

## CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

January 18, 2022

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in the City Council Chambers, which was available to the public via teleconference, at 7:37 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Gerry Welch  
Councilmember Laura Arnold  
Councilmember Pam Bliss  
Councilmember David Franklin  
Councilmember Emerson Smith  
Councilmember Sarah Richardson (via teleconference)

Absent at Roll Call: Councilmember Karen D. Alexander

A quorum was present.

Also present: Dr. Marie Peoples, City Manager  
Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney  
Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

### REMARKS OF VISITORS

Walter Williams stated that he is a Captain Paramedic with the Webster Groves Fire Department. He spoke in opposition to the City's vaccine and booster requirement. I requested a medical exemption and it was denied. I took the vaccine, three months later I was infected, and now I have natural immunity, and the vaccine... I cannot be prescribed any medical treatment by anyone unless they are medically licensed in the state of Missouri to practice medicine, so how can I be forced to accept this medical treatment? Romans 5:12 basically states that all men are going to die at some point. If I am ok with that, why am I being forced to take a booster that I don't believe in?

Dave Buck read a statement [**See Exhibit A**].

It was stated that Congresswoman Cori Bush's office is on the Zoom and they wanted to introduce themselves.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### BILL #9176 – THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, **BILL #9176 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF A BALLOT PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, ON APRIL 5, 2022, TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION, “SHALL THERE BE A CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO REVISE AND AMEND THE CHARTER?”**, having been introduced and read twice on January

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4, 2022, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9176.

Mayor Welch stated that she is not in support of this, even though she believes we always have the ability to look at the Charter, but in the past year we've been through a lot in this town. We've had an initiative petition about duplex housing, the SG Collaborative project, a City Council and Mayoral election coming up, and we had the rejection of the Use Tax. There is just so much that has gone on, I fear throwing the Charter open to a new board is not something I would support at this point. There is a process to change the Charter if we want.

Councilmember Franklin stated that hiding from the issue is not going to make the problems go away. A no vote tonight doesn't make the problems we all know exist within our Charter go away.

At the time of her vote, Councilmember Bliss stated that she voted, no, in light of the idea of us deciding as a Council to call for a Charter Advisory Board at a time we feel is appropriate.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9176.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ARNOLD, FRANKLIN, SMITH, RICHARDSON

NOES: BLISS, WELCH

ABSENT: ALEXANDER

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9176 was approved and would go on the ballot in April.

#### **BILL #9177 – THIRD READING**

On motion of Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, **BILL #9177 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 42, “LICENSING AND REGULATION OF LIQUOR”, ARTICLE I, “INTOXICATING LIQUOR” BY AMENDING SECTION 42.023 “LICENSES REQUIRED; CATEGORIES” AND SECTION 42.050 “REGULATION OF RETAIL PACKAGE SALES; CONDITIONS OF LICENSE” AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**, having been introduced and read twice on January 4, 2022, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9177.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on Bill #9177.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: ALEXANDER

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9177 was approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **BILL #9178 – FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD READING – NOT ADDRESSED (TABLED)**

A motion was made by Councilmember Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Franklin, to table **BILL #9178 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. #9151 AND NO. #9174 DEFINING THE COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN SAID CLASSIFICATIONS.**

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Mayor Welch called for the vote to table Bill #9178.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: FRANKLIN, SMITH, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: ALEXANDER

Mayor Welch stated that Bill #9178 was tabled.

Prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda, Mayor Welch asked about #2022-06 regarding WiFi equipment. She asked about the bidding process and pricing. Assistant City Manager Eric Peterson addressed the process and equipment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Councilmember Franklin, seconded by Councilmember Arnold, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: SMITH, RICHARDSON, WELCH, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: ALEXANDER

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – January 4, 2022
- **Resolution #2022-04** – Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase New Fitness Equipment for the Recreation Complex
- **Liquor License (Temporary)** – Application by Mary Queen of Peace Church, 676 W. Lockwood Ave., to Sell Beer and Wine by the Drink for Consumption on the Premises Where Sold at Their Fish Fry on March 4, 2022 and April 1, 2022
- **Resolution #2022-05** – Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 to Include Expenditures for the Recycling Grant
- **Resolution #2022-06** – Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Purchase of WiFi and VPN Access

### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

### **EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION**


Council reconvened the Executive (Closed) Session started prior to the regular meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

