

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

June 16, 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

RECOGNITION

Councilmember Bellomo was recognized for his service to the community. (Following the recognition, Councilmember Bellomo thanked the community, as well as his family, staff, and fellow Councilmembers.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 2, 2020

A motion was made by Councilmember Bellomo, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve the Minutes for June 2, 2020.

Mayor Welch called for the vote to approve the minutes.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the minutes were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILL #9123 – THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, **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**, having been introduced and read twice on June 2, 2020, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9123.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9123.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9123 was approved.

BILL #9124 – THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Bellomo, **BILL #9124 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF PERSONS IN THE UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #9076**, having been introduced and read twice on June 2, 2020, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9124.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9124.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9124 was approved.

REVIEW OF VOTES

Mayor Welch stated that the votes cast in the Municipal Election on June 2, 2020 were as follows:

FOR COUNCIL MEMBER:

- Emerson E. Smith won a Council Member position with 3,013 votes.
- Karen Denise Alexander won a Council Member position with 2,534 votes.
- Sarah Green Richardson won a Council Member position with 2,354 votes.
- Dan Meehan received 1,274 votes.
- Kathy Hart received 2,067 votes.

PROPOSITION #1 – CHARTER AMENDMENT – CITY ATTORNEY – (PASSED)

- Yes – 2,607
- No - 1,589

PROPOSITION #2 – CHARTER AMENDMENT – REVISE AND AMEND CHARTER (PASSED)

- Yes – 3,358
- No - 796

RESOLUTION #2020-19

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR FOUR YEAR TERMS

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve Resolution #2020-19.

The Mayor called for the vote.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

The Mayor stated that Resolution #2020-19 was approved.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to the newly elected Council Members by Judge Jim Whitney. Council Members Emerson Smith, Karen Alexander, and Sarah Richardson were sworn in by Judge Whitney.

PUBLIC HEARING

(POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 7, 2020, AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT.)

1. **630 S. Elm Ave. (Wireless Communications Facility)** An Application by DRA Properties LLC for a Conditional Use Permit to Install Nine (9) Cellular Antennas Atop an Existing Light Pole as an Accessory Utility Use at Moss Field at 630 S. Elm Avenue
2. **Annual Library Budget Report – Fiscal Year 2020**

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing, and Tom Cooper, Library Director, reviewed budget highlights [**Exhibit A- Copy in City Clerk's office**]. He stated that Councilmember Bellomo has been their liaison and will be missed on the Library Board. He stated that this year's budget is fairly typical. He stated that this year, they will be spending more on ebooks and audio books. People are listening to more audio books than ever. A downloadable audio book costs two to three times what a downloadable ebook costs. There is also an increase in building and grounds. We put a lot of money into that fund this year because we want to fix the parking lot, we have some HVAC to do, and we want to get a sign for the front of the library lawn. In income sources it is fairly typical. We are worried about the passport line, with the current COVID problem, no one is traveling. The State Department is behind. We hope to start back up in early July. That is good revenue for the library.

Regarding their re-opening plans, he stated that curbside service recently started up and that they would be opening back up later this week. Some services will be on hold for quite a while though.

Councilmember Franklin asked about late fees. Other communities are doing away with late fees, are you looking at that?

Mr. Cooper stated that they have talked about it, but with the fears for revenue this year, it doesn't seem financially prudent to give up a source of income.

Mayor Welch asked how much they receive from fines. Mr. Cooper stated that they receive \$15,000 - \$20,000 from those each year.

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

1. Copy of the Budget Report

Mayor Welch closed the public hearing.

3. Proposed Community Development Block Grant Funds for the 2021 Budget

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing, and Scott Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation and Community Development, gave a brief presentation on the funds.

Good evening everyone. I am here tonight to discuss the Community Development Block Grant which is a national program administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The CDBG funding seeks to meet one of 3 National Objectives: 1. Benefit low and moderate income persons, 2. Prevent or eliminate slums or blight, 3. Address community development needs with a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

HUD provides a block of grants to St Louis County who then disburses most of the funds to subrecipients who are municipalities and non-profits. We have been receiving this grant from County and HUD for many years.

