

CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

June 6, 2023

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in-person in the Council Chambers, and via Zoom, at 7:37 p.m.

Present at Roll Call:

- Mayor Laura Arnold
- Councilmember Pam Bliss
- Councilmember David Franklin
- Councilmember Emerson Smith
- Councilmember Karen D. Alexander
- Councilmember Sarah Richardson
- Councilmember Emily Hixson Shepherd

A quorum was present.

Also present:

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

The Mayor and Council recognized JUNETEENTH. The JUNETEENTH proclamation was presented to the family of Doris A. Rogers.

The Mayor and Council recognized PRIDE Month, and presented the proclamation to students of Webster Groves High School.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Arnold opened the Public Hearing. Eric Peterson, Assistant City Manager and Director of Finance and Administration, presented the Proposed City Budget – Fiscal Year 2024. **(See Exhibit A in City Clerk’s office.)**

Dave Buck, 124 S. Elm Ave., read a statement. **(See Exhibit B in City Clerk’s office.)**

City Attorney Bruntrager entered the following into the record: PowerPoint presented this evening, applicable ordinances/Charter, and Proposed Budget for FY-2024.

Mayor Arnold stated that the public hearing was closed.

REMARKS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND VISITORS

Clark Hotaling, 118 W. Cedar Ave., thanked the city for publicizing the March for Gun Violence Awareness, and the police for getting the group safely across Elm St. during the event.

Joan McGivney, 346 Tulip Dr., stated that it was encouraging to see the new technology being used by police and fire to promote public safety, and she was concerned about lifeguards and maintenance for the new Aquatic Center.

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

No new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILL #9226- THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, **BILL #9226 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MISSOURI, INC.,** having been introduced and read twice on May 16, 2023 was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9226.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Bill #9226.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that Bill #9226 was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL #9227 - FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Franklin introduced **BILL #9227 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO WG RESTAURANT INVESTORS, LLC TO ALLOW A RESTAURANT, NO DRIVE-THRU USE ON AN APPROXIMATELY 0.42-ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE AT 101 W. LOCKWOOD AVENUE IN THE “D” COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO,** 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.

BILL #9228 – FIRST & SECOND READING

Councilmember Bliss introduced **BILL #9228 ENTITLED: AN ORDINANCE DEFINING THE PAY GRADES OF THE CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE OF THE CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES, FIXING THE COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES IN SAID CLASSIFICATIONS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE #9220,** 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.

RESOLUTION #2023-20

Councilmember Smith made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bliss, to approve **RESOLUTION #2023-20 ENTITLED: AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE, AND AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

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Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Resolution #2023-20.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: FRANKLIN, SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON-SHEPHERD, ARNOLD, BLISS

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that Resolution #2023-20 was approved.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Council voted on the proposed Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2024. (**Exhibit C in City Clerk's office**).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: SMITH, ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN

NOES: NONE

Mayor Arnold stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following Consent Agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – May 16, 2023
- **Resolution #2023-21** – A Resolution Declaring The Intent Of The City To Defeas A Portion Of The City's Outstanding General Obligation Bonds; Engaging Wm Financial Strategies As Financial Advisor And Gilmore & Bell, P.C., As Bond Counsel In Connection With The Transaction; And Authorizing Certain Other Actions In Connection Therewith
- **Resolution #2023-22** – Authorizing the City Manager to Engage Bruntrager and Billings, P.C. for Prosecuting Attorney Services

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Dana Cooley was appointed to the Library Board.
- Janey Worthington was reappointed to the Library Board.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Councilmember Bliss made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Richardson, to go into Executive Closed Session per Attorney-Client Privileged Communications [MO Statute 610.021 (1)], and Negotiated Contract [MO Statute 610.021 (12)].

Mayor Arnold called for the Council to go into Executive (Closed) Session.

MEMBERS VOTING:

AYES: ALEXANDER, RICHARDSON, HIXSON SHEPHERD, ARNOLD, BLISS, FRANKLIN, SMITH

NOES: NONE


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

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 P.M. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded


PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of JUNE 2023.



Mayor



City Clerk



FY2024 Proposed Budget Public Hearing

Eric Peterson, Director of Finance & Administration



FY2024 Budget Materials



www.webstergrovesmo.gov/budget

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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FY2024 PROPOSED BUDGET BOTTOM LINE NUMBERS

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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	2023 AMENDED BUDGET	2023 BUDGET ESTIMATE	FY2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 OVER (UNDER) FY23 BUDGET
REVENUE	\$28,152,282.00	\$29,087,907.00	\$27,686,062.00	(\$466,220.00)
EXPENDITURES	\$30,949,103.00	\$29,506,452.00	\$26,748,094.00	(\$4,201,009.00)
NET GRAND TOTALS	(\$2,796,821.00)	(\$418,545.00)	\$937,968.00	

FY2024 ALL FUNDS

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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	2023 AMENDED BUDGET	2023 BUDGET ESTIMATE	FY2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY24 OVER (UNDER) FY23 BUDGET
REVENUE	\$18,602,495.00	\$19,204,779.69	\$19,327,300.00	\$724,805.00
EXPENDITURES	\$19,084,709.00	\$19,041,416.00	\$19,724,801.00	\$640,092.00
NET GRAND TOTALS	(\$482,214.00)	\$163,363.69	(\$397,501.00)	

FY2024 GENERAL FUND

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO DATE

1. GF-1: Moved cost of Comprehensive Plan Development services to the Special Initiatives Fund (-\$150,000)
2. GF-2: Move unused ARP Funds to General Fund (+\$1,404,000)
3. LCARF-1: Funded the Large Capital Asset Replacement Fund (-\$300,000)

