

# CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

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

September 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Roll Call** — Roll was called. Present were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan; Treasurer Jean Hall; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present were Representative Daniel Grossberg; Officer Chris Morris representing Kentuckiana Law Enforcement (KLE); and resident Jay Bourke.

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

**Daniel Grossberg** — Representative Daniel Grossberg presented a tribute plaque from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in memory of John G. Treitz, Jr. Mr. Grossberg also followed up on an e-mail he received from Mayor Chesser regarding a section of fence that is down near I-264 and Cross Jeep; he forwarded the e-mail to the Secretary of Transportation to take care of. Representative Grossberg left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mrs. Bumphus. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

### APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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Mrs. Hall reported revenues for the month of August 2025 in the amount of \$138,061 with \$60,051 in expenses, resulting in a net income of \$78,010.

Mrs. Hall clarified the following:

- The -\$106 under *Property Taxes – Prior Year* was due to refunds for the homestead exemptions in prior years.
- The \$10,001 under *Revenues – Other Revenues* was the settlement from RaceTrac.
- Attorney Crosby ensured the legal invoices for SKO are up-to-date. Consequently, the large expenditure of \$24,583 under *Legal & Professional* was a catch-up, as Mrs. Hall has been accruing one month in addition to the one month that we were always behind.
- A large portion of the nearly \$6,000 under *Office Supplies & Expense* was for accounting software and email subscription expenses.
- The \$500 under *Community Services* was for a donation to the Salvation Army in memory of Attorney John Treitz.
- We have a new line item called *Current Assets – Park* for expenses related to the development of the 1391 Gardiner Lane property. For August, \$16,335 was paid for the first invoice from the engineers.

Ms. Ewan made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mr. O'Bryan. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Major Chesser clarified that the fence to which Representative Goldberg referred is on Gardiner Point Drive behind Cross Jeep, where an entire section of chain-link fence is down.

### NEW BUSINESS

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**Resignation of Councilwoman Jackie Bourke** — Mayor Chesser reported that Jackie Bourke resigned from the Council effective today. Under Kentucky law, the resignation becomes effective tonight, which is the first Council meeting following her resignation. We have 30 days to fill the vacancy. Jay Bourke, who previously served on the Council, expressed his interest in being appointed. He is semi-retired and should be fully retired by the end of the year. Ms. Ewan made a motion to appoint Jay Bourke as the replacement for Jackie Bourke on the City Council; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion passed with a vote

of 5-0. Mayor Chesser administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Bourke, after which he joined the Council members for the remainder of the meeting. Mr. Bourke said he already has a copy of the Open Records Act, so Mayor Chesser doesn't need to supply him with one.

## OLD BUSINESS

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**1391 Gardiner Lane Property** — Mayor Chesser and Ms. Ewan will be meeting with the Kleingers Group on September 22. Before that meeting, The Kleingers Group would like for us to decide on a name for the park development. They offered a few suggestions, with the Council deciding on *The Preserve at Watterson Park*. Mayor Chesser reported that she checked with our insurance agent to see if there will be any liability issues with the playground area. He assured her there wouldn't be because all specified products in our plans meet the required safety standards. There might, however, be a slight increase in our insurance premium.

**Code Enforcement** — Everyone was provided a copy of the Field Report for August. Several violations were discussed. Mayor Chesser will report them to George Stewart. Going forward, whenever Mr. Stewart issues a fine, he will copy Mayor Chesser, who will then forward it to Jean Hall. Mr. Fortwengler asked if Mr. Stewart could include weekends in his rounds. Mayor Chesser will find out if this is a possibility.

**Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings** — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for September. Mr. Bourke reported that he provided Major Mindy Vance with a copy of September's postings.

**Flock Camera** — There were no updates.

**Regina Lane Curb and Lawn Repair** — Work on this project has not yet begun.

**Nuisance Ordinance** — The fines imposed under our current nuisance ordinance were discussed. Mayor Chesser feels like we need to increase the fines. Council will continue to review the current ordinance and determine if we need to make any revisions. Mayor Chesser will send a copy of the nuisance ordinance to Mr. Bourke.

## NEW BUSINESS

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### Tax Ordinances —

Mrs. Hall talked about the process used to calculate the compensating tax rate for real property, and everyone was provided a copy of the Calculation of Compensating Tax Rate. She explained that because property values increased by nearly \$48 million, we need to lower our real property tax rate from the current 5.7¢ to 5.1¢ to stay below the 4 percent increase in tax revenues allowed by law. Otherwise, we would need to hold a public hearing. Because of time constraints, we can't hold a public hearing this year.

