

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

April 20, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Warson Woods was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Upon roll call, the following members of the Board were reported present:

Mayor Howe
Alderwoman Bickford
Alderwoman Mayer
Alderman Dorris
Alderwoman Pfyl
Alderman Luisetti
Alderman Dell'Orco
Alderman Newman

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the provisions of the Missouri Sunshine Law, §610.020, RSMo., the Board of Aldermen of the City of Warson Woods recognizes it may be impractical for its meeting to be physically accessible to all the public so in-person attendance was limited to 50 residents. City Attorney Paul Rost, Chief Stanczak and City Clerk Kathy Mahany were also physically present. Therefore, this meeting was also held by Online Video Alderman Bruenning and Treasurer Jim Malik were present via Online Video. Mayor Howe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL of the AGENDA

Alderman Luisetti moved, seconded by Alderwoman Pfyl, that the Agenda be approved as submitted. On Voice Vote the motion was unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor began by asking everyone to be civil during this meeting. He continued, saying that the Board was not trying to hid anything. He said once the officers were informed about the proposal to add the Police services to the Public Safety contract the Board was going to hold Special Open Meetings with the residents to explain the proposal to them. However, the proposed contract was leaked prior to him being able to meet with the Officers and then the rumors and mis-information began.

Continuing, Mayor Howe said he would like to have the Board's permission to put together a Committee of residents to review the proposed agreement. This will allow residents appointed to this Committee to review all the documents and report back to the Board and fellow residents, their findings on this matter. The committee will keep the Board autonomous with their recommendation. At this time The Mayor was asked how many would be on this proposed committee and who will be picked. The Mayor answered at this time I'm thinking possible five people. He continued, (he) would like to see one with a financial background, one with a legal background one with a business background and another with a law enforcement background. This way there would be input from all the areas this proposal deals with.

Point of Order; No motion to Table Proposal for Police Services by City of Glendale was made.

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting—March 16, 2021

Executive Session—March 16, 2021

Special Session—April 14, 2021

Alderman Dorris moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, the minutes be accepted as submitted. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT—March 2021

Alderman Luisetti moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bickford, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as submitted. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

BILLS & RECURRING DISBURSEMENTS WITH THE ADDENDUM

Alderwoman Mayer moved, seconded by Alderman Dorris, that the Bills and Recurring Disbursements, with the Addendum, be approved as submitted. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

GLENDALE FIRE REPORT- March 2021, no action required.

WARSON WOODS POLICE REPORT – March 2021, no action required.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS—The City does not keep verbatim Minutes. Minutes are kept with topics discussed and action taken.

Following are the residents who spoke to the Mayor and Board, during this open session of the Regular Board Meeting:

John Placht, 360 Medina Dr., Daniel Barns, 843 Edlin Dr, (via zoom), Mandy Kamykowski, 1424 Frontenay Ct., Mrs. McDonnell, 1417 Norman Pl., Andrew McDowell, 1418 Norman Pl., Betty Hansen, 1423 Andrew Dr., Frank Kaveney, 1301 Gedders Ln., Pat Flood, 402 Flanders Dr., Chris Kerchoff, 827 Bricken Pl., Julie Lambert, 1608 Bennett Ave., Paul Gund, 549 Meadow Creek Ln., Bob & Naomi Becker, 1547 Renderer Dr., Sean Fitzgerald, 1612 Andrew Dr., Ryan Scott, 860 Garland Pl. (via zoom), Rick Massy, 1501 Rue Renee, (vis zoom), Heather Bub, 548 Beauford, (via zoom), Peggy McAuliffe, 1461 Reauville, (via zoom), Karen & Dan Aschinger, 840 Renderer Dr. (via zoom), Mark Wittich, 564 Beauford Dr.

Following are the topics discussed:

Will the proposed Public Service Agreement (PSA) be shared with the resident? How much money did the City receive from St. Louis County for the COVID CARES Act? The City was reimbursed approximately \$134,000.00 for supplies, cleaning and the Police Department salaries. During the Special meeting on April 14th Federal Grant money was brought up for infrastructure needs. Do you know what “strings” are attached to that Grant money and you mentioned asking a resident to do the Grant writing. The Mayor explained that there is someone living in Ward 4 who writes Grants for a living. The Mayor was considering asking for help if the City decides to try for a Federal Grant. Alderman Dell’Orco explained because of the size of Warson Woods it is hard to get Grant funding.

After the Committee releases its findings, can it still be brought to a public vote. It was explained that as Warson Woods is a 4th Class City any contract is a Board decision.

Can there still be a non-binding straw vote. The answer was yes.

A resident recalled a time when they had a roofer took money from them and did not do the work. The Warson Woods Police Department found the person who cheated them in Florida and got their money back for them. Warson Woods Police are great!

The Board agrees with how the residents feel about the Police Department. Considering the “new” position for the Chief, is his salary considered in the budget. The answer, yes, it is. We are short staffed at this time and all of those salaries are considered in the budget.

If the City does go with the Glendale agreement, will our residents have a Public Safety Committee. The Mayor answered yes, that is written in the proposal. Note, at this time Glendale does not have a Public Safety Committee including their residents but we do and will continue to have one.

Is this the right time to disband the City? When is it the right time to disband the City? It would have to go to a vote of the residents to disband the City.

Alderwoman Pfyl stated having an autonomous Committee looking at this, both sides of the issue will be looked at.

Will taxes need to be raised? The Mayor answered probably not.

Better Together was brought up. Since it is no longer an issue, it will be some time before the City is made to combine with any other city(s). The Mayor said he is not ready to let someone else control our destiny. Alderman Dell’Orco went on to explain that because of our size, there is other legislation in the state, other than Better Together, that want to shrink, reduce small police departments. They would also like to confiscate some of our sales taxes.

