

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Jefferson County Farm Bureau | 4200 Gardiner View Avenue | Louisville, Kentucky 40213

March 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call — Roll was called. Present were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh; Treasurer Jean Hall; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present were Attorney John Treitz, Attorney Duncan Crosby, Code Enforcement Officer George Stewart, and Deputy Sheriff Rob Skaggs.

Pledge of Allegiance — All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, legislative meeting as received; 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Hall reported revenues for the month of February in the amount of \$147,844 and expenses in the amount \$41,526, for a net income of \$106,318. She noted that under Legal and Professional, \$8,400 was for the recent audit. For Legal we had accrued \$15,000 in January and it came in at a little less than \$9,000, and she accrued another \$9,000 for February, so our net legal was a little less than \$3,000 for the month. Ms. Ewan made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Ms. Garrett. 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1391 Gardiner Lane Property — Mr. Treitz said we hope to have an update at the April meeting.

Stober Road Flooding— There was nothing new to report.

REACH Alert System — Ms. Ewan reported that we received an email from Ken Weber expressing concern about our low sign-up numbers. Mayor Chesser didn't notice any sign-ups from businesses. Mrs. Keefe said information as well as a sign-up link are on our website and in our most recent newsletter. Ms. Ewan asked those Council members who have not signed up to please do so.

Code Enforcement — Everyone was provided a copy of the Field Report for February.

- Mr. Stewart talked about 3356 Newburg Road, where they have several unrestrained dogs as well as a pig, and mattresses and garbage in the back yard. Louisville Metro is working an active case on them right now, but this has been going on-and-off for years without any results. Attorney Treitz agreed that Mr. Stewart should start hitting them with fines. Mr. Stewart will scan and e-mail a copy of any documentation and pictures to Mr. Treitz for his files.
- Mr. Stewart mentioned a residence on Regina Lane where the owner removed the branches from two trees and left the 12- to 15-foot tall stumps. He reached out to the property owner many months ago to ask that he remove the stumps but the owner has not complied. He will contact the owner again.
- Mr. Stewart issued several notices on Bantam Court to residents who are leaving their sanitation carts in the street. They appear to have at least four containers per residence. Our nuisance ordinance imposes a fine for leaving carts on the street.
- Mr. Stewart reported that he issued a parking citation on Larkmoor Lane for parking in the yard. The property owner said she couldn't reach anyone in the City to pay the fine. We discussed the need to include our lock box number on the form as well as remittance instructions. Mrs. Keefe will make the revisions and send a revised form to Mr. Stewart.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for March. We currently have only one shift that hasn't been filled. Mayor Chesser, Mr. Bourke, and Attorney Treitz had a conference call with John Aubrey to get an update on their services. Mr. Aubrey provided Mayor Chesser and Mr. Bourke with the cell phone numbers of patrolling officers to improve communication. Mayor Chesser said officers are now including more details on their shift reports. Mayor Chesser reported that the Sixth Division Meet Your Beat Officer event will be held on March 27 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Farmdale Baptist Church on Durrett Lane. Mrs. Keefe will put this on our website.

Newburg Road Sidewalk — There was nothing new to report.

Watterson Park Trees — There was nothing new to report.

Robards Lane — There was nothing new to report.

Resurrection Lutheran Meet Your Neighbor Night — There was nothing new to report. Mrs. Welsh will reach out again to Mr. Oleker.

Ethics Board — There was nothing new to report.

Welcome Baskets — Mayor Chesser reported that she and Ms. Ewan will soon be delivering six welcome baskets to new residents.

NEW BUSINESS

Sanitation Specs — We will be advertising for sanitation bids for services for the next two fiscal years. Bids will be due on April 5 and will be opened at the April 8 meeting. Mrs. Keefe drafted bid specs, which she will mail out to several carriers. Per Mayor Chesser, Mrs. Keefe will update the number of mobile homes on these specs to 120. Ms. Ewan suggested that we add Hometown Hauling to the list.

Election Year — Mayor Chesser reported that the candidate filing deadline for the November election is June 4 at 4 p.m.

Committee Reports —

Mr. O'Bryan reported that there are street lights out on Gardiner Lane near the Post Office, and at Newburg Road and Gardiner Lane.

Mr. Fortwengler drove the City streets and found that there is some rough asphalt on Robards Lane at the railroad tracks; Mayor Chesser said this part of Robards Lane belongs to Louisville Metro. There are two small pot holes on Champions Trace at Ole Brickyard Circle. Produce Road from Robards Lane up to Sullivan University is really rough. Residential streets look good. Mayor Chesser mentioned that there is a crack on Conaem Drive near the center of the street where pavement is separating; it might need to be repaired.

Mayor Chesser reported that Watterson Park pays for 178 street lights, 81 of which are acorn lights.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mr. Bourke attended the most recent meeting of this Board, where attendance is still up. The Officer of the Month was Detective Kathleen Gausepohl. Mayor Chesser said she asked LMPD about a problem that was brought to her attention by the manager of Hanger Clinic on Robards Lane. Dash Mart, their neighbor, has independent drivers that deliver their items. These drivers wait outside the business for the next order. They are urinating in the parking lot and all over the Hanger Clinic's dumpster. Delivery persons are sleeping in their cars in the parking lot while waiting on orders. Dash Mart does not have a public restroom. Mayor Chesser talked to LMPD but was told that there's not much they can do. Mayor Chesser told the manager of Hanger Clinic that it's a landlord/tenant issue and isn't under our control.

Miscellaneous Updates —

- Mayor Chesser reported that she has received numerous complaints regarding drivers speeding on Conaem Drive and ignoring the STOP sign at Conaem and Vineyard. She spoke with Elaine Thomas, Secretary for the JCPS Stober Road Building Manager. Ms. Thomas said she would address this in an email to their staff. Mayor Chesser said she has already noticed a difference in traffic.

- JCPS is hosting their first food truck at the Stober Road location on March 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Residents, businesses, and the City Council are invited to join them for some Mexican cuisine.
- The following businesses have moved: Kinnaird Carpet moved from Gardiner Lane and Poplar Level Road to Shelbyville Road; AWP moved out of the building at Gardiner Lane and Poplar Level Road; the Auto Truck & Fiberglass building at Watterson Park Road and Hodel Road is vacant.
- AST on Hodel Road was hit with graffiti again.
- Mayor Chesser provided everyone with a copy of the 2023 Jefferson County PVA Annual Report.

Salary Increase for Mayor — Ms. Garrett would like to discuss the possibility of raising the salary for the Mayor and suggested that Mayor Chesser step out while we discuss it. Mayor Chesser left the meeting at 8:15 and returned at 8:23. During Mayor Chesser’s absence, Ms. Garrett explained her rationale, noting that Mayor Chesser is really involved and puts in many hours, for which she isn’t compensated fairly. Council agreed. Ms. Garrett introduced, and John Treitz summarized, an ordinance raising the salary of the Mayor from \$1,250 to \$1,600 per month, for an annual salary of \$19,200, to be effective after the next election of the Mayor. There was some confusion about when the next Mayoral election will be held; we will check into it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adjourn; 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, Todd O’Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:25 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 audio recording.