

**CITY OF WATTERSON PARK**  
**LEGISLATIVE MEETING**  
via Zoom Video Conferencing

**November 9, 2020**

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 Helen Arnold, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Phil Johnson, and Marlene Welsh; Treasurer Jerry Wild; Clerk Aggie Keefe; and Attorney John Treitz.

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

**Welcome to the Meeting** — Mayor Chesser welcomed everyone. Joining us from the LMPD 6th Division were Lt. James McGaha and Resource Officers Amber Ross and Jaron Skillman. Major Robinson was not able to be with us this evening, as he is addressing the recent passing of his pastor. Mayor Chesser thanked the Lieutenant and Officers for their service and for joining us this evening. Lt. McGaha introduced himself and said that he has been in law enforcement for 23 years. He is the day work lieutenant in the Sixth Division. He asked us to let him know if there's anything that he can help us out with. Officer Amber Ross introduced herself. She has been with Louisville Metro Police for eight years. She was formerly in patrol but is now a division resource officer. She said if we have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to her. Officer Jaron Stillman said he has a total of nine years in law enforcement, with three of those years in Louisville Metro. He was previously with Bardstown Police. He started in patrol and is now a division resource officer. If we have any concerns, he asked us to let him know and he will address them.

Officer Ross asked us what our major concerns are. Mayor Chesser mentioned the break-ins on Bunton Court at the public storage facility, Winlectric, and Allstate Ford. The officers are aware of these problems and are addressing them. Mayor Chesser and Mr. Johnson will take a look at the patrol schedule to see if there are any hours that can be shifted around to give more attention to these areas. Mayor Chesser asked Lt. McGaha if he thinks more lighting would help in those areas. He suggested that we ask the owners of the storage facility to give the officer on duty the code so he or she can patrol inside the property. Mayor Chesser said that since Watterson Park has a storage unit at this facility, we could give our code to the officer on duty. Mayor Chesser will check with the owner of the storage facility to see if this would be allowed.

Officer Ross said they are in the process of planning the Shop With a Cop event. They are asking for donations from local area businesses. If we know of any children who would benefit from this program, send Officer Ross their information. We are welcome to assist in wrapping gifts if we want to help out.

Lieutenant McGaha and Officers Ross and Skillman left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

**Election** — Mayor Chesser congratulated Council members for winning the recent election.

**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 and continues to practice social distancing."*

**The Kentucky Open Records and Open Meetings Act** — Attorney Treitz said that Council members will be sworn in during the month of December. All will be given copies of the Open Records documentation and will need to fill out, sign, and submit proof of receipt for our City files.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020, legislative meeting as received; seconded by Mr. Johnson. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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**

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Mr. Wild reported revenues for the month of October 2020 in the amount of \$160,897 and expenditures in the amount of \$54,415, giving a surplus of \$106,482. Mr. Wild explained that we paid \$16,639 to the County for processing the tax bills. Of the \$11,700 for legal and professional fees, \$6,125 was for the audit. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to approve the report as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arnold. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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**

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**Road Resurfacing** — Mr. Johnson said the roads have been paved. They still need to do the road striping and install the guard rail. He hasn't received any communication from the engineering firm so he doesn't know what the timeline is to complete the project. Mayor Chesser said Brandon Vincent with County Wide Lawn & Landscaping told her that Hodel Road will be so much easier to maintain because of this project.

**Stober Road Flooding** — Attorney Treitz reported that we have been corresponding with MSD regarding this project. Joe Exley said they had to make some changes, so they don't expect to get the bids back until November 12. Derek Sublette contacted Attorney Treitz today and said he has not heard from MSD and that they cannot start on any project unless they communicate with them and file a plan. Attorney Treitz sent that communication on to Joe Exley to hopefully coordinate so we can get it taken care of before bad weather. Mayor Chesser sent a picture to Attorney Treitz of the retention basin on the post office property that didn't appear to have been cleared for quite some time. Mr. Treitz forwarded the picture to Mr. Exley to see if they can put it on the schedule to be cleared out.

**Ethics Board** — Since Mr. Fortwengler was on our Ethics Board and is now serving on the Council, he resigned from the Ethics Board and we now need to fill his vacant position. Attorney Treitz explained that the Ethics Board is responsible for observing and investigating any type of problem that could be associated with misconduct by Council members relative to their position on the Council. We have never had a complaint. Mayor Chesser suggested that Helen Arnold might want to serve on the Board once her term on the Council expires. Mayor Chesser said she welcomes any other suggestions for Mr. Fortwengler's replacement. Mrs. Arnold agreed to serve on the Board beginning in January.

**CARES Act** — Mayor Chesser reported that she submitted the application for reimbursement of \$379, which was money we spent on personal protective equipment and the Zoom subscription. Mrs. Arnold read Resolution No. 1, Series 2020, authorizing the filing of a coronavirus relief fund application for reimbursement of incurred expenses in CRF funds with the Department for Local Government. Seconded by Mr. Fortwengler. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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. Arnold read Municipal Order No. 1, Series 2020, authorizing the filing of a coronavirus relief fund application for reimbursement of incurred expenses in CRF funds with the Department for Local Government. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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 the representative from DLG asked her why we were not applying for reimbursement for off-duty patrol, since many of the other cities had included that expense. Mayor Chesser explained to the representative that the Council discussed the guidelines for reimbursement and did not feel that off-duty patrol expenses met those guidelines. Mayor Chesser will submit the approved resolution and municipal order to DLG on November 10.

