

**City of Westwood Hills  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
June 8, 2015  
Meeting #787**

A regular session of the city council was called to order in due form by Mayor Paula Schwach at 7:03 p.m.

Mayor Schwach swore in new councilmember Randy Brown.

Present: Mayor Schwach, Randy Brown, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen Shelor Sexton, Ludwig Villasi, John Weedman and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr was not present. Fire Chief Tony Lopez was present. Chief O'Halloran joined at 7:22 pm.

Citizens Joletta Woolwine, Pam Brown (and children) were in attendance.

**Mayor Schwach asks to delete item 13b from the agenda (open records and open meeting requirements) due to City Attorney Orr's absence. Podrebarac requests to change consent agenda to list both May 11, 2015 and May 21, 2105 meeting minutes for approval. Motion by Podrebarac to approve the agenda with the modifications. Second by Shelor Sexton. All aye. Agenda adopted with modifications.**

**Motion by Podrebarac to adopt the Consent Agenda as modified. Second by Weedman. All aye. Consent Agenda approved with modifications.**

**Report from Fire Chief Tony Lopez:**

Chief Lopez made a presentation to the Council.. Westwood Hills has had nine calls for service YTD. Last year, YTD, there were 9 calls as well. During 2014, Westwood Hills had 22 total calls.

Lopez spoke about the Department's capital needs. He wants to replace Station 23 at 9011 Roe due to the age and condition of the building. They are looking at areas on 79<sup>th</sup> St., but no decisions have been made. The relocation of Station 23 will cost an estimated \$4,500,000. The other pressing capital need for next year is to replace a ladder truck at the same location, which will cost about \$1,000,000. The Department's policy is to keep trucks for 10 years before replacement. There are no plans until 2018 for any further truck replacements.

Lopez is currently working on the 2016 budget. The mill rate is currently at 11, and the Chief does not see an increase coming for 2016. There were contract changes with the City of Overland Park (OP) this year. Prior to 2014, they had two contracts with OP. The North OP/Merriam contract ended in 2014, which resulted in \$110,000.00 in lost revenue. In 2015, the South OP contract ended, resulting in an additional \$340,000.00 decrease in revenue. The District absorbed these losses and used the loss of the contracts as an opportunity for

restructuring. The District moved a second engine from Station 23 to Station 22. The response time for our area is now improved.

Chief O'Halloran mentioned that the NE JoCo police chiefs get together with Chief Lopez on a regular basis.

**Issues from Citizens in Attendance:** Jolenta Woolwine reported that she and Councilman Villasi walked the city to coordinate efforts between the City and the Foundation. Schwach mentioned that there is a public workshop on Saturday, June 13, 2015, open to the public.

**Old Business:**

Website update: O'Bryan reported that the new website is live. She stated that John Heeney is still working on a couple of things, including updated pictures. Please look at the website by close of business on Sunday June 14, 2015, and offer remarks via email to Beth O'Bryan.

\$2600.00 encumbrance – Villasi requests \$2600.00 for Brian Ritter to remove the plants in the entryways and near the bridges and for storage of the plants and replanting when the stonework is complete. Villasi reported that the contractor did not feel that 6-8 feet of clearance is needed and that the contractor can work around any plantings located there. Ritter feels that anything dug up will most likely die. Contractor met with residents at 50<sup>th</sup> Street, and he did not feel anything needed to be removed. Schwach said that irises and daisies are hardy, but not all the flowers are. Because the contractor needs 12-18 inches of clearance, the conifers in the Coffman's yard must be moved. The Coffmans have agreed to move them. The contractor does not think boxwoods need to be removed. Woolwine is concerned about removing the plants and waiting for good conditions to replant. It may be September until we replant. Villasi recommends partial removal of the plants. If there are casualties, we can replace. Villasi will reach out to Brian Ritter to see what plants have already been removed. **Podrebarac moves to encumber \$2600.00 for removing, storing, and restoration of plants at entryways. Second by Weedman. Weedman asks to modify motion to encumber payment of \$2600.00 for Brian Ritter for partial plant removal, storage, and restoration of plantings as needed upon completion of stone work. Podrebarac accepts the modification. All in favor of amended motion. Motion carries.** Villasi will keep Clerk O'Bryan updated on the progress.

Landscape update – Villasi reports that he did a walkthrough of The Green in April. He flagged a dead branch hanging, which is a potential hazard. Country Club Tree (CCT) and Villasi identified ten trees and bushes with dead or hanging branches. The cost to clean up all the issues is \$1,540.00. CCT feels the ground is too soft to do the work now. If we can wait until the ground dries out sufficiently so that a truck may come onto the Green, CCT will discount its fees. The cost will be \$1,400.00, and the rate is good through the fall. Schwach asks if there is a clear path to use the truck to do the work without damaging the

sprinklers, and Villasi responds in the affirmative. Villasi said, if need be, he and Councilman Weedman can take down the potentially dangerous tree limb as this could be an immediate danger. Shelor Sexton asks that the work be done before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration on The Green. Mayor indicated that the expenditure could be discussed again at the June 13 budget workshop.

