

City of West Buechel  
Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
3705 Bashford Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40218  
April 14, 2022, 6:30 PM

Present: Mayor Brenda Moore, Attorney Mark Hall, Councilwoman Linda Cook, Councilwoman Danielle Wood, Councilwoman Evelyn Saldana, Councilwoman Ashley Stewart, Councilwoman Kim Richards, Councilman Toby Clark, City Clerk Debbie Batliner and Deputy Clerk Sherri Osbourne. Visitors were Ms. Cline, Liz Bierbaum, Bonnie Manning, Vivian Ridener, Paul Kubala, Jerry Embry, Colleen Younger, Jefferson County PVA and Shameka Parrish-Wright Louisville Metro Mayoral Candidate.

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Ms. Colleen Younger addressed the council and visitors informing them of the upcoming reassessment in district #6. She informed everyone that they can appeal their property value until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, close of business. The Jefferson County PVA office will have a representative at West Buechel City Hall on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Ms. Younger also addressed the council and visitors in support of David Nicholson mayoral candidate.

Ms. Shameka Parrish-Wright addressed the council and visitors to request support in the upcoming Louisville Metro mayoral race.

Councilman Clark introduced Christian Tadge a representative with JenCare Senior Medical Center. Councilman Clark stated the Mr. Tadge was willing to assist with the West Buechel Festival that will be held on August 6, 2022, from 5-9 PM. Councilman Clark presented the plan for the festival and was requested the Mayor and Council give their approval. He stated that he had May, June, and July to prepare and obtain more sponsorships. Once the legal aspects, restrooms and parking are covered, preparations will start in May. Clerk Batliner questioned if JenCare was interested in sponsorship. Mr. Tadge stated that when the numbers are compiled, then they will talk about sponsorship. Councilwoman Richards questioned if they had permission. Clerk Batliner said to secure sponsorship first and Mayor Moore said she did not have a problem with doing the festival it as long as it was done correctly and legally.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and second by Councilwoman Saldana to approve the minutes of March 1, 2022. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

**Attorney Mark Hall:**

Attorney Hall gave the first reading to Ordinance Number 298 Series 2022 Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Attorney Hall also read the Mayor's Budget message. Councilwoman Cook sponsored ordinance.

Councilwoman Stewart proposed an amendment to take \$50,000 from the Community Center Budget to set aside for when the policies and procedures are in place, and everything is running legally and correctly.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stewart and second by Councilwoman Richards to remove \$50,000 from the Community Center Budget.

Councilwoman Wood wants to postpone voting until the council discusses the matter further. Councilwoman Stewart stated there needed to be updated security cameras, updated tracking system to reduce the city's liability. Councilwoman Stewart does not want the Community Center closed, just wants it to run efficiently and to reduce liabilities for the City.

Councilwoman Stewart stated that the Community Center needs a data tracking software to track all activities to see where changes need to be made. She stated this would assist the workers also, so they have data tracking and show all that they are accomplishing at the community center. Councilwoman Wood questioned if it tracked employees' hours? Clerk Batliner said she was not sure. This is to build data showing what to offer that is working on improvement should be made to the programs and what to increase in certain areas. Time tracking for employees is totally different.

Councilwoman Wood stated that out of \$138,900 budget that \$1,000 activities were never used.

Councilwoman Stewart said taking \$50,000 out of budget leaves for two part time employees. This can be reworked and reduce liability and we can amend after the work is completed on new policies and procedures.

Councilwoman Saldana stated they were not out to punish anyone just wants a better place for all citizens to go and enjoy and have accountability of the activities of the center.

Liz Bierbaum stated that she has accountability and reports. Ms. Bierbaum stated that Evelyn Saldana was the only council person she has seen in the community center. She stated that is coming back and the city needed to put more money in the building and that we are already in a lawsuit for cutting pay, do we really want to put the city in that place again.

Paul Kubala stated there was a problem with stray cats and the city should budget \$1,000 for feeding the cats before passing this budget

Bonnie Manning stated that the council has no children involved in the community center and they have not seen what the center has done for the children in the neighborhood. She stated that we need two people at the center. Liz for the older kids and Jeanie for the younger kids and the seniors need help. She also asked, "Why are we trying to fix something that is not broken?"

Attorney Hall stated that the city council role in the budget does not give the city council the right to decrease employee status.

Councilwoman Cook said that she disagreed, and they need a full-time person because of the summer programs.

Mayor Moore stated that we needed full time staff to have the summer lunch and breakfast programs and we could not staff the lunch programs with part time personnel, we are an open site.

Councilwoman Cook stated that we cannot tell the mayor that the staff must go part time that the council does not have the authority to manage staff, that is a function of the executive authority.

Attorney Hall stated that the council has the authority to fix compensation of employees and the mayor has the authority over the employees and runs the city daily operations.

Roll call vote on the motion on the floor is as follows: Toby Clark – yes, Ashley Stewart – yes, Kim Richards – yes, Evelyn Saldana – yes, Linda Cook – no, and Danielle Wood – yes. Motion carries with 5 to 1 vote.