There is potential for this committee to be stacked one way or the other. Who would like straw vote before the committee is formed? We don’t have to use the Board of Election Commission to hold this vote. We could do mail in ballots.

Alderwoman Pfyl suggested the special committee do the research first, then have a straw vote once the residents have the results of the special committee.

Alderwoman Bickford stated she thinks the residents are confused and that they need the committee’s recommendation, not rumors, before the straw vote is taken.

What is the cost of the election going to be? The City Attorney said it could be up to \$10,000.00 depending of the size of the election. The more items that are on the ballot the less the election will cost. Election costs are shared by each community that places an item on the ballot.

Having a separate special committee may help take the emotion out of the issue. The City could be destroyed by this issue. This vote should be an educated vote not an emotional vote.

A letter written to the Mayor by Mr. Paul Gund, 549 Meadow Creek Ln., is attached to these minutes.

Why is the City planning on keeping the Chief with his same salary? Why not interview several people for this new position?

The Mayor explained that since the Chief has been with the City for over 32 years, he knows the City and residents he has experience in all aspects of the City and how it runs. We are short one person in the administration and in parks/public works. It just makes sense to keep someone who can step in any aspect of the City and help. Last summer the City ran an ad for summer help for our Parks and Public Works Departments. We only had one good candidate and that person took another job before we could hire him.

If the City of Glendale has such good pay and benefits, why haven't we lost our Officers to them before now. The Mayor replied, I don't know.

Following are all comments that came in through webinar portion of the meeting:

How much is this going to cost the City of Warson Woods?

Why are we doing this? Vote no on the 28th; Can't get an answer on why we are doing this.

Currently, we have 3 officers on from 6:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 officers from 2 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and one officer from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.?

How much time do you need to take a straw vote after the special committee makes its recommendation?

Can the residents nominate people for the special committee? No, the Board members will choose the members of the special committee.

Is the City going to receive more COVID money? No.

Is MSD going to pay for Warson Woods Dr. improvements? Only a portion the City will pay the rest.

Why don't you go out for bid for the Public Safety Contract with Ladue and Kirkwood? Because we have a long history of working with Glendale and we have our current Fire Service and salt storage with Glendale.

Former Alderman Mark Wittich thanked the current Board for everything they are doing.

Not sure the residents will take the special committee's recommendations because they were chosen by the Board.

At this time, the Mayor thanked everyone in the room and on the webinar for all their questions and said he thinks this was a good conversation.

MISC. REPORTS.

COLLECTOR—Kathy Mahany, no report.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER—Dan Wilson was excused.

PARK COMMISSIONER—Vacant.

CITY ENGINEER (ACTING)—Mike, no report

CITY ATTORNEY—Paul Rost reported on options for a straw poll/non-binding vote.

- The City must determine if it has the authority to hold a straw vote
- There is an election scheduled in August and November
- The City could hire a professional to do polling

4.

CITY ATTORNEY (Cont.)

- The City could set a certain date and hold an on-line election

After discussion it was decided to have an ordinance prepared for the May meeting to hold an election in August.

TREASURER—Jim Malik had no report.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE—Alderswoman Hannah Mayer informed everyone that the newsletter was put on hold for this week. It may be out next week. She also said the committee has had good response for the electronic directory so they will be working on it.

PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS-No report.

MAYOR—Larry Howe had no report at this time

OLD BUSINESS

A. Misc. Old Business

Alderman Newman commented that he would like to have new members on the Public Safety Committee. He then asked why we haven't had a meeting in such a long time. He was answered because of COVID.

Alderman Newman asked Chief Stanczak to get the application for accreditation from the state and begin working on it. He said either way if we keep the Department or not, it will be best if they are accredited.

Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderman Dorris, that the Mayor sign the Accreditation Application. On voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved. 8-0.

Alderman Luisetti stated earlier today he scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for May 20th. Some of the topics that will be on the agenda include;

- Look back at years finances
- Home Assessments
- Use Tax Rate
- 1% tax on sale of real property
- Stamp tax on mortgages

To change any tax, it must go to a vote of the residents.

The information that was in your packets this month was from Debbie Pentland. It was all previously discussed and was only being considered for Warson Woods Dr.

Lastly, he answered the question about how many meetings are held per year. Alderman Luisetti said approximately 4. Last year it was cut short because of COVID. Alderman Luisetti asked for volunteers to join the Finance Committee saying he believes there are three openings.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Misc. New Business

Alderman Dorris moved, seconded by Alderswoman Pfyl to form the Committee to review the proposed new Police Services contract with the City of Glendale. On voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved 8-0.

Next Alderman Dorris said there is a speed limit sign he would like the Chief to look at and determine if it is necessary. If it is not necessary, could it be removed. The Chief said he will look at it tomorrow.

Alderman Bruenning suggested the new Committee look at the City's finances going back two years because of COVID making a difference in the past year.

Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderman Dorris, the City have a straw vote put on the August ballot. A discussion was held. Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, to Amend the motion to have a non-binding straw vote put on the August election. The motion was announced passed 5-3. Ayes: Newman, Mayer, Pfyl, Dorris, Luisetti. Nays: Dell'Orco, Bickford, Bruenning.

Alderwoman Pfyl asked why the Police do not put a report in the Webster/Kirkwood Times? The Chief said other Cities will report every little incident. We only report major incidents.

Chief Stanczak Aske the Board if he could begin to outfit the new police vehicle. It will cost approximately \$1,000. The Mayor answered yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderwoman Pfyl moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, the meeting be adjourned. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting closed at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mahany, City Clerk

Laurance M. Howe, Mayor

