

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

February 14, 2022

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, 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.

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 not 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.”

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 January 10, 2022, 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 January 2022 in the amount of \$75,999 and expenses in the amount of \$37,754, resulting in a surplus of \$38,244. Mr. Wild explained that actual tax revenues will be lower than budgeted, as we prepared the budget before we reduced the tax rates. Mr. Wild also reported that revenues from the insurance tax have increased significantly this year. Mr. Wild clarified that the amount under Other Revenues is from House Bill 413, and this will be recurring. Mr. Treitz suggested that we give HB 413 revenues a separate placeholder space on the budget going forward, which Mr. Wild agreed to do. Mr. Bourke 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) — Mr. Crosby reported that our new contact person at KIPDA, Jennifer Wilson, is staying on top of everything. She checks in with Mr. Crosby weekly. KIPDA is looking for more guidance out of Treasury on how to file the report that is due by April 30 of this year.

Stober Road Flooding/BTM Study — Mr. Treitz reported that both he and Mayor Chesser have attempted to contact Craig Mount with BTM but haven’t received a response from him.

Newburg Road Sidewalk — Mr. Treitz participated in the Planning Design Review/Final Design Kick-off WebEx meeting on January 18. He reported that they are moving forward with the sidewalk project and have initiated the final design phase. They will submit the final plans in June and are hoping to start the project in the spring of 2023. The current topography doesn’t allow enough room for everything needed to build the sidewalk, so they’re going to take 3 1/2 feet from the center line of the turn lane on Newburg Road and contribute it to the sidewalk. The sidewalk will have curbs and gutters. They won’t need to reconstruct the roadway on Newburg Road, but they will re-stripe it.

KYTC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Poplar Level Road — Mr. Crosby reported that by the end of this week he will get the necessary documents drafted and submitted to get the process rolling. He will follow up with Mayor Chesser.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for February. She emailed John Aubrey asking about the differences in what various officers record on their activity sheets. Mr. Aubrey's response was that some officers write down every street they patrol, while others only summarize any activity they encounter.

JCLC Dinner Door Prize — Mayor Chesser reported that Mr. Wild won a door prize, an Okame Cherry tree, at the JCLC dinner. He donated it to Watterson Park, and it was planted by Grant Jones Landscaping and Design at the Lillian Wild Walking Path.

Good Citizen Recognition — Mayor Chesser asked everyone to bring ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree City USA/Arbor Day Guidelines for 2022 — Mayor Chesser received some correspondence from Tree City USA regarding compliance and shared it with Mrs. Welsh and Mr. Crosby. Mr. Crosby reviewed our existing tree ordinance against their minimum guidelines and determined that we are in compliance. Mrs. Welsh said that we need to have an Arbor Day celebration in order to remain a Tree City USA member.

Committee Reports — In response to Ms. Ewan's question about whether we will be bidding sanitation this year, Mr. Treitz said that we will be advertising for bids this spring and will award a contract by June for the next two fiscal years. Mayor Chesser asked Mrs. Keefe to begin working on the sanitation specs. Mayor Chesser asked if it would be beneficial for us to go with a three-year contract so we can lock in a better price. Mr. Treitz believes that a two-year contract is better than a three-year, as it gives us more leverage to ensure that we are happy with services. Mr. Wild reminded Mayor Chesser that we had previously talked about the possibility of using dumpsters versus carts in the Fort Bluegrass Mobile Home Park. Ms. Garrett mentioned that some people throw away mattresses, sofas, and other big items in dumpsters, so we should be aware of this possibility. Mayor Chesser will ask Republic what they charge for dumpsters and how frequently they pick them up.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mr. Bourke reported that at the February 8 meeting Major Robinson said they are still down several officers. He reported that they had a lot of problems with porch pirates during the holidays. There have been five robberies of businesses recently. Eighty to ninety percent of crimes are being committed by teenagers. The ShotSpotter system is being installed and should be up and running next month. Shootings are down overall compared to last year. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 9.

