

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

October 14, 2024

Roll Call — Roll was called. Present were 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 Deputy Sheriff Rob Skaggs. Mayor Linda Chesser was absent.

Appointment of Chairman of Council — Since Mayor Chesser will not be at tonight's meeting, Ms. Ewan made a motion to appoint Marlene Welsh as Temporary Chairman of the Council; 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, legislative meeting as received; 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.

Mr. O'Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024, special meeting as received; 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, 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

Mrs. Hall reported revenues for the month of September in the amount of \$48,332 and expenses in the amount \$46,806. She broke down each line item under the \$14,478 for Expenses, General Government. She clarified that under Public Works we paid for the removal of two trees and for finish mowing on the 1391 property. We were left with a net income of \$1,526. Ms. Ewan made a motion to approve the report as presented; 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, Todd O'Bryan, and Marlene Welsh. There were no nays or abstentions. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Medical Cannabis — Attorney Crosby reminded Council that all local governments in Kentucky are automatically opted-in to have cannabis business operations in their jurisdictions unless they opt-out by taking certain actions at Council level. If we want to have any restrictions or to ban it entirely, we need to do so before someone opens a dispensary in our city. Ms. Ewan asked if Watterson Park can charge a business fee to dispensaries operating within Watterson Park. She said she attended a workshop on medical cannabis at the KLC Conference in September where they reported that the state of Kentucky charges dispensaries various fees for operating in the state. At this workshop, they said any city can charge dispensaries a reasonable fee to operate in their city. Ms. Garrett was concerned that those fees might be passed along to the families who need the medical marijuana and unfairly burden them. Attorney Crosby will do some research and find out if there is a limit on the number of dispensaries in our city, how close together they can be located, what types of fees we can impose, and if we can restrict hours of operation.

Code Enforcement — Everyone should have received a copy of the Field Report for September. Mrs. Welsh reported for Mayor Chesser that Metro was scheduled to do a cleanup at a residence on Newburg Road on October 10. Mayor Chesser emailed the next-door neighbor to see if it had been done but did not hear back from her. Mayor Chesser drove by the home this past Saturday and said it does look a little better.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for October. There are several vacant shifts on the report, most of which are early morning or late evening.

Robards Lane — Per Mayor Chesser’s request at the September meeting, some Council members checked out the condition of that portion of Robards Lane that Metro is not taking care of. They agreed that the road is in need of repairs. Ms. Garrett thinks we should have legal documentation showing that it belongs to Watterson Park before we do any improvements to it. Council decided that Mayor Chesser should get quotes for patching the areas that need repairs. We will continue to check into what’s necessary to adopt the road.

JCLC Annual Dinner — This annual dinner will be held on November 21 at the Jeffersonian on Taylorsville Road. The cost is \$65 per person, and Watterson Park will pay for those who wish to attend. Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Keefe, Mrs. Welsh, Mr. Bourke, and Ms. Garrett will attend. Mr. O’Byran will check his calendar and let Mayor Chesser know if he can attend.

1391 Gardiner Lane Property Parking — Mrs. Welsh reported for Mayor Chesser that she met with Brandon Vincent, who is working on a plan for parking spaces along with an estimate of what it would cost. Mayor Chesser will bring the plan and the estimate to the meeting next month to discuss.

Audit — Mrs. Hall reported that Brian Cobb hasn’t sent her the detailed list of what he needs to perform the audit. She’ll remind him next week so that we can get the Audit started.

NEW BUSINESS

1225 Gardiner Lane Development — Mrs. Welsh reported that there is a new development planned for this location and turned the discussion over to Attorney Crosby and Mr. Bourke, who are familiar with the development plans. Mr. Bourke reported that a RaceTrac gas station and convenience store is planned for the corner of Gardiner Lane and Bunton Road. It already has the required zoning. Mr. Bourke said the developers are asking for some restrictions to be removed, including adding more parking spots and removing part of the required tree canopy. A big concern for Mr. Bourke is that their plans direct the semis from Poplar Level Road onto Gardiner Lane and then up Bunton Road. Since Watterson Park maintains Bunton Road, he’s concerned about the wear-and-tear on the road. Can we prohibit the semis from using Bunton Road? Mr. Crosby said we would have to look into that. Council expressed concern that traffic in that area is already highly congested, especially during rush hour. Mr. Crosby reported that he talked with the person at Planning and Zoning who is responsible for this case and found out that the developer has requested three waivers: (1) to allow less than 50% of the street-facing facade to not have clear windows and doors; (2) to allow encroachment into the landscape buffer area on the northwest corner of Poplar Level Road; and (3) to increase the maximum parking spaces allowed from 24 to 32. The hearing on the waivers has not yet been scheduled but should be held sometime in November. We will get notice through District 10 news alerts. Council agreed that we should oppose the landscape and parking spaces waivers. We can attend the hearing in person, or we can write up our objections and send them through an attorney who will attend the hearing.

