

**City of Westwood Hills
City Council Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2019
Meeting #839**

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

Present: Mayor Schwach, Ed Gogol, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen Shelor Sexton, Ludwig Villasi, John Weedman and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr and City Treasurer John Martin were also present.

Citizen Renée Miller was in attendance.

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

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

Old Business:

Streetlights

Schwach discussed the results of the Street Light Engineering study. Schwach personally called all the homeowners who would have a streetlight in or near their property. There is not an installation charge from Evergy. The monthly charge per light is \$38.12 for the life of the asset. The monthly cost for nine streetlights is \$343.08, and cost per year is \$4116.96. Currently, the average net franchise fee after offset of lighting costs is about a +\$2,640.00. The City will need to come up with around \$5-6K per year to fund any additional lights as the \$2,640.00 positive amount of electric utility franchise fee is built into the budget for other budget items. City Attorney Jim Orr will look into whether or not the ongoing costs can be absorbed into the public safety portion of the budget and excluded from the tax lid.

Shelor Sexton felt additional lighting is the most important use of City money for improvements.

Podrebarac had two concerns:

The tree canopies will interfere with the lights.

Podrebarac wants to make sure those most impacted are okay with the additional lights. Mayor Schwach will check with the Engineer to see if KCP&L can install lower light fixture to avoid canopy issues.

Shelor Sexton moved to proceed with the installation of nine streetlights as recommended in the analyst by Merge Midwest. Weedman seconded. Discussion: Podrebarac was concerned that residents will not be happy with a streetlight in the ROW of their property.

Citizen Miller asked if a streetlight in a yard would affect the property values. Council believes it would not, because the placement of the lights is mostly in the side yards.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Weedman presented the updated policy and plan. Shelor Sexton was concerned with item #5 on the policy (“The City shall maintain existing infrastructure prior to building or acquiring new infrastructure.”). Shelor would like to change it to read, “As a matter of public policy, the City is committed to maintaining existing infrastructure prior to building or acquiring new infrastructure.”

The recent focus on the existing CIP had been on the streets and stormwater system.

2019-2023 Council Priorities were expressed as follows:

Weedman and Gogol: The Green, the Fountain and the State Line intersection.

A discussion of the fountain took place. Weedman will put together a five-person committee regarding the future of the fountain. Committee will consist of Weedman, Villasi, Citizen John Heeney, and two others of Weedman’s choosing.

Shelor Sexton: The Fountain and the State Line intersection

Podrebarac: State Line intersection, Fountain, The Green and the 49th St. pedestrian barrier.

Villasi: The Fountain, the State Line intersection and the 49th St. pedestrian barrier.

A citizen survey was handed out at the Homes Association Fall Meeting. Streetlights were most important, tied with the comprehensive plan for the Green.

Weedman moved to adopt the revised CIP Policy, amending item 5 as described above (from shall to precatory language). Gogol seconded. All in favor.

Council Prioritization of funds for the next three years: The addition of streetlights would be an operational cost; not a city capital expenditure even though a city priority. The Island Stonework Project is budgeted for the current (2019) budget year. The remaining priorities for the CIP were addressed by Councilman Weedman.

Weedman moved to adopt the following priorities for the next 3-5 years:

- Fountain replacement or adaptation
- 50th & State Line Rd. intersection traffic calming improvements and potential repaving of State Line Rd.
- 49th St. Stone wall/pedestrian barrier

Motion seconded by Podrebarac. All in favor. CIP adopted.

Stonework Repairs - Schwach reported that the estimate to repair the stonework in the City is as follows:

Resident Sherill Mulhern - \$750.00

Culvert at 49th Terrace - \$1,500.00

49th St. Island - \$900.00

49th Terrace Island - \$350.00

The City share would be \$2,750.00.

Councilwoman Podrebarac will prepare two short form contracts with George Sullivan - one for the City, and one for Ms. Mulhern with the goal of commencing work yet this fall.

New Business:

Leaf Collection

Roeland Park provided the City with available dates of November 24, 2019, or December 8, 2019, for leaf collection. The estimated cost, which includes 10 loads of leaves disposed at Missouri Organics, is \$1,846.00.

The City also obtained an estimate from Benjamin Lawn (\$2,874.00), who is used by the City of Fairway. **Podrebarac moved to encumber up to \$2,000.00 to contract with Roeland Park for leaf collection on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Shelor Sexton seconded. All in favor.**

Public Safety Holiday Lunch Encumbrance

The Westwood Police Department was able to get all Halloween candy donated by Walmart Neighborhood Grocery. Shelor Sexton requested the City use the Halloween candy encumbrance to encumber up to \$120.00 to provide lunch for the Westwood Police Officers on or around December 30th. In past years, Shelor Sexton has paid for the lunch herself. **Shelor moved to encumber up to \$120.00 to pay for a holiday lunch for the Police Department. Gogol seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Halloween Trick or Treat Recommendation Times

Shelor Sexton reported that Chief O'Halloran requested homeowners to voluntarily limit Trick or Treating time on Halloween night from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Halloween Barricade Encumbrance

O'Bryan asked Council if they wish to close the streets on Halloween. The cost for the barricades is generally between \$110.00-\$200.00, of which the Homes Association pays half. **Podrebarac moved to encumber up to \$250.00 to provide barricades for all streets, exclusive of 50th Terrace, and inclusive of the shops' parking lot. Seconded by Gogol. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Informational items – no action to be taken

There were no items from Citizens in attendance.

Paper Shredding and e-Cycle event results

Seventeen cars from Westwood Hills participated. For all cities combined, the total pounds of paper shredded was 26,100, and 9,286 pounds of electronic waste was dropped off for e-Cycle.

Johnson & Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 4, 2019. RSVP to the City Clerk with Entree selection by November 15, 2019. Cost will be about \$80.00 per person, tbd later.

November Council Meeting Falls on Veterans Day-- council will still meet on that date.

Motion to adjourn by Gogol. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.