

**City of Westwood Hills
City Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023
Meeting #891**

The Westwood Hills City Council meeting was held on December 11, 2023, in the Community Room at Westwood City Hall.

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

Present: Mayor Podrebarac, Adam England, Ed Gogol, Dave Schmitz, Karen Sexton, John Weedman, and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr and City Treasurer John Martin were present. Chief Curtis Mansell was present.

Commissioner Becky Fast was in attendance until 7:08 p.m. No citizens were in attendance.

Loyalty Oaths

Commissioner Beck Fast swore in the following elected officials:

Mayor:

Rosemary Podrebarac

Council Persons:

Adam England

Ed Gogol

David Schmitz

Karen Sexton

John Weedman

Motion by Sexton to approve the agenda. Second by Gogol. All aye. Motion approved.

Motion by Gogol to approve the Consent Agenda Second by Sexton. All aye. Motion approved.

No Old Business

New Business:

Holiday lunch for Westwood Staff

Sexton received a price of \$350.00 from RJ's BBQ. **Sexton moved and Weedman seconded to encumber \$350.00 to provide lunch/dinner to the Westwood Staff, including WWPB and WWPW, on December 20, 2023. All aye. Motion carried.**

Little Government Relations (LGR) 2024 contract

Mayor Podrebarac asked if the Council wanted to renew the contract with LGR to continue government relations and advocacy services on behalf of Westwood Hills for the 2024 Kansas Legislative Session. The contract amount is the same as the previous years - \$400.00. **Gogol moved, and Schmitz seconded, to enter into a new contract with Little Government Relations to provide government relations and advocacy services on behalf of the City of Westwood Hills for 2024 and to encumber \$400.00 to cover the contract amount. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Appointments

Mayor Podrebarac requested that the Council approve the following city official appointments for 2024:

2024 Standing Committees

Budget and Finance: Adam England

Alternate: Weedman

Landscape: Ed Gogol

Alternate: Schmitz

Ordinance and Building: David Schmitz

Alternate: Sexton

Public Safety: Karen Sexton

Alternate: England

Public Works: John Weedman

Alternate: Gogol

Gogol moved and Schmitz seconded to approve the above listed standing committee appointments. All in favor. Motion passed.

BZA Appointments (and appointment end date):

Elizabeth Judy, Chair, term expired September 2022

Daniel Swint, term expired September 2023

Mike Coffman, term expired September 2023

Gogol moved and England seconded to reaffirm the above appointments to the City's Board of Zoning Appeals. All aye. Motion carried.

Planning Commission appointments (and appointment end date):

Norman Friedman, Chair, July 2026

Lyle Miller, July 2025

Chris Fein July 2025

Bryce Crady, July 2026

Sollie Flora, July 2026

Erik LaPrade, July 2026

Mike Whitsitt, July 2026

Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to reaffirm the above appointments to the City's Planning Commission. Schmitz nay. All others aye. Motion carried.

2023 City Official Appointments

City Clerk: Beth O'Bryan

City Treasurer: John Martin
Chief of Police: Curtis Mansell
City Attorney: James Orr
Municipal Judge: Tim Turner

Schmitz moved and England seconded to reaffirm the above appointments of Westwood Hills city officials. All aye. Motion carried.

President of the City Council Appointment

Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to reappoint John Weedman as the President of the Council. All aye. Motion carried.

The City Website as the Official Newspaper

City Clerk O'Bryan has proposed designating the City's website as the official newspaper, exempting the city from the provisions of Kansas statute K.S.A. 12-1651. Charter Ordinance No. 6 would allow the City to publish the ordinances on the City's website to meet publication requirements, rather than publishing ordinances in a newspaper. Notices of Budget hearings and certain ordinances would still require publication in a newspaper of general circulation and would be published in The Legal Record, or another publication of the city's choice. If adopted, Charter Ordinance #6 must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in The Legal Record and will become effective on the 61st day after the final publication.

Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to adopt Charter Ordinance #6. All aye. Motion passed.

The State of the Cities Luncheon

The annual State of the Cities luncheon hosted by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The cost to attend is \$35.00 per person. The following will attend:

Mayor Podrebarac
Beth O'Bryan
Karen Sexton
David Schmitz
Adam England

Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to encumber \$175.00 to cover attendance at the 2024 State of the Cities luncheon. All aye. Motion passed.

Leaf Collection

Clerk O'Bryan had been in discussion with Roeland Park regarding the City's options due to Roeland Park's leaf vacuum machine failure. The leaf vacuum machine is at the vendor awaiting a diagnosis. We should know by mid-afternoon tomorrow whether or not the machine can be repaired tomorrow or Wednesday. If the machine is repaired, Roeland Park will resume collection on Wednesday. If it cannot be repaired, Roeland Park will allow the leaves to be picked up using their street sweeper. Because the street sweeper cannot handle the terrain to drop off the leaves at MO Organics, the leaves would need to go back to Roeland Park. The estimated cost for this alternate method of leaf disposal is approximately \$5,400.00. This cost is in addition to the \$400.00 already incurred for Sunday's collection (plus \$110.00 already owed to MO Organics). Using the street sweeper, the collection could take much longer as the truck has less capacity and cannot mulch the leaves. Roeland Park was able to use the street sweeper on December 11, 2023 (at no additional cost to the City) to pick up the leaves on Glendale

Road. The remaining streets are the north sides of 49th Street and 48th Terrace and part of the south side of 48th Terrace.

Westwood is not able to help us out with the remaining leaves. The City Clerk will reach out to other contractors for options to collect the leaves from the remaining streets.

Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to give the mayor authority and an additional \$1,200.00 encumbrance to contract with another contractor, if needed, to pick up the remaining leaves. All aye. Motion carried.

Informational items – no action to be taken

There were no items from Citizens in attendance.

Contract renewals at the January 2024 City Council meeting

Tax credit remodeling tour

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.