

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

June 2, 2020

The City Council met this date in a regular session, via Zoom, which was available to the public via teleconference, at 7:30 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

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed City Budget – Fiscal Year 2021

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing. Joan Jadali, Director of Finance and Administration and Assistant City Manager, presented the proposed budget [**Exhibit A- Copy in City Clerk's office**]. She reviewed budgetary procedures including the training for new software this year and meetings with department heads. She stated that the Mayor wanted an update on sales tax. We don't have the numbers for June yet, which would be April revenue. We are higher in May of this year (which are March receipts) than we were last year. She reviewed primary revenue sources for all funds (**See Exhibit A, page 7**). She reviewed expenditures for all funds and highlighted adjustments from the proposed budget (**See Exhibit A, page 8, 10-12**).

Ms. Jadali showed the primary sources of revenue for the General Fund (**See Exhibit A, page 13**) and the General Fund Revenue Comparison (**See Exhibit A, page 14**).

Councilmember Smith asked if the recreation fee revenue will be impacted by the pool not opening. Ms. Jadali stated that it would, but she didn't know how to project it, and would give it to them in quarterly reports. Steve Wylie, City Manager, stated that the discussion about the pool ignored the fiscal year dividing line.

Ms. Jadali stated that we do need to consider whether or not to go out for debt for the aquatic center in 2024/2025 because the street improvement bonds will be paid off, and they are a much larger portion than the Fire Station bonds. At some point I'd also like us to talk about the new ambulance.

Mr. Wylie stated that it continues to look like we are going to get some CARES money.

Jennifer Conrad, Deputy City Clerk, read submitted Public Comments into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Mark Mittleman – 237 Rosemont (Exhibit B)
- Daniel Bruzzini – 125 Orchard (Exhibit C)

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Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney, entered the following into the public record:

1. Copy of the FY-2021 Budget.
2. Budget Presentation from the Director of Finance.
3. Staff materials supporting presentation from Director of Finance (PowerPoint).
4. Email from Mark Mittleman
5. Email from Dan Bruzzini

Mayor Welch closed the public hearing.

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Katie Nakazono, City Clerk, and Jennifer Conrad, Deputy City Clerk, read submitted Remarks of Visitors into the record. Submissions were received from:

- Dave Buck – 124 S. Elm Ave. (Exhibit D) – Shared comments on a symbol of hope from elementary students.
- Natalie Mirbaha – (Exhibit E) – Supporting the opening of the pool.
- Jennifer Bruner – (Exhibit F) – Supporting the opening of the pool.
- Anne Gastreich – (Exhibit G) – Supporting the opening of the pool.
- Brett Shank – (Exhibit H) – Supporting the opening of the pool and the swim and dive team.

Councilmember Arnold stated that she wanted the public to know that we received these comments prior to the meeting, so we did have the chance to review them before our discussion on the pool. In light of those comments and our earlier decision on the pool, we owe the public some information on how we made it including County restrictions.

Mayor Welch asked if Scott could issue some kind of release. Mr. Wylie stated that we will put something together. We will come back to you if some of this stuff changes.

Councilmember Franklin stated that last week, tonight in fact, we just agreed on a budget that gives 2% pay raises to all Webster Groves employees, but for some reason we don't have the potential to invest \$250,000 in the citizens who are paying for those employees. That is my opposition right now and why I would vote to open the pool, especially in light of what we just did in the budget. Also I do think the inner-ring subdivisions are doing this, and we can do this in a way that is not going to be as cost detrimental as the \$250,000 Scott has given us.

Councilmember Bliss asked if we had any idea of the timeline on the CARES money. Mr. Wylie stated that he hasn't heard anything new.

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

No New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL #9123 – FIRST AND SECOND READING

Councilmember Bellomo introduced **BILL #9123 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE DEFINING THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, FIXING THE COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES IN SAID CLASSIFICATIONS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #9075**, and at the Councilmember's request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

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BILL #9124 – FIRST AND SECOND READING

Councilmember Bliss introduced **BILL #9124 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF PERSONS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #9076**, and at the Councilmember's request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – May 19, 2020

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Bruntrager stated that the proposed Closed Session brought up by Councilmember Bellomo at the beginning of the meeting is probably better served at the next meeting. Councilmember Bellomo agreed.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

No Executive (Closed) Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of JUNE 2020.


