

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting
Facilitated by Clerk Aggie Keefe

February 8, 2021

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

Roll Call — Roll was called by the Clerk. Present via Zoom video conferencing 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 was Attorney John Treitz.

Pledge of Allegiance — The Clerk displayed the American flag on-screen, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Address from 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 my phone 502.458.7613 and I will let Aggie know. Please do not call. I hope everyone is healthy, continues to practice social distancing, and mask-wearing.”*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021, 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

Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of January 2021 in the amount of \$34,240 and expenses in the amount of \$95,637, giving a deficit of \$61,397. Mr. Wild clarified that the amount spent under Maintenance - Roads/Sidewalks included the recently completed road work. Mr. Fortwengler 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Lawn and Tree Maintenance Contracts — Brandon Vincent with County Wide Lawn and Landscaping was present to answer any questions we might have regarding proposals he recently submitted. Mayor Chesser summarized the proposal for lawn care turf and fertilizer applications. Mr. Vincent clarified that he added a pre-emergent this year because of the crab grass breakthrough last year. Also, the cost of fertilizer went up, so he passed that increase along to us. Mr. Vincent proposed six turf applications and two fertilizer applications for a total cost of \$1,940. Attorney Treitz said that when we break down Mr. Vincent’s bids into the distinct different types of maintenance and overall right-of-way maintenance, we are under the maximum that would require public bidding for contracts. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the lawn turf/fertilizer application estimate; 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.

Mayor Chesser summarized the County Wide Lawn and Landscaping mowing estimate in the amount of \$10,596. Mayor Chesser explained that County Wide's crews mow several different areas, requiring them to unload and load equipment for each area. Ms. Garrett made a motion to approve the mowing estimate as submitted; 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.

Mayor Chesser presented the estimate submitted by County Wide Lawn and Landscaping for the mulching of trees, trimming of trees and shrubs, spraying landscape beds around trees, and spraying curbs for a total of \$18,641. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the estimate as submitted; 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.

Mayor Chesser presented the final County Wide Lawn and Landscaping estimate, which covers watering of trees and flowers on an as-needed basis up to a maximum of \$5,775. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the estimate as submitted; 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.

Before leaving the meeting, Mr. Vincent told Council members to let him know if he misses any streets or if they have any concerns. Mr. Vincent left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Road Resurfacing Project — Mr. Johnson reported that the road resurfacing project is now complete. He mentioned that where Watterson Park Road runs into Stober Road, diagonal reflector signs were installed to alert drivers.

Stober Road Flooding — Attorney Treitz reported that Joe Exely told him they are getting ready to do a pre-construction walk with the contractor. However, the contractor is still at least two weeks away from starting the project. Mr. Treitz still hasn't heard back from Mr. Exely regarding cleaning up the retention basin at the Post Office. Mr. Treitz said that every time he communicates with Mr. Exely, he copies Derek Sublette with the railroad. Mr. Treitz doesn't have confirmation that they have obtained the requisite approval from the railroad. This is something the contractor does, but he doesn't know who the contractor is. Mr. Treitz mentioned in an email to Mr. Exely that it is possible that there is far more run-off water going into that ditch than we have had in years past because of things that MSD has done uphill from the ditch in that general area. Mr. Exely hasn't responded to that email.

Champions Trace Lane Railroad Crossing — Mayor Chesser reported that she contacted Bill Stoll with Stoll Construction & Paving regarding the potholes in the pavement by the railroad tracks on Champions Trace Lane. The estimate for the repair is approximately \$750. Mr. Stoll said that as long as the railroad tracks are moving, this will be an ongoing problem. The repair should hold for several years, but Mr. Stoll can't guarantee that. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to authorize up to \$750 for this repair; 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.

Mayor Chesser reported that there are two dips in the road as you turn onto Champions Trace from Bishop Lane where the pavement was previously cut for fiber optic cable and was not patched properly. Star Construction was contacted on several occasions and did add some asphalt to the areas, but they

continue to sink, possibly due to the fact that they did not pour a concrete base. There are two 3-ft. by 4-ft. areas, and Stoll Construction can repair both at a total cost of \$250. Mayor Chesser suggested, and Attorney Treitz agreed, that we could go ahead and authorize the repairs and pay the bill, then send the bill to Star Construction to see if they will pay it. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to authorize \$250 for these repairs; 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.

City Officials Academy — Ms. Ewan attended the virtual three-day City Officials Academy January 19 through 21. She reported that they touched on 27 different topics, including law, open records, social media platforms, finance, and budgeting. The presentation was detailed, organized, and informative.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Mayor Chesser reported that she emailed the most recent Monthly Shift Posting to all Council members except for Ms. Garrett, to whom she mailed a hard copy. She said that she sends the daily shift report to Mr. Bourke, Ms. Ewan, and Mr. Johnson per their requests. Mrs. Welsh asked Mayor Chesser to send her the daily shift reports as well. We did add some hours to the late-night shifts, and Mayor Chesser has been monitoring crime mapping. We've had to ask the off-duty officers to focus more on our businesses, as they have been targeted recently by thieves.

