

City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
February 11, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Held Remotely Via Zoom

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor
Lisa Cummins, Councilmember
Jeff Harris, Council President
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
Michelle Ryan, City Treasurer
Ryan Denk, City Attorney

Call to Order

Mayor David E. Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 11, 2021. The City Clerk called the roll. A quorum was present.

Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Any comments for the Governing Body on non-agenda items were able to by either virtually raising their hand on the Zoom platform, or could provide a written statement to be submitted to Ms. Schneweis by 5:00 pm on Thursday, February 11, 2021 to be shared during the meeting. Comments were to be limited to five minutes in length.

Mrs. Herring read written statement from Pam Merrigan, full comments are attached to Appendix A of these meeting minutes.

Chris Burns, 2513 W 49th Terr, said he had previously submitted an email to the Governing Body regarding the Westwood View rebuild, and thanked Mayor Waters for responding to it. Mr. Burns said the rebuild project is an emotional situation that will cause some feedback from the public, and that some residents are impacted by the project directly. Mr. Burns said he will continue to communicate with the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) to ensure they engage the surrounding property owners.

Jayne Tebow, 4952 Norwood, said she is excited and looking forward to having a new Westwood View building. However, she would like Westwood City Council and Planning Commission to evaluate a traffic at the proposed location. Mrs. Tebow also requested that the Public Safety department evaluate the on-street parking situation in the Annex. Mrs. Tebow said she has observed cars parked on the street in violation of posted "No Parking" signs.

Jan Kyle, 4946 Belinder, stated she and her husband voted to approve the SMSD bond issuance in January 2021. Mrs. Kyle shared concerns about traffic, noise and pollution that could be caused by the Westwood View rebuild location. Mrs. Kyle stated she believed the school should be built on the vacant lot at 5050 Rainbow Boulevard.

Approval of January 14, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 14, 2021 Council Meeting were included in the agenda packet. Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes document as submitted. Second by Councilmember Cummins. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Ryan provided a review of the January 2021 Treasurer's report and offered to answer questions.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve Appropriations Ordinance No. 723 in the amount of \$235,430. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Mrs. Herring performed a roll call vote, motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

City Attorney Report

Mr. Denk had nothing to report.

Administrative Report

Mrs. Herring provided a review of the January 2021 Administrative report and offered to answer questions.

Westwood View Rebuild Process and Timeline

Mrs. Herring first provided an overview of the history of Westwood View and its role within Westwood including the 2017 comprehensive plan process. In October 2020, city staff and officials were made aware that SMSD was considering a bond issuance to build new schools, and at that time it was not apparent that a Westwood View rebuild would be part of the bond issuance. In November 2020 the SMSD School Board voted to put a bond issue on the ballot that would include a Westwood View rebuild. In December 2020 city staff started engaging with SMSD to plan for the project. In January 2021, Johnson County voters passed the bond issuance. The city and SMSD.

Going forward, City Staff are currently reviewing all elements of the project and the site plan that is consistent with the city's zoning regulations. The Planning Commission for review and consider will hold a work session on Monday, March 1st to review the site plan application package and make comment to the School District prior to making a recommendation for action to the City Council. Then, on Monday, April 5th the Planning Commission will hold its regularly scheduled meeting and will consider making a recommendation for action to the City Council. On Thursday, April 8th the City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting to make final determination on site plan.

Councilmember Harris pointed out that SMSD representatives will be attending the public meetings and work sessions outlined during Mrs. Herring's presentation and encouraged those interested in the rebuild project to reach out to the SMSD and attend the public meetings.

Councilmember Wimer noted there will be a community engagement session hosted by the SMSD on Saturday, February 13th.

Mayor Waters encouraged those in attendance to subscribe to the city's email list and follow city social media channels to receive updates about the rebuild project. Mayor Waters also noted the city's website has been updated to include information about the project as well.

Public Safety Report

Chief O'Halloran referred to the January 2021 Public Safety report and offered to answer questions.

KC Metro Crime Commission Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline

Motion by Councilmember Harris to authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary documents and renew the contract with the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission and pay the annual invoice. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Works Report

Mr. Sullivan referred to the January 2021 Public Works report and offered to answer any questions.

Committee Reports

a. Administration & Compensation Committee

Councilmember Hannaman said he will be participating in online meetings on February 16th for the Kansas Active Transportation Plan to develop preliminary documents to help Kansas communities incorporate active transportation where appropriate.

b. Business & Community Affairs Committee

Councilmember Cummins noted the committee met the previous day to discuss the 47th Street Committee, The 47 Foodie Fest, and plans for new street banners.

c. Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Harris said the committee met earlier in the week to discuss public safety considerations for the Westwood View rebuild project.

d. Public Works Committee

Councilmember Steele said the committee met at the end of January to continue discussions about a complete streets plan in Westwood.

e. Parks & Recreation Committee


Councilmember Wimer met on January 26th to discuss a request to reserve the green space at Dennis Park for soccer practice, the committee decided to continue offering the green space on a first come, first served basis. The committee is also working to develop signs to remind dog owners to keep their dogs on leash when visiting Dennis Park.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Waters said he is proud that the community is supporting the Westwood View rebuild project. Mayor Waters said the project is one of the most important projects ever for Westwood and those connected to Westwood View including teachers and students and parents that live outside Westwood. Mayor Waters said he does not want this project to be a cause for divisiveness in Westwood, and where there are differences in opinion the Governing Body and staff will work through them together. Mayor Waters encouraged everyone to work in good faith to create the best situation for Westwood.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Harris to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Hannaman.
Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Leslie Herring, City Clerk

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Appendix A

I want to second the thoughts shared by, Jan Kyle, regarding the school and it's location. Belinder, is already well trafficked. Often people park directly behind our driveways (which exit to, Belinder), making it difficult to leave. Also, the School district sold lots to a builder which decreased the size of the Entercom property. How will the development adhere to a 35% lot coverage maximum? What about greenspace? What about noise? What about security lightning & how this will affect neighboring properties? What about people walking across private yards to get to the School? People are already ignoring their neighbors rights and tress passing. The Entercom property sits in the heart of, Westwood. Who wants an eyesore of a parking lot in the center of our City? The School which is on, Belinder, South of here, just North of 75th St., is a traffic nightmare! Who wants to deal with that twice a day? How will extra traffic on, Belinder, affect emergency vehicles? The School ought to remain where it's currently located or where, Jan Kyle, cites. How come so much of this has been done under the shroud of secrecy?

I won't be able to attend this evening. This matter is very important to me. I would like to be notified about further developments.

Thank you,
Pam Merrigan