

City of Mount Washington
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
July 27, 2020
Fick Hall

Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following council members present; Greg Gentry, Sandra Hockenbury, Daniel Dooley, Gayle Troutman, Mike Holt and Troy Barr.

Also present were City Attorney Hayden Sweat, City Administrator Dawn Hardin, City Treasurer Alice Harris, Chief Troy Pitcock, Public Works Director Ronnie Fick, and City Engineer Dave Derrick arrived at 6:35 PM.

Mayor Armstrong reminded anyone wanting to speak to please sign in at the podium.

Councilman Dooley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Armstrong asked those present to take a moment of reflection.

Minutes

Councilman Troutman made and Councilman Holt seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting for July 13, 2020. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Alice Harris read the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2020.

Sign in Sheet

Tammy Scrogam a resident on Fisher Lane spoke to the City Council and said she attended the Planning and Zoning meeting in Shepherdsville regarding the rezoning request of property for Bethel Springs. She stated it was not her in her favor. One of her concerns was that the property was annexed into the city and she did not get notification, she also stated the agenda for the Council Meeting tonight was not posted on the website. Mrs. Scogham stated she was here representing 1424, 1416 Fisher Lane and 618 Twin Oaks. She stated that she believes all annexations should fall under responsible growth management preserving and enhancing the quality of life. She said poorly planned annexations cause traffic congestion, overcrowding of schools and environmental damage. She said she does not believe this project does none of the above. She said her view will change from barns and peaceful darkness after a hard day's work to seeing house after house with all these lights. She is asking a few questions, will there be landscaping, has a traffic study been completed on Bethel Church Road or Fisher Lane as neither has side lines or center lines. She is concerned about the traffic this will create to an already congested area and adding 40+ additional homes on 49 acres will only contribute to the problem.

The Mayor stated that Bethel Church and Fisher Lane are county roads and the maintenance of the roads will be the County's responsibility. Dawn Hardin said the annexation for this property was a consensual annexation requested by the property owner and the requirements for notifying surrounding property owners is not required. The agenda for the meeting for that particular meeting was posted on the website, meeting agenda for this meeting was sent to personnel that is on vacation, however, the agenda was posted on the door at City Hall and KRS requires that the agenda be posted in the most conspicuous place. Mrs. Scrogam was concerned that the hearing for the rezoning request was held in the county and was told by our representative Connie Anton that the final rezoning request will come before the City Council. Dawn Hardin said the city has not received the rezoning file from Planning and Zoning yet and stated once received, notification can be sent to Mrs. Scrogam. Mayor Armstrong stated there are only certain reasons that a rezoning could be denied, and that traffic was not a legitimate reason, however, the council can review once the rezoning request is received. Mrs. Scrogam also stated this property was advertised as a low-density subdivision, but there are going to be 166 houses postage stamped into a 49-acre tract. She said this seems more like high density. She stated that all the people moving here from Louisville are looking to buy homes with a piece of land. Mayor Armstrong stated that we cannot stop the growth and development, he said that if we did, the developments that are here would not be here. He stated he has lived here his whole life and now there is a commercial building on both sides of his home on S Bardstown Road, The City of Mt. Washington is the fastest growing city for a reason; however, he understands the traffic situation and unfortunately, the growth is moving faster than the road system is being addressed at this time. He also stated there have been several upgrades such as traffic lights, turning lanes wherever possible due to the constant interaction and requesting from city officials on a state level. He said unfortunately they will not build or repair infrastructure before development is here but will so long as city officials stay on the state transportation, which he intends to do. Councilman Barr addressed the overcrowding of schools, and said Bullitt East High School is the only one presently overcrowded and that they are preparing to take possession of Old Mill for expansion to resolve this issue once a new Old Mill Elementary is built and completed. Mrs. Scrogam said it is not that they do not want the development, just not the way they have submitted it. She also asked who they can file complaints on the quality of homes that Fisher Homes build, and all the complaints from homeowners after they are built. Mayor Armstrong said you can address them with the Building Official Don Coffman, who says they are complying with the State's minimum requirements of the Building Codes. The City Attorney stated that she should return to the meeting at the first reading of the rezoning ordinance for public comment, because during the second reading there is no public comment and is for vote only. Mrs. Scrogam thanked the Mayor and City Council for listening to her concerns. Councilman Gentry said that the Mayor and City Council cannot do anything about Fisher Lane, but assures her that they will continue to work on getting a turning Lane at Bethel Church and Highway 44 E.

