

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

May 10, 2021

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

Clerk Aggie Keefe will not be present, so Marlene Welsh agreed to serve as Clerk. Council voted to appoint Mrs. Welsh temporary Clerk for this meeting.

Roll Call — Roll was called, and present were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Marlene Welsh; and Treasurer Jerry Wild. Also present was Attorney John Treitz. Absent were Councilman Phil Johnson and Clerk Aggie Keefe.

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

Mayor Chesser introduced Bob Williams, the new President of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau. He talked about some of the physical upgrades they have made as well as plans for future improvements. Before leaving, Mr. Williams said to let him know if there is anything we need.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021, 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, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of April 2021 in the amount of \$60,755 and expenses in the amount of \$31,610, giving a surplus of \$29,145. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the report as presented; 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, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Stober Road Flooding — Mayor Chesser reported that there was another flood event on April 28. Both YUM! and Precision Collision incurred water damage. We have no idea why the flooding continues. The culvert is 18 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Solutions were suggested, including the possibility of adding another culvert, building a retainer wall, or building a retainer basin. Weeds are starting to collect again and spraying the ditch may give a temporary solution. It was mentioned that since the construction of Derby City Gaming and their large concrete parking area, the flooding has become more serious and more frequent. Mr. Exely with MSD has been contacted again. Mayor Chesser mentioned that at last month's meeting there was a question about spraying the brush in the ditch close to the creek bed along Stober Road. She checked with Brandon Vincent, County Wide Lawn & Landscaping, and he said there is a blue line stream they are not permitted to spray beyond, but it is okay to spray along the guardrail.

American Rescue Plan — Attorney Treitz reported that the American Rescue Plan has allocated our city nearly \$200,000. This amount can be accepted or declined. If accepted, we could possibly use the money for charitable purposes within the framework of the plan or contribute them to other governmental units. It must be used by 2024. Cities will be offered an amount of money determined by their population. Mr. Bourke made a motion to accept the funds from the American Rescue Plan; 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, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

4420 Bishop Lane — Mayor Chesser reported that we were contacted by Mike Wright with Land Design & Development, Inc., regarding the development of the property at 4420 Bishop Lane, formerly the Dean Milk property. Attorney Treitz spoke with him regarding an encroachment that may require Watterson Park's approval. Since that discussion, Zoning has informed them they will not need our approval. Mr. Wright said \$15,750 was set aside for tree plantings and, since they will not be using it, the money was put into Metro's general fund. Mayor Chesser spoke with Sherie Long, with Metro Government Planning & Design Services, regarding the money for the trees and asked for that money to be used for tree plantings in Watterson Park since it was initially for a project located in our city. Since the money has been put into the general fund, Councilman Mulvihill will need to request that those funds be allocated to District 10 for tree plantings. An email has been sent to Geoff Wohl, Council Mulvihill's assistant, regarding the funds.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that everyone was provided a copy of the most recent monthly shift postings. Our patrol hours increased to approximately 119 hours in April.

Newburg Road Sidewalk — Mayor Chesser reported that she received an email update from Steve Kurowsky, Louisville Metro's Project Engineer, regarding the Newburg Road sidewalk project. Louisville Metro has been given a Notice to Proceed by KIPDA to begin design on the project. The Water Company will move their main out of the way this summer, so the project should not require a right-of-way phase. Mr. Kurowsky believes construction could begin in the fall of 2022. So far we have allocated approximately \$120,000 and Metro Councilman Mulvihill has allocated \$50,000.

Walkway on the Lillian Wild Walking Path — Mayor Chesser reported that Bill Stoll of Stoll Construction sent her an email stating they should start working on the walking path sometime this week. The project will include construction of the walkway, removing encroaching tree roots, and repaving the affected areas.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Ordinance — Mr. Treitz reported that he, Mayor Chesser, and Mr. Wild frequently check where we are financially based on the latest treasurer's report. As we now have only two months left before the end of our fiscal year on June 30, they began work on the new budget. Each line item of the proposed budget was discussed by the mayor, the treasurer, counsel, and the several members of the Council in attendance. Mr. Wild went over expected resources, explaining that we're anticipating property values and real property taxes will remain the same. Expected revenues are about the same as last year, at a little more than \$800,000. Mayor Chesser reported on appropriations, explaining that we've allocated approximately \$260,000 under General Government, which is a little higher than the current year. She went over the additional line items. Mr. Treitz said that with our high excess of resources over appropriations, we are one of the most solvent cities in Kentucky. Ms. Garrett introduced the budget ordinance for its first reading, making a motion to adopt the ordinance; seconded by Ms. Ewan.

Audit — Mr. Treitz reported that Mayor Chesser received an audit request from John McIntyre authorizing him to do the audit for the current year. Under the state statutes, we are required by law to perform an audit every other year in odd-numbered years; however, we can continue to do an annual audit. The cost to perform the audit annually is around \$6,000. Mr. Wild guessed that to perform the audit for two years would cost approximately \$7,500. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to authorize Mayor Chesser to execute the engagement letter for our audit with John McIntyre, CPA; 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, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Committee Reports — Mr. Fortwengler reported for the Public Works Committee that after he contacted MSD about the stopped-up drain at the end of Larkmoor Lane, MSD cleaned out the drain.

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser reported that the Citizens Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 12 at the Sixth Division headquarters. Mayor Chesser will not be able to attend this meeting, so Mr. Bourke has agreed to attend it in her absence.

General Updates — Mayor Chesser reported on the following:

- *Sullivan University Property for Sale* – Mayor Chesser noticed a For Sale sign at the Sullivan University campus, so she contacted Lauren Kelly, the Senior Director of Student Services. Sullivan University is selling the main building on Atkinson Square but plans to keep the Energy Technology building at that location. Ms. Kelly said the Residence Hall on Gardiner Point Drive is thriving.
- *Street Lights* – Watterson Park is responsible for the installation and payment for all streets lights within the city boundaries, including lights on state and Louisville Metro roadways.
- *Courier-Journal Letter to the Editor* – The Past President of the National Association of Letter Carriers located on Poplar Level Road sent Mayor Chesser a letter in response to her recent letter to the editor in *The Courier-Journal*, questioning a couple of Mayor Chesser’s comments about taxes we assess and services we provide. Attorney Treitz and Mayor Chesser are working together on a response. We will keep this response on file for future responses when our provided services are questioned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adjourn; 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, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:23 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 by Marlene Welsh; transcribed from notes and audio recording by Aggie Keefe.