

**CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES**  
**September 1, 2020**

The City Council met this date in a regular session, via Zoom, which was available to the public via teleconference, at 7:31 pm.

Present at Roll Call:

- Mayor Gerry Welch
- Councilmember Laura Arnold
- Councilmember Pam Bliss
- Councilmember David Franklin
- Councilmember Emerson Smith
- Councilmember Karen D. Alexander
- Councilmember Sarah Richardson

A quorum was present.

Also present:

- Ms. Joan Jadali, Interim City Manager
- Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney
- Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

**RECOGNITION**

Mayor Welch and the Council presented Daughters of the American Revolution representative Brenda Bucol with a proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2020.

Mayor Welch and the Council presented Christine Knobbe and Eugenia Webdell of the Kirkwood-Webster Groves American Association of University Women with a proclamation recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Levying and Establishing the Rate of Annual Property Taxes to be Collected for the Year 2020 by the City of Webster Groves, Missouri**

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing. Joan Jadali, Interim City Manager, gave a brief presentation (**Exhibit A, available in the City Clerk's office**). She stated that the numbers have not changed much, and as this is a non-reassessment year, we would anticipate that. She showed the difference between last year and the current year. You can see that all of the numbers for the City are the same as last year. The only difference is for the taxing districts. Old Orchard is lower for the commercial, and Old Webster, the residential and commercial are slightly higher. She showed the rates for the four areas the City collects property taxes for. I also wanted to demonstrate the way the taxes are split up. Bond redemption is the highest percentage. She showed how City rates have changed over ten years. She shared all of the property taxes paid by residents from 2019. The School District sets their own rates. We do not receive any of these other amounts, they are paid to the entities.

Mayor Welch pointed out that people with a fire protection district have an extra line on their property tax. In some places, the rate is over \$3 per hundred. And because it is a property tax it is

a stable tax. This is why we are arguing so much to get funds from COVID. Fire, EMS, and ambulance service comes from our general fund.

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

1. Presentation materials from Ms. Jadali – September 1, 2020.
- Mayor Welch closed the public hearing.

**BILL #9127 – FIRST & SECOND READING**

Councilmember Franklin introduced **BILL #9127 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2020 BY THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 9086**, 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.

**Levying and Establishing the Rate of Annual Property Taxes to be Collected for the Year 2020 for the Webster Groves Library District**

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing. Joan Jadali, Interim City Manager, gave a brief presentation. She stated that the numbers are the same with the exception of personal property. She showed the proposed rates, they are very similar to what we had for the City. This is the residential piece. These are pre-Board of Equalization numbers. I don't anticipate them changing much at all. If they do, I will have numbers for you that I will present at the third reading. Usually we don't have those issues in non-reassessment years. She also showed a ten-year picture of the residential rates for the Library.

Councilmember Alexander asked about the rate list. Ms. Jadali stated that this is just residential. I displayed it in a different format, but for your home it would be .224 times the assessed valuation of your property, divided by 100.

Mr. Bruntrager entered the following into the public record:

1. Presentation materials from Ms. Jadali – September 1, 2020.
- Mayor Welch closed the public hearing.

**BILL #9128 – FIRST & SECOND READING**

Councilmember Arnold introduced **BILL #9128 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES TO BE COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2020 FOR THE WEBSTER GROVES LIBRARY DISTRICT, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 9087**, 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.

**REMARKS OF VISITORS**

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

- Daniel Bruzzini – (Exhibit B) – Statement regarding finances and the projected deficit.

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- Madeline Roche – (Exhibit C) - Request to downsize the SG Collaborative redevelopment project.
- Dave Buck - (Exhibit D) – Comments on positive and healthy self-esteem.

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

No New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BILL #9129 – FIRST & SECOND READING**

Councilmember Bliss introduced **BILL #9129 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES AMENDING THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE XX, SECTION 4.1200 “POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD CREATED” BY ADDING ONE (1) ALTERNATE MEMBER POSITION**, 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.

