

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

April 21, 2020

The City Council met this date in a regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall at #4 E. Lockwood Ave., via ZOOM, and available to the public via teleconference at 7:58 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch
Councilmember Bud Bellomo
Councilmember Laura Arnold
Councilmember Pam Bliss
Councilmember David Franklin
Councilmember Emerson Smith

A quorum was present.

Also present: Mr. Steve Wylie, City Manager
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney, read submitted Remarks of Visitors into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Mark Mittleman - 237 Rosemont (Exhibit A)
- Daniel Bruzzini – 125 Orchard (Exhibit B)
- Dave Buck – 124 S. Elm Ave. (Exhibit C)

Mayor Welch stated that a number of Mr. Bruzzini's questions were answered during the Work Session.

Council liked Mr. Buck's idea to ask churches to ring their bells at a specific time.

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

No New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILL #9121 – THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Bellomo, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, **BILL #9121 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 60, THE TRAFFIC CODE, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 60.340 “NOTICE OF STOP INTERSECTIONS” AND ARTICLE XI, SECTION 60.660 “REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DISPLAYING STATE REGISTRATION PLATES” AND 60.665 “USING COUNTERFEIT LICENSE PLATES PROHIBITED” AND REPEALING SECTION 60.320 “VEHICLES TO STOP AT DESIGNATED SCHOOL STOPS” AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**, having been introduced and read twice on April 7, 2020, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9121.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9121.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BELLOMO, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, WELCH

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9121 was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Bellomo, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, WELCH, BELLOMO

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – April 7, 2020
- **Resolution #2020-15** – A Resolution of the City of Webster Groves Opposing the City of Brentwood’s Attempt to Condemn 2828 Breckenridge Industrial Court
- **Resolution #2020-16** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for a Construction Contract for the Marshall Avenue Improvement Project [Federal Project No. STP-5540 (604)], and Amending the Budget for FY 2020
- **Liquor License** – Application of a Wholesale/Distributor Liquor License for D&D Distributors, d/b/a Grey Eagle Distributors, 325 W. Pacific Ave.

Mayor Welch asked when the Budget Work Session is. Mr. Wylie stated that it is May 12.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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 5th day of May 2020.

Gerry Welch
MAYOR

[Signature]
CITY CLERK



Katie Nakazono - Pacific Place Redevelopment (for meeting of April 21)

From: Mark Mittleman <mdm63105@aol.com>

To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>

Date: 4/17/2020 2:51 PM

Subject: Pacific Place Redevelopment (for meeting of April 21)

(Remarks of Visitors)

Dan Bruzzini of the Webster Park Association suggested that I copy and send to you these thoughts which I had given to him on the Pacific Place redevelopment proposal:

"Dan, here are my thoughts. Please try to use your platform to present them to SG and the City Council on behalf of Webster Park, especially if other neighbors agree with them.

I do not want to see any more apartments like the Elle on Lockwood anywhere close to our neighborhood. I wish the Elle on Lockwood had not been permitted at all. But the Pacific Place area strikes me as a good place for apartment or condo development, maybe even high-rises—particularly at the north end near the railroad tracks. I doubt we need more retail or office space in Webster Groves, but if we do, that could be mixed in with the multifamily housing. At the south end along Kirkham, more green space would be useful to offset the higher density development at the north end.

—Mark Mittleman
237 Rosemont"

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

From: Daniel Bruzzini <dbruzzini@gmail.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 4/20/2020 2:54 PM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors - For 4/21/2020 Meeting

20 April

Dear Mayor and Council members of Webster Groves

Below are my questions for the 21 April 2020 council meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions?

