

**City of Westwood Hills
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2022
Meeting #868**

The Westwood Hills City Council meeting was held on January 10, 2022, via Zoom due to the increase in the number of COVID cases in the metropolitan area.

A regular session of the city council was called to order in due form by Mayor Paula Schwach at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Mayor Schwach, Michael Anfang, Ed Gogol, Rosemary Podrebarac, Dave Schmitz, Karen Shelor Sexton, and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr and City Treasurer Jim Martin were present. Police Chief Curt Mansell was in attendance.

No citizens were in attendance.

Motion by Mayor Schwach to modify the agenda to add authority to meet virtually and appoint a public defender under New Business. Motion by Gogol to approve the agenda with these additions. Second by Shelor Sexton. All aye. Motion approved.

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

No Old Business.

New Business:

Authority to meet Virtually

Mayor Schwach requested confirmation of the authority to continue this meeting and any future meetings virtually. Ordinance 281, passed in April 2020, allows for virtual meetings, with no time limit set for expiration of that Ordinance. So, no additional authorization is needed.

Public Works 2022 Addendum

Shelor Sexton moved and Gogol seconded to adopt the 2022 Public Works Addendum (setting forth the fee schedule for services from Westwood) to the Public Works contract with the City of Westwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) Waiver

The GAAP waiver allows small municipalities to handle financial reports on a cash basis. The waiver allows the city to prepare budget based financial statements. **Gogol moved and Shelor Sexton seconded to approve the GAAP Waiver Resolution 2022-1. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Little Government Relations LLC (LGR) 2022 Contract

Little Government Relations has provided lobbying and legislative information services to Westwood Hills for the past couple of years. **Shelor Sexton moved and Schmitz seconded to enter into the 2022 contract with LGR in the amount of \$400.00. All in favor. Motion carried.**

State of the Cities

The State of the Cities annual meeting and luncheon hosted by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber is set for January 20, 2022. Schwach and O'Bryan will attend. Councilpersons Gogol, Podrebarac and Schmitz may attend. **Podrebarac moved and Gogol seconded to encumber up to \$140.00 (at \$35 per person) to attend the State of the Cities luncheon. All in favor. Motion carried.** [Note: After the January Council meeting, this annual event has been postponed due to the Omicron Covid spike.]

Funding Request from APWA KC Metro Chapter

The APWA formed the Sustainable Stormwater Task Force to evaluate opportunities to update and improve regional stormwater design standards (APWA Section 5600), better integrate Section 5600 with the MARC/APWA BMP manual and consider the process for completing this work. This task force was made of 11 municipal members, 11 consultants, and 11 advisory members. After completing its evaluation, the task force provided a list of recommendations, including the need to improve existing stormwater standards. These recommendations were communicated to the APWA membership in 2021 and reviewed by the APWA Executive Committee. The APWA KC Metro Chapter asks that each community consider providing a financial contribution that is in proportion to its population to provide funding to complete the stormwater design standards work required. **Shelor Sexton moved to approve \$400.00 for funding revisions to stormwater design standards to be conducted by the APWA KC Metro Chapter. Gogol seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**

National League of Cities (NLC) Membership

All U.S. cities are eligible to participate as members of the National League of Cities. As a member, the City will have access to NLC's resources without limitation. The cost for Westwood Hills to join for 2022 based on city size is \$283.00. **Gogol moved to encumber \$283.00 to join the NLC for 2022. Seconded by Anfang. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Citizen Inquiry about a Walk Signal at 50th & Rainbow

The citizen request is to install a walk signal light to walk across 50th Street in Westwood Hills (east side of Rainbow Boulevard). Shelor Sexton advised council that this project does not appear to be justified and would be costly to implement with no substantial gain in pedestrian safety.

Chief Mansell provided a few facts regarding the intersection:

Urban planning uses several different street classifications based on the amount of traffic load. Rainbow is an arterial street, and 50th street is a local (or residential) street. Normally, there are no "walk" buttons to cross a residential street.

When there isn't a separate walk signal, pedestrians should revert to the traffic signal for the cars. The traffic signal is defaulted to show green for Rainbow, when no one is using 50th Street from the east or west.

In order to move forward the following steps would need to be taken:

- An approval from KDOT because Rainbow is a State Highway; a warrant analysis must be conducted to determine if the proposal is feasible or worth pursuing
- Preliminary and final design completed by a traffic engineer
- Reaching an agreement with Evergy, the entity which owns the lights, and cost determination.

No motion was made to take action related to this inquiry.

Public Defender Appointment

Schwach reported that Westwood has selected Adam Peer as the new Public Defender, subject to final approval by Judge Tim Turner. **Motion by Podrebarac, seconded by Gogol, to appoint Adam Peer as the new Public Defender for the City of Westwood Hills, subject to final approval by Judge Tim Turner. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Informational items – no action to be taken

There were no items from Citizens in attendance.

Shelor Sexton asked to re-run the newsletter article in the spring regarding use of battery powered lawn equipment to reduce environmental impacts. Another request was to put an article in the spring newsletter requesting residents to clean gutters. Shelor Sexton asked to re-publish the article on what can be recycled and placed in the recycling carts picked up weekly by the trash hauler.

Motion to adjourn by Gogol. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.