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS – GENERAL FUND

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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1. SIF-1: Created the Special Initiatives Fund (+\$950,000)
2. SIF-2: Continued Investment in Sustainability (-100,000)
3. SIF-3: Continued Investment in Business Development (-50,000)

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS – SPECIAL INITIATIVES FUND

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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1. SIF-4: Reserved funds for potential flood property buyouts (-\$500,000)
2. SIF-5: Continued Investment in DEI (-50,000)

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS – SPECIAL INITIATIVES FUND

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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1. CIP-1: Moved purchase of replacement police pistols from FY26 to FY24 (-\$25,000)

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

City of WEBSTER GROVES

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AMENDMENT	(SAVINGS TO BUDGET) / REVENUE or COST	(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS
Proposed Budget (Deficit)/Surplus		\$ (379,501.00)
Comprehensive Plan Funding	\$(150,000.00)	\$(229,501.00)
Pension Ratio Adjustment	\$(36,076.00)	\$(193,425.00)
Proposed \$1,500 Stipend	\$94,573.00	\$(287,998.00)
Street Improvement Fund Usage	\$(193,239.00)	\$(94,759.00)
Park Improvement Fund Usage	\$ (290,954.00)	\$196,195.00
Interest Income Reestimate	\$5,500.00	\$201,695.00
Legal Services Savings	\$(10,200.00)	\$211,895.00
All Adopted (Deficit)/Surplus		\$ 201,695.00

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS ON
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**

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**June 6 – Public Hearing & Budget
Amendments**

June 20 – Adoption of Budget

**June 28 (approximately) – Publication of
Adopted Budget**

REMAINING BUDGET PROCESS

City of WEBSTER GROVES 12

Nakazono, Katie

From: Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:45 AM
To: Laura W. Arnold; Pam Bliss; Alexander, Karen; Richardson, Sarah; David Franklin; Emerson Smith; Peoples, Marie; Peterson, Eric; Nakazono, Katie; njbatty@aol.com; Nakazono, Katie; Starkey, Jenny; Perry, Mara; Davis, Scott; Rehg, Todd; Curtis, Dale; Perks, Greg; Ellis, Brett; Bainter, Gary
Cc: Jeanne Kirkton; paul dribin; John Eppers; Sebastian Bellomo; Clark Hotaling; Jaime Mowers; Kevin Murphy
Subject: Dave Buck's Public Hearing Comments on the FY 24 Budget Proposal at the June 6, 2023, City Council Regular Meeting

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

(Before sharing my comments below, may I please say **“Thank YOU” to both Katie and Laura** for providing me with 30 seconds additional time last night, as I was not finished yet. My bad and poor practicing & preparation on my part ahead of the meeting).

“First, I wish more residents could have attended, observed and listened to your budgeting process as I think they would gain a better understanding and appreciation of how our city operates and how you think, ask questions, and work together as a team. Maybe next year! Here are my three quick comments:

1. Each department budget showed how it was aligned with your new strategic plan. But, currently, **this plan is only a draft, preliminarily adopted by Council on February 7, four months ago.** It is not yet officially approved and posted on the City’s web site. I am just curious **if you will be making one last review of this plan for any final changes or improvements before officially adopting it and, if so, might this then necessitate each department to relook its strategic alignment with this final plan.**
2. The Missouri Constitution requires that the state pass a balanced budget every year (“expenditures must not exceed revenues”). I believe that **the Charter Review Advisory Board should consider and recommend the same requirement for Webster Groves, specifically targeting the General Fund,** which is by far the biggest budget representing 70% of All Funds and it is uniquely the City’s annual operating budget.

However, this balancing of the budget should be accomplished with **the discipline of NO LONGER touching and taking from our General Fund Reserve Balance**, currently standing at \$10,148,000, down from \$12,000,000 as recently as 2019. As former Council member and strategic plan co-facilitator, Bud Bellomo, has continuously analyzed and pointed out, the City has a poor track record and habit of dipping into and decreasing this rainy-day emergency fund over the years to so-call “balance” the General Fund budget and that has to stop, in my opinion. Because as current Council member, Emerson Smith, has also enlightened me, **robbing from the Reserve Balance is NOT REALLY, ACCURATELY or FINANCIALLY balancing the budget, is it?**

3. Finally, **your proposed FY24 General Fund budget is showing a loss coming into this meeting.** Stated differently, this budget is not yet balanced. After a 40-year business career that included managing many annual Profit & Loss Statements, I believe that **there is both a financial side to budgeting and a psychological side.** As such, I am of the very strong opinion that Council & Staff will be much better off biting the bullet and taking your lumps NOW to get to a FY24 General Fund balanced budget – versus kicking the proverbial can down the road and hoping, stressing and waiting for Eric’s trend lines to get better.

Getting to a balanced budget – whether at home, business or city government – can be **both a financial and psychological WIN-WIN for City Council, Staff and the community.** If balancing the budget is to be achieved through cost cutting versus raising revenues, my own view is to get it over with NOW and get it behind you. The community will adapt. **And not all plans have to be permanent cuts, but rather delayed until a later time, when you can afford it** – because it is much easier and happier to add revenue back in later! And as Eric has already shared, it does not take much of an increase in sales tax revenue, for example, to significantly change and improve the overall financial picture and projections.

Plus, and very importantly, maybe, just maybe, certain people in our town will finally wake up, accept reality and get off Marie's and Eric's backs for good!!!! Now that would be a big WIN-WIN for Webster!!!!

Thank YOU!

PEACE.