

**SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF WARSON WOODS BOARD ROOM\*\*  
10015 Manchester Road  
April 14, 2021  
7:00 PM**

A Special Town Hall Meeting was held on Wednesday April 14, 2021.  
Mayor Howe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

\*\* 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 City of Warson Woods recognizes it may be impractical for its meeting to be physically accessible to all members of the public who may wish to attend in person and still keep with current social distancing and mask requirements. To balance both the need for public participation and protection of the health and safety of our residents and employees, this informational public meeting will be (1) open to limited public attendance in person in compliance with social distancing guidelines and (2) also be accessible by the public by telephone (audio only) or by using their tablet/laptop/computer (audio/video).

I. Presentation to citizens about a proposal to consider including police services with fire, EMS, and other public safety services currently provided by the City of Glendale.

- a. Mayor Howe introduced Mayor Mike Wilcox, City Administrator Ben DeClue and Chief Jeff Beaton of the City of Glendale.
- b. Presentation by Glendale Police Chief Jeff Beaton. Chief Beaton gave the attached Power Point Presentation.

At this time, 7:40 p.m. a short break was taken to try and correct some technical difficulties and open the on-line meeting to more participants.

- c. Financial Information and Terms of Proposal. Treasurer Jim Malik began the presentation via on-line at 7:54 p.m. but had technical difficulties so Mayor Howe discussed the attached Financial information.

II. Public Comments began at 8:05 p.m.

The following are the residents who spoke during this open session;

Dan Barnes, 843 Edlin Dr., Peg McAuliffe, 1461 Reauville Dr., Julie Lambert, 1608 Bennett, Sean Fitzgerald, 1612 Andrew Dr., John Placht, 360 Medina Dr., Brian Middendorf, 1564 Renderer Dr., Gary Moro, 417 Mark Dr., Pat Flood, 402 Flanders Dr., Frank Kaveney, 1301 Gedders Ln., Bradford O'Neil, 16000 Forest View, John Fonke, 379 Rue Renee, Mandy Kamykowski, 1424 Frontenay Ct., Paul Rost, 447 Flanders, Amy Brock, wife of Officer Jesse Brock, Bret Hansen, 1423 Andrew Dr., Harry Lambert, 1608 Bennett Ave., and Peter Rexford, 1415 Jamaica Ct.

The following are the topics discussed;

Did not believe that this is the beginning of the process. He would like to see this go to a vote of the resident Better together was brought up and it was stated that it will be some time before the City is forced to combine with other municipalities.

The City has the financial means to keep our own Police Department

There are other ways to help fund the police. A tax of 1% or so could be put on the purchasing of homes in the City.

What was the purpose of the City purchasing the old St. Matthew's property? The Mayor answered; to keep as much green space in the City as we could and in the future have another park similar to Royal Oak Park with another pavilion, rest rooms etc.

Is the first proposal the City has been given in the last 12 to 24 months? The Mayor answered that this is a long process and was not a serious discussion until lately.

What is the proposed ratio of police in the City as compared to what it is now? Chief Stanczak said that it currently is 2 officers 16 hours per day and 1 officer 8 hours of the day. Chief Beaton said the proposed ratio, for the vast majority of the time will be 2-3 officers and the Chief on duty. 2 officers in Glendale and 1 in Warson Woods. It should be very close to how it is now.

Why this was not talked about in any of the meetings and why nothing came out until after the election.

Is MSD going to do work on Warson Woods Dr.? Alderman Dell'Orco answered yes, they will be paying about \$130,000.00 they are only paying for the amount of the street that they will be working under.

What is the future of Warson Woods Swim Club? It's over 50 years old and has flooded several times in the past few years. There is a possibility of relocation it to the old St. Matt's property.

Some of the residents are treating the Board badly. This must stop.

This issue needs the support of the of the residents. There should be a nonbinding straw vote to give guidance to the Board on how to vote on this issue. It will also give the residence a voice. The City Attorney agreed.

Some residents are not opposed to a property tax to fund the police department. How are Glendale's finances?

Not all the residents are against the idea of merging the police with Glendale especially if the same officers will be patrolling Warson Woods. They suggested prioritizing improvements.

Wished this would have been discussed prior to the April Election.

At this time the Mayor listed several improvements that the Board is considering making. street improvements, sidewalks, Dreher Park Improvements, develop St. Matt's property similar to Royal Oak Park. He said there are a lot of projects that need to be done in an aging City that was incorporated in 1936.

The City Attorney explained why the minutes did not reflect the discussions of the Public Service Agreement Contract possibly including the Police Department. He began by explaining what is commonly known as the "Sunshine Law". He said that Cities have the right by state statute, to discuss certain criteria, the Board of Aldermen may also hold a closed meeting for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to one or more of the following: Legal actions, causes of action, litigation or privileged communications between the City's representatives and its attorney (610.021(1) RSMo.); leasing, purchasing, or sale of real-estate (610.021(2) RSMo.); hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting employees (610.021(3) RSMo.) and sealed bids and related

documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected (610.021(12) RSMo.). He firmly believes the City has followed all the Sunshine Laws. Next, he said having a non-binding straw vote is just one aspect of what can be done. He went on to say we will make sure your wants are heard.

Next, Alderman Dell'Orco said there will be a Public Works Master Plan which will prioritize projects which need to be accomplished.

The Mayor stated said that Warson Woods has received 2 Parks Grants already and that we have received more money through these grants than many other Cities larger than we are. He went on to say that Warson Woods has a resident that is proficient in grant writhing that he plans on reaching out to and asking for help obtaining another grant for Dreher Park. He also plans on seeking some of the proposed Federal Government infrastructure funds for help with our infrastructure needs.

Chief Beaton was asked again to explain the comparison to how many Officers Warson Woods has patrolling now and how many he proposes will be on each shift.

The residents would like to see a comparison to each "draft" contract. They would like to see more details of the proposed 5-year contract also would like the contract to be longer with more guarantees for Warson Woods.

The Proposition "P" money was discussed. What is the City using it for? The Mayor answered raises, vehicle purchase and equipment.

How much money is projected the new "Use" tax going to bring in. It is projected to bring in \$50,000.00 per year at this time. It is hard to project as we don't know how much residents purchase on line.

Lastly, it was pointed out that one resident sees regular police patrols at least 4 times each day and has only see the Fire Department 1 time in the last 3 years while they were checking the fire hydrants.

After a short discussion regarding having a non-binding straw vote, Alderwoman Pfyl moved, seconded by Alderman Dorris to hold the straw vote. After more discussion it was decided to postpone the vote until the April 20<sup>th</sup> Regular board meeting after the City Attorney can give the Board a report on exactly what needs to be accomplished to hold the vote and how much it will cost. It will be on the Agenda.

### III. Closing Remarks

Mayor Howe ended by saying he likes how much the residents love living in the friendly neighborhood. He went on to say that the attacks on the Board members must stop. They are just trying to do their jobs and it is not fair to them and it is embarrassing to the City.

The meeting closed at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Mahany, City Clerk

Laurance M. Howe, Mayor