Ms. Garrett introduced and gave first reading in full to an ordinance providing for the assessment of all real property and for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes thereon at a rate of 5.1¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Ms. Ewan introduced and gave first reading in full to an ordinance providing for the assessment of all tangible personal property and for the levy and collection of ad valorem taxes thereon at a rate of 5.0¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Mr. Bourke introduced and gave first reading in full to an ordinance levying an ad valorem property tax on all motor vehicles and watercraft at a rate of 7.0¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for the year 2026.

Due to time constraints, we need to hold a special meeting to give second readings to these tax ordinances. It was decided to hold this meeting via Zoom videoconferencing, if allowed, or at Mayor Linda Chesser's residence on September 16 at 6 p.m. Mrs. Keefe will revise the proposed tax ordinances to reflect Jay Bourke instead of Jackie Bourke on the last page of each and e-mail the revised ordinances to all involved prior to the special meeting.

**Audit Engagement Letter** — Mrs. Hall reported that Cobb & Associates submitted an audit engagement letter for fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The Council needs to approve the \$8,400 expenditure, which is the same cost as the prior year. Ms. Ewan made a motion to approve \$8,400 for the audit fee; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Jay Bourke, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

**HB 413 Update** — Mrs. Hall reported that she submitted the necessary forms for these funds.

**Donation to the Salvation Army** — Mayor Chesser reported that we received approval to donate \$500 to the Salvation Army in memory of John Treitz.

**Committee Reports** —

- Business Liaison Committee  
No updates.
- Citizen Liaison Committee
  - Mayor Chesser reported that she and Ms. Ewan delivered welcome baskets to new residents on Conaem Drive and Regina Lane.
  - Ms. Ewan reported that she attended a public meeting about middle housing on September 2 put on by Louisville Metro Office of Planning. Rachel Casey, the senior planner in charge of the meeting, told Ms. Ewan that there were some small changes to the proposal from April but that she is unable to make those changes public at this time. Ms. Casey said it is a very politically motivated issue, but she hopes to get the proposal through Louisville Metro this year.
- Communications Committee  
No updates.
- Finance Committee
  - Mrs. Hall clarified that we pay for 183 street lights.
  - Mrs. Hall reported that based on prior year tax files, we have 534 total properties in Watterson Park: 199 residential; 1 mobile home park; 117 mobile homes; 70 industrial warehouse; 39 commercial warehouse; 13 manufacturing; 81 other commercial; and 14 other-other. When she gets the new files for 2025, Mrs. Hall will update this list with the values beside each property.
- Public Safety Committee
  - REACH Alert* — Ms. Ewan reported that we have 71 people signed up for Reach Alert.
  - LMPD Sixth Division Advisory Board Meeting* — Mr. Bourke attended the September 3 meeting, where he made them aware of the homeless encampments on Champions Trace; Major Vance said they will monitor them. Officer of the Month went to Detective Semar, who was selected for his exceptional work on a theft investigation that resulted in the arrest of three subjects for stealing engine control module computers out of semi-trucks. Twenty-nine were recovered and returned to their owners. Three suspects, all from Texas, were arrested in Bowling Green. The Sixth Division is selling coupon books again this year for a fundraiser. National Night Out went well.
- Public Works Committee
  - Road conditions; potholes* —
    - Mr. Bourke noticed that there were markings on Robards Lane, but nothing appears to have been done to the road.
    - Ms. Garrett is anxious to see how well the drain that was built across Vineyard works when we get a heavy rain, as it appears to be pitched away from the ditch.
  - *Street lights; illegal signs* — Mr. O'Bryan recently reported two street lights but doesn't know whether or not they have been repaired.

Sanitation Committee

No updates.

- Tax Bills Committee  
No updates.
- Urban Forestry and Green Space Committee
  - Ms. Garrett said three small trees on the walking path are dying. Mayor Chesser reported this to Brandon Vincent, County Wide Lawn & Landscaping; he should be removing them.
  - Ms. Garrett reported that the area around the creek behind Vineyard Street has really grown up. Mayor Chesser said Brandon Vincent mows it several times a season.
  - Mayor Chesser will report the dead trees at the end of Larkmoor Lane to Brandon Vincent.

**Op Ed in Courier-Journal** — Mayor Chesser passed out a printout of an article by Joseph Gerth that appeared in *The Courier-Journal* calling for small cities in Jefferson County to be dissolved.

**JCLC Annual Dinner** — Mayor Chesser will let us know when she gets information on this dinner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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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, Shelia Bumphus, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, and Todd O'Bryan. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 9:07 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Linda Chesser, Mayor

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Aggie Keefe, Clerk

Minutes taken and transcribed by Aggie Keefe from notes and audio recording.