

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Hosted by Aggie Keefe, City Clerk

December 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance — 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 and continues to practice social distancing.”*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mr. Fortwengler. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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 2020 in the amount of \$275,902 and expenditures in the amount of \$36,272, giving a surplus of \$239,630. Mr. Wild explained that on the second page of the report under General Government, the Legal and Professional Fees in the amount of \$9,867 should be reduced by \$4,385, which was for a payment to The Courier-Journal. Ms. Garrett asked Mr. Wild to send her a copy of the Road Fund sheet. Mrs. Arnold 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 Helen Arnold, 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.

COUNCILWOMAN HELEN ARNOLD’S RETIREMENT

Mayor Chesser expressed her sincerest thanks to Helen Arnold for her 24 years of service as a Councilwoman with Watterson Park. Mayor Chesser shared a few highlights from Mrs. Arnold’s many years as a Council member and resident of Watterson Park.

- In the mid-1970s, Helen worked with MSD and the residents to get sewers installed. This involved door-to-door petitioning and many meetings.
- In 1997, Helen led the Watterson Park signature entrance project. It involved designing the structure, the lighting, and the landscaping. In addition, since the sign would be located on property owned by JCPS, she secured approval from JCPS for the project.
- In 2003, Helen spearheaded the effort to install the acorn lights on Gardiner Lane.

- Helen has been the liaison for the City with Terminix and the Demolay property.
- Helen suggested the name for our City – Watterson Park.

On behalf of Watterson Park, Mayor Chesser presented to Mrs. Arnold an engraved tray in recognition of her 24 years of service. Attorney Treitz told Mrs. Arnold that it has been a pleasure working with her during the past 24 years. Council members and officers also expressed their thanks for Mrs. Arnold's service and told her she will be missed.

OLD BUSINESS

Road Resurfacing — Mr. Johnson reported that all of the resurfacing has been done. The company who will install the guardrail is under quarantine because of COVID, which has delayed the completion of the project.

Stober Road Flooding — Mr. Treitz reported that we still have a flooding issue on Stober Road. MSD claims they have awarded a contract, but Mr. Treitz has not seen an actual award yet. Presumably, now would be an easy time for them to do the necessary work. However, Mr. Treitz would prefer that they do so when they can actually see the roots of the plantings that are clogging the stream. We have worked with Joe Exely at MSD and Derek Sublette at Norfolk Southern Railroad and are hopeful that something will be done within the next month. Mr. Johnson mentioned that the post office did clean up around their basin, although the center is full of cattails. Mr. Treitz said he has spoken with Mr. Exely about that as well. Mr. Exely said he has sent a letter to the post office telling them they need to clean the entire retention basin.

Gardiner Lane Water Main Break — Mayor Chesser reported that the section of sidewalk that was removed during construction has now been replaced. She thanked Geoff Wohl, District 10 Legislative Assistant, for his assistance with expediting this repair.

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 and Ms. Ewan, to whom she mailed a hard copy. Both Councilman Johnson and Mayor Chesser reviewed the off-duty patrol schedule. Mr. Johnson reported that we moved three morning shifts to night shifts, which is when most of the problems have occurred. This accounted for 12 hours of patrol.

Street Lights — Mayor Chesser reported that she and Mr. Fortwengler met with LG&E and instructed them to add an additional street light on Eastmoor Road, where a number of catalytic converters have been cut off of vehicles recently. Also, the street lights on Bunton Road and Eastmoor Road have been upgraded to LED lights. Mr. Treitz asked if our costs will be reduced with the installation of LED lights. Mayor Chesser said we pay a flat rate to lease the lights, so that cost will not be affected.

Illegal Dumping on Stober Road — Mayor Chesser reported that since we installed the “No Dumping – Area Under Video Surveillance” signs, we have not noticed any additional trash. Mr. Fortwengler reported that he priced cameras at a cost of between \$100 and \$300+. Mayor Chesser reported that Brandon Vincent still has his trail camera mounted in the area. If we continue to have problems, we can check into purchasing a camera in the future.

Audit — Mrs. Keefe reported that she checked our records and found a notation in the April 2016 minutes where Attorney Wade Hendricks said it would have cost \$11,800 to print an abbreviated audit in *The Courier-Journal*. The cost to print and mail it to our residents was under \$700.