Tonight's public hearing is the first step in the application process for the Calendar Year 2021 funding. We are applying for and expect to receive the same funding as last year. We should be awarded \$33,300. For the past several years, Council has chosen to use all of the CDBG funds in the Home Improvement Program. This is the cornerstone program of the CDBG and provides for five-year forgivable home improvement loans to qualified residents living anywhere within the City of Webster Groves. This program is administered by St. Louis County's Office of Community Development and individuals apply directly with them. The 2020 funds have been granted to nine homeowners and one who is currently in the intake process. There are still two people on the waiting list with no current available funding.

It is staff's recommendation that the 2021 funds full amount of \$33,300 also be directed to the Home Improvement Program.

I'm happy to answer any question the Council or public may have.

Councilmember Arnold stated that it seems like the map is getting smaller. I worry we are running out of eligibility. Mr. Davis stated that it is based on Census data. The first map they came out with after the 2010 census was completely different to any previous and completely different from what it is now. We had that for about two years and it included some parts of town that we didn't think should be included. Last year they reverted back to the map from before. We will probably live with the same map for the next four or five years until they create a new map from the current data.

Mayor Welch asked about the two on the waiting list. Mr. Davis stated that they are in the queue and would be taken as soon as there is funding.

Mr. Bruntrager entered the following into the public record:

1. Report of the Director of Parks and Recreation and Community Development Scott Davis.
2. Staff Materials.
3. 2021 Eligibility Map.

Mayor Welch closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION #2020-20

Authorizing the City Manager of the City of Webster Groves, Missouri, to Submit on Behalf of the City of Webster Groves, Missouri, an Application for Community Development Funds for Calendar Year 2021 to St. Louis County Office of Community Development, Department of Human Services, Providing for Specific Programs to be Undertaken Within Said City Under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as Amended

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve Resolution #2020-20.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Resolution #2020-20.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Resolution #2020-20 was approved.

REMARKS OF VISITORS

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

- Joan McGivney – (Exhibit B) Comments on the budget and pool.
- Dave Buck – (Exhibit C) – Shared comments on strategic planning and Council goals.

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

Mayor Welch stated that the City Manager search firm, GovHR is beginning staff interviews this week. They will be meeting with City Council the week after. We also need to put together a list of stakeholders for them to interview.

Councilmember Arnold stated that she would like to encourage boards and commissions to meet again, via Zoom, if necessary. She also stated that she and Councilmember Smith wanted to call attention to the letter they forwarded with student demands following the march over the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #2020-21

Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

A motion was made by Councilmember Richardson, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve Resolution #2020-21.

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Prior to the vote on Resolution #2020-21, Councilmember Franklin stated that he would like to discuss the pool. It wasn't a wise decision not to open it this season, and he doesn't want to approve a budget without the pool in it.

Joan Jadali, Director of Finance, stated that the budget was not amended to remove costs for the pool, so it would not need to be amended to open it.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, to open the pool this season under Scott's plan from the last meeting, and attach it to this Resolution.

Staff and Council discussed the amendment. Councilmember Franklin stated that he is fine with the budget, but just wants to open the pool.

Mr. Bruntrager stated that these should be separate topics. I think the budget gets adopted and then if you want to open the pool, that is a different topic.

Councilmember Franklin asked why there is one subject to a resolution. I understand the numbers, I am proposing something else, the reopening of the pool. My motion is to add the opening of the pool [to this resolution.]

Council and staff discussed County safety guidelines, staffing levels, other area pool attendance, the management company, and the time it would take to fill the pool.

Mayor Welch called for the vote to reopen the pool.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON

NOES: SMITH, WELCH

Mayor Welch stated the motion was approved.

Council discussed safety guidelines. Councilmember Franklin stated that we can always close it if it doesn't work.

Mr. Bruntrager stated that because this is attached to the budget now, if it is voted down there won't be an operational budget. Additionally, since this wasn't on the agenda, you need a 2/3 vote, which you have.

Councilmember Franklin stated that he was happy to remove it from the budget resolution if that made it easier.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to remove the amendment approved above related to reopening the pool.

Mayor Welch called for the vote to remove the above amendment related to reopening the pool.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD

June 16, 2020

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the amendment was removed.

Councilmember Alexander confirmed that voting to approve the budget is not ending the pool discussion.

Councilmember Richardson stated that she still has outstanding concerns and questions about the budget, and isn't sure what to do with those. My primary concern is the requests from the community to look at the police budget. I realize it is short notice, but it is hard to disconnect those. I have a lot of respect for the work that goes into the budget and don't mean to be dismissive of that, but I have concerns about what our community is asking that we really didn't take into consideration in this budget.

