-Haulix said there have been several attempts to steal catalytic converters from them and from the EMS facility, but they have been able to prevent them so far. They ran off three vehicles over the past three weeks.
- Regarding the homeless encampment by the fence in front of Frisch's restaurant, the Office of Resilience and Community Service is working to relocate the five people living at this location. Council Mulvihill's office continues to receive calls and emails expressing concern about the health hazards and the trash associated with the encampment. His office has requested that the location be cleaned and maintained in the meantime.
- 1234 Gardiner Lane, Hearn Industrial Services – Mayor Chesser continues to receive emails regarding the work that needs to be done on the parking lot. Remediation work is to be completed by December 17.

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 yeas 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 8:01 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.