

**City of Westwood, Kansas**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**4700 Rainbow Boulevard**  
**June 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Held Remotely Via Zoom**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor  
Jeff Harris, Council President  
Lisa Cummins, Councilmember  
Jason Hannaman, Councilmember  
Laura Steele, Councilmember  
Holly Wimer, Councilmember

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, CAO/City Clerk  
Greg O'Halloran, Chief of Police  
John Sullivan, Director of Public Works  
Ryan Denk, City Attorney

**Call to Order**

Mayor David E. Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 2020. The City Clerk called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Foundation Merit Scholarship Award Presentation**

Alexandra Corbin, 2700 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, was selected by the Westwood Foundation Board of Directors to receive the 2020 Foundation Merit Scholarship. Alexandra will be attending the University of Kansas in the fall of 2020 and plans to study Behavioral Neuroscience.

**Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Any comments for the Governing Body on non-agenda items were to be submitted to Ms. Schneweis by 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 11, 2020 to be shared during the meeting. Comments were to be limited to five minutes in length, as read.

Beth Springgate, 4947 Booth Street, submitted a written comment, the full comments are attached in Appendix A of these recorded minutes.

**Approval of May 14, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Cummins made a suggested change to the May 14, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes, noting that City Treasurer Charlie Mills was, in fact, present at that meeting but his presence was not indicated on the first page of the minutes. Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the May 14, 2020 City Council Meeting minutes with corrections, and the June 2, 2020 Special City Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Second by Councilmember Cummins. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Approval of Financial Statement – May 2020**

Mayor Waters noted City Treasurer Charles Mills was not present on the meeting. Mrs. Herring offered to answer any questions regarding the May 2020 Treasurer's Report.

May 2020 revenues for the general fund were in the amount of \$116,091 and expenses for the month were in the amount of \$151,816 with a decrease of \$35,725 in the fund balance.

**Appropriation Ordinance 715** Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve appropriation ordinance #715. Second by Councilmember Hannaman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

## **City Attorney Report**

Mr. Denk noted he has been working with Mayor Waters and the management team at Woodside Health & Tennis Club to draft a lease amendment to provide for Westwood resident access to the Woodside pools for the 2020 summer season. Due to concerns of Woodside Racquet Club Management relating to the declared pandemic of COVID-19, certain additional health and safety precautions and protocols are deemed necessary to implement at its facilities to ensure the health and safety of Woodside Club ("the Club") members, and Westwood residents using the Club's swimming and tennis facilities. As some of these additional health and safety precautions and protocols impact Westwood residents' access to the swimming and tennis facilities (as they will impact all Woodside Club members), the City and the Club agreed to formalize the temporary impact to Westwood resident access.

Motion by Councilmember Cummins to authorize the Mayor to execute the Fifth Amendment to Land and Building Sublease Agreement with Woodside Racquet Club Management, Inc. D/B/A Woodside Health and Tennis Club. Second by Councilmember Harris. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

## **Administrative Report**

Mrs. Herring referred to a general timeline for the planning of the 2021 budget and offered to answer any questions.

## **Public Safety Report**

Chief O'Halloran referred to the May 2020 Public Safety report and offered to answer any questions.

## **Public Works Report**

Mr. Sullivan referred to the May 2020 Public Works report and offered to answer any questions.

### **A. Interlocal Agreement – 47<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements Cost Share**

The City of Westwood has been awarded a Surface Transportation Program funding grant in the amount of \$1,047,000.00 for a "Complete Street Concept" on the W. 47thSt./W. 47th Ave. corridor. This corridor is the City and County Line between Johnson County/Westwood and Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS i.e. the Unified Government. As established in the Interlocal Agreement that is being presented for your consideration, the grant will fund improvements on the entire corridor and allow a mechanism for the two governments to share in the remaining costs. The agreement has been considered and approved by the Unified Government.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to memorialize the relationship between the jurisdictions as relates to funding through the State's Surface Transportation Program for improvements in the 47th Street corridor. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

## **B. Roadway Improvement Project Agreement – 47<sup>th</sup> Street**

The City of Westwood applied for and will be awarded federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) Funds in calendar year 2022 for the reconstruction of 47th Street, between Rainbow Blvd and Mission Road. The plan's concept is to implement a complete street "road-diet" in addition to adding significant pedestrian and landscaping amenities along this section of roadway.