House Bill 413 — Mr. Wild will let us know if we get a check for our portion of the collected court fees covered by this Bill. We submitted the necessary documents and should receive quarterly payments.

NEW BUSINESS

Committees — Mrs. Keefe sent everyone a copy of the list of Watterson Park committees for discussion and updating at tonight's meeting. Mr. Fortwengler agreed to join Mr. Johnson on the Health & Safety Committee. Mr. Fortwengler will handle street lights; Mr. Johnson will take care of pest control. Mr. Bourke agreed to co-chair with Mayor Chesser on the Property Violations Committee. Ms. Ewan will assist Mayor Chesser on the Business Liaisons Committee. Mr. Bourke agreed to join Mayor Chesser and Mr. Johnson on the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Fortwengler will serve on the Public Works Committee with Mayor Chesser and Mr. Johnson. Ms. Ewan will help with the Sanitation Committee. Mrs. Welsh will serve on the Urban Forestry Committee. Ms. Ewan will assist Mrs. Welsh on the Events Committee. Mrs. Keefe will update the Contact Us page on our website with this revised information.

Mayor Chesser expressed concern about the ongoing problem with some of our residents not wheeling the emptied sanitation carts back to their houses after pickup. Some leave them at the curb for several days; others don't return them at all. Can we pass an ordinance that fines residents if they leave their carts at the curb? Discussion ensued regarding possible avenues to pursue to remedy this problem. It was decided that Mr. Treitz will draft a letter that we can send to offenders, letting them know that if they don't return the carts to their homes in a timely manner after pick-ups, we will be forced to adopt an ordinance whereby they will be fined for each infraction. Attorney Treitz will send the letter to Mayor Chesser for approval.

LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting — Mayor Chesser reported that this Board will have a Zoom meeting on February 9, 2021. Mayor Chesser asked the Council to let her know if they have any questions or concerns they would like for her to address at the meeting. Ms. Garrett said she heard that Metro is working on some new tactics for helping the homeless population. She hopes to get updates at tomorrow's meeting.

General Updates — Mayor Chesser reported on the following:

- At the January 21, 2021, JCLC meeting, Steve Hannah with LG&E discussed LED lighting service for cities. Mayor Chesser sent a copy of the presentation to the Council for their review. In July 2019, Watterson Park provided 161 street lights throughout the city. Our current number is approximately 223 lights. Mayor Chesser will ask for an updated audit from LG&E.

- 4420 Bishop Lane (formerly Dean Milk property) Public Hearing – Mayor Chesser participated in the virtual Development Review meeting held on January 20, 2021. The property is zoned M-2 and is owned by IAC (International Airport Centers), a Delaware limited liability company. The plan is to build a warehouse that will be leased to up to three tenants.
- Bob Williams is the newly elected President for the Jefferson County Farm Bureau. He replaces Calvin Shake and will serve a five-year term.
- Tree City Certification – Mary Garris with Stoll Keenon Ogden prepared and submitted the application to the Arbor Day Foundation for our recertification as a Tree City USA for 2020. We received notice that the application was approved, making this our 18th year as a Tree City.
- KLC is offering 2021 Legislative Update Sessions at no charge to KLC members.
 - KLC Executive Director/CEO J.D. Chaney and Director of Public Affairs Bryanna Carroll will hold three on-line updates on the 2021 session. The meetings will provide timely information and ensure you are up to speed on what is happening at the Capitol. Session updates will be held on February 19, March 5, and March 22.
 - These updates will include valuable insight into legislative procedures and statutes that affect local governments. KLC encourages you to register for and attend each session, as the information will frequently change as the session progresses.
 - Credit: 1 hour City Officials Training Center credit and/or Training Incentive Program (House Bill 119) credit for each session.
 - Mayor Chesser is signed up for these sessions. She asked Council members to let her know if they are interested in attending so she can add their names to the registration form. Ms. Ewan and Mrs. Welsh would like to attend.
- Welcome Baskets – In the past, we have delivered a fruit/snack basket along with printed materials to new residents. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to continue this courtesy and, if so, whether to include renters as well as homeowners. Mayor Chesser said that as of October 2020, we had 190 residential homes, 43 of which were rentals. Council decided to continue with delivering welcome baskets and to include renters as well as homeowners. Mayor Chesser asked Council members to give her the names and addresses of any new residents in their areas so she can order the gift baskets and arrange to deliver them.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Welsh made a motion to adjourn; 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 and meeting adjourned at 8:34 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 from notes and Zoom recording by Aggie Keefe.