

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

October 11, 2021

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 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 Aggie.”

Pledge of Allegiance — Mr. Fortwengler displayed a picture of the American flag, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9 special 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.

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13 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

Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of September 2021 in the amount of -\$4,321 and expenses in the amount of \$28,189, resulting in a deficit of \$32,510 for the month. Mayor Chesser questioned Room Rental being listed under both General Government for \$.00 and also as a separate category under Expenses for \$100. Mr. Wild explained that we used to list it under General Government so he thought it might be best to leave it there so we can see that historically that is how it was. Ms. Garrett 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, 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 ARPA has extended the due date for the report that was initially due by October 31 to the end of April 2022. It will cover the time period from when we receive the funds through the end of March 2022. We need to decide whether or not to retain KIPDA to do the administration services for our City. The contract we received from KIPDA had some clauses with which our attorneys have concerns: (1) KIPDA wants us to give them half of the 1% fee immediately upon signing and the other half after we receive our ARPA funds next year. (2) The contract contains a 30-day termination clause, so if they terminate we could be left in a precarious position. (3) If either they or we terminate the contract, KIPDA would get to keep the first half of the fee regardless of how much work had been done. We sent KIPDA some revisions to the contract, and they informed us that the contract cannot be revised. Regardless, Mr. Treitz and Mr. Crosby both feel that we should sign the contract and assume that KIPDA will do everything they can to provide the services they are offering. We will be copied with all correspondence and will be maintaining our own records. Ultimately, we will be responsible for ensuring that the reports are turned in on time. Attorney fees are eligible administrative expenses. If we don’t

spend the funds, they would revert to the Treasury Department or we can give them to other governmental entities. Mr. Wild reported that when he and Mayor Chesser talked to the auditor today, it was decided that the funds should go into a liability account instead of income. It isn't clear yet whether or not the funds can be used for our drainage issues. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the contract with KIPDA to provide our City administrative assistance related to the ARPA funds; 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.

Stober Road Flooding – Proposal from BTM — Mayor Chesser reported that Dennis Diemer told her the YUM! Support Center property has not had any flooding during the past few rain events. Mr. Treitz said that BTM changed the contract terms for the Stober Road drainage study to state that they will start off with the historical analysis that we discussed at the last meeting. Based on the results, we should be able to determine who is responsible for any needed repairs. Mayor Chesser said everyone should have received a copy of a letter from BTM dated September 28 that outlines the terms of the study. Mr. Treitz suggested that in the interest of time, Mayor Chesser write “Agreed” along with a signature block at the bottom right-hand side of the letter and send it to BTM, as long as BTM agrees that this will suffice. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the revised contract with BTM in the amount of approximately \$6,400 for the Stober Road drainage study; 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.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Everyone was provided with a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for the month of October. Following the discussion at the September 13 meeting regarding the problem with filling the off-duty patrol shifts, the Watterson Park contract with Kentuckiana Law Enforcement (KLE) has been amended to include officers from Shively, St. Matthews, Middletown, and Jeffersontown. Everyone has been provided a copy of the signed amended agreement.

Off-Duty Patrol — Since we are still experiencing a shortage of officers and deputy sheriffs to fill our off-duty patrol shifts, we reached out to John Aubrey with KLE for suggestions. Mr. Bourke said that all of the smaller cities are having trouble getting shifts filled. Mr. Aubrey is recommending that all small cities raise the rate of pay from \$45 to \$50 per hour beginning January 2022, which might help attract more off-duty officers. The market is currently flooded with off-duty opportunities that pay from \$30 to \$70 an hour, which is contributing to the shortage. In addition, LMPD officers have plenty of overtime opportunities within the department, which is more enticing to the officers because it adds to their pensions. Council agreed that we should raise the rate to \$55 per hour effective immediately. We can ask Mr. Aubrey how much of the increase the officers themselves will actually receive. Mayor Chesser will also ask Mr. Aubrey how much of the hourly rate we pay actually goes to the officers. Mr. Bourke made a motion to increase the hourly rate paid for off-duty patrol with Kentuckiana Law Enforcement to \$55 per hour effective immediately; seconded by Mr. Fortwengler. After 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.

Homeless Encampment — Mayor Chesser reported that she reached out to Mike Nolan, Operations Director with Louisville Metro Government, to get an update on clearing the homeless encampment. Mr. Nolan was not aware of the fact that KYTC had installed the fence without clearing the encampment. He assured Mayor Chesser that the encampment will be cleared and he will work with Watterson Park to obtain a memo of understanding to keep the area cleared going forward. Also, she asked Mr. Nolan for a memorandum of understanding for the corner of Newburg Road at Bishop Lane. Mr. Nolan will follow-up with Mayor Chesser regarding these requests. Mayor Chesser will get a bid from Brandon Vincent for keeping the area cleared.

Mailing Lists and First-Class Mail vs. Publication of Ordinances — Mr. Treitz reported that we're looking into the cost to mail ordinances to residents instead of publishing them in *The Courier-Journal*, which would save us quite a bit of money. Mrs. Keefe said she recently updated the residential mailing list and it contains 490 addresses. The list includes the Fort Bluegrass Mobile Home Park as well as the apartments. Mrs. Keefe will get a cost estimate from United-Mail for printing and mailing future ordinances.

JCLC Annual Dinner — Mayor Chesser reported that the JCLC annual dinner is going to be held on November 18 at the Jeffersonian. The featured speaker is Heather French Henry; the program is honoring city women mayors in Jefferson County. The cost to attend is \$49.50 per person. Those who expressed interest in attending are Mayor Chesser, Steve Fortwengler, Marlene Welsh, Gina Garrett, Aggie Keefe, Jerry Wild, Becky Ewan, and Duncan Crosby. John Treitz and Jay Bourke will let Mayor Chesser know if they will be able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports — Mrs. Welsh reported that a street light bulb on Larkmoor Lane has been scheduled to be replaced.

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mr. Bourke reported that he will attend the next meeting of this board on October 13.

Estimate for Leaf Removal — Mayor Chesser reported that Brandon Vincent with County Wide Lawn & Landscaping emailed her an estimate for leaf removal along the curbs, gutters, and walking path. Everyone was provided a copy of the estimate. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to accept the bid from County Wide Lawn & Landscaping in the amount of \$1,200 for leaf removal; 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, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

General Updates Provided by the Mayor —

1. Some work was done outside Hearn Industrial Services at 1234 Gardiner Lane that involved tearing up the pavement. When the job was completed, the company that performed the work did not repair it. Mayor Chesser discovered that the work was done by AT&T. She contacted an individual with AT&T, and this person agreed to ask his manager to give Mayor Chesser a call regarding the issue.
2. We received our first quarterly check under HB 413 Court Costs Distribution in the amount of \$1,069.39 from the Kentucky Department of the Treasury.
3. On January 6, 2021, it was announced that operations at Greenlee, a Louisville-based manufacturer for Emerson Electric Company located at the corner of East Indian Trail and Jennings Lane, are being phased out over the next 18 to 24 months. The closure will impact approximately 60 employees. Mr. Wild will check to see if Greenlee is current on their property taxes.

John Treitz left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnson 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, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:08 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.