**City of Westwood Hills**

**City Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 14, 2022**

**Meeting #870**

The Westwood Hills City Council meeting was held on March 14, 2022, in the Community Room at Westwood City Hall.

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 was present.

Chief of Police Curt Mansell was in attendance.

**Request by Schwach to add two informational items to the agenda - Parade of Hearts and State Legislative updates. Podrebarac moved and Gogol seconded to approve the agenda with requested additions. All aye. Motion approved.**

**Motion by Podrebarac to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Shelor Sexton. All aye. Motion approved.**

**No Old Business**

**New Business:**

State of the Cities Ratification

The City encumbered $140.00 at the January 2022 City Council Meeting for seats at the NEJC State of the Cities luncheon. The cost to sponsor a table, which includes four seats, is $250.00. **Shelor Sexton moved, and Gogol seconded, to ratify the expenditure of an additional $90 to sponsor a table at the State of the Cities luncheon. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Repealing UPOC Section 7.5(a)(2)

**Podrebarac moved and Gogol seconded to adopt Ordinance #292, repealing UPOC Section 7.5, related to applications for mail-in ballots. All in favor. Motion carried.**

City Clerk O’Bryan will send a copy of the ordinance to VoteAmerica.

BMP Cost Share 2022 Agreement

The City has received the 2022 Stormwater BMP Cost Share Program agreement from Johnson County, and that agreement appears on the March Council agenda. Under the terms of this agreement, JCSMP provides $3,000 of available funding for residents of Westwood Hills to utilize for the installation of certain stormwater BMPs. The program allows for reimbursement to residents of a portion of the cost of installation of native plants, native trees, rain barrels, and rain gardens. **Podrebarac moved and Gogol seconded to approve and enter into the BMP Cost Share Program agreement with Johnson County for 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Arbor Day Plan

Councilman Gogol reported that one of the viburnums on the north half of The Green died and was removed last fall, leaving a space that invites a new planting. The continuity of the row of remaining viburnums might be revitalized by inserting a dwarf dogwood in its place. With the help of Renee Miller, Gogol received an estimate for a dwarf dogwood from Family Tree Nursery for $200 for the tree, plus $150 for its planting by the nursery. The advantage of having the nursery plant the tree is a three-year warranty on the tree.

Gogol also reported that a large yew at the south end of the bridge died. The yew will be removed as the weather allows. An estimate for a new 3-4’ yew is about $100, and The Green Team members would plant the new yew. **Gogol moved to encumber $375 in new funds, from line item 8056 (beautification and trees), to purchase and plant a dwarf dogwood tree and purchase a yew. Schmitz seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.** The remaining $75 of the cost will be funded from a carry-over encumbrance.

The Council discussed the Arbor Day Plan. The Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 16, 2022. The dogwood may be planted by then, but if not, Mayor Schwach will still read the Arbor Day Proclamation. As an Arbor Day activity, the Council discussed sending residents a coloring sheet of dogwood or another tree, in the summer, prior to the 4th of July parade. The plan is for the children to bring the colored sheet back to be displayed at the 4th of July celebration.

State of the County Address RSVP and Encumbrance

Ed Eilert will give the State of the County Address on March 29, 2022, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the Overland Park Convention Center. The cost to attend is $35 per person. Mayor Schwach and City Clerk O’Bryan will attend as representatives of the City. **Podrebarac moved and Gogol seconded to encumber $70.00 for the Mayor and the City Clerk to attend the State of the County address. All in favor. Motion carried.** The funds should come from line item 8075.

Climate Action Summit RSVP and Encumbrance

The Climate Action Summit will be held on April 9, 2022, at Johnson County Community College. The cost to attend is $50 per person. Schwach, Shelor Sexton and Schmitz will attend. **Podrebarac moved and Anfang seconded to encumber $175.00 for Schwach, Shelor Sexton, and Schmitz to attend the Climate Action Summit, including attendance for one representative at the reception. All in favor. Motion carried.** The funds should come from line item 8075.

NEJC Environmental Fair

**Shelor Sexton moved, and Podrebarac seconded for the council to allow Westwood Hills to participate in the NEJC Environmental Fair, at no cost to the City, with the caveat that the recommended liability insurance will be obtained, and public safety officers will be present at the event.**  Shelor will ask citizen Gary Ripple to participate in the working group, and she will identify any additional required volunteers for the day of the event.

Discussion of Bill HCR 5030 (Recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States)

Mayor Schwach gave an overview of the bill. Council discussed the bill. **Gogol moved and Anfang seconded to support the HCR 5030 Bill. All aye.**

Executive Session:

At 8:15 pm, Podrebarac moved, and Gogol seconded that the governing body recess for an executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The justification for the executive session is to protect the privacy of the personnel record and is provided by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting is to resume in this room at 8:30 pm. All aye. Motion carried.

At 8:30 pm, a motion by Podrebarac, seconded by Anfang, for the governing body to exit the Executive Session and resume the regular Council meeting session. All aye. Motion approved.

Upon return to regular session, the Council addressed the issue of compensation for the City Clerk. **Podrebarac moved and Schmitz seconded to increase the clerk’s current salary by 2%, effective April 1, 2022.**

**Informational items – no action to be taken**

There were no items from Citizens in attendance.

Parade of Hearts

The heart is scheduled for delivery on March 15, 2022, and will be located at 50th Terrace and State Line Road. Inclusion in the Parade is a joint effort of Mission Woods and Westwood Hills, KS. <https://theparadeofhearts.com/>.

Mayor Schwach provided information on the following State Legislative bills:

SB505-Enacting the protect home-based work act prohibiting the enactment or enforcement of zoning regulations that are barriers to home-based work.

SB547- Exempting broadcast satellite service and providers of streaming content from the video competition act and providing requirements relating to audits of video service provider franchise fees.

SB493-Prohibiting cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation, or protection of merchandise, food, or beverages.

**Motion to adjourn by Anfang. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.**