The agreement establishes the responsibility of KDOT regarding rights-of-way acquisition, contract letting and administration, indemnification by contractors, and payment of project costs. The agreement also lays out the City's responsibilities to conform to relevant state and federal requirements, to secure and pay for the construction design for the project, coordinate utility relocations per the noted standards, pay for and have inspections performed per KDOT standards during construction, and accept maintenance responsibilities over the life-span of the roadway project.

Motion by Councilmember Steele to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the State of Kansas for funding through the KDOT Surface Transportation Program for improvements in the 47th Street corridor. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

## **Committee Reports**

### **a. Administration & Compensation Committee**

Councilmember Hannaman noted he is working on budget numbers for 2021.

### **b. Business & Community Affairs Committee**

Councilmember Cummins noted she is working with Councilmember Steele to map out ideas for the committee for the remainder of 2020 and 2021.

### **c. Public Safety Committee**

Councilmember Harris noted the committee met on May 19<sup>th</sup> to form some preliminary numbers for 2021 with Chief O'Halloran.

### **d. Public Works Committee**

Councilmember Steele had nothing additional to report.

### **e. Parks & Recreation Committee**

Councilmember Wimer noted the Parks and Recreation is working with staff to create a program to allow residents to hold block parties.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Waters noted City Hall has reopened to the public and staff is working to accommodate municipal court dates.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by councilmember Hannaman to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Harris. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: Leslie Herring  
Leslie Herring, City Clerk

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**Appendix A**

**Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

To: Mayor Waters & Westwood City Council members

Re: Bright lights, small city

It's been 6 months since the new street lights went online on my block: Booth between 49th Terrace and 50th Street. Our 2 cobra lights were replaced with 7 of the new lights serving 9 houses. All 7 lights now have partial shields on them.

I spent nearly \$50,000 remodeling my house inside and outside last year knowing that new lights were coming and with a picture presented to us that those lights would be focused on the sidewalks. I don't have that specific picture—I trust you know the one—it looked something like this:



Each light was pictured as an elliptical shape on the ground. It was explained that where one light stopped, the next would pick up the pedestrian and so on down the street. It was explained it would be warm lighting, softer on the eye.

Based on that image, I proceeded to:

Cut down a large healthy gum tree in my front yard = \$1,675

Install new outdoor lighting & replace a post lamp = \$1,455

Total = \$3,130

(Note: I was very specific with Teague Electric when they installed my outdoor lighting that it MUST be subtle so as not to bother the neighbors. I even replaced the 25-watt light bulb in the post lamp with an 11-watt bulb due to that same concern).

That is money I wouldn't have spent had I known the new lights would actually have this effect.

I took these pictures at about 2:50 a.m. on March 30, but the date & time are irrelevant as this is how bright the street is every night, all night, all year long.



I have since taken the following steps & additional cost to combat this light intrusion:

Purchased blackout shades = \$2,300

Installed a second patio in my back yard because the lights have rendered my preferred patio useless after dark even with a shield on the light = \$2,845.

Those are the big-ticket items although there are other things I have done in addition.

Total = \$5,145+

Fortunately, I have the means. What about those who can't afford to fight the lights?

I agree that most people like the lights, in fact, I'd venture that 100% of us like them, but ask more questions:

How many residents who have lights installed in their yards struggle with the brightness?

How many of us have spent big dollars to combat that brightness?

Most importantly, for how many is this a mental health issue?

I spent 2 wonderful solitary weeks in a cabin in Alaska one summer, a place & time where the sun never quite sets. However, that light was an ambient, unobtrusive, calming sort of light because Mother Nature understands that humans need a break from the brightness of day. I realize there are those in Westwood who "love, love, love" their lights & "feel" safer with them. Wouldn't they be just as happy if the lights were toned down? There are those of us who are mentally struggling with the brightness of these lights and we need relief. I know compromise isn't something Americans do anymore, but maybe just this one time? Seriously, why do we need this much light in our small city? I encourage you to not let this one drop.

Thanks for reading,

Beth Springgate  
4947 Booth St