

City of West Buechel  
Council Meeting  
Assembly Hall  
3705 Bashford Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40218  
July 13, 2023, 6:30 PM

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

City Clerk Batliner confirmed that we had a quorum.

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**Speaker:**

Claudette Patton introduced herself and stated that she is running for Family Court Judge for Jefferson County in November.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cook and second by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of June 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Department Reports:**

**Police:**

Mayor Moore stated that the police report was in the packet. Chief Tyler did not have anything else to report.

**Financials:**

City Clerk Batliner stated that the financial reports are provided in their packets. City Clerk Batliner recapped the financials. City Clerk Batliner stated that we are still reconciling the year end. City Clerk Batliner advised that July 1<sup>st</sup> is when liens on property are processed and that we only have 7 liens this year. City Clerk Batliner informed that she has contacted the auditor and that the audit will begin in September. City Clerk Batliner also stated that we have a target date for the audit to be completed by our December regular meeting.

City Clerk Batliner asked if there were any other questions regarding the financials. Councilwoman Wood made a motion to approve the financials and Councilman Embry second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Committee's Report:**

Councilwoman Cook provided the Multipurpose Committee Minutes for June 6, 2023. Councilwoman Cook stated that Sickles Realty will be holding a "Back to School" event on July 22, 2023, at 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Councilwoman Cook advised that the Multipurpose Center is holding a free yoga class once a week on Tuesdays at 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. Mrs. Bierbaum stated that the yoga instructor will arrive at 5:00 PM to get the children involved with yoga as well. Mayor Moore indicated that the yoga instructor will be using chairs in the yoga session for the seniors.

### **Council Member Requests:**

#### **LED streetlights – Councilwoman Cook**

Councilwoman Cook handed out a LED streetlight informational packet to the council. Councilwoman Cook proposed that the city invests in LED streetlights to replace the old lights, it is mainly for safety. Councilwoman Cook stated that the lights are brighter, and they will save on electric. Councilman Embry made a motion to approve the LED streetlights project. Councilwoman Wood second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Abatement and grass cutting for empty lots – Councilwoman Cook**

Councilwoman Cook made aware that there are some lots that are being cut by the city and the city should not be cutting them for free. Councilwoman Cook stated that the property owners need to be held accountable for the maintenance their own lawn. Councilwoman Cook declared that Councilman Bierbaum should not be cutting the lots for what he charges. It should be double that amount. Councilwoman Cook stated that the city needs to contact the property owner to notify them that they are responsible for cutting their own lawn maintenance. City Clerk Batliner advised that we have to create an ordinance then contact the property owner letting them know that there is an ordinance that has been adopted to address owner maintenance responsibility. Councilwoman Wood agrees but would like the ordinance to state that after so many days the city will cut the grass and charge them. City Clerk Batliner stated that it is based off of a particular number of days and the height of the grass. Then the city will contract it out to be cut and bill the property owner. Then the property owner has so many days to pay the city. If the property owner does not pay on time, then a lien will be placed on the property. Councilwoman Cook advised that this is not on the agenda but the house on St. Francis with the boarded-up windows, asked if that still being worked on. City Clerk Batliner stated yes, and she is working with the attorney to address the issue. Councilman Embry asked if Councilwoman Cook spoke about 3717 Ethel Avenue. Councilwoman Cook said yes and she has spoken to City Clerk Batliner about it. Councilman Embry stated that when the house was torn down that the property owner did not flat grade the ground and it has ruts that is holding water. Councilwoman Wood affirmed that they have flatten the ground. Councilwoman Wood asked if we could create an ordinance that states only one house can be built on one lot. Mayor Moore stated that we do not do planning and zoning. Councilman Embry made a motion to approve the abatement and grass cutting for empty lots. Councilwoman Wood second the motions. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Status of City Hall remodel – Councilwoman Cook**

Councilwoman Cook asked about the status of the City Hall remodel. City Clerk Batliner stated that we are still negotiating with the insurance company. City Attorney Hall is working on a letter addressing ADA compliances. City Clerk Batliner stated that we are moving as fast as we can. City Clerk Batliner advised that we had to wait on the insurance adjustors, and we had a separate adjustor for personal property like computers, server, etc. Councilwoman Wood asked if repairing the upstairs has to be an option. City Clerk Batliner stated that it is being repaired to bring it up to code so we can have an office and structure. Councilwoman Wood asked if the elevator could wait to be installed? Councilwoman Cook asked does the elevator have to be installed to make the building ADA compliant. City Clerk Batliner confirmed that statement.

