

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

March 1, 2022

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in the City Council Chambers, which was available to the public in person, and via teleconference, at 7:38 p.m.

Present at Roll Call:

- Mayor Gerry Welch
- Councilmember Laura Arnold
- Councilmember Pam Bliss
- Councilmember David Franklin
- Councilmember Emerson Smith
- Councilmember Karen D. Alexander (via teleconference)
- Councilmember Sarah Richardson

A quorum was present.

Also present:

- Dr. Marie Peoples, City Manager
- Mr. Neil Bruntrager, City Attorney
- Ms. Katie Nakazono, City Clerk

RECOGNITION

Police Officer Phillip Jordan was recognized by the Mayor and Council as Police Officer of the Year.

REMARKS OF VISITORS

Lizz James spoke in favor of allowing refugee housing at Eden Seminary.

Emily Hixson Shepherd spoke in favor of allowing refugee housing at Eden Seminary. We are so excited to bring them to Webster.

Sarah Paradoski spoke in favor of allowing refugee housing at Eden Seminary.

Sarah Riss thanked Council for the DEI process. The Alliance supports beginning the training. She also spoke in support for the changes to the PCEB ordinance.

Dave Buck read a statement about character and core values [**See Exhibit A**].

NEW BUSINESS – MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY MANAGER

No New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL #9180 – FIRST AND SECOND READING

Councilmember Richardson introduced, **BILL #9180 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AMENDING THE CODE OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, BY REPEALING, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE XX “POLICE**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD”, AND ENACTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW ARTICLE XX “POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARD” AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #9039, #9132, AND #9160, and at the Councilmember’s request, the Bill was read twice, first and second times by title only, and placed on the agenda for future consideration of the Council.

Councilmember Bliss stated she is happy we have come to an agreement on this. It has been discussed for a long time.

Mayor Welch asked about the training requirement in the membership section. She stated that we don’t do that with any other board or commission in the City. Will that be an hour or three days?

Councilmember Smith stated that in light of us going through this as a Council and community, maybe it is the opposite and the other commissions need training also. Make sure they are all on board and everyone is going in the same direction.

City Attorney Neil Bruntrager stated that it is ok to require that training because it is the level of commitment. If an individual doesn’t want to serve because of that, they would simply not serve. Training can be accomplished in a variety of ways including at meetings.

Councilmember Alexander asked about the DEI Commission and requiring training. Councilmember Arnold stated that she had asked about that because the requirements for Council are defined in the Charter.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Richardson, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Welch called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following consent agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – February 16, 2022

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Councilmember Arnold made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Bliss, to go into Executive Closed Session per Attorney-Client Privileged Communications [MO Statute 610.021(1)] and Personnel [MO Statute 610.021 (3)].

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Mayor Welch called for the vote to go into Executive (Closed) Session.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

Mayor Welch stated that they would go into Executive (Closed) Session.

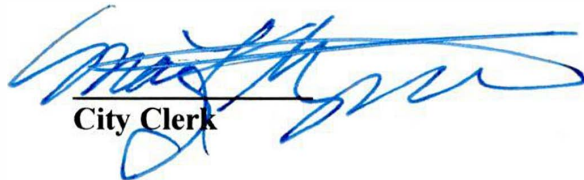
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of March 2022.



Mayor



City Clerk



Nakazono, Katie

(EXHIBIT A)

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 9:34 PM
To: Welch, Gerry; Pam Bliss; Alexander, Karen; Richardson, Sarah; Laura W. Arnold; 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
Cc: Farrell Carfield; Elyssa Sullivan; Sebastian Bellomo; Toni Hunt; Kathy Hart; preservewebster@gmail.com; Webster Groves; Jaime Mowers; randy@timesnewspapers.com; newsroom@timesnewspapers.com; Mark Langston; websterjournal@gmail.com; Sarah Riss; Clark Hotaling; Eric Hayes; wendybruner@peaceuccstl.org; Valori Sherer; Bishop-Elect Deon K. Johnson ; Davis Allen; dkrause@eden.edu
Subject: Dave Buck Remarks of Visitors, 3/1/22, City Council Mtg.

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

My remarks tonight are inspired by several of you and are all about character.

Personal character is our moral compass and represents the core values that define who we are as people and that guide our daily choices, decisions and actions.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke often that your true success is not measured in riches or fame, but should be judged, first and foremost, by **the content of your character.**

In fact, leading University Professors & Doctors of Psychology now confirm, based on breakthrough research, that character is the #1 most important determinant of success in life, even greater than intelligence.

Which begs the question: should Webster Groves' true success be judged, first and foremost, by the content of our **community's** character?

For even if our city delivers exceptional city management and services, just how truly successful is Webster Groves if the community's character turns at times to the dark side and gives in to dishonesty & misinformation, meanness, no attempt at understanding, negativity, selfishness and, perhaps worst, arrogance. It's not a pretty picture and we have all seen it.

Core Values is an essential element of any strategic plan. And, to me, Webster needs only six of them to succeed: **Honesty; Kindness; Empathy; Positivity; Generosity; and Humility.**

For if we all did our best to embrace and live up to these six values, what a wonderful world Webster Groves would be!!!

To me, serving successfully as Mayor and City Council is all about character. It is the required foundation of effective leadership and we need a Council who will lead by example.

I respect and appreciate the various candidates' intelligent campaign issues, platforms & priorities. But on April 5, I'm voting for character. Always have. Just being honest.

Thank YOU!