

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

September 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Jerry Wild; Attorneys John Treitz and Duncan Crosby; Joe Exely from MSD; Brad Allgeier from Stantec Engineering; and Deputy Rob Skaggs, the officer on duty from Kentuckiana Law Enforcement (KLE).

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

OLD BUSINESS

Stober Road Flooding— Joe Exely and Brad Allgeier presented maps of the areas around Stober Road in Watterson Park that are having flooding issues. They found out a couple of years ago that Precision Collision was flooding because of a drainage pipe that had a large obstruction. Once they removed the obstruction, they haven't had any major flooding events at that location since. The big issue now is the flooding by the JCPS building (former YUM! property). Working with Stantec, they determined that one solution would be to build a box culvert on Stober Road, which would be extremely costly. Because of the tremendous expense, they started looking at alternatives. They will continue working on a solution and will keep us informed. Mr. Exely and Mr. Allgeier left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Attorney Treitz called for Closed Session to talk about the property at 1391 Gardiner Lane. Mr. Bourke made a motion to go into Closed 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. The Council went into Closed Session at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to come out of Closed 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, and Council came out of Closed Session at 8:43 p.m. No action was taken by the Council during Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 1, Series 2023 — Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1, Series 2023, approving the possible purchase of real property at 1391 Gardiner Lane and authorizing the Mayor to conduct such surveys, studies, and similar matters as she shall deem necessary or advisable, and to enter into a letter of intent and a purchase agreement at her reasonable discretion; 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, legislative meeting as received; 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.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

For the month of August 2023, Mrs. Hall reported revenues in the amount of \$118,895 with \$45,140 in expenditures, giving a surplus of \$73,755. Ms. Ewan made a motion to approve the report; 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. Attorney Treitz said an attorney at their law firm has been monitoring the various Planning and Zoning dockets to ensure that we didn't miss any public hearings or actions for the property at 1391 Gardiner Lane. They will discontinue doing so as it is no longer necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

Newburg Road Sidewalk — Mayor Chesser reported that Steve Kurowsky sent her an update on the Newburg Road sidewalk. He received some final documents that he needed authorized by KYTC, and he sent the bid document to them. They requested that Watterson Park send the funds committed for the project and then Metro Council would pass a resolution to accept the funds. Mr. Treitz emailed Mr. Kurowsky stating that Metro Council needs to pass the resolution first and then Watterson Park will submit the funds. Ms. Ewan made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2, Series 2023, resolving that after Louisville Metro agrees to accept payment from the City of Watterson Park for the Newburg Road sidewalk project, the Treasurer is authorized to send a check to Metro in the amount of \$120,000; 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. Mayor Chesser will notify Mr. Kurowsky that we passed the resolution and that we will write the check when they notify us they will accept it.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Ordinances —

Ms. Garrett introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary to an ordinance regarding the assessment of all real property and the levy of tax thereon at a rate of 5.7¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024; seconded by Ms. Ewan. Attorney Treitz explained the process used to calculate the compensating tax rate, and everyone was provided a copy of the tax rate chart. Attorney Treitz pointed out that the 5.7¢ tax rate is a slight decrease from last year's rate of 5.8¢. He said that we had approximately \$10 million net of increased valuation this year, which is not part of the compensating tax rate; it has been added at the end. Ms. Ewan asked if we can keep the rate at 5.8¢. She is concerned that people will be unhappy if we need to raise taxes in the future. Mr. Treitz said that lowering the tax rate will not decrease the amount of revenue we receive, as we have new properties that will bring in revenues. He said it's always good to be able to lower the taxes whenever possible, as long as it doesn't hurt us financially. Attorney Crosby agreed that to be able to reduce taxes slightly while our revenues go up is nice. Ms. Ewan said that according to her calculations, we would be bringing in \$2,000 less. Mr. Treitz explained that this is not the case, as we did not receive the amount of expected tax last year. Mrs. Hall suggested that there were a handful of properties that were delinquent that could have accounted for the difference.

Mr. Johnson introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary to an ordinance regarding the assessment of all motor vehicles and watercraft and the levy of tax thereon at a rate of 7.0¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for the year 2024; seconded by Ms. Garrett.