Mayor Welch stated that this is a lot of information for the new Councilmembers to have so quickly. Normally you would have been with us for a couple of months of discussion. We can always amend the budget throughout the year.

Councilmember Arnold stated that she wants to renew her request for a calendar for when we discuss the budget. I trust you all will come back to us, but it will make me feel better to know when we are going to check in.

Ms. Jadali stated that we are working on a calendar for quarterly updates. Whatever Council meeting is after the 10th of the month, because that is generally when we get the sales tax.

Councilmember Smith asked to include anything abnormal happening with the budget.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Resolution #2020-21.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: RICHARDSON

Mayor Welch stated that Resolution #2020-21 was approved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, to amend the agenda for June 16, 2020 to include the reopening of the pool.

Mayor Welch called for the vote to amend the agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the agenda was amended.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, to open the pool.

Council and staff discussed the time frame, who is responsible for distancing, late season revenue, and the possibility of approaching other cities to see if they would be willing to allow residents to swim.

Mayor Welch called for the vote to open the pool.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: RICHARDSON, ARNOLD, FRANKLIN

NOES: ALEXANDER, WELCH, BLISS, SMITH

Mayor Welch stated that the request to open the pool was not approved.

Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda, Mayor Welch asked Mr. Davis when we might expect to explore a new pool. Mr. Davis stated that he thinks it was FY 2023 to go to residents with the hope that it would be built in 2024. I could be a year off.

Mayor Welch asked if the spray ground equipment on the Consent Agenda would go to a new aquatic center. He stated that it would. This replacement would be next spring and happen for Summer 2021.

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: RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Liquor License Renewals** – Renewal of the 2020-2021 Liquor Licenses
- **Resolution #2020-22** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Cabinetry for the Ice Rink, Meeting Rooms, and Kitchen at the Recreation Complex
- **Resolution #2020-23** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Renovations to the Aquatic Center Spray Ground

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Councilmember Arnold made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to go into Executive Closed Session per Personnel [MO Statute 610.021 (3)] and Negotiated Contract [MO Statute 610.021 (12)].

Mayor Welch called for the vote to go into Executive (Closed) Session.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Council would take a five minute break and go into Executive (Closed) Session.

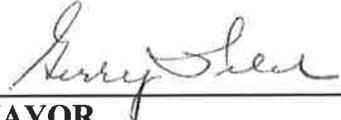
June 16, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of July 2020.


CITY CLERK


MAYOR

Katie Nakazono - Remarks of Visitors for June 16,2020

EXHIBIT B

From: Joan McGivney <joan346@yahoo.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/14/2020 6:01 PM
Subject: Remarks of Visitors for June 16,2020

Dear Mayor Welch and Webster Groves City Council Members Arnold,

Bellomo, Bliss, Franklin and Smith

Re: Remarks of Visitors
Resolution 2020-2021 Adoption of Budget

As I reflect on the June 2, 2020 City Council work session and meeting (I was an tele-observer), I keep thinking about how City Council members reviewed the annual City budget in times of a pandemic that has changed our "normal" way of life with the undercurrent thoughts about the death of George Floyd and the reality that Black lives do matter and that there must be justice for all.

At the work session, the Council made a decision not to open the Webster Groves aquatic center (pool) this year. It's unfortunate because there is a background and coincidence between the pool and "Black lives matter." Historically, (from stories I have heard through the years) when the first pool was built in the 1950's it was not opened because the City Council members did not allow Black people to use it and legally, white folk couldn't use it either. The pool remained closed for a couple of years before a coalition of church and responsible civic leaders were able to resolve it and open it for **ALL** people of Webster Groves.

In the 41 years that I have lived in Webster Groves, I found solace in my times at the pool---seeing the diversity of the people enjoying themselves --young, old, with no discrimination of ethnicity or skin color. I also thought it was "caring outreach" to see people of special needs using the pool.

During the City Council discussion, members referred to the dire financial times and how children would be affected. There was little mention about the mental health of parents of the children who have been home with their children since March and look forward to outside activities. There was no mention of senior citizens, who need to stay active for health reasons, to use the pool.

