

City of West Buechel
Special City Council Meeting
Via Zoom
March 11, 2021 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Brenda Moore, Attorney Mark Hall, Councilwoman Linda Cook, Councilwoman Danielle Wood, Councilwoman Ashley Stewart, Councilwoman Evelyn Saldana, Councilwoman Kim Richards, Councilman Toby Clark, City Clerk Debbie Batliner and Chief James Sherrard. Guest speaker David May CPA.

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cook and second by Councilwoman Wood to approve the minutes from February 11, February 25, March 4, and March 8, 2021. Vote was 5 yes and 1 no. Motion carries with majority vote.

Council held first reading of Ordinance 291 Series 2021 Changing City Council Meeting Time. Councilwoman Wood sponsored Ordinance 291 Series 2021. Second reading will be held at the April regular council meeting.

Chief Sherrard 's report was in the packet and he gave a recap of two active investigations that arose after his report was created. The stabbing on Marvin Avenue is an ongoing investigation and he could not give details. The shooting incident was at Walmart, there were no West Buechel officers involved, they were assisting LMPD with securing the scene.

City Clerk Batliner presented and recapped the financial reports. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood and second by Councilwoman Richards to approve the financials as presented. Motion carries with unanimous vote.

David May explained the internal controls and what information should be exposed to the public and what information should not be exposed to the public. Mr. May also informed the council that Clerk Batliner does not touch payroll and he reconciles all accounts.

Councilwoman Richards stated that there was a need for internal controls and that she had no access to the records. Clerk Batliner offered to stay one night a month on the Monday before the Council Meeting to allow Council members to access all records. Councilwoman Stewart informed the council that Clerk Batliner was doing that at no additional cost to the taxpayers and was using her own time to accommodate council.

Councilwoman Richards requested that a Council member should approve/disapprove each check that is written to the Mayor. She stated that according to the 2015 Audit, the auditor suggested that they

put this into place. A motion was made by Councilwoman Richards for all checks written to Mayor to be approved by a council member. Motion was second by Councilman Clark. Vote was 3 no, 2 abstain and 1 yes. Motion failed.

Clerk Batliner informed the council that we received four sealed mowing bids and deferred to Mark Hall, City Attorney.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stewart and second by Councilwoman Wood to take a five-minute break. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Mayor Moore reconvened the meeting at 8:23.

Attorney Hall informed the council that there was a violation of the sealed bids protocol. A direct communication with a council member violates KRS statute 45A. Attorney Hall stated that it would be in the best interest of the city to decline all bids and re-bid.

Councilwoman Richards disappeared off camera. Clerk Batliner informed Councilwoman Richards that she must always stay in view of the zoom screen during the meeting. Councilwoman Richards stated that her internet connection was lost.

Councilwoman Richards wants to go back to in person meetings. Clerk Batliner informed Councilwoman Richards that state guidelines are still at 60% capacity for government offices. Unless we can provide public access to the meetings, we cannot go back in person until the restrictions are lifted.

Mayor Moore wants to meet with each Council person individually to discuss what their visions are for the city. Mayor Moore requests that each member contact City Hall to set up a time.

Councilman Clark wants a Municipal Order drafted for the next meeting to start the Budget Committee with three council members on for six months and rotate the other three council members for the next six months and allowing the public to be part of the process. Attorney Hall informed the council that they could create committees based on necessity. There is nothing illegal about creating a budget committee.

Mayor Moore scheduled a zoom special meeting on March 17, 2021 at 6:30. There will be one item on the agenda which will be the 2018-2019 Audit. There can be nothing else discussed at this meeting.

Mayor Moore opened the floor for a second reading of Ordinance 290 Series 2021 Tax Refund Ordinance. Councilman Clark stated that it was unconstitutional and did not want to continue with second reading of the ordinance. He stated that he withdrew the ordinance.

Council brought forth Ordinance 291 Series 2021 Amending the budget for a Council Attorney. Councilwoman Stewart made a motion and second by Councilwoman Wood to take a short recess at 9:11. Motion Carried with unanimous vote.

Mayor Moore reconvened the meeting at 9:17.

Clerk Batliner informed the Council that there was money in the Administration budget that could be used for the attorney for the council and would not have to do an ordinance to amend the budget. Attorney Hall stated that this would allow council to get their legal representation faster and it would not be an employee that was governed by the Mayor.

Councilwoman Richards suggested attorney Stan Chovan as the new city attorney.

Councilwoman Stewart stated she would like to see multiple applicants and to review resumes and go through the interview process. She also requested that the job be posted. Councilwoman Wood agreed with Councilwoman Stewart. She wants options.

Councilwoman Richards wants to have attorneys at next city council meeting for the interview process.

Councilwoman Cook questioned city attorney Mark Hall whether council members can e-mail each other regarding city business as a group. Attorney Hall informed her that it violates open meeting laws and stops the intent to have the community involved.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Richards and second by Councilman Clark to have the attorneys come forward for interview at the April Council meeting. Roll call vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and second by Councilwoman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 PM. Motion carried unanimously.


Mayor Brenda Moore

ATTEST:


City Clerk, Debbie Batliner