

City of West Buechel
Council Meeting
Assembly Hall
3705 Bashford Avenue
Louisville, KY 40218
February 9, 2023, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Moore, Attorney Hall, Councilwoman Cook, Councilwoman Wood, Councilman Bierbaum, Councilman Embry, City Clerk Batliner and Assistant Clerk Brown.

Absent: Councilwoman Manning, Councilwoman Saldana.
Councilwoman Blanton arrived late at 6:08 PM.

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wood and second by Councilman Embry to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Hall read Municipal Order 001 Series 2023 for Approving the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Encourage Employee Retention. A motion was made by Councilman Embry to approve the municipal order as read. Councilman Bierbaum second the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Councilwoman Wood asked if city employees are going to receive another incentive. Mayor Moore and City Clerk Batliner answered yes.

Councilwoman Wood asked why we are not using ARPA funds for the residents. Mayor Moore explained that we are using the funds for city employees so we can be somewhat competitive and try to hire more employees and retain the ones we have. Councilwoman Cook stated that if we did not use the funds for rent programs before ARPA then we cannot begin that program now.

Councilman Embry asked if we could use the funds as a sign on incentive to hire police? Councilman Bierbaum asked if the funds could be used to build another city building like a new Multipurpose Center? City Clerk Batliner explained that the funds were already allotted for the police department equipment program. Councilman Bierbaum asked how much we received for ARPA and why we did not receive more. Mayor Moore explained that it is determined by the census, we had hosted the census staff at City Hall couple years ago to assist with filling out the census form, but no residents participated. City Clerk Batliner stated that we are using the money to send new police recruits to training, also we need to repair the roof and vent on the 2nd floor at City Hall which funds can be used for remodeling but not to build a brand-new building. Councilwoman Wood asked how much of the funds we will have left, and City Clerk Batliner stated that she will not have that number until checks have been disbursed.

City Attorney Hall read Ordinance #303 Series 2023 Pertaining to Insurance Premium for the first reading. Councilman Bierbaum made a motion to approve the Ordinance as read.

Councilwoman Wood stated that Louisville Metro's Insurance Premium was at 5% and asked why we are raising the rate. Mayor Moore stated that if we are going to keep paying the police at a higher rate and be able to hire new police officers that we need to generate more revenue to be able to sustain paying them. Councilwoman Wood made a motion to change the rate from 10% to 8.5%. No council member second the motion. The motion died.

City Attorney Hall read Ordinance #304 Series 2023 Pertaining to Pay Classifications for the first reading. Councilwoman Cook made a motion to approve the Ordinance as read.

Councilwoman Wood asked if the Multipurpose Center had new titles. City Clerk Batliner stated that the Multipurpose Center never had titles for the positions. Councilwoman Wood asked if we are hiring groundkeepers to cut the grass. City Clerk Batliner stated no. The groundkeeper will be picking up trash around the city. Councilwoman Wood asked if we have any plans to hire maintenance. City Clerk Batliner stated no. Mark stated that the new pay classification is a motivating factor for hiring police because it was based off of an old pay classification.

City Attorney Hall read Ordinance #305 Series 2023 Pertaining to Meeting Time Change for the first reading. Councilwoman Wood made a motion to approve the Ordinance as read.

Department Reports:

Police:

Assistant Chief Hibbs stated that we have two possible retired police officers, but competitive pay is our biggest problem. Assistant Chief Hibbs stated that he read an article from Police One and how other states are offering higher pay and sign on incentives to try and hire new police officers and how difficult it is cross the board. Liz Bierbaum asked if we can offer part-time police officers benefits as a hiring incentive. City Clerk Batliner stated that there are certain guidelines that we must meet.

Financials:

City Clerk Batliner went over the financial reports. A motion was made to accept the financials by Councilwoman Cook. Councilwoman Wood second the motion. All in favor. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

City Clerk Batliner asked for a Special Meeting to be held on Friday, February 10, 2023, to have a second reading on ordinances. All council members agreed to have the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Mayor's Report:


Mayor Moore stated that the Multipurpose Center could hold free training for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the community that Julie Cline had requested. Ms. Cline added she was concerned that employees and elected officials receive training.

City Clerk Batliner announced the upcoming 4 Session Series training on Equity and Inclusion for the Elected Officials and City Employees and that they can register online with KLC to receive credit.

Mayor Moore stated that Vivian Ridener was appointed to the Ethics Board. Councilman Embry made a motion to confirm Ms. Ridener and Councilwoman Wood second the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:52 PM was made by Councilwoman Cook and second by Councilman Embry. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.



Mayor Brenda Moore

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Debbie Batliner