CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES
March 1, 2016

The City Council met this date in a regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall at #4 E. Lockwood at 7:32 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch
Councilmember Kathy Hart
Councilmember Anne Tolan
Councilmember Debi Salberg
Councilmember Toni Hunt
Councilmember Greg Mueller
Councilmember Ken Burns

A quorum was present.

Also present: Mr. Steve Wylie, City Manager
Mr. Helmut Starr, Acting City Attorney
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

PRESENTATION – Webster University Interdisciplinary Sciences Building

President of Webster University, Dr. Beth Stroble, and Provost Julian Schuster, addressed the new Interdisciplinary Sciences Building. Cannon Design and Paric Construction representatives reviewed the upcoming construction project.

Councilmember Tolan asked if the idea is to eventually remove Lot A, and turn it into green space? Dr. Stroble stated that they need the parking.

Councilmember Hart asked about the timeframe for the extension to the garage. Dr. Stroble stated that it needs to be finished before they can take occupancy of the Sciences building. Ms. Perry stated that it should go to Plan Commission in April. Like this building, it will be an internal review.

Councilmember Mueller stated that he is glad the permitting process has gone smoothly. This is a good example of City/University cooperation.

Councilmember Tolan asked what they will do with the old space. Dr. Stroble said that there is no plan, but there is no shortage of people wanting the space.

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Toby James, Lewis and Associates, stated that a recycling dumpster has been set on the Alma parking lot. It takes up two spaces in that heavily used lot. The parking on Big Bend from Elm to Alma is two-hour parking, and they have been ticketing. It is not very user friendly when there is no space on the Alma parking lot. I called here and was directed to four different people. We have a problem with that lot. There are three companies on Big Bend with a problem with restricted space. I don't know how it could be placed in the lot to only take up one space. We were not told it was happening, nor have the other two businesses. We don't even know what you want us to do with it.

Mayor Welch asked about the public parking across Big Bend.

City Manager Steve Wylie stated that the Sustainability Commission has been interested in commercial recycling in the taxing districts. A member went to district meetings a couple of times to interact and confirm that the taxing district governing body would like to see recycling. It needs to be on public space. We are very reticent to ever take parking spaces away. The business district believes it will get filled up, and is contemplating asking for it in their budget for next year. It was my decision to go at the front of the lot to draw attention to it. I told staff today to get information out about it. Long story short, it is sort of a trial basis to see how it will go and how you react to it, and how it would be utilized. We have heard from this gentleman, another who has recycling in his private space offered his space, which may be an even better solution.

Mr. James asked how far we expect people to walk. Mr. Wylie stated that people will walk. They do in the other districts, and they drive to it.

Councilmember Mueller asked if Mr. James has a solution that he could share. Mr. James stated that he has rollers (carts) at his house that they pick up and thinks that should work. Council and staff discussed options.

Councilmember Hunt stated that she sits on that Board (Crossroads), and they had concerns about the location as well. They were talking about how far they would have to walk. Once it was described to the district as a trial to see how it works, they were ok. So thank you for your comment. That is how this is supposed to work.

Mr. James stated that the lot is fuller than they think. I look right at it, and it is 80-90% full much of the time.

Mayor Welch thanked him for his feedback and stated that they are interested in figuring something out.

Dave Buck, 124 S. Elm Ave., discussed the new Interdisciplinary Sciences Building at Webster University. He stated that they are terrific. However, he thinks Council had every right to point out that the university has suffered a significant downward trend of four consecutive budget shortfalls that total around $40 million and, in turn, $40 million in cuts and budget revisions. Mr. Buck added that he sides with Dwight Bitikofer on this next issue. In the W-K Times 2015 year end issue and recap of the year's top stories, they stated that 2015 has also been a year for law suits and listed the four big ones currently in different stages of litigation. Dwight said, can we not back up and take another route? Lawsuits are divisive. All Dwight was doing was saying can't we just sit down and try to work out a deal? Is there a different way? I know that will never happen, but I want to go on record as saying it.

Councilmember Burns stated, I was surprised to read in the WK Times Mayor Welch's statement that she was "insulted" by comments made by representatives of OneWebster.Com at our prior City Council meeting. I sat here and listened to their presentation before the Council and I did not perceive any animus on their part. That a group of residents feel a compulsion to join together and announce their approach to governance and field candidates in the upcoming election are actions that I respect and welcome. As a fellow member of the City Council I want to be clear the sentiments the Mayor expressed in the newspaper article are not shared by me.

NEW BUSINESS - MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER

No New Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Hart, seconded by Councilmember Salberg, to approve the Consent Agenda.
Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.
MEMBERS VOTING:
AYES: HART, TOLAN, SALBERG, HUNT, MUELLER, BURNS, WELCH
NOES: NONE
Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.
The following Consent Agenda was approved.

- **Approval of Minutes –** February 16, 2016

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Bob Weber was appointed to the Old Orchard Special Taxing District.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

No Executive (Closed) Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th **day of** March **2016.**

MAYOR

CITY CLERK