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

For BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

From: Mark Mittleman <mdm63105@aol.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 5/22/2020 1:30 PM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors
Cc: <thewebsterparkassociation@gmail.com>

Just two quick thoughts in view of the City's budget issues with its revenues unexpectedly down this year. (1) Don't open the pool at all in 2020, to save an estimated 263K. (2) Don't spend any money on Vector; the whole idea of a second PR firm for the Pacific Place redevelopment seems like an unnecessary boondoggle. It may not actually be a payoff to somebody's brother-in-law, but as a matter of appearances it could raise some suspicion.

Mark D. Mittleman
Webster Park

Sent from AOL Desktop

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

From: Daniel Bruzzini <dbruzzini@gmail.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/2/2020 9:55 AM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors

Budget Public Hearing

Nemo dat quod non habet. To see what COVID-19 has done to our economy, listen to families as they cut back and to our business owners struggling as they make tough decisions on pay cuts and personnel furloughs to keep their dream and their employees' dreams from dissipation. Like them, the City of Webster must determine what is nice, needed, and absolutely necessary because the City is still projected to be ~600 thousand in the hole despite cuts proposed by the city manager Steve Wylie. Last week, outgoing Council Member Bud Bellomo made it perfectly clear the City gets a majority of its money from sales tax collections which come from families buying things from businesses that aren't empty and boarded up. Unless you are the Sheriff of Nottingham, taxation is no salvation when businesses and families are suffering and focused on what is absolutely necessary in order to get by. Does it make any economic sense to pay twenty thousand dollars for a second public relations firm or continuing to plan and pay for a multimillion dollar Pacific redevelopment area? Does historic Webster need yet another walk-in bank to add to its downtown dynamism and community life? There was more foot traffic going through the Gerber Chapel funeral home than the Region's bank that replaced it. *Nemo dat quod non habet* is good commonsense advice for the City of Webster Groves to heed because it means "One cannot give what one does not have." Unfortunately, families and businesses understand this all too well these days. No translation needed.

Jennifer Conrad - UPDATED: "What Racial Equity Looks Like" New Symbol of Hope Through Children's Eyes

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/1/2020 11:50 AM
Subject: UPDATED: "What Racial Equity Looks Like" New Symbol of Hope Through Children's Eyes
Cc: "nakazonok@webstergroves.org" <nakazonok@webstergroves.org>
Attachments: Dave_yin-yang_racial_equality.pdf

Katie, please include my email and attachment with your "Remarks of Visitors" for tomorrow's City Council regular meeting, Tuesday, June 2. Thank YOU!

To City Council & Staff,

Given the tragic events of the white police officer killing of black man, George Floyd, and the nation-wide protests and violent, destructive riots that have followed, the two 5th grade girls and friends (one black and one white) revised their original symbol, specifically the copy underneath, and shared it with me.

Their new symbol is attached.

The poet, William Wordsworth, said it best: "The child is father to the man." To me, it translates to kids are the hope of the world. To these two girls, their creation is a new symbol of hope to find common and equitable ground to help heal a hurting world.

It is understandable, especially in today's world, that the parents of these two girls wish to protect their identities and images and I have promised to obviously respect and honor their wishes.

However, you all are free to share this new symbol with whoever you'd like if you think it might do some good.

Thank YOU!

PEACE.

Dave



WHAT RACIAL EQUITY LOOKS LIKE

**A NEW SYMBOL OF HOPE
THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES**

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of visitors

From: Natalie Mirbaha <nataliemichelle86@gmail.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/2/2020 6:30 AM
Subject: Remarks of visitors

I am writing in support of the opening of the Rec Center pool.

In light of so many other closures, including playgrounds, minimal availability of summer camps running, etc, the community needs to have access to outdoor resources that allow kids healthy exercise and a physical outlet. The pool is something many people rely on in the summer to let their children burn off energy, and I know my daughter's mood and behavior improve when she has that ability to do so in the water.

There are so many benefits from the use of the pool, and I hope Webster will choose to open for its residents.

Kind regards,
Natalie Mirbaha

Katie Nakazono - Open pool 2020

From: Jennifer Bruner <jennifer@artforyourbrain.com>
To: <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/2/2020 2:10 PM
Subject: Open pool 2020

Please consider opening the pool this summer.

Options to consider

1hr 45min sessions that rotate people in an out.