Clerk Batliner stated that she had gone through the budget line by line with each council person except for Councilwoman Richards and everyone was fine with the budget. Councilman Clark had one issue and that was with the Community Center. Councilwoman Richards stated that she had issues with money for a new HVAC system and a new roof for city hall and the police department. Clerk Batliner stated it was not the whole roof at city hall the police department had already been replaced a couple of years ago. The HVAC needs improvement, and the duct work needs evaluation.

Clerk Batliner informed Councilwoman Richards that she was mis-informed. The funds that were placed in the budget were for repairs and not replacement.

Councilwoman Richards stated that the city cannot take the cats and feed them. Animal Control needs to be notified. Louisville Mero governs animals. We do not have a program for that.

Councilwoman Stewart stated that someone could set up a booth at the festival to raise funds for cat food if they wish.

Ms. Cline stated that she does not want the city to use her tax dollars to feed cats.

Mayor Moore called for a five-minute break at 8:19.

Mayor Moore called the meeting back to order at 8:30.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any other discussions regarding the budget ordinance.

Councilwoman Stewart questioned if this budget included the raises for the police department. Clerk Batliner informed her that it does include the pay increases for the police department.

Attorney Hall gave first reading to Ordinance 298 Series 2022 Regarding Pay Rate Changes for the Police Department. Councilwoman Richards sponsored the ordinance.

Councilwoman Richards was concerned that this was not enough money.

Clerk Batliner and Mayor Moore reviewed the finances and stated this is the maximum the city can do at this point in time. We may revisit when the revenue goes back to where it was previously.

Chief of Police Tyler stated that we are competitive. We are having trouble because people are wanting to get out of law enforcement. There is a statewide shortage in police, fire, and EMS.

Attorney Hall gave first reading to Ordinance Number 295 Series 2022 to repeal the code enforcement board ordinance 281 Series 2019.

#### **Department Reports:**

##### **Police:**

Councilwoman Wood stated there are teens hanging out by the railroad tracks. Chief Tyler stated that if they see them, to call dispatch and report it. Councilwoman Saldana said they were having a problem getting dispatch to answer. Chief Tyler stated they are dispatching for nine different agencies. Try again if no answer.

##### **Administration:**

Clerk Batliner presented the financial reports. A motion was made by Councilwoman Stewart and second by Councilwoman Wood to approve the financials as present. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Clerk Batliner stated there were four bids for the paving of Mall Road.

1. \$34,550 with 1.5" Asphalt.
2. \$47,870 with .5" Asphalt.
3. \$53,281 with .5" Asphalt
4. %57,870 with 1.5" Asphalt.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Richards and second by Councilwoman Wood to award the bid to #1. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Clerk Batliner stated there were two bids for Residential Waste.

1. 2X per week at \$25.50 per residence.  
Increases are based on the Consumer Price Index.
2. 2X per week at \$36.00 per residence for the first year, \$37.80 for the second year, \$39.0 for the third year, \$40.45 for the fourth year and \$41.87 for the fifth year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cook and Second by Councilwoman Wood to go with bidder number 1. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Clerk Batliner informed the council that the police department was going to surplus three police vehicles. A 2011 Ford Taurus with vin #8958, a 2016 Ford Explorer with a blown engine vin #8934 and 2018 Dodge Charger vin # 3300.

A motion to declare the above-named vehicles as surplus property was made by Councilman Clark and second by Councilwoman Stewart. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cook and second by Councilwoman Wood to approve the purchase of a car in the current budget for the police department. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

#### **Mayor Report:**

PVA will have a representative here on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 PM assisting residents that want to appeal their property value assessments.

Mayor Moore stated that the Selma Avenue project is moving along, and the street will also be widened to twenty-four feet.

#### **Council Request:**

In the absence of Council Attorney Stan Chauvin, Attorney Hall held second reading of Ordinance 295-2022 to increase the number of council members from 6 to 7. Roll call vote as follows: Councilman Clark – yes, Councilwoman Stewart – No, Councilwoman Richards – yes, Councilwoman Saldana – yes, Councilwoman Cook – yes, Councilwoman Wood – yes. Motion carried with a 5-1 vote.

Councilwoman Richards was wondering how the process of the 7<sup>th</sup> person would go. Attorney Hall stated that the Council Attorney Chauvin would have to inform them about the process.

Councilwoman Richards requested that Attorney Hall talk to Attorney Chavin regarding the process. Councilwoman Wood stated they were not in a rush to appoint someone to the extra seat that this was not intended for the present budget.

#### **Closed Session:**

A motion to go into Executive Session regarding KRS 61.810 (c & f) citing litigation and personnel matters was made by Councilman Clark and second by Councilwoman Wood. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Councilman Clark left the meeting at 10.15 PM.

A motion to return to regular session was made by Councilwoman Wood and second by Councilwoman Stewart. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn at 10:26 PM was made by Councilwoman Wood and second by Councilwoman Saldana. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. No action was taken.

*Mayor Brenda Moore*

Mayor Brenda Moore

ATTEST:

*Debbie Batliner*

City Clerk, Debbie Batliner