Villasi received communication from resident Tom Magstadt. Magstadt is happy with the dog dispenser bags but informed Villasi that people are tossing used bags into the bushes. Magstadt would like the City to consider a round trashcan similar to the ones in Joe D. Dennis Park. Villasi reports that the cost to purchase one is over \$1,000.00 for the trashcan alone, not including installation costs. Tom offered to pay ½ the cost and to remove the trash while he is in town. He will make arrangements when he is out of town for trash removal. Villasi reported that Brookside Neighborhood Association (BNA) uses free standing trashcans that cost approximately \$600.00. Villasi thinks Magstadt will pay the entire \$600.00, and the BNA may be able to order one for us when they reorder their own trashcans, eliminating additional shipping charges. **Villasi moves for approval from the Council to allow placement of a trashcan, similar to those used by BNA, on The Green, with Magstadt purchasing and maintaining the trashcan. Shelor Sexton seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Villasi reports that he and the Westwood Hills Historic Foundation will work together to provide a proposal for next year's landscaping during the budget workshop. Shelor Sexton reported that some of the islands now have raised sprinkler heads, which cost \$3 each to purchase. Schwach informed Council that the water bill this and last month were very high. Weedman reported there was a water leak at the shops that has now been fixed. O'Bryan said Lighting Concepts checked both months and found no leaks. WaterOne came out and said the charges are correct. O'Bryan will ask WaterOne to run a pressure test.

Villasi reported that the signs for the Heritage Trust Fund Grant are complete and ready to be picked up and installed. He will pick up the signs and handle installation. One sign will be placed on Rainbow Boulevard near 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The other sign will be placed on State Line, likely near 48<sup>th</sup> Terrace. Schwach encouraged placement of the signs be near street lights so as to improve sign visibility.

#### **New Business:**

Budget Timeline – Bob Hale sent a budget timeline to the Council Members. Each councilperson should come prepared with a wish list and budget numbers for his/her portfolio at the budget meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Schwach reminds the council that the August meeting will be the budget hearing. Schwach asks Chief O'Halloran if extra patrol costs will increase in 2016. Chief indicates they would not increase.

Mayor's Luncheon – It is Westwood Hills' turn to host the NE JoCo Mayor's in July. Schwach asks to encumber \$200. **Shelor Sexton moves to encumber \$200.00. Weedman seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Human Service Fund- United Community Services (UCS) 2016 request for \$250.00 – The UCS has requested a contribution \$250.00 for its 2016 fund. Schwach reminded the Council that the Council has had a policy in the past of not making contributions to private charities. We have considered this request to be different because of the direct services UCS offers to the local community by programs for the children at Westwood View. **Podrebarac moves to encumber \$250.00 for UCS Human Services Fund for 2016. Villasi seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission Contract (TIPS) – O'Halloran reports that this program is excellent. The Westwood Police Department was able to make an arrest in connection with the recent Walmart robbery as a result of a call to the Tips hotline. **Shelor Sexton motions to encumber \$150.00 for the TIPS hotline and to approve the contract between the City and the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission. All Aye. Motion carries.**

Fireworks Display – Fairway has asked that the City of Westwood Hills contribute to the fireworks display on July 3, 2015, hosted by the cities of Fairway, Roeland Park and Westwood. Schwach reports that Fairway requests a donation of \$500.00. Schwach advises council that the City has contributed \$250.00 in prior years, and asks Council if we want to participate. **Shelor Sexton moves that we encumber \$250.00 to contribute to the cost of the fireworks display. Podrebarac seconds. All aye. Motion carries.**

Stormwater Plan Update – Shelor Sexton reports that Westwood Hills must have a Storm Water plan. Shelor Sexton, Tom Stewart and Michael Fox have finished the plan. Johnson County has reviewed the plan, and said the plan is fine. Schwach reports that she has not brought the plan to Council for adoption because she needs make sure we have the capacity to undertake all the actions in the plan and because we need to coordinate with first responders. Schwach asks if anyone else on the Council wants to review the document. Weedman volunteered. Shelor Sexton will send document draft to Weedman, O'Halloran and Public Works Director John Sullivan (to assist him in drafting the required stormwater plan for Mission Woods). Schwach reports that SMAC will have a meeting later this year. We are interested in this meeting for possible funding for interior storm water system repairs if the program's criteria are revised.

#### **Items from the Floor:**

Schwach reported that Orr asked her to remind Council that emails to too many people may constitute a meeting in violation of the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Schwach reported that City Clerk O'Bryan is the records custodian for compliance with Kansas Open Records Act ("KORA"). Orr will review KORA and the Open Meetings Act in more depth next month.

**Kansas Budget Problems** – Schwach stated that the Senate passed a budget Sunday, which budget is being taken up in the House today. There is still time to write to Senator Kay Wolfe and Representative Melissa Rooker and others on the budget committee in the House. Schwach was especially concerned about the possible adoption of a limit on mill levy and the added requirement of holding an election to increase the mill levy. If this budget bill passes, the City would not have the ability to raise the mill levy without a special election in order to have funds available to pay more for a crossing guard or to pay for the storm water line repairs—both of which are recent and unanticipated costs.

Crossing Guard – Chief O'Halloran reported that the Westwood Police Department has not been able to fill the crossing guard position. He has looked at various staffing companies to fill the job. He prefers Securitas, which is the company used by Prairie Village for its school crossing guards. This company's charges would result in an increase of more than \$700 annually for Westwood Hills. Schwach asked Chief O'Halloran if he looked into AARP job placement services. The Chief's concern is reliability of employees and background checks. Chief will move ahead with Securitas.

Stop Line Painting– Judge Tim Turner asked the City to re-paint the Stop Line at 50<sup>th</sup> and Glendale. O'Bryan reached out to Tom Stewart for advice on what was done before. Public Works Director John Sullivan will provide a quote for the work but will not be able to complete the work until around July 30, 2015. Weedman will look into purchasing paint and either painting the line himself or hiring someone to do the work.

O'Halloran would like to reposition the intersection at 51<sup>st</sup> and State Line slightly to make it safer for pedestrians to cross. There was one auto burglary at the Hi Hat this month. A backpack was stolen from a car. Pembroke's security cameras captured images of this car, and the suspects are in custody.

**Motion to adjourn by Weedman. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.**