Sheena Theising also a resident on Fisher Lane addressed the City Council of the Bethel Springs Development as well. She stated she spoke with Councilman Barr in great detail regarding the road situation in this area. She addressed her concerns of the traffic hazards this new subdivision will cause and does not want to see a catastrophic event happen before anything will be done.

Mrs. Theising said her concerns are the same as Mrs. Scrogam's. She also said she attended the Planning and Zoning Hearing and said that Chairman Jerry Burke did not compose himself in a professional manner and was rude and used language unbecoming of a representative for this county. She said people were there to voice their opinion which we have the right to do. She said when she left that meeting, she had no confidence with our local government until she spoke with Councilman Barr which gave her confidence to come to the meeting tonight to voice her concerns about this issue. Mrs. Theising asked what paper the prior minutes are published in. Dawn Hardin said the meeting minutes are not published but are posted on the city website. She said the Ordinances are published in the Pioneer News and the annexation ordinance was published on June 29, 2020. The Mayor encouraged her to come back to the meeting of the first reading of the rezoning.

Mrs. Scrogam asked the procedures of approval of plans. Ronnie Fick said after a zoning request is approved the developer will submit plans for approval to the city which includes drainage and will also have to include a percentage of green space. Ronnie said the drainage flow is measured and cannot be more than the existing flow after the development or they will be required to upgrade the drainage retention or culvert. Ronnie said he could not speak for the county and their process.

Ordinance (s)

SECOND READING – ROLL CALL VOTE

The city attorney read the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 92.03 Certain conditions declared a nuisance. Councilman Troutman made and Councilman Barr seconded a motion to approve. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Ordinance amending Chapter 110 that was on the agenda was not read and will be placed on agenda at a later date to be determined.

Mayor's Report

The mayor asked everyone to please remember it is not too late to complete your 2020 Census. This is very vital not only for our city but for our county as a whole in the formula of funding.

Resolution

The city attorney read a resolution authorizing the mayor to apply for reimbursement for the Cares Act for qualifying Covid-19 expenses. Councilman Holt made and Councilman Gentry seconded motion to adopt. Motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

The Mayor stated there have been a lot of discussion on Facebook regarding parking in yards. He read a statement he prepared. (Attached hereto and included to the minutes) The Mayor said ordinances are in place to regulate and protect the best interest and properties of our city residents.

The Mayor stated there is no need for Executive Session.

Report from Council

Councilman Barr said when he was in high school in 1989 the population of Mt. Washington was 2200 and now is estimated to be 20, 000. He said most people are moving here for the schools in order to not have to pay for private education for their children. He also said we are the fastest growing city in the state and said both his daughters graduated from Bullitt East and feels they received the education of what a private school would have provided. He said Bullitt County Schools are awesome.

Councilman Gentry stated the City Council looks at every development that is submitted and listens to both the citizens and the developers concerns and tries to make their decisions that will be best for all.

Mayor stated he had a meeting with a potential purchaser of the mobile home park and said they were pleased at the way our community looked and that it was very clean.

Council Dooley said he had a couple request that we can start looking into regarding the sidewalks down Landis Lane to Park View Avenue especially where there are decorative medians in the road. There is no room for passing someone on a bike traveling on the road. Lori Puchino said that was included in a Plan. Dawn Hardin said it was in the Streetscape Plan.

Councilman Holt asked the status of Tractor Supply. Mayor Armstrong stated, we are close to moving forward on the development.

Mayor Armstrong also stated we are very close on being approved for the KIPDA grant for the traffic light and widening on North Bardstown Road at Landis Lane.

Adjournment

Councilman Troutman made, and Councilman Holt seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Motion carried.

Barry Armstrong
Mayor

Elizabeth D. Hardin
City Administrator