

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

May 8, 2023

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, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh; Treasurer Jean Hall; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present were Attorneys John Treitz and Duncan Crosby, and State Representative Daniel Grossberg.

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

FEATURED GUEST

Daniel Grossberg, Kentucky State Representative for District 30, was present to address the Council. Mr. Grossberg spoke briefly about his background and his role in State government, then welcomed questions and comments. He was most interested in hearing about issues currently facing Watterson Park with which he could help us. Mr. Treitz mentioned the apartment complex that has been proposed for Gardiner Lane and expressed our concerns with the development. [Officer Dan Montgomery, the officer on patrol provided by Kentuckiana Law Enforcement, arrived at the meeting at 7:11 p.m.] Mr. Grossberg's suggestions were to first contact Councilman Pat Mulvihill. If we don't get a response, we should then contact Mayor Greenberg's office. Ms. Garrett asked about abandoned properties that could be updated instead of building new complexes. Mr. Grossberg said Mayor Greenberg is looking there first, but he realizes that we need new development as well to meet our needs.

Mr. Grossberg said one of the biggest issues we have is out-of-state developers who buy up properties and immediately board them up and shut off utilities, with the intention of waiting 10 to 20 years before doing anything with the property. Mr. Grossberg said he has introduced a bill to combat that issue. It would require that if you buy a property at public auction, you have six months to begin renovations and eighteen months to put it on the market, either as a rental or for sale. He is also working on a bill with the Mayor's office to get manufactured housing placed on vacant lots.

Mayor Chesser mentioned the downed chain-link fences along I-264 between Poplar Level Road and Newburg Road. People are parking on the shoulder of the Expressway and using the downed fence to access the Allstate Ford property, where they are stealing catalytic converters. We would like to have that fence repaired. Mr. Grossberg asked us to copy him on any correspondence we have with the State. He provided his cell number so that we can contact him if we need to. Mr. Grossberg left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, legislative 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

For the month of April 2023, Mrs. Hall reported revenues in the amount of \$34,039 with \$62,312 in expenses, giving a deficit of \$28,272. Mrs. Hall clarified that the Public Works expenditure included storm cleanup. Mayor Chesser said that securing the necessary office equipment for Mrs. Hall was included in the Office Supplies expense. Mr. Treitz commented that he and Mrs. Hall have been looking at our investments. We currently have \$400,000 less than the amount we initially invested in some bonds. Mrs. Hall explained that even though we're seeing that change in value as an unrealized loss, if we hold the certificates to maturity, we won't lose the money. There are some higher-rate opportunities out there, so we'll look further and see what changes need to be made. Mr. Johnson 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

1391 Gardiner Lane Property — Mayor Chesser said that we touched on this issue with Mr. Grossberg earlier in the meeting but we need to discuss it further. Attorney Treitz said that it would be appropriate to go into Executive Session at this time. Ms. Ewan made a motion to go into Executive Session; 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. The time was 8:09 p.m. Officer Dan Montgomery was asked to leave the room during this session. At 8:47 p.m., Ms. Garrett made a motion to come out of Executive Session; 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. No action was taken by the Council during Executive Session. Officer Montgomery was invited back into the room.

Code Enforcement Update — Everyone should have received a copy of the April Field Report. There were some issues listed that are being addressed by Mr. Stewart.

Attorney Treitz left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) — Mr. Crosby reported that our compliance filing was on time. After conferring with Mrs. Hall, he feels confident that we should be on track to have the ARPA money fully accounted for with payroll expenses and ARPA-related legal fees.

Stober Road Flooding/BTM Study — There were no updates.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for May. She noted that it is getting increasingly difficult to cover shifts on Sundays.

Newburg Road Sidewalk — There were no updates.

Robards Lane — There were no updates.

April 5 Tornado and Storm Damage — Mayor Chesser reported that County Wide Lawn & Landscaping worked around the clock to clean up debris. A tree is half down on the residence at the corner of Gardiner Lane and Annshire. Mr. Stewart has been working with the resident to get it cleaned up, but nothing has been done so far to remedy the issue. It is a rental, so he might need to contact the property owner to get it taken care of. Mayor Chesser contacted the property manager of 1234 Gardiner Lane regarding repairs needed to the fence that was damaged during the storm. She hasn't heard back from him.

Speed Humps on Larkmoor Lane — Mr. Fortwengler said he will have a report on this next month.

Watterson Park Major Event or Catastrophe Planning — There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports —

Mrs. Welsh reported that admission to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens is free, but they do not have a restaurant, nor can we bring food in. Based on these findings, she doesn't think it would make a good City-sponsored trip.

Mayor Chesser mentioned that the pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church would like to have a neighborhood gathering and cookout on our walking path property. Mayor Chesser needs to check with our insurance agent regarding potential liability. The results will determine whether or not to proceed with this event.

Ms. Ewan said T. J. Bryant, who owns Winn Supply on Bunton Court, contacted her regarding the nearby homeless camp. Mr. Bryant had called the Office of Resilience, hoping to get the encampment cleared. Officer Montgomery suggested that we call the DRO (District Resource Officer) in the Sixth Division. The DRO will contact Metro Government to set up trespass waivers and set a date for the occupants to be out.

Mayor Chesser thanked Mr. Johnson for taking care of getting the sinkhole on Conaem Drive repaired.

Mr. Fortwengler will send Mayor Chesser the addresses of properties on Larkmoor Lane where the residents constantly park in their front yard. She will forward that information to Mr. Stewart.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser said she plans to attend the meeting on May 10, hoping to find out more about the homeless encampments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler 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 9:27 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.