

## CITY OF WEBSTER GROVES

October 17, 2023

The City Council met this date in a regular session, in the City Council Chambers, which was available to the public in person, and virtually, at 7:30 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Laura Arnold  
Councilmember Pam Bliss  
Councilmember Emerson Smith  
Councilmember Karen D. Alexander  
Councilmember Sarah Richardson  
Councilmember Emily Hixson Shepherd

Absent at Roll Call: Councilmember David Franklin

A quorum was present.

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

### PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

The Mayor and Councilmembers presented the Doris Rogers proclamation to the family.

### REMARKS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND VISITORS

Dave Buck, 124 S. Elm Ave. [See Exhibit A.]

### NEW BUSINESS - MAYOR, COUNCILMEMBERS, CITY ATTORNEY, CTY MANAGER

No new business.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### BILL #9235 – THIRD READING

On motion of Councilmember Hixson Shepherd, seconded by Councilmember Richardson, **BILL #9235–ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO ALLOW FOR SHARED SPACES WITHIN AN EXISTING BUILDING FOR MULTIPLE TENANTS OPERATING UNDER EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS USE ON AN APPROXIMATELY 1.67-ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE AT 45 W. LOCKWOOD AVENUE IN THE “D” COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO**, having been introduced and read twice on October 3, 2023, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9235.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Bill #9235.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: FRANKLIN

Mayor Arnold stated that Bill #9235 was approved.

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**BILL #9236 – THIRD READING**

On motion of Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Richardson, **BILL #9236 – ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SUBDIVISION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AT 617 GRANT COURT AND 614 GRANT COURT IN THE “A2” FIFTEEN THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT RESIDENCE DISTRICT**, having been introduced and read twice on October 3, 2023, was taken up its title read a third time and placed upon its passage to become Ordinance #9236.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on Bill #9236.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: FRANKLIN

Mayor Arnold stated that Bill #9236 was approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS/DISCUSSION**

Nicole Chaput, Vice Chair of the Board, reviewed a PowerPoint [See Exhibit B.]

A motion was made by Councilmember Bliss, seconded by Councilmember Richardson, to accept the Charter Review Advisory Board’s (CRAB) Report, to the Council, on October 17, 2023.

Mayor Arnold called for the vote to accept the report.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: FRANKLIN

Mayor Arnold stated that the CRAB report was accepted.

Mayor/Council/Staff addressed the timeline and public engagement related to the proposed Charter amendments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mayor Arnold called for the vote on the Consent Agenda.

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: FRANKLIN

Mayor Arnold stated that the Consent Agenda was approved.

The following Consent Agenda was approved:

- **Approval of Minutes** – October 3, 2023

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- Robert Wagon was appointed to the Traffic Advisory Commission as an Alternate Member.
- Barb Strang and John Sauter were appointed to the Police Community Engagement Board.
- Laura Jordan was reappointed to the Green Space Advisory Commission.

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**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)], and amended by above, to add Confidential Communications Between Government Body and Auditor [Mo. Statute 610.021 (17)].

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

MEMBERS VOTING:

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

NOES: NONE

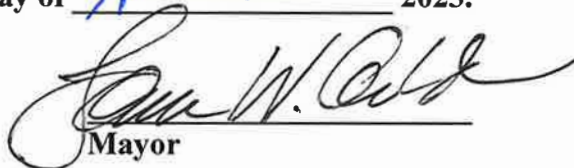
ABSENT: FRANKLIN

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. on motion of the Mayor, duly seconded.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

  
Mayor

  
City Clerk

**Nakazono, Katie**

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**From:** Dave Buck <dave@buckstl.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** Laura W. Arnold; Pam Bliss; Alexander, Karen; Richardson, Sarah; Emily Hixson Shepherd; David Franklin; Emerson Smith; Peoples, Marie; Peterson, Eric; njbatty@aol.com; Nakazono, Katie; Starkey, Jenny; Perry, Mara; Davis, Scott; Rehg, Todd; Curtis, Dale; Perks, Greg; Ellis, Brett; Bainter, Gary  
**Cc:** Chris Redford; Carrie Falkenrath; Anne Barenkamp; Jeff Smith; Annie T; Lexie O'Brien; Paul Barrs; ccoyne@stlcc.edu; mgbrad@aol.com; tracydowning4@gmail.com; info@thehubbicyclecompany.com; Holland Saltsman; Shop Descendant; Pincus, Michael J.; fransudekum@aol.com; Rasool, Ahmar; Gerry Welch; Kathy Hart; Toni Hunt; Sebastian Bellomo; Jeanne Kirkton; Bill Newhouse; john ahearnstudio.com; mgbrad@aol.com; Janice Seele; j.donaldson@webster-arts.org; heather@webster-arts.org; Pmurphystl; Jahna Kahrhoff; bkmacahoon@charter.net; sanders@hpdcambridge.com; sanfordvicki@gmail.com; hollyapsmith@gmail.com; mwheavey@aol.com; craylee@aol.com; andrewyee.stl@gmail.com; jdcastag@gmail.com; keora70@hotmail.com; knm0730@gmail.com; Ginger Krueger; lynnbozzay7@gmail.com; pjniehaus@aol.com; plove@grlawstl.com; tmcneely99@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Dave Buck "Remarks from the Community & Visitors" at the 10/17/23 Webster Groves City Council Meeting

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

**Note: My remarks last night were delivered without notes, so the following may be a friendly embellishment of my comments!**

"I am all for processes, procedures and policies in city government, but tonight I would like to share a story of something ultimately more important: **personal character, kindness, empathy and trust.**

Every year since 2009, I have filled out and submitted a "Special Activities Permit" application to the city for our annual "Webster On Wheels" community bike riding event, given that our Police Department needs to sign-off on our bike route and we request two Police Officers to attend the event and help us out. This permit routinely takes 2-3 weeks to be circulated to the various city departments and gain the city's final approval.