4420 Bishop Lane — Mayor Chesser reported that Louisville Business First recently reported that industrial developer IAC Properties will construct a roughly 210,000-square-foot industrial warehouse and more than 9,000 square feet of attached office space on 12 acres at 4420 Bishop Lane in Louisville. This site is the home of the former Dean Foods Company plant that closed earlier this year. The former Dean Foods warehouse will be demolished to make way for the new building.

CARES Act — Mayor Chesser reported that she received an email on December 8 from KLC indicating that the Governor made additional CARES Act funds available to cities in a second round of funding. Watterson Park was eligible to apply for \$22,960 of additional CARES funds. The application and duplication of benefits had to be submitted by December 11. After discussing with Mr. Wild and Mr. Treitz, the decision was made to not apply for these additional funds. Mayor Chesser also discovered that if a city wants to donate any of the CARES money to a food bank or ministry, it has to be located within the city's boundaries; we don't have any of those types of businesses in our City.

Louisville Metro Police Foundation — Mayor Chesser reported that she received a letter from this foundation thanking us for our \$1,000 donation to the Louisville Metro 6th Division Shop With a Cop program.

NEW BUSINESS

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser reported that this board held a meeting on December 8. Major Robinson reported that when he was hired in 2004, there were 1,340 officers. Today, there are 1,091 officers and there are only 14 recruits in the current recruiting class. The Sixth Division is the lowest manned division. Although they should have 66 patrol officers, they have only 48. This number does not include the command staff. The Sixth Division had 60 shootings so far this year and are fourth or fifth in the number of calls. The Sixth Division also leads the department in fatal accidents, with 24 as of October 24. The Eighth Division is second with 12 fatal accidents. Mayor Chesser would like to invite Major Robinson to attend either our January or February meeting.

Oath of Office and Financial Disclosure — Mr. Treitz said we will have to make arrangements for all Council members to be sworn in, and that everyone needs to fill out a Financial Disclosure Form. Mayor Chesser will forward these forms for everyone to fill out and return to Mr. Treitz. His firm is currently keeping these forms in their lock box, but he will send the forms to Mrs. Keefe to keep with the other City records she maintains. Everyone will also receive documents related to Open Records that they will need to acknowledge, sign, and return.

Champions Trace Lane Railroad Crossing — Mr. Treitz reported that Mayor Chesser and Mr. Fortwengler were involved in an investigation of the railroad tracks where they cross Champions Trace. The asphalt is breaking apart, and the engineers claim it is because the rails are not solidly affixed. BTM has determined via the ID number of the crossing that it belongs to Norfolk Southern. We've communicated with Derek Sublette at Norfolk Southern to have him confirm that it is in fact a Norfolk Southern line and that they will take care of the problem.

City Officials Orientations — Mayor Chesser reported that this non-mandatory orientation will take place on December 18 for Louisville area attendees. They were initially going to be in-person sessions. However, in order to comply with the Governor Beshear's executive orders regarding meeting during the COVID-19 surge, KLC transitioned the events to virtual sessions. There is no charge for KLC members, and participants can earn 2.5 hours of City Officials Training Center credits.

City Officials Academy — Mayor Chesser reported that the City Officials Academy will be held virtually on January 19-21. This Academy is an intense, multi-day training packed with practical information to help city leaders do their jobs. Both newly elected and experienced city officials are invited to attend. The cost for KLC members is \$199, which will be covered by Watterson Park. This is not mandatory.

Winter Newsletter — Mrs. Keefe asked for suggestions for content for our winter newsletter, which will be mailed sometime in February. Mayor Chesser mentioned that we should put an article on Helen Arnold's retirement. Mrs. Keefe will put this on our website as well. Mrs. Keefe said that if we can't come up with informative content, we should probably forego the winter newsletter and focus on the spring issue instead.

Website — Mrs. Keefe asked for new Council members to submit bios and headshots to her via email so she can update our website. Also, if any current Council member wants to update his or her bio and/or headshot, please email those updates to Mrs. Keefe as well.

Business Cards — Mrs. Keefe asked the new Council members to send her the information they want on their business cards, which she will design and order. She also asked that if any current member needs additional business cards to let her know.

January Meeting — Mrs. Keefe said she will be out of town for the January meeting but will be taking the laptop with her and plans to host the Zoom meeting as long as adequate wi-fi is available.

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 Helen Arnold, 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 7:54 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.