1234 Gardiner Lane: Potential New Tenant — Mayor Chesser reported that Keith Starling with CBRE Property Management Real Estate informed her that they are currently in negotiations with a potential new tenant for the front suite at this location. This tenant would load 18 to 20 refrigerated box trucks in the front parking lot every morning between the hours of 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. Mr. Starling asked Mayor Chesser to let him know if we have any concerns or suggestions. Council expressed concern about the noise and fumes from the trucks as well as the early hours of operation. Mayor Chesser is waiting to hear back from Mr. Starling to see when she and Ms. Ewan can do a site visit at the tenant's current location. Ms. Ewan asked if we can draft a noise ordinance or update an existing ordinance to ban the units or at least limit their hours of operation. Mr. Treitz doesn't think we can, as this is a commercial property that has been there for many years. If we foresee a problem, Mr. Treitz said we can look at other options. Mayor Chesser mentioned the possibility of asking CBRE to install a fence along that area to block the view and to possibly help buffer any noise.

General Updates Provided by the Mayor —

- KLC Award — Becky Ewan received an award from the Kentucky League of Cities for achieving Level 1 in City Governance. The City Officials Training Center is a voluntary continuing education program administered by KLC, and Level 1 requires 29 hours of approved courses and 1 hour of ethics training.
- Welcome Baskets — We will deliver welcome baskets to the new residents in Watterson Park at 4301 Milldaun Road, 4306 Annshire Avenue, 4307 Annshire Avenue, 3354 Newburg Road, and 1701 Larkmoor Lane.
- New Business in Watterson Park — Pickleball Euphoria is located inside the Resurrection Lutheran Church activity building located at 4209 Gardiner View Avenue. The newly renovated gymnasium offers three indoor pickleball courts with outdoor playing surfaces.

Let's Ask Geoff —

Mayor Chesser has created this new section that will address what's going on in areas surrounding Watterson Park. This is information she obtains directly from Geoff Wohl, who is the Legislative Assistant to Louisville Metro Councilman Pat Mulvihill. Mr. Wohl has given Mayor Chesser permission to share this information with us.

- The building on Preston across from the Watterson Express ramp is an Amazon facility. They are installing two hundred charging stations for electric delivery vehicles.
- Mr. Wohl said they have received complaints in the past about the railroad crossing on Bardstown Road but haven't received any recently. The by-pass has some structural issues, which has caused one of the northbound lanes to be closed.
- A resident in the 3400 block of Newburg Road called regarding a large mound of gravel that was left by the road after the water line relocation project. During recent heavy storms, the gravel washed into the ditch and the drainpipes, causing water to back up in the front yards. Mayor Chesser reached out to Steve Kurowsky, the sidewalk project engineer with Metro Government. Mr. Kurowsky contacted the Water Company, and they took care of it immediately.
- A Scooters Coffee Shop will be opening in what used to be a Chinese restaurant at 4036 Poplar Level Road north of I-264. The property next to it that was formerly Chase Bank is currently available for purchase and development.
- Regarding the Homeless encampment by Frisch's, Mr. Wohl said that Matt Bullock with the State Transportation Cabinet has abandoned all responsibility for dealing with it and has deferred to Metro Government to address it. Councilman Mulvihill's office has remained in touch with LMPD, Department of Community Services, Veteran's Outreach, Solid Waste Management, and other Social Service entities to look for a resolution. They have recently been in contact with State Senator McGarvey's office to seek relief on this. This site is one of three hundred locations throughout Louisville Metro and one of fifty identified to be vacated ASAP. Mr. Wohl said it is their policy to not evict "houseless" individuals while the temperatures are low, and that their office cannot compel any office of authority to remove them right now. They are hopeful as the weather becomes more temperate that this location can be vacated sooner rather than later. The good news is that several individuals from this location have accepted housing and/or treatment, according to LMPD.

Discussion ensued regarding homeless camps and the problems associated with them, as well as steps that are being taken by Louisville Metro to help this population. Mayor Chesser expressed concern about the safety of panhandlers that are in the medians, especially at night when they are difficult to see.

Thank You from the Mayor — Mayor Chesser thanked everyone for supporting her during the recent loss of her husband.

March Meeting — We're not sure whether or not we will meet in person in March. We will watch the COVID numbers and make a decision as we get closer to the meeting date. Mr. Treitz will check to see if we can do a hybrid meeting, where those who feel comfortable meeting in person can do so while the others can participate via Zoom. Ms. Garrett mentioned that Louisville Metro was still in the Red Zone last week. Mayor Chesser reported that JCLC is currently holding their meetings via Zoom; she wants to do what is in the best interest of all involved.

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 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 from notes and Zoom recording.