**Gardiner Lane Water Main Leak** — The water main leak has been repaired. A section of sidewalk that was removed still needs to be replaced. Mayor Chesser said she appreciated District 10 Legislative Assistant Geoff Wohl's assistance with expediting this repair.

**Walkway on the Lillian Wild Walking Path** — Mayor Chesser spoke with Bill Stoll of Stoll Construction regarding waiting until spring and getting an updated cost for removing the tree roots and repairing those sections of the path at the same time we do the walkway. He agreed and will provide an updated estimate in the spring.

**Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings** — Mayor Chesser reported that she emailed the most recent Monthly Shift Postings to all Council members except for Ms. Garrett and Ms. Ewan, to whom she mailed hard copies. She wants to get with Mr. Johnson regarding changing some hours around to cover the recent break-ins on Bunton, and she welcomed suggestions from Council. She spoke with Ken Schoening, who owns most of the business properties on Bunton Lane, and he said he is doing everything he can to address this issue. Mayor Chesser would like to look at improving lighting in that area. However, if Bunton Road is a private road, we wouldn't be able to add lighting. Attorney Treitz reported that he asked his paralegal to check into it but she wasn't able to find out anything on it, which suggests to him that it probably is a private road. Mayor Chesser will contact LG&E and look at the possibility of installing a light on an existing utility pole on Bunton Lane and directing it to shine back on Bunton Court. She will report back to Council at the December meeting. Mr. Johnson asked if the storage facility has any kind of surveillance or security cameras, suggesting that it should be their responsibility to take care of security. Ms. Garrett proposed that if there isn't a utility pole on which we can install a light, the businesses could install security lights on their own buildings and/or improve existing lighting.

**Fall Newsletter** — Mrs. Keefe reported that the files were uploaded on October 30 and she gave final approval to the printer on November 4. United Mail told her it would mail by November 18. She also uploaded the newsletter to our website and put articles from the newsletter on our website Home page.

**Audit** — Mrs. Keefe uploaded audit files to United Mail on October 30 and approved the final proof on November 3. She was promised a drop date of November 4 or 5. The audit cost \$672.95 to print and mail. It would have cost more than \$10,000 to publish it in *The Courier-Journal*. Mr. Treitz thought the amount to print in *The Courier-Journal* was only \$2,000 or \$3,000. Mrs. Keefe will check our past records to get the cost for publishing versus printing. We have been printing and mailing the Audit since 2016.

## NEW BUSINESS

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**LMPD 6th Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting** — Mayor Chesser reported that tomorrow night's meeting of this Board will be virtual.

**Illegal Dumping on Stober Road** — Mayor Chesser reported that there has been an increase in trash being dumped near the curve on Stober Road. Among other things, tires as well as a freezer drawer full of meat have been dumped in the ditch. Bags have been hung on tree branches and drinkings cups are everywhere. She discussed the problem with Brandon Vincent. He offered to install one of his hunting cameras in a tree. Mayor Chesser ordered a “No Dumping – Area Under Video Surveillance” sign to install at this location. Prior to the installation of the sign, Mr. Vincent's camera captured someone in a Post Office truck throwing trash in the ditch, but he was not able to read the license plate number on the truck. We will put up another sign and hope that it will help. Mr. Fortwengler asked if we should purchase a camera to monitor the area. It would capture anything that causes motion. Mr. Fortwengler said the cost of a camera would be \$40 upwards. Some of these cameras can send surveillance videos directly to your computer or phone. Mayor Chesser asked if Steve would check into it and bring back information to our next meeting. Mr. Treitz asked whether or not the camera would actually catch anything useful, as the camera Mayor Chesser mentioned earlier couldn't capture a readable license plate. Mayor Chesser suggested that we approach the businesses and ask them to instruct their employees to not throw trash out.

**Bid for Snow Removal and Brine Applications** — Mayor Chesser received a bid from County Wide Lawn & Landscaping giving hourly rates for snow removal and road treatments. The prices remained the same as last year. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the bid from County Wide; seconded by Ms. Garrett. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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.

**Louisville Metro Police Department's Shop With a Cop Program** — Mayor Chesser reported that we donated to this program last year and she is hoping that we can do so again this year. Ms. Garrett said she feels it is more necessary now because so many people are out of work. Mr. Wild confirmed that we donated \$500 last year. The limit per child was \$50. Mr. Johnson suggested increasing our donation to \$1,000; Council concurred. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Shop With a Cop Program; seconded by Mrs. Arnold. There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a roll-call vote. Voting yea were Helen Arnold, 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. Mr. Wild will send the check to Mayor Chesser, and she will deliver it to the Sixth Division.

**Clerk's Hours** — Mrs. Keefe said that she was asked at the October meeting how many hours she puts in each week for Watterson Park but didn't have a total since we don't tally our hours. Being curious herself, and in the interest of transparency, she decided to keep a record of her time. With meetings, minutes, website updates, audit design and handling, newsletter design and handling, filing, Zoom meetings, monitoring the City emails, etc., she logged more than 97 hours since the October meeting

through tonight. More than 40 of those hours were spent on the newsletter; 14-plus hours were on the audit. The newsletter is a quarterly publication; the audit is annual. So a typical month for her *without* the newsletter or the audit would be 40-plus hours. Mrs. Keefe will mail a copy of the time report to everyone when she mails the November minutes. While it was time-consuming to log all of her hours and prepare a report, Mrs. Keefe felt she needed to address this so that Council members are aware of what she does each month and how much time she spends on City business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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Mr. Fortwengler 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 Helen Arnold, 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 8:21 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.