

# CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting  
Facilitated by Councilwoman Gina Garrett

January 11, 2021

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

**Roll Call** — Roll was called by Ms. Garrett. Present via Zoom video conferencing were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh; and Treasurer Jerry Wild. Clerk Aggie Keefe was absent.

**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 Gina know. Please do not call. I hope everyone is healthy, continues to practice social distancing, and wears their mask.”*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 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 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

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Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of December 2020 in the amount of \$49,779 and expenditures in the amount of \$31,120, giving a surplus of \$18,659. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mrs. 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

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**Road Resurfacing Project** — Mr. Johnson reported we are still waiting on the installation of the guard rails. Mayor Chesser said that Craig Mount with BTM Engineering called her and said if the guard rail hasn’t been installed by Wednesday of this week, he will call Louisville Paving and instruct them to put some type of barricade up to call attention to the ditch. He will also tell Louisville Paving that they might need to hire someone else to install the guard rail. We are concerned about potential safety issues with the exposed, open ditch.

**Stober Road Flooding** — Mayor Chesser reported for Mr. Treitz that he emailed Joe Exely with MSD to follow up on the progress of getting the ditch on Stober Road cleared out. He was informed that MSD awarded the contract. The contractor who won the award is currently on another job and told Mr. Treitz that he would check to see when they would be able to do the ditch work. Mr. Treitz checked with Mr. Exely on the retention basins that need cleaning out but as of today had not received a response.

**Champions Trace Lane Railroad Crossing** — Mayor Chesser spoke with Attorney Treitz today. He suggested that we not remove that spur line because of possible future liability issues. Since the potholes are so bad next to the rails, Mr. Treitz suggested that we can get the potholes filled. Council concurred. Mayor Chesser will contact Bill Stoll with Stoll Construction and Paving to have him patch the potholes.

**Ethics Board Vacancy** — Mayor Chesser reported that we need to fill the spot on this Board left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Fortwengler, who can no longer serve since being re-elected to Council. Helen Arnold agreed to serve on the Board. Mrs. Welsh said she thinks Mrs. Arnold would be ideal for the position. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to appoint Helen Arnold as the third member of the Ethics Board; 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. Mayor Chesser will notify Mr. Treitz that Council approved the appointment of Mrs. Arnold. Mr. Treitz will contact Mrs. Arnold to finalize the process. Mayor Chesser clarified that the Ethics Board is comprised of three residents.

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

Mayor Chesser sent a follow-up email to Scott Fitzhugh, the Managing Partner with Work-A-Haulix, regarding the thefts of catalytic converters from several of their vehicles. Mr. Fitzhugh said that so far, the improvements Watterson Park made seem to be working, as they haven't had any additional thefts. He expressed his appreciation for what the City has done to help alleviate this problem.

On the LMPD Crime Reports, Mayor Chesser noticed that Pegasus Limo Service on Poplar Level Road had several catalytic converters stolen. She emailed the owner, Carey Fieldhouse, regarding the thefts and assured her that their property would be added to the list of places for our off-duty officers to patrol. Also, on the recent Crime Reports, it was reported that someone attempted to cut a catalytic converter off of a vehicle parked at the YUM! Resource Center on Stober Road during the daytime. YUM! has their own security guards, who scared the trespassers off. Both of these incidents have been reported to John Aubrey, who will add these businesses to the list of places to watch more closely. Mrs. Welsh asked what makes catalytic converters a prime target for theft. Mayor Chesser said they contain platinum and can be sold at a local scrap yard.

**City Officials Orientation and City Officials Academy** — Mayor Chesser reported that Becky Ewan participated in the City Officials Orientation in December and Ms. Ewan also plans to attend the City Officials Academy, which will be held virtually on January 19-21, 2021.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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**LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting** — Mayor Chesser reported that this Board will have a Zoom meeting on January 12, 2021. Mayor Chesser asked if the Council has any questions or concerns they would like for her to address at Tuesday's meeting. Ms. Ewan asked if she could make them aware of our concern about the recent shootings in our area.

