

CITY OF WATTERSON PARK

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

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

September 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 John Treitz; Jeremy Priddy, Executive Communications Manager with TARC; and Deputy Sheriff Rob Skaggs.

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

FIRST ON AGENDA

TARC 2025: Moving Forward Together — Jeremy Priddy with TARC was present to talk about TARC 2025, which is a network redesign project aimed at addressing the financial challenges TARC is facing. It focuses on collaborating with residents in Louisville to determine how to best update the current bus system to meet the needs within the funding that TARC expects to receive over the next 5 to 10 years. He invited everyone to go on-line to learn more about the project and to access an online survey. Mr. Priddy left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024, 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

Mrs. Hall reported revenues for the month of August in the amount of \$138,048 and expenses in the amount \$37,010. She clarified that under Legal & Professional, she did an accrual in July for \$8,000 but it actually came in at \$6,000, which explains the low amount of \$4,028 for August. We had a net income of \$101,038. Attorney Treitz questioned the \$25,033 in Revenues for Property Taxes, as we virtually never receive any property tax income this time of year. In checking through her paperwork, Mrs. Hall stated that the \$25,033 should have been included under Change in Fair Market Value, which would change the revenues under Property Taxes to zero and increase the amount under Change in Fair Market Value to \$57,095. Everyone was instructed to mark that revision on the report, and Mrs. Hall will send out a revised report. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Medical Cannabis — Attorney Treitz reported that all local governments in Kentucky are automatically opted-in to have cannabis business operations in their jurisdictions. We can opt-out by taking action at the Council level. Mayor Chesser reported that almost all the cities in Jefferson County have opted-in, meaning that they haven't developed their own rules. Mayor Chesser will call some of the cities who opted-out to get the reasoning behind their decision, and we will take this up again next month.

Tax Ordinances —

Attorney Treitz explained 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. Attorney Treitz pointed out that the compensating tax rate came in at 5.7¢ per \$100, which is the same amount that we are currently levying. It will generate approximately \$220,000, which is close to what we received this year. Discussion ensued. Attorney Treitz noted that our options are: to adopt the compensating rate of 5.7¢; to reduce the rate; or to increase it by 4%, which is statutorily authorized, making the rate 5.9¢.

Mrs. Welsh introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary 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 5.7¢ per \$100 of assessed valuation for fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025; seconded by Mr. Bourke.

Mrs. Welsh introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary 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, 2024, to June 30, 2025; seconded by Mr. Bourke.

Mrs. Welsh introduced and gave first reading by title and attorney-drafted summary 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 2025; seconded by Mr. Bourke.

Due to time constraints, we will need to hold a special meeting to give second readings to these tax ordinances. It was decided to hold this meeting at Mayor Chesser's residence on September 16 at 6 p.m.

Attorney Treitz left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Code Enforcement — Everyone was provided a copy of the report for August. Mayor Chesser reminded Council members to make George Stewart aware of anything they see that needs his attention. In answer to Mr. Bourke's question about the status of the property on Milldaun Road that was damaged during last year's storms, Mayor Chesser reported that she called Metro to get an update. The deadlines to remove the tree debris and to repair/replace the roof and gutters have passed and none of it has been taken care of. It appears that Metro hasn't been to the property to inspect it. The MetroCall representative said he will put in another notice. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Off-Duty Patrol Monthly Shift Postings — Everyone was provided a copy of the Monthly Shift Postings for September. Mayor Chesser has compiled a contact list of the officers who patrol our City. She has also been contacting the off-duty officers who are new to our City to make them aware of our City boundaries. There was an attempted car theft on Regina Lane. Mayor Chesser will ask John Aubrey to have his officers focus more on the residential streets during the later shifts.

Robards Lane — Mayor Chesser talked about the poor condition of the road on the section of Robards Lane between Gardiner Lane and Gardiner Point Drive. We have discussed the possibility of having that section of road dedicated to our City so we can maintain it. Mr. Treitz made Mayor Chesser aware that to do so would involve legal costs. Mr. Bourke mentioned that it would also involve paving costs. Mayor Chesser asked members of the Council to visit the area in question so we can discuss it further in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports — Mr. O'Bryan reported that there is light going out at 4255 Regina Lane, and he reported it to Chad Reed. It hasn't been repaired yet, but he'll follow up with Mr. Reed. Mayor Chesser hasn't received the map showing the locations of our lights and poles that she requested from Cathy Cash with LG&E.

LMPD Sixth Division Citizens Advisory Board Meeting —

Mr. Bourke attended this meeting on September 4. They are discontinuing the Meet Your Beat Officer program but might replace it with another program where officers would walk the neighborhoods with residents.

For this year's Shop With a Cop, a Board member and an Officer will shop at Meijer's on Hurstbourne Lane. The presents will then be wrapped. Families will be invited to the station, where they will be served pizza, after which the kids will open gifts.

The Officer of the Month is Officer Ostrander, who arrested three suspects who had been stealing dirt bikes off Facebook Marketplace. In addition, they recovered a number of the stolen bikes.

For anyone who is interested, the Sixth Division is selling Cashbooks as a fundraiser.

Louisville Nature Center Stolen Turtles — Mayor Chesser reported that Detective Fischer with the 6th Division investigated the theft of two box turtles from the Louisville Nature Center. He located the turtles and facilitated their safe return.

MSD – Basin and Conaem Drive Update — Mayor Chesser received an e-mail from Mary Rumbaugh at the U.S. Post Office asking if Watterson Park can maintain or fill in the wetland off Stober Road and repair/replace a damaged guardrail. Mayor Chesser forwarded the e-mail to Joe Exely at MSD and also asked him for an update on the status of the Conaem Drive project. Mr. Exely e-mailed Mayor Chesser and let her know that the MSD legal department is handling the communication on the Post Office property. He will get a status and let her know. He also said he got the budget set up for the pipe repairs along Conaem Drive and should move forward with bidding that project soon. Mayor Chesser informed Ms. Rumbaugh that she forwarded her question regarding the wetland issue to MSD. In addition, she told Ms. Rumbaugh that the guardrail is not Watterson Park’s responsibility.

Flock Cameras — Mayor Chesser didn’t receive a response from Jennifer Corum, so she contacted Geoff Wohl, since Councilman Mulvihill agreed to help with the expense for these cameras. Mr. Wohl agreed to contact Ms. Corum to see what’s going on. Mayor Chesser will keep us updated.

Abandoned Truck on Bellarmine Property — Mayor Chesser said there is an abandoned truck in the parking lot at the back part of this property. She e-mailed pictures to her contact at Bellarmine.

Hodel Road Dumping — Mayor Chesser reported that a chair was dumped at the corner of Hodel Road and Watterson Park Road. She asked Brandon Vincent to pick it up and dispose of it. She would like to put up a “This Area Under Video Surveillance” sign on the property. Mr. Vincent said he can take care of ordering and installing the sign.

1391 Gardiner Lane Property Parking — Mayor Chesser reported that Mr. Vincent offered to make some basic gravel parking spaces that can be used for temporary access until we develop the property. All agreed that Mr. Vincent should draw up a plan to present to the Council.

JCLC Annual Dinner — Mayor Chesser reported that this dinner is November 21. She doesn’t have the details but will update us when she receives them.

Large Trash Pick-Up — Mrs. Keefe will include information on our website about the October 11 large trash pick-up.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fortwengler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Bourke. There was no further discussion, so 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 9:13 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 _____.

/S/Marlene Welsh
~~Linda Chesser, Mayor~~ Marlene Welsh, Temporary Chairman of the Council

Aggie Keefe, Clerk

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