

# CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

December 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll Call** — Roll was called. Present were Mayor Linda Chesser; Councilmembers Jay Bourke, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh; Treasurer Jean Hall; and Clerk Aggie Keefe. Also present were Attorney Duncan Crosby and Dustin Duncan with KIPDA.

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

**Possible Grants Through KIPDA** — Dustin Duncan, Senior Grant Administrator with KIPDA, was present to talk about possible grant opportunities for Watterson Park. He provided a list of grants that could help with the possible development of our property at 1391 Gardiner Lane into some type of park. He clarified that federal grants under the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, for which the state provides the majority of the required match, have the stipulation that whatever we state as the proposed use of the property has to serve that purpose in perpetuity. Some Council members were concerned about how this stipulation limits our ability to sell or do anything else with the property in the future. Mr. Duncan talked about other grants that don't have these restrictions. He explained that KIPDA will take care of the application process at no cost to Watterson Park, and he explained the process and the timeline. Ms. Ewan asked him if there are any grants available to assist us in the cost of our off-duty police patrol. Mr. Duncan said finding grant funding for a contracted police force is a little difficult, but he can do some more research into it. Mayor Chesser suggested that we invite Mr. Duncan to a meeting in the spring after we've had more time to discuss our needs and make decisions. Mr. Duncan said if we are awarded a grant, until we sign a contract we can deny the money. Mr. Duncan left the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding possible liability issues as well as losing control over the land should we accept a grant. All agreed that we first need to do some research and come up with ideas for the property's use. Council authorized Mr. Crosby to follow up with KIPDA to get a clearer understanding of exactly what it means to have the land locked up in perpetuity. Mr. Fortwengler suggested that we get a map of the property, which we can use to draw up our ideas and then submit them to an architect to finesse. Mr. O'Bryan thinks we need to decide what we want on the property and then let professionals determine if it can be done. Council decided to discuss it further at our January meeting. Mr. Crosby suggested that we look at some small parks of similar size on Google Maps to get ideas.

Deputy Sheriff Rob Skaggs arrived at the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2024, legislative meeting as received; 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, Todd O'Bryan, 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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Mrs. Hall reported revenues for the month of November in the amount of \$153,448 and expenses in the amount \$64,436, resulting in a net income of \$89,012. She clarified that the amount under Property Tax Process was for the annual payment to the PVA. Ms. Garrett asked if the legal expense of \$9,108 was for one month of legal expense. Mrs. Hall explained that the actual bill received in November was for ~\$8,000, but the change in accrual added an additional \$1,000. The legal invoices are actually two months; therefore, accruals are recorded to provide the best estimate for the expense. Mrs. Welsh made a motion to accept 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0. Mrs. Hall reported that she gathered the documents for our audit and took them to Brian Cobb. It was mentioned that Mrs. Hall has had to send out numerous refund checks due to the error in the personal property tax rate on the first tax bills that were mailed out.

## OLD BUSINESS

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**1225 Gardiner Lane Development** — Mrs. Welsh made a motion to go into closed session to discuss possible litigation regarding the proposed development at 1225 Gardiner Lane; 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and Council went into closed session at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to come out of closed session; 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, Todd O'Bryan, 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 8:25 p.m. No final action was taken during closed session.

## OLD BUSINESS

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**Medical Cannabis** — Mr. Crosby distributed copies of an ordinance that his firm drafted regarding cannabis operations in our City. Ms. Ewan introduced and gave first reading in full to this ordinance, which prohibits cannabis business operations in the City of Watterson Park. Mr. Crosby clarified that it won't cost us anything to take this action. He also said that the citizenry of Watterson Park could decide that they want to reverse this ordinance and request that the cannabis issue become a ballot measure.

Mr. Crosby left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

**Code Enforcement** — Everyone should have received a copy of the Field Report for November. Mayor Chesser mentioned that a home on Newburg Road recently sold and that the liens against the property have been paid. Mr. Treitz received a check for the liens Watterson Park had against the property and will give the funds to Mrs. Hall once the check clears the bank. Mr. Bourke reported that the home on Milldaun that was damaged by the tornado in 2023 is having some roof work done.

**Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings** — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for December. Most of the shifts have been filled.

**Flock Cameras** — Mayor Chesser mentioned the funds that Councilman Mulvihill set aside to pay for one Flock camera in Watterson Park and said we need to decide on the location for this camera. Discussion ensued, with Council deciding that Gardiner Lane at Robards Lane would be the most beneficial location. We will not contract for any additional cameras at this time. Mayor Chesser will notify Jennifer Corum of our decision.

**Regina Lane Curb and Lawn Repair** — Mayor Chesser reported that she received a check from May Trucking for the damage at the end of Regina. Mrs. Hall said she was waiting for approval of the property damage release form before depositing the check. Mayor Chesser told her that she signed the release and sent it to May Trucking, so Mrs. Hall should deposit the check. We will hold onto the funds until the work is completed.

## NEW BUSINESS

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### Committee Reports —

- Mr. Fortwengler reported that he drove most of the roads and saw damage at Masters Supply, where they are doing some construction work.
- Mr. O'Bryan said he reported lights out at 1356 and 1234 Gardiner Lane. He talked to Chad Reed about the lights on Bantam Court that have not been taken care of. Mr. Reed told Mr. O'Bryan there must be something else wrong other than the bulbs. Mr. O'Bryan will stay in contact with Mr. Reed regarding these lights.

**LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting** — Mr. Bourke said there wasn't a December meeting of this board. He reported that the Shop With a Cop event was a huge success and that the Sixth Division extended their thanks for our generous donation to this cause.

**Republic Services/Driveway at 4322 Milldaun Road** — Mayor Chesser reported that Republic Services is using this property to turn their trucks around. We had a similar situation in the past on Larkmoor Lane. We will discuss this next month and determine how we can insure that the trucks can turn around without damaging the resident's driveway.

**Welcome Basket** — Mrs. Welsh delivered a welcome basket to a residence on Larkmoor Lane.

**Contract for Salt and Snow Plowing** — County Wide submitted a bid for salt spreading at \$85 per trip, snow plowing at \$165 per hour, snow blowing at \$80 per hour, and hand labor at \$45 per hour. These rates did not change from those in 2023. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the bid; seconded by Mr. O'Bryan. 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

**Swearing in of Council Members** — It was decided to hold the swearing in of Council members at Mayor Chesser's residence on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Chesser will administer the oath of office, and Mrs. Welsh will serve as the notary.

### **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, Becky Ewan, Steve Fortwengler, Gina Garrett, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0 and meeting adjourned at 9:20 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.