

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

September 28, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Warson Woods was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Upon roll call, the following members of the Board were reported present:

Mayor Larry Howe
 Alderwoman Dawn Bickford
 Alderwoman Hannah Mayer
 Alderwoman Lucy Pfyl
 Alderman Charlie Luisetti
 Alderman Jim Newman
 Alderman Mike Dell’Orco
 Alderman George Bruenning

Acting City Attorney John Young, Chief of Police Robert Stanczak and City Clerk Kathy Mahany were also present. This meeting was also held by Online Video. Treasurer Jim Malik attended via zoom. Alderman Dorris was excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

(Establishing Real Estate and Commercial Tax Rates for 2021)

Category	Tax Rates 2020		Proposed Tax Rates 2021		Increase/Decrease
Residential	\$	0.2910	\$	0.2790	\$ (0.0120)
Agricultural		-		-	-
Commercial	\$	0.3600	\$	0.3520	\$ (0.0080)
Assessed Valuation	Prior Tax Year--2020		Current Tax Year--2021		Increase/Decrease
Real Estate					
Residential	\$	68,708,250	\$	72,781,010	\$ 150,805,974
Agricultural		-		-	-
Commercial	\$	9,316,714	\$	9,660,425	\$ 343,711
Total Real Estate	\$	78,024,964	\$	82,441,435	\$ 4,416,471
Personal Property*	\$	6,727,718	\$	7,627,612	\$ 899,894
New Improvements					
New Construction	\$	281,300	\$	271,300	\$ (10,000)
Adjusted A/V	\$	84,752,682	\$	90,069,047	\$ 5,316,365

The Public Hearing opened at 7:03 p.m. and began with the City Clerk stating that the tax rate for 2021 has gone down from .2910 to .2790. Alderwoman Mayer explained that when the property values go up the Tax Rates go down. The mayor then explained that is because of the Hancock Amendment it must be revenue neutral. Mandy Kamykowski said the real estate and commercial rates have nothing to do with

sales tax it's a completely separate tax. Alderman Luisetti went on to say that there have been some discussions in the Finance Committee about raising the tax rate but it would have to go to a vote of the people to be accomplished.

Hearing no further comments, the mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL of the AGENDA

Alderman Dell'Orco moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, that the agenda be approved as submitted. At this time Alderman Dell'Orco stated that St. Louis County has mandated that face masks be worn at all indoor gatherings and that includes this Board of Aldermen Meeting. He then asked the Aschinger's to put on a face mask. Mrs. Aschinger then said she has a religious exemption and does not have to abide by the mandate. Alderman Newman agreed with the Aschinger's saying that they have a religious exemption. Alderman Luisetti asked if he could see the exemption because he has never seen one. Mrs. Aschinger handed him a copy of it. Alderman Dell'Orco asked the mayor to enforce the mandate and the mayor responded that he was not going to get involved with religious matter's. of Alderman Dell'Orco moved, seconded by Alderman Luisetti, that everyone must wear a face mask. On Voice Vote the motion was approved 5 Ayes 2 Nays.

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting—August 17, 2021

Finance, Insurance & Personnel Committee—September 16, 2021

Public Safety Committee—September 21, 2021

Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, the minutes be accepted as submitted.

At this time Alderwoman Pfyl then asked about the comment that Jeff Blume made during the Finance Committee meeting saying that Warson Woods is at the high end of the sales tax range. Alderman Luisetti answered that is in comparison with other Cities in the area. The mayor then said that after the passage of the park and storm water tax it put Warson Woods into a higher sale tax range. It was asked of Alderman Luisetti to look into raising the real estate tax rate.

After discussion, On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT—August 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

Alderman Luisetti moved, seconded by Alderman Bruenning, that the Bills and Recurring Disbursements, with the Addendum, be approved as submitted. Alderman Luisetti commented that the Professional Fees Legal, are now in excess of \$10,000.00. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

GLENDALE FIRE REPORT- August 2021, no action required.

WARSON WOODS POLICE REPORT –August 2021, Alderman Luisetti asked the Chief what the “misdemeanor arrest” was. The Chief said he will look into it and let him know tomorrow.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS—

The city does not keep verbatim minutes. Minutes are kept with speakers identified, topics discussed and action taken. The following residents spoke during this portion of the meeting:

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PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS Cont.

Tim Quinn, 517 Monaco Dr., Mandy Kamykowski, 1424 Frontenay Ct., Michael Bub, 540 Beauford Dr., Sean Fitzgerald, 1612 Dearborn Dr., Karen Aschinger, 840 Renderer Dr., Will Aschinger, 840 Renderer Dr.

During the Public Safety Committee Meeting, three candidates were interviewed for the position of one full time officer and one part time officer. One candidate had a second interview by phone.

The Step Salary System needs to be reviewed and updated. It has not changed since 2018. It also does not help the situation that the city tried to outsource the Police Department and it is common knowledge among other departments. There is a labor shortage and the city must move forward with the hiring process.

Maybe some of the ARPA can be used for the police department. The MML is trying to provide guidance on how the funds can be used. Maybe the city can move some funds around if the ARPA money cannot be used for the police department. Use it for an allowed use that is already budgeted for. Alderman Luisetti will look into how the funds can be used. Hopefully there will be more guidance soon.

There are many residents which are concerned about the pay for the police. Volunteering to poll surrounding cities to see what other city's pay their police departments. We would like to see a motion to give each officer a stipend one-time \$5,000, even \$3-4,000.

Wanted to know if Alderman Luisetti received the answer why the professional fees legal were at \$5,000 last month. Did the Board approve spending \$39,000.00 on bridge repairs? Why? It had to be repaired because of a natural disaster. (Comparison made) we are missing a full time and a part time officer hiring officers needs to be done also. What is the difference in pay between step 1 and step 4 for an officer, \$3,528.00?