15 min to clean area

Extending pool hours 6am-9pm

30%-50% capacity

Remove chairs and request guests bring their own

Close concession stand and only allow vending machines for drinks and snacks

Allowing swim and dive kids to practice and have virtual meets against each other

Thank you

Jen Bruner
817 Tuxedo
314-494-7046

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

From: Anne Gastreich <agastreich@yahoo.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/2/2020 10:07 AM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors

Please, please consider opening our pool this summer. As a family that has practiced strict social distancing and keeping a strict quarantine at home since March, we would love an outdoor activity that we can participate in together in these hot days of summer that are coming up. Having two middle schoolers I have seen all the emotions of the social distancing and having outdoor activities has really helped relieve our stress. When it gets to get 90 or 100 degrees, riding bikes and hanging out outdoors gets difficult without a pool! Plus just feeling we are getting out even if it is keeping to ourselves just does a lot for morale. Plus neighboring pools that house Webster School District students are opening- both Kirkwood and Maplewood. Here are some ideas for opening:

- Taking all of the furniture out of the pool (what Maplewood is doing). They are allowing families to bring in their own chairs to keep the lifeguards from having to worry about sanitizing all the chairs.
- What about raising the cost of passes this year? I think families would understand to help with the cost.
- Limiting to residents only this year (seems to be what neighboring pools are doing as well.)
- Maplewood is closing concessions this summer. While we love the concessions and would fully support them opening (could do marked spots to wait in line) closing that would be another option and just allow families to bring their own snacks.
- It appears some local pools are staying open a couple weeks later since opening later in season to cover costs as well.
- Call ahead reservations possibly

Our swim team is amazing and I think even though that might be modified there is a lot of pride that comes with being a Webster Wave- and just part of the Webster pool in general. Please open this summer. It would really help give a little bright spot in what has been a tough few months!

Thanks for reading!

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors

From: Brett Shank <brett.shank@yahoo.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/2/2020 10:10 AM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors

I am writing to you as a Webster Groves resident and father of five as I believe we can safely return to pools without jeopardizing the "new normal" that all Americans want and deserve.

With different states, regions and municipalities taking different stances on re-opening policies, some states have allowed lap swim and swim teams to resume, while others have yet to allow athletes access to water. The 300+ athletes representing the Webster Waves competitive youth swimmers, college scholarship candidates and at some point maybe potential Olympic Trial Qualifiers are anxious to resume some sense of normalcy. The Webster Waves are one of the most successful teams in the St. Louis County Swim and Dive Leave winning team championships time and time again. This team is known for and provides opportunities to provide swimming for school age participants in an environment that emphasizes fun, good sportsmanship, safety, athletic endeavor and participation over winning. This program provides participants the opportunity to learn the basic swimming skills, socialize with others involved in the program and improve health and fitness.

As you are may be aware, the Webster Waves return to operations is covered under the St. Louis County (County) Department of. Louis County (County) Department of Public Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Youth and Adult Sports Guidelines that are effective June 15, 2020 in St. Louis County. Swimming is considered a low contact frequency sport and is permitted by the County to return to operations with safety protocols in place on June 15, 2020. Recently, the National Federation of State High School Associations ("NFSH") released a Guidance for Opening up High School Athletics and Activities. The guidance classifies individual swimming as "low risk of infection" because it is a sport that can accommodate social distancing or be performed individually with no sharing of equipment (compared with sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants and lack protective barriers). The County recently developed and released Reopening Criteria for St. Louis County Public Water Recreational Facilities (PWRF) that are also effective June 15, 2020.

Other municipality pools in the St. Louis area have operational plans to return under the PWRF that has been established such as Des Peres, Kirkwood and the North Point Aquatic Centre (Ballwin). While these facilities are developing their operational plans, one aspect that should be considered to help offset costs is the ability for facilities to allow for intentional and scheduled lap swimming in a controlled and supervised environment such as those opportunities presented by the Webster Waves. This will help maximize pool usage while providing the opportunity for swim team members to help rebuild their physical and mental health, as others regain the competitive edge necessary to retain

college scholarships or even prepare to a future Olympic Trials. As the council discusses the potential reopening plans for the Webster Facility please take these considerations for a focused lap swimming environment accordingly.

Thanks again for the consideration for reopening the Webster Groves Aquatic Center on June 15, 2020.

Brett Shank, Webster Groves