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PASSED AND APPROVED this 1<sup>ST</sup> day of FEBRUARY 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**From:** [Dave Buck](#)  
**To:** [Welch, Gerry](#); [Laura W. Arnold](#); [Pam Bliss](#); [Richardson, Sarah](#); [Alexander, Karen](#); [Emerson Smith](#); [David Franklin](#); [Peoples, Marie](#); [Peterson, Eric](#); [njbatty@aol.com](#); [Perry, Mara](#); [Starkey, Jenny](#); [Nakazono, Katie](#); [Conrad, Jennifer](#); [Davis, Scott](#); [Rehg, Todd](#); [Curtis, Dale](#); [Ellis, Brett](#); [addison.david@wgmail.org](#); [Jo Doll](#); [Kita Quinn](#); [Christine Keller](#); [Alexander Kahn](#); [Allen Todd](#); [simpson.john@wgmail.org](#); [Sandy Wiley Skinner](#); [Jason Adams](#); [Pam Frazier](#); [Tim Brown](#); [Shane Williamson](#); [Jennifer Davis](#); [vespereny.cathy@wgmail.org](#); [Shari Meyers](#); [jjeppers1966@gmail.com](#); [Karen Beck](#); [Courtney Schaefer](#); [Justin Hauke](#)  
**Cc:** [Parks, Rosa](#); [leehair@sbcglobal.net](#); [Dave Turner](#); [tcturner2002@yahoo.com](#); [cynthiathe1@att.net](#); [Ed Johnson](#); [Gabrielle Kennedy](#); [Bishop-Elect Deon K. Johnson](#); [Eric Hayes](#); [Stephanie Leonard](#); [revab2@yahoo.com](#); [fbcwg@sbcglobal.net](#); [wgbc@wgbaptist.com](#); [derek.bastian@wrhm.org](#); [Kelvin Cunningham](#); [Amy Cunningham](#); [Jerome](#); [Kevin Brackens](#); [Vincent C. Flewellen, Chief Diversity Officer](#); [croftri@sbcglobal.net](#); [Toni Hunt](#); [Sebastian Bellomo](#); [RONALD ZAGER](#); [Farrell Carfield](#); [Elyssa Sullivan](#); [Sarah Riss](#); [Arnold Stricker](#); [joeloliver777@yahoo.com](#); [Wynn Miller](#); [Glenn Detrick](#); [Douglas K. Miller](#)  
**Subject:** Dave Buck Remarks of Visitors, City Council Mtg., 1/18/22  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 12:01:54 PM

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**Caution:** This is an External Message - Please be cautious when opening links or attachments

To City Council & City Staff; School Board & Central Office; & and the 19 total candidates running for Mayor, City Council or School Board,

"Both our city and school district have clearly made diversity, equity and inclusion a priority and progress has been made on several fronts.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **I HAVE A DREAM** that City Council & School Board work together as ONE to solve, once and for all, the two biggest, toughest and most urgent problems and racial inequities in our community with fresh thinking, new ideas and courageous leadership.

**PROBLEM ONE** is the continuing loss and decline of Webster's black community, part of our city's proud history for 156 years since 1866, the year following the end of the Civil War. In 1950, during the height of the North Webster neighborhood, blacks represented over 14% of Webster's total population. Today, that number is 4% and falling.

Unchecked gentrification is forcing long-time and loyal black residents out because they cannot afford to live there anymore. To me, if we do not stop the hemorrhaging, aggressively create new affordable housing and attract new black families to Webster, we will be an all-white Webster in less than 5 years and that would be a very sad day for all of us.

Other cities have solved this same problem. There ARE solutions!

**PROBLEM TWO** is the over 20-year existence and continuation of the "Academic Achievement Gap" between the performance of white and black students. More than 7,800 black students have been affected. This problem is not unique to our school district. But other cities and districts have solved the problem and closed the gap with effective solutions, such as universal preschool. There ARE solutions!

These are not separate city or school district problems but are two mega-problems they both share responsibility for. The city needs the school district and the school district needs the city. **It's ALL of our problem** and I'm convinced that the only way we will ever solve them is by city and school district joining forces and working together as one community.

We've got serious problems and we need serious people and serious ideas to solve them. All it takes is the will to start, keep moving forward and never giving up.

Thank YOU!"