

**City of Westwood Hills
City Council Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2015
Meeting #788**

A regular session of the city council was called to order in due form by Mayor Paula Schwach at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Schwach, Randy Brown, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen Shelor, Ludwig Villasi, John Weedman and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr was present. Chief O'Halloran was present as well.

The City's insurance agent, Sam Stallard, and Citizen Dale Prout were in attendance. Martha Lally joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Motion by Podrebarac to adopt the Agenda. Second by Weedman. All aye. Agenda approved.

Motion by Shelor to adopt the Consent Agenda. Second by Podrebarac. All aye. Consent Agenda approved.

Issues from Citizens in Attendance: Dale Prout asked the Council when the potholes on 49th Terrace will be repaired. Weedman advised that Sullivan is repairing potholes in Westwood, and the City will ask Sullivan to repair the 49th Terrace potholes at the same time. **Weedman moves to encumber up to \$400.00 to repair potholes on the west side of 49th Terrace towards Rainbow, or as Sullivan needs. Brown seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Chief O'Halloran gave an update on the burglary in the city. The suspect is not in custody, but other cities are looking for this person as well. The Westwood Police Department has engaged other cities and entities for help to capture the suspect.

Old Business:

Website update: O'Bryan reported that the website now has a search bar, but the website is still not complete. She stated that John Heeney is still working on a couple of things, including updating pictures and editing errors on the site. Heeney has a target completion date of August 10, 2015.

Stonework – O'Bryan reported the work has been delayed due to the rain. The contractor anticipates the work will be complete on July 17, 2015 (weather permitting). Schwach reports that Lyle Miller and Norman Friedman will do the inspections when the work is complete, and they would welcome Villasi to inspect with them. Villasi reminds that all the work done on the stone will need to be sprayed and sealed, and the City cannot do any landscaping until the stonework is complete. Villasi believes that the mortar used on the stonework on the 50th Street Bridge is too fine and does not match the current mortar, which uses coarser sand. Schwach will discuss these concerns with Lyle Miller.

Landscape update – Villasi reports that the Foundation is looking to change Brian Ritter's contract in 2016. Ritter is currently being compensated for maintaining the City's islands, and now Rose Hill will be providing maintenance of the boxwoods. In addition, the islands no longer need mowing. Ritter currently tends to the Rainbow Strip and the Green. Schwach asks if Rose Hill is maintaining the islands because the boxwoods are under warranty, and thus only for a limited time? Shelor reports that the boxwoods need skilled trimming and maintenance, which will be ongoing. Rose Hill will not weed the islands, and the Foundation would like Brian to do so. Lally reports that Ritter is happy to weed and water the islands. Ritter's hourly rate is \$45 an hour. He can hire help for \$25 - \$35 an hour. Lally has asked Ritter to turn in hourly bills starting in August to be able to determine next year's cost estimates. Schwach reminds everyone that there are two contracts with Ritter – one from the City and one from the Foundation. The Foundation needs to submit a proposal if changes are to be made to the contract. Lally reports there will not be tulips in the proposal for 2016 due to expense and lack of longevity. Schwach reminds council that the Heritage Trust Fund grant has a certain budget that we must adhere to. There are also claims against Google and AT&T for damages to the City's plantings, and we will need to limit plant replacement and spending to those amounts as well. The City does not have any other money in the budget for landscaping. Lally found a place on the Green to plant the boxwoods Ritter removed from the entryways and is storing for the City. The begonias that were ordered for the entryways will not be able to be planted because the time for planting them has passed. Villasi reports that it will likely cost more to plant them than not. Villasi and Lally would like to give them away to the citizens of Westwood Hills. Villasi reports that there are about 1,000 potted begonias to give to citizens. Schwach suggests we discuss completion date for the stonework restoration with Gunter Construction before donating the plants. Council's sense is to plant the boxwoods on the Green and give the begonias to the citizens of Westwood Hills.

Stormwater Plan Update – Shelor reported that the plan is complete. She had help from the county, Tom Stewart and Michael Fox. Podrebarac would like to look through it before approving the plan. Mayor would like to adopt the plan in August.

New Business:

Property Insurance – City Insurance Agent Sam Stallard advised the Council that the City might want to consider adding property insurance for 2016. The policy would exclude earthquake and flood. Stallard suggests a blanket limit of insurance in the amount of \$100,000.00, with a maximum loss on any one item. Schwach thinks \$250,000.00 is a better ballpark amount for insurance coverage. Stallard and Weedman will work together to create a proposal for consideration at the August 10th Council meeting.

Insurance Renewal - Today is the renewal date for the general liability and workers' compensation insurance policy. The policy premium amount is the same as in the past years. An address change will be requested as the policy has an old address for the City. The umbrella policy does not show that it will provide umbrella coverage for Workers' Comp or auto insurance, but that omission is a clerical error which will be fixed. **Shelor moves to encumber \$5,000.00 for the renewal of the Traveler's insurance policy. Podrebarac seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.**

City Ordinance Language Related to Ethics –Schwach reminds every one of the Ethics provisions contained in the City's ordinances in Article 6 of Chapter 1.

Stop sign proposal at 50th and State Line – Weedman proposes to create a skinny island of curbing extending from the present curb line in order to place the stop sign in the proper location. There will be an opening between the present curb and the extension to allow for water flow. Harvey Kascht gave an estimate of \$1,200.00 to install the curb. This configuration will comply with the law to locate the stop sign in a proper location and to make the stop sign a breakaway. The curb will need to be painted with reflective paint so as to be visible in the evening. Schwach asks for Weedman to talk to Sullivan about putting reflectors in the curb. The sense of the Council is to approve the project as presented by Weedman.

Constant Contact – O'Bryan asked that we encumber \$126.00 to renew the email/newsletter program subscription for another year. **Podrebarac moves to encumber \$126.00 for the use of Constant Contact. Brown seconds. All aye. Motion carries.**

Review of Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) – Orr reports that changes have been made to both the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts. Orr will review Open Records next month. Orr summarized and reviewed the relevant provisions of KOMA. He reminded councilmembers that a meeting is any communication back and forth with the majority of the Council, which could occur at a social gathering, at the grocery store, or by email. Orr advises council to be cautious about discussing city business other than at formal meetings

City budget options – Brown, Schwach and Hale met over the weekend to discuss options. Brown proposes we raise the mill levy from 19.920 to 21.00. That mill levy increase will raise approximately \$10,000.00 in additional revenue for the City. Johnson County is raising its mill levy which will increase taxes on each property by about \$8 as well. In 2016, Brown proposes to transfer \$40,000.00, rather than \$50,000.00, to the Capital Improvement Fund. The City has incurred \$45,000.00 of unforeseen repair costs this year, making the budgeting process for next year more difficult.

As a method of realizing cost savings, Schwach and Weedman are looking into a cooperative agreement with Overland Park, Roeland Park, Fairway, Mission and

Westwood to help plan and bid street repairs. Weedman will attend a meeting of this group on July 28, 2015.

The state of KS is sending their engineering team to Westwood Hills on July 21st at 1:45pm to look at the proposed storm sewer repair project with respect to the KDOT Geometric grant request submitted by the City.

Search for new City Treasurer

Bob Hale will be leaving his job as City Treasurer in December. The City appreciates all that he has done for the City in the last 40+ years. Schwach will place an article in the City newsletter asking if there is anyone in the community with an accounting background or business who may be interested in filling the role.

Items from the Floor:

No items from the floor.

Motion to adjourn by Randy Brown. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.