**Speed Alert Sign** — Mr. Johnson said he noticed that the driver feedback sign has been installed on Gardiner Lane.

**House Bill 413 – Court Costs Distribution** — This was passed by the 2004 General Assembly. It specifies an allocation formula for the distribution of certain court fees on criminal cases. Mayor Chesser reported that Mrs. Welsh did the initial legwork on this but that Mayor Chesser and Mr. Wild have since become involved. Local governments that have a police department or that contract for police services are eligible to receive a portion of those collected fees, which in turn must be used for payment of expenses for operation of police departments or contracted police services. Mr. Wild submitted invoices for off-duty patrol from the last six months. Mrs. Welsh said that originally the process seemed to be really involved. However, Tina Troxell with County Fee Systems assisted and simplified the process for us. We will receive quarterly payments.

**General Updates** — Mayor Chesser started a new item on our meeting agenda to cover general updates in our City that don't need lengthy discussion.

- Everyone should have received a copy of Helen Arnold's thank-you note. She was really touched by the kind words and the award with which she was presented.
- *Kmart property on Poplar Level Road update:* Per Geoff Wohl, District 10 Legislative Assistant, it is his understanding there is going to be an AutoZone Superstore, a Planet Fitness, and a big box retail. At one time they considered Ross, but it may be Burlington. Regarding a restaurant on the outlot, it may be Popeye's Chicken. He said he wishes he had more solid answers but he doesn't. The good news is they continued the project in the face of all of the current uncertainty. Ms. Garrett said she was pleased that this past Christmas, the Lights Under Louisville at the Louisville Zoo seemed to be run much more smoothly than in years past.
- Junk King is a national franchise with over 100 locations in 32 states. They recently opened a location in Louisville at 4400 Bishop Lane. Junk King is a "green" junk removal company.
- *Bellarmino property:* Bellarmino was leasing space for semi trucks to park on their property on Champions Trace Lane. It was quickly becoming a place to dump trash and old tires. Mayor Chesser contacted Bob Zimlich with Bellarmino University. Mr. Zimlich said they were aware of what was taking place and were attempting to remedy the problem. Listed below is their plan going forward:
  - Some trucks have already paid rent through January 31, 2021. Rent will not be collected for the month of February 2021. They will have 28 days to find parking elsewhere.
  - On March 1, 2021, barricades will be put up and any trucks or cars that are there will be towed.
  - At the same time, Bellarmino's Grounds Departments will be setting a dumpster and picking up all trash, cleaning up the fence line, cutting brush, and weed eating.
  - Once this is done, Bellarmino will have the manager of Watterson Medical Center monitor the lot. If an unauthorized vehicle parks there, the vehicle will be towed.
- Mayor Chesser received a copy of the PVA Annual Report and sent Council members a copy. This is the first time our City received this report, which contained a lot of interesting information and data.
- Mayor Chesser encouraged Council members to drive the City streets periodically to check for any problems that need to be addressed by Council.
- Mayor Chesser reported that an indoor-outdoor workout training facility is opening on the property at the corner of Poplar Level Road and Bunton.

**Street Light** — Mr. Fortwengler reported that a street light on Larkmoor Lane was out last week. Mayor Chesser asked him to check to see if it is still out and, if so, we will report it to have it replaced.

**New Business in the Back of Larkmoor Lane** — Mrs. Welsh will find out the name of the business that replaced the rescue fire department that was in back of Larkmoor Lane.

**Drive-Thru for New Council Members** — Mayor Chesser said that we should schedule a drive-thru around Watterson Park with Mr. Bourke and Ms. Ewan to familiarize them with our City boundaries.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Mrs. Welsh made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Bourke. 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 7:35 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Linda Chesser, Mayor

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Aggie Keefe, Clerk

Minutes transcribed from Zoom recording by Aggie Keefe.