On Sunday, October 1, of this year, we held Webster's 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Porchfest", the walkable live music event, in the South Webster

Neighborhood. For this event, I have never had to submit a Special Activities Permit application because Porchfest is not a city-sponsored or funded event, so we ask for no city involvement as we put it on ourselves.

Porchfest was all set and ready to go. But on the Friday morning before, Mike Albers, a long-time Parks & recreation employee and a Porchfest host family on Central Ave., texted me and said that if cars park on both sides of Central, an emergency vehicle cannot get through. Mike said that posting “No Parking Signs” all along the north side of Central Ave. would solve the problem.

So, panicked, **I immediately contacted Eric.** Since we had no approved Special Activities Permit, I thought if I had to follow the current rules and procedures, fill out and submit a Permit and go through the normal procedure with normal timeframes, there was no way to solve this problem in time and Porchfest would have to be cancelled out of public safety concerns.

But Eric simply listened, looked at me and said **“I’ll take care of it.”** Then I said that I would pay for the No Parking Signs and the labor to put them up. Whereupon Eric responded, **“It’s already been taken care of by an anonymous donor.”** Eric must have immediately communicated with our WG Police Captain, Greg Perks, and Director, Todd Rehg, of Public Works because on Sunday morning, the No Parking Signs were all posted and Porchfest went off without a hitch – which would not have happened without Eric’s help.

**Bottom-line: Eric broke the rules. He did not follow procedure.** He made an exception for the event and for me as a resident. He helped me out of a big jam. Because what Eric demonstrated to me was something much more important than strictly following a city procedure. **His decision and actions reflected his personal character, kindness,**

**empathy and trust.** I trust Eric a lot and I think he trusts me (even just a little!).

And as my mom always said when she served on City Council in my hometown of Wichita, KS, **“Communities move forward at the speed of TRUST. No trust, no progress. It’s that simple and that hard. Trust is the foundation of everything. There is nothing more important in any human relationship or in governing a city.”**

Thus, I publicly wish to thank Eric tonight. Thank YOU, Eric, for everything!!!”

**In addition, please read on. Here is your very related Lucky Strike Extra which I am sharing with you now:**

**I simply wish to respectfully but firmly request that another exception to a procedure and policy be made, this time by City Council, in order to move swiftly to officially name the “Gerry Welch Sculpture Garden” sooner rather than later.** I understand that Council is waiting for our Parks & Recreation Department to create and submit a new park naming policy. But, let’s face it, Director, Scott Davis, and the Parks & Recreation Commission have much bigger fish to fry and have a ton on their plate right now with Destination WG and the Aquatic Center renovation.

To be perfectly honest, this is a no-brainer to me and to many, many other residents. It’s a lay-down hand. For 24 years as Mayor, Gerry worked tirelessly to advance the arts and was the creative and funding driver that made the Sculpture Garden a reality. **PLEASE make an exception. PLEASE honor her now.** It would mean a lot to her and to Webster’s entire art community. In short, **PLEASE TRUST US!!!** Why wait????

Thank YOU!

PEACE.

Dave

# Charter Review Advisory Board Final Report

October 17, 2023

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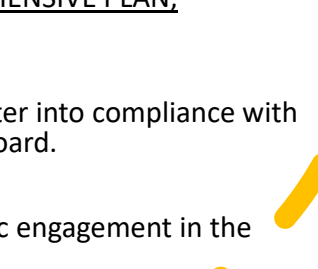


# CHARTER REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD 1 YEAR LATER

- HELD TWO OR MORE MEETINGS/MONTH SINCE OCTOBER 2022
- CREATED SUBCOMMITTEES ON WARDS, COUNCIL COMPENSATION, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOPICS
- REVIEWED COUNCIL/STAFF INPUT AND THE CHARTER
- TRACKED & PRIORITIZED PROPOSED CHANGES
- SOUGHT PUBLIC INPUT USING SURVEY MONKEY, LISTENING SESSIONS AND A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
- VOTED ON 28 PROPOSED CHANGES AUGUST 22, 2023
- FINAL REPORT TO COUNCIL COMPLETED



 FINAL  
TAKE-AWAYS

- PREAMBLE: mixed reviews on adding Model City Charter value language
  - HYBRID ELECTIONS: 5-4 CRAB vote preference. Council may consider after further review.
  - COUNCIL COMPENSATION: It is time to increase the 1965 compensation level.
  - LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS: Use of “contemporary means of publication” to keep information sharing timely.
  - ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS & BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Reorganizes executive function.
  - FINANCIAL AUDIT: Align to reflect realistic timeframes for data availability while remaining compliant with state law; citizen concern about extending the due date past 45 days after close of fiscal year
  - PLANNING & ZONING/DEVELOPMENT NAME CHANGE, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, REGIONAL COOPERATION:
  - PETITION SIGNATURES & BALLOT PREPARATION: Brings City Charter into compliance with the Missouri Revised Statutes and the St Louis County Election Board.
  - ROLE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: Embeds the importance of public engagement in the Charter.
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# FINAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

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Blueprint for future reviews  
Historical document  
Public record

## INTRODUCTION

## CHARTER REVIEW METHODOLOGY

- PROCESS
- SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS
- INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT METHODS & RESULTS
- MATERIALS REVIEWED

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTARY

- RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BUT NOT ADOPTED

## CRAB MEMBER & PUBLIC COMMENTS