Sincerely

Dan

Daniel B. Bruzzini
Cell 314 495-5841

1. Will the City of Webster Groves be cancelling 4th of July Community Days? Doing so would decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission not only from Webster Groves neighbors but also from those outside of Webster Groves whose cities have already cancelled their 4th of July community gatherings. Will Webster Groves cancel its 4th of July fireworks just as Fair St. Louis has done?
2. Regarding the City of Webster Groves considering hiring a second PR firm to promote and solicit input of the SG collaborative. Why do we need to pay for a second PR firm when the SG collaborative explicitly states that they will do the PR work? The SG collaborative already has a website explaining their goals. The SG collaborative already provides an email link to ask questions and are hosting a virtual Town hall on 23 April. It would seem the SG collaborative is already doing the PR work for which they are being paid. Additional PR, as a council member noted during the 7 April session, should be the council members job to get the word out and engage the community. Two PR firms for one project may not only be overkill but also run the risk of having too many chefs and thus will spoil the PR campaign.
3. Regarding the city of Webster Groves assessing a new internet sales tax, how much, how would it be collected, from whom it would be collected, to what city fund would it be directed, will it be increased in the future using what criteria, and for what purposes? What is the expected amount to be gained if implemented? Would it only apply to Webster Groves businesses and if so wouldn't this discourage Webster Groves businesses or have them pass the tax directly onto we their customers? Have you discussed this internet sales tax with the Webster Groves Chamber of Commerce? With local businesses who do a lot of their sales online?
4. Given that COVID-19 quarantine pandemic is economically worse than the financial crisis of 2008, which took us years from which to recover, should the SG collaborative be continued,

Exhibit B

stopped, or postponed? Businesses are struggling to survive, consumers have lost their jobs, and City of Webster Groves tax collection will be drastically reduced, how likely will a new development prosper in this economic environment? How will the City of Webster Groves offer tax incentives given its drastically reduced tax base? How will people be able to patronize new establishments or buy new housing/apartments? Have you consulted the Webster Groves Chamber of Commerce to get their input?

5. Giving the concerns Mayor Welch expressed over funding the police/fire/EMS before COVID-19, what plans do the Mayor and the council have to lower City of Webster Groves costs? Specifically, will there be any personnel layoffs, projects placed on hold, projects abandoned, salary reductions, moratorium on bond issues, public service reductions, committee furloughs, etc.

6. Given City of Webster Groves fiscal concerns today, does it still make economic sense to support Proposition Y which is for incurring a 500,000,000 five hundred million dollar bond debt for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District that will have to be paid back? Would this and other debt inducing bond issues be best avoided until we know exactly how severe the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine? Are there any other bond issues facing Webster Groves we should consider postponing or stopping altogether?

7. Is there any additional City of Webster Groves taxation to apply to developments greater than a certain dollar amount, for example 500k? If yes, to what fund will this money be sent, for what purpose, and who has the authority to use it? Will this apply to the SG Collaborative? to the Marshall Avenue Improvement project? To residential houses? to housing improvements?

Katie Nakazono - Dave Buck's "Remarks of Visitors for the Good of the Community", April 21, 2020

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 4/21/2020 11:11 AM
Subject: Dave Buck's "Remarks of Visitors for the Good of the Community", April 21, 2020
Cc: Gerry Welch <welchg@webstergroves.org>, "Arnold, Laura" <lawarnold@sbcgl...

Thanks for this opportunity. First and most importantly, I hope that City Council and City Staff and your families are staying safe, well and healthy at home.

Secondly, I wish to share an idea which Gerry is also aware of. It is a judged small idea, but one that is a very positive, timely and needed.

As you know, in various cities around our country, citizens are going to their windows, front porches or lawns are expressing their thanks and appreciation of health care workers and first responders with applause or banging pots and pans. This also began in Webster Groves but, to my knowledge, has not been sustained.

So here is a simple idea that doesn't cost a single penny or take lot of time and energy. Webster Groves has more churches per square mile than any other of the 91 municipalities in St. Louis County. Many of these churches have church bells.

Thus, the simple idea is to pick one day and one time every week and, for one minute, have all churches coordinate in unity the ringing of their bells. Such ringing of the bells will be heard across our community and joyfully raise our spirits, share our collective thanks and appreciation, and as a remembrance of all those who have lost their lives.

If City Council likes and supports this idea, I think you can give our church leaders a little nudge to make this idea a reality. I think our churches give the idea a big "YES" and simply say "When?"

That's it. Thanks for reading it.

PEACE.

Dave