Louisville Metro Public Works and Home-Rule City Coordination — Mrs. Welsh reported for Mayor Chesser that Louisville Metro Public Works will be holding quarterly meetings with Home Rule Cities and invited us to participate. Since Mr. Fortwengler is on our Public Works Committee, Mayor Chesser forwarded the email to him. Mr. Fortwengler said he is not interested in attending. When asked, no one else on the Council volunteered to represent Watterson Park at these meetings.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting —

Mr. Bourke attended the October meeting and reported the following:

- Stolen autos were down, but Beat 5 was hit with a string of garage burglaries; they currently have some leads on a suspect.
- December 4 is Shop with a Cop at Meijer on Hurstbourne Parkway.
- The next Community Outreach event will take place on October 30 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Kroger on Breckenridge Lane. Feel free to join.
- They chose three Officers of the Month: Officer Alex Thomas, Impact Det. Kayla Helm, and Impact Det. Joel Bottomley. Their coordinated efforts resulted in the recovery of approximately 73 grams of fentanyl, 20 grams of cocaine, 43 grams of marijuana, and various paraphernalia.

Auto Burglary — Mr. O’Byran reported that a car was broken into at a residence on Regina Lane this past Saturday. This same vehicle was broken into about a month ago.

Committee Reports —

- Mr. O'Bryan reported burned-out lights to Chad Reed: two at 4400 Champions Trace Lane and one at 3903 Bantam Court. He again reported the light at 3352 Newburg Road and asked Mr. Reed about the status of the new lights on Champions Trace. Mr. O'Bryan will follow up on all of these.
- Mrs. Welsh and Ms. Ewan volunteered to wrap presents for the Shop with a Cop event.
- Ms. Ewan reported that a resident on Milldaun Road told her they are paying taxes to Fern Creek. Mrs. Hall will check into it and notify Ms. Ewan of her findings.
- Mrs. Welsh reported that a resident on Larkmoor Lane told her this is the first year they received a tax bill from Watterson Park. Mrs. Hall suggested it could be because the property tax is escrowed. She will check into it and notify Mrs. Welsh.

Miscellaneous Items —

Mrs. Welsh reported the following for Mayor Chesser:

- Charter notified Mayor Chesser that they are increasing their rates for new customers only on or around September 17.
- The Newburg Road sidewalk is completed. Both Mayor Chesser and Mrs. Welsh agree that they did a fantastic job. Mayor Chesser sent a thank-you email to Steve Kurowsky and everyone else who was involved in the project.
- Because of the semi-truck problems on Regina and occasionally on Milldaun, we decided to address the issue. The semis are trying to get to 1234 Gardiner Lane, but their address sign is old, dark, and dingy and sits back off the road, so it's easy to miss. Mayor Chesser worked with CBRE Property Management, and they came up with an address sign that is reflective and will have solar lights. We are hoping it will be installed closer to the road so it can be easily seen. Mayor Chesser suggested that we post a general prohibition sign (circle-backslash symbol) for semis at the top of both Regina Lane and Milldaun Road. Council members didn't feel additional signs are necessary at this time.
- At the end of Regina, the lawn and curb were both damaged by a semi on August 29. May Trucking was responsible for the damage. Mayor Chesser contacted them, and they agreed to pay for repairs to both the landscaping and the curb. Brandon Vincent will submit an estimate for the needed repairs for both the lawn and the concrete curb.

Mr. Crosby asked everyone to check their calendars to come up with dates in December for their firm's annual holiday dinner. Suggestions were given to him to pass along to Attorney Treitz.

Mr. Bourke brought up the annual LMPD Sixth Division Shop With a Cop event and asked if we are interested in donating again this year. Discussion ensued, with Ms. Ewan suggesting that we increase our donation to \$1,500. Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to donate \$1,500 to Shop with a Cop; 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 will provide Mr. Bourke with a check for \$1,500 so he can present it to the Sixth Division at their November Advisory Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adjourn; 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 and meeting adjourned at 8:14 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.