Portions of the attached email from Alderman Dell'Orco to Alderman Newman was read several times. In the email Alderman Dell'Orco referred to her and her family without knowing anything about them.

Would like to see Alderman Dell'Orco dismissed from the Board of Aldermen or resign.

MISC. REPORTS.

COLLECTOR—Kathy Mahany had no report.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER—Absent

PARK COMMISSIONER—Vacant.

CITY ENGINEER—Absent

(Assistant) CITY ATTORNEY—John Young, had no report.

TREASURER—Jim Malik, attending through zoom, began by stating that several surrounding municipalities sales tax contain special taxes. Some may have a form of TIF. For example, Brentwood has a 1% tax for the developer of the shopping center. You're not always aware of what taxes other cities have.

Next, he discussed the amendments to the budget for the FY 2020-2021. The general fund ended better with revenue vs expenditures. The budget was approximately 1.4 million and it ended up at 1.517 million. A short discussion followed.

PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS-Alderman Newman, informed everyone that a Public Works meeting is scheduled for October 12. He then gave an update on several projects from Bruce (Public Works). The storm clean-up has been completed, and he has the asphalt work finished. He bought and planted some flowers around the city and he is caught up on the grass cutting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE—First Alderwoman Hannah Mayer reported they are looking for a business to sponsor the new resident gift bag program. They would like to purchase a bag to hold all the items that are collected from local businesses to give to the new residents.

Next, she reported they are still looking for service veterans to showcase in the November newsletter. At this time someone mentioned Brian Middendorf, USMC.

Lastly, she said the committee is looking into doing some form of online permitting but it seems to be quite expensive for our needs.

MAYOR—Larry Howe, reported first that Jim Malik has resigned as Treasurer and he is looking for guidelines to fill the position. The city clerk stated she has some guidelines but needs help narrowing them down. The mayor then thanked Jim for his years of service.

Next, he said he is still trying to get a date as to when the construction would end on Bennett Dr. at Manchester Rd. There is also a storm sewer that needs repair on Renderer Dr.

Lastly, he said that without Mike Dell’Orco’s talent and selflessness, a lot of projects would not have been completed and he stands behind Mike.

OLD BUSINESS

MISC. OLD BUSINESS-Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

An Ordinance Levying and Imposing an AD Valorem Tax for Calendar Year 2021 for General Municipal Purposes.

Alderman Luisetti moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, to Levy and Impose an Ad Valorem Tax for Calendar Year 2021 for General Municipal Purposes. Bill No. 1706 becomes Ordinance No. 1649.

By Roll Call the Vote was as follows:

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Not Present
Bickford	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dorris	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Mayer	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dell’Orco	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Luisetti	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Newman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Pfyl	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bruening	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Motion was announced passed.7-0.

An Ordinance Amending the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget.

Alderman Luisetti moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bickford, to Amend the 2020-2021 Fiscal Budget. Bill No. 1708 becomes Ordinance No. 1650.

By Roll Call the Vote was as follows:

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Not Present
Bruenning	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dorris	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
Newman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dell'Orco	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Luisetti	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Mayer	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Pfyl	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bickford	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Motion was announced passed.7-0.

- A. Resolution No. 09282021A Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for Snow Removal Services with Crowder Construction, LLC.
Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderman Bruenning, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract for Snow Removal Services with Crowder Contracting, LLC.
Alderman Newman then explained that this contract differs from the contract we had last year by changing calling them out at one (1) inch of snow instead of two (2) inches of snow and the price is now \$160 per hour but they will send two trucks so it should take less time to plow the City. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

- B. Resolution No. 09282021B Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an application for the 2021 St. Louis County Waste Reduction Grant Program. Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderwoman Pfyl, to Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an application for the 2021 St. Louis County Waste Reduction Grant Program. Alderman Newman informed the Board that the city will receive \$7,500.00 for a one-time electronic only Collection. This collection will take place on the Ste. Genevieve parking lot and will be an electronics collection for Warson Woods residents only. It will not be open to the general public. After a discussion, the motion was approved, 6 Ayes, Bruenning, Luisetti, Newman, Bickford, Pfyl, and Mayer. 1 Nay, Dell'Orco.

- C. Misc. New Business
Alderwoman Pfyl reminded everyone that the Fall Festival is this Friday, October 1st. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Alderman Dorris will be BBQing with the Swim Club.
Next, she said she appreciated everything Alderman Dell'Orco has done for the city but she does not appreciate how he speaks to the residents and other Board members.

Chief Stanczak began by asking if he could send the two applicants for their psychological exam, for a total cost will be \$900.00? Alderwoman Pfyl moved, seconded by Alderman Bruenning, to send the two applicants for their psychological exam for a total cost of \$900.00. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.
Next, he said Officer Andrews received a good review and asked the Board to move her from Step 8 to Step 9 effective on October 3rd. Alderwoman Mayer moved, seconded by Alderman Newman, to approve Officer Andrews from Step 8 to Step 9. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Alderman Bruenning moved, seconded by Alderwoman Mayer, to enter into closed session pursuant to the following subsections of Section 610.021(1), RSMo. (Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys); Section 610.021(3), RSMo. (Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded); and Section 610.021(13), RSMo. (Individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment).
On Roll Call the Vote was as Follows:

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Not Present
Luisetti	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Mayer	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Newman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dell’Orco	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bruenning	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Dorris	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Pfyl	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bickford	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting re-opened at 9:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Newman moved, seconded by Alderman Bruenning, the meeting be adjourned. On Voice Vote, the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting closed at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mahany, City Clerk

Laurance M. Howe, Mayor