Councilmember Alexander asked if we determined that this is an alternate position or a regular position.

Mr. Bruntrager stated that his understanding is that it was an alternate position, but she would have powers of a regular member.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin to make it a regular member.

Mr. Bruntrager stated that the ordinance says there are six members, and you would have to change the ordinance to do so.

Council and staff discussed what would need to change.

Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, amended his motion to amend the ordinance to appoint six members, by adding one additional general member to the Police Community Engagement Board.

Councilmember Arnold asked if that needed to be a resident of Webster Groves.

Ms. Conrad stated that this current ordinance is amending 4.1200 creating the board of seven members. 4.1205 is the membership qualifications. The first category is for residents. You could change both what we had in the ordinance as well as the resident qualifications.

Councilmember Franklin stated that whatever she (Ms. Conrad) said.

Ms. Nakazono stated that, if we allow Ms. Brooks to serve with this proposed ordinance as is, we can clean up the language and bring it back.

Mr. Franklin withdrew his motion related to above proposed amendments.

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Mayor Welch clarified that we will pass this tonight so we can appoint her (Ms. Brooks) this evening, and bring this issue back.

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Richardson, to conduct the Third Reading, and call for the vote this evening, due to the compelling reason that it is necessary to formally appoint Ms. Angela Brooks to this Board, so she can participate/vote at the next PCEB meeting, on **BILL #9129 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES AMENDING THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE XX, SECTION 4.1200 “POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD CREATED” BY ADDING ONE (1) ALTERNATE MEMBER POSITION**, having been introduced and read twice on September 1, 2020, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9129.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on conducting the third reading, and calling for the vote on Bill #9129, due to the compelling reason stated above.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that a third reading and vote would be conducted.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9129.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9129 was approved.

#### **BILL #9130 – FIRST & SECOND READING**

Councilmember Smith introduced **BILL #9130 – ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE LEVYING THE COST OF ABATING CERTAIN NUISANCES (TITLE SEARCH, CUT/TRIM, DEBRIS, ETC.) AS SPECIAL TAX BILLS AGAINST THE PROPERTIES HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED AND CONSTITUTING LEVIES AS LIENS ON THE RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES**, 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 Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – August 4, 2020
- **Resolution #2020-31** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Janitorial Services for City Hall and the Police Department, and Amending the FY-2021 Budget
- **Liquor License** – Application to Sell Beer and Wine by the Drink for Consumption on the Premises Where Sold, by Chiang Mai (Mid America Trading, LLC), 8158 Big Bend Blvd.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- Angela Brooks was appointed to the Police Community Engagement Board.
- Scott Nixon was reappointed to the Board of Adjustment.
- Scott Groesch was reappointed to the Police Community Engagement Board.

**EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION**

Councilmember Arnold made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to go into Executive Closed Session per Attorney-Client Privileged Communications [MO Statute 610.021(1)] and Personnel [MO Statute 610.021 (3)].

Mayor Welch called for the vote to go into Executive [Closed] Session.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

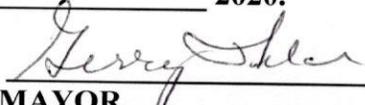
NOES: NONE

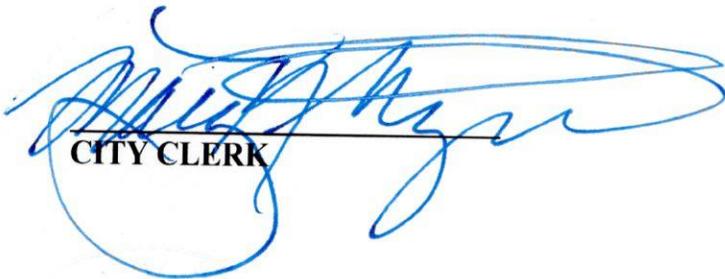
Mayor Welch stated that they would go into Executive [Closed] Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

  
MAYOR

  
CITY CLERK