At the meeting, I heard about the County restrictions on the pool use and Council's concern about the health implications of participants. And, I understand Council's fiscal responsibility. Yet, reviewing the budget, Council is still planning of using \$1.1 million of \$9,725,776 reserves to meet its \$18,994,307 budget and from what I saw this doesn't include the deficit \$248,00 shortfall if the pool is opened (I'm not sure if I reading this correctly). It's prudent to have reserves for times like these. But, this is a

100-year catastrophic pandemic and if you have to use reserves, do it. (i.e.---add the pool to the list that should be opened)

Following are my concerns/questions:

1. I see that the Parks and Recreation Board last met in February. Did Scott Davis talk to any members to get their feedback about recreation? Who made the decision to keep pool closed, yet open the fitness center and ice rink? What will the expense and revenue "numbers" be for these facilities?

2. All the pools in our neighboring communities are opening their pools. What provisions are they making so that they can open? Could we use some of their ideas?

3. Was there a consideration to have four "2-hour" shifts of 176 participants (County requirements of 25% of area) which would be about the total 700 participants that Scott Davis stated is normal? In that case, the revenue \$ would not suffer. I realize that there must be some "sanitizing done between shifts, but if the slides, diving boards and locker rooms are closed and there are no deck chairs, this time would be minimal.

4. There is uncertainty about schools. Schools may not open at the normal time. If so, the pool season could go to middle of September, thus making up revenues lost due to the delayed start of pool opening.

5. Consider adjusting the fee structure this year. As a senior, I would be willing to pay more.

I realize these are critical times. And, the "safe" plan would be to keep the pool closed. It would certainly be easier for the administration and help in the uncertainty in the future. Yet, the City Mission Statement stresses that "Webster Groves is committed to work with citizens to enhance its position to be a premier place to live, work and raise a family." I think the pool is a vital part of Webster Groves in being a premier place to live and raise a family. **It represents a place where ALL CITIZENS can share the experience. Being around each other in the pool (no hugging, keeping social distance) and seeing everyone, even if they are not the same "outside" appearance as you, are part of social healing, understanding and cooperation. And, that should be what living in Webster Groves is all about.**

Joan McGivney

346 Tulip Drive Webster

Groves, MO 63119

314-962-0389

June 14, 2020

EXHIBIT C

Katie Nakazono - Dave Buck "Remarks of Visitors" at City Council Meeting, June 16, 2020

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
To: "citycouncil@webstergroves.org" <citycouncil@webstergroves.org>
Date: 6/15/2020 12:44 PM
Subject: Dave Buck "Remarks of Visitors" at City Council Meeting, June 16, 2020
Cc: "wylies@webstergroves.org" <wylies@webstergroves.org>, "njbatty@aol.com" ...

Mayor, City Council and City Staff,

1. **Congratulations to Emerson, Karen and Sarah!** Emerson and Karen will bring the highest level racial diversity ever to Council. But now the gender balance is out of whack with 5 women and only two men. Not necessarily a negative, but just saying.
2. Bud, I shared my thoughts on your service in an earlier email. **Thank YOU for the great person you are and for being a champion for One Webster.** It's not goodbye, just see you around town.
3. I hope the first order of business for the new Council is to finally get serious and fully committed about **developing a new strategic plan for the city.** I do not know what experience the rest of you have, but I **have seen Emerson in action and he has deep and long-term leadership and experience in strategic planning and he is really good at it. Let him lead it and get the job done well.**
4. A fundamental of such a strategic plan are Council Goals. The last goals on the city's web site are from fiscal year 2018-19, which I assume must have carried over with no changes into fiscal year 2019-20. **But it's now time for fresh thinking and fiscal year 2020-21 Council Goals.**
5. For some time now, Council Goals have been guided by "Visional Directions". The two top ones have been unchanged for years: "Ensure Financial Security" and "Foster a Strong Business Community." Under each visional direction is usually a "soft", qualitative, non-specific goal.
6. In light of the turbulent times we live in today, may I please suggest a **new #1 Visional Direction for City Council: "To teach, lead by example and inspire each and every resident to follow one plain simple rule each and every day: Love Thy Neighbor. And that means ALL neighbors, regardless of gender, age, race, income, education, country of origin, religious or non-religious belief, and sexual identity."** In other words, to be and act toward each other as ONE Webster, united, not divided.
7. And here is the #1 SMART Council Goal to go with it (SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & Timely): **"Each and every day, each and every resident says at least this ONE word to someone he or she does not know in our community: "Hello.""** It's not hard. But a simple "hello" is how we begin the process of reaching out, connecting our humanity and including everyone in our greater community.

Thank YOU!

PEACE.

Dave