### **Noise Ordinance – Councilwoman Wood**

Councilwoman Wood stated that she has received complaints about loud music and asked if we need to update our ordinance to address the loud music. Councilman Embry replied that he has not heard any loud music. Councilman Bierbaum stated that he only hears noise from the overpass. Councilwoman Cook stated that she has had complaints from Paul Kubala about his neighbors playing loud music. Mr. Kubala stated that the residents need to be fined for loud music and residents cutting their grass at night. Mr. Kubala stated that the residents are not going to stop until they are fined. City Attorney Hall stated that the city had a code enforcement board, but now has been dissolved. In the absence of the code enforcement board, West Buechel Police and Louisville Metro Code Enforcement would be the agency that residents should contact Dispatch to begin the process. Louisville Metro Code Enforcement can be called to start the process and have the option to cite or give a warning. If the resident feels unjustly cited, the resident also has the right to appeal the code enforcement accusation. Councilwoman Wood stated that Louisville Metro will not come out for certain things, and she believes noise was one of them. Mayor Moore responded that the residents pay taxes to Jefferson County and residents can call them for any code enforcement issue. City Attorney Hall stated that code enforcement will take the call and if there are multiple calls then they will eventually come out. City Attorney Hall stated to keep calling code enforcement because they will eventually come out. Mayor Moore replied that residents should call dispatch because all calls are documented. Councilwoman Wood stated that if we are to have our own code enforcement maybe we could handle the situation. Mayor Moore stated that we would need people who are well trained.

### **Welcome Packets – Councilwoman Wood**

Councilwoman Wood suggested that we make a welcome packet for new residents. Hand out packets to council members, when they meet a new neighbor, council members would be able to provide the newcomers with helpful information and welcome that individual to the neighborhood. Mayor Moore advised that all the information is on our website. Councilwoman Cook stated that she likes the idea but if we skip someone then they could say that they were being discriminated against, it has its pros

and cons. Councilman Embry stated that he likes the idea too, but Councilwoman Cook had a good point. Mayor Moore stated this is why we have everything on our website for the public. Mayor Moore stated that if a council member sees a new resident, then give them our website address. Councilwoman Cook stated that she saw a new resident and took it upon herself to introduce herself and gave them her business card. Councilman Bierbaum asked if the website is bilingual, and City Attorney Hall stated yes. Councilman Bierbaum asked if we can put our web address on the sign out front. Assistant Clerk Brown replied that it is on the sign. Mr. Kubala stated that there should be a law for trash cans to be on the street or be on the sidewalk. Mrs. Bierbaum stated no and that trash cans are to be placed on the curb not the sidewalk. Mrs. Bierbaum stated that nothing should block the sidewalks.

### **Economic Development Committee Status**

Councilwoman Cook recommended that the council should disband the committee because it was created for the festival last year but that is not economic development also the committee has been inactive for almost a year. Mayor Moore replied that economic development is not for festivals. City Attorney Hall stated that there should be a Municipal Order created to dissolve the economic development committee. Councilwoman Cook made a motion to disband the economic development committee. Councilman Embry second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Moore asked for a five-minute recess at 8:15 PM. Councilwoman Cook made a motion for a five-minute recess. Councilwoman Wood second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Closed Session – KRS 61.810(c) - Litigation**

Mayor Moore asked for a motion to open the floor back up at 8:35 PM. Councilman Embry made a motion for closed session. Councilwoman Wood second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the council meeting at 8:36 PM was made by Councilwoman Blanton and second by Councilwoman Wood. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

  
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Mayor Brenda Moore

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk, Debbie Batliner