Mrs. Welsh introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary to an ordinance regarding the assessment of all tangible personal property and the levy of tax thereon at a rate of 5.0¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024; seconded by Ms. Ewan.

Due to time constraints, we will need to hold a special meeting to give second readings to these tax ordinances. It was decided to hold this meeting via Zoom videoconferencing on Friday, September 15, at 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Keefe will be out of town, but she will set up the Zoom meeting and send the invitation to Council, officers, attorneys, and Willa. She will also post the Zoom invitation on our website. Mrs. Keefe will send the Zoom user ID and password to Ms. Garrett, who agreed to host the meeting.

Attorney Treitz left the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Watterson Park Major Event or Catastrophe Planning — Mayor Chesser reported that Ms. Ewan reached out to Mr. Weber, COO of REACH Alert, and he will attend our November meeting to discuss their service.

1234 Gardiner Lane — Mayor Chesser reported that following the theft of the newly installed fence planks and 2x4s, a few "Under Video Surveillance" signs have been installed on the fence and a video camera was positioned close by. Raatz Fence Company is going to replace the missing sections of the fence and try to better secure it.

Speedway/Red Roof Inn Area — Mayor Chesser reported that after making several calls to Speedway headquarters and getting the run-around, she was given the name of Logan Darvey, who is the Facilities Manager for Speedway. Mayor Chesser contacted Mr. Darvey and mentioned to him that in 2017 we had a meeting with Speedway and Red Roof Inn representatives to discuss some issues with the properties and, at that time, the representative with Speedway said they would clean up the area behind the property. Mr. Darvey agreed to check out the area, and it has since been cleaned up. Mayor Chesser passed the contact information along to George Stewart.

Code Enforcement Update — All should have received the monthly field report.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for September.

Robards Lane — Nothing to report this month.

Speed Humps on Larkmoor Lane — Mayor Chesser reported that Craig Mount with Bowman Engineering sent the specs for the two new speed humps on Larkmoor Lane and the location of the three speed humps on Champions Trace that need new markings. She asked Mr. Fortwengler and Mrs. Welsh to review the speed hump locations on Larkmoor Lane and let Mayor Chesser know if they agree with them. She will then notify Mr. Mount to put together the detail sheets.

Resurrection Lutheran Meet Your Neighbor Night — Mrs. Welsh was informed by Mr. Oleker at Resurrection Lutheran Church that he is still working on this event.

Ethics Board — Mayor Chesser said Randy Catlett agreed to serve on this Board. Before we list Mr. Catlett's phone number on our website, Mayor Chesser will get his approval to do so.

Emergency Contact Form — There was nothing to report this month.

NEW BUSINESS

Lillian Wild Walking Path — Mayor Chesser reported that Ms. Ewan informed her that someone left a pile of camping gear and other items at the walking path. In addition, Mayor Chesser received an email from Leann at Jefferson County Farm Bureau stating that a homeless person was discovered camping on the front porch of their building. Also, a couple of panhandlers recently came into the Farm Bureau building asking for money. Mayor Chesser forwarded Leann's email to Councilman Mulvihill, Geoff Wohl, and Major Vance and Resource Officer Amber Ross at the Sixth Division. She also made them aware of the camping gear that was left at the walking path. We are in the process of drafting an ordinance that establishes hours for the walking path and prohibits loitering there. We'll need to get signs made and installed and also make our KLE patrol aware of the situation.

Business Building Tagged — Mayor Chesser mentioned that the upper level of the Advance Sports Training building at Hodel Road and Watterson Park Road was recently tagged.

Appointment of Acting Clerk — Attorney Crosby said that the Council can appoint anyone who is not a Council member to act as temporary Clerk in the Clerk's absence. Jean Hall agreed to serve in this capacity at the upcoming Zoom meeting. Mr. Bourke made a motion to appoint Jean Hall as temporary clerk for the upcoming special meeting on September 15; 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.

Additional Street Lights — Mayor Chesser met with LG&E about adding a street light to an existing utility pole at Watterson Park Road by the soccer complex and another light around the corner on Stober Road.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser will try to attend the September 13 board meeting. Mr. Bourke might attend as well.

Committee Reports — Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adjourn; 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 and meeting adjourned at 9:53 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.