

## August 2018 Minutes of Woodlawn Park City Council (corrected)

The Woodlawn Park City Council met on August 20, 2018 at Woodlawn Park City Hall. Present were Mayor Larry Lewis, Council Members Doug Watson, George Langford, Tom Nunn and Shannon Seidt, and Attorney Matt Carey, Treasurer Gloria Curran and City Clerk Chana Elswick. Greg Claypool was absent.

The meeting began at 7:02 pm. The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The council reviewed the minutes for the July 16, 2018 Council Meeting. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes. Doug seconded the motion. All voted aye and the minutes were approved.

The council reviewed the minutes for the August 13, 2018 Special Council Meeting. Doug made a motion to accept the minutes. George seconded the motion. All voted aye and the minutes were approved.

Gloria Curran gave the Treasurer's Report. She gave the report for July, 2018. She stated this is the first month of the fiscal year. She reviewed revenues and expenses, the general ledger and the balance sheet for July 2018 with the Council. George asked about the Police salary and when did Chief Heaton retire. Larry stated he retired, effective 07/31/18. Gloria stated the pay is for June on the report. George made a motion to accept the report. Shannon seconded the motion. All voted aye and the report was approved.

Chana Elswick gave the Clerk's report. She gave the hit report for the website. She stated Ordinance #4 would be published, if passed and approved. She asked Larry when the new directory needs to be mailed. He stated to mail it in January after the election to have the most current Council information.

Police Report Larry stated this had been done by Chief Heaton in the past, but he had retired on 07/31/18. He stated he began the process to obtain candidates for the position. Matt gave a brief explanation of the process. Under Kentucky law, the Mayor appoints the Chief subject to the Legislative body's approval. Larry stated he takes this duty seriously and the resident's safety is his utmost concern. He stated his ideal candidate would be experienced, a problem solver, knowledgeable and up-to-date on the policing process, certified and community-oriented. A candidate was selected and approved by Council on 08/13/18. Three (3) days later, the candidate declined the position. He has asked members of the Code Enforcement Board to form an ad hoc committee to help find a new Chief.

Larry stated he asked Chief Grady Throneberry of the Graymoor-Devondale Police to give a brief report. Chief Throneberry stated the Graymoor-Devondale Police fills a niche that many small communities are looking for. Most communities want more not less services. He gave handouts to the Council. They contract with 8 other cities and they all have different needs. They tailor their services to the city's needs, like speeding, grass cutting, garbage cans. He stated they only have retired officers from St. Matthews and LMPD and one from the Sheriff's office. There are 19 employees on his staff and all are part time. Patrol time per shift is broken down into what the city needs. Time is devoted the area of most need. All cars have GPS to track the officers, and the time spent in the City. They have 1 truck and the rest of the unit is SUVs. They bill based on the time spent in the City. Windy Hills is contracted for 100 hours per month. He shared a report that showed they were in the City for 102 hours, but billed for the contracted 100 hours. Everything is done on the computer and is cloud based. He gives the cities a report and an activity report. He stated they can enforce city ordinances, which is done by contract with the city. An interlocal agreement is drawn up and submitted to the State Department of Local Government, which then approves the agreement. He bills for \$46.00 per hour. He usually increases the fee every other year. They were the first department to issue body cameras. All officers carry less than lethal weapons, like tasers, nightsticks, or pepper spray. All officers opted to carry tasers. George stated LMPD has 2 cars patrol our beat, #505 he asked how many per shift would Graymoor-Devondale have. Chief Throneberry stated at least 2 are on duty at all times with 3 or 4 during the day. Larry asked what control does the City maintain over the officers. Chief Throneberry stated they have a unified chain of command. Larry's contact would be him or his assistant. Larry asked if the same officers patrol our City, so they get to know the residents. Chief Throneberry stated it takes a while, but they do get to know them. Larry stated Chief Heaton had performed backup for Graymoor-Devondale in the past. He asked if they require backup often. Chief Throneberry stated it does happen, but not often and he has a good relationship with LMPD and they will back them up. Larry stated this is kind of a quiet, happy hamlet with a low crime rate. He stated he did look at the LMPD crime map yesterday. In the past 3 months Lyndon had 19 reports, Beechwood 11, Windy Hills 7, Graymoor-Devondale 5 and Woodlawn Park 2. These are cities in the Graymoor-Devondale patrol and all of the cities around us, we are in good shape. Chief Throneberry stated that our low numbers are due to no businesses and no cut through streets. Some of the other cities have businesses and the crimes are for shoplifting. Shannon asked out of the 8 cities they cover, which is the furthest from here and how is time balanced. Chief Throneberry stated Greenspring is the furthest. It is his job to break time down into usable chunks. He adjusts the schedule for patrolling to cover the cities. Shannon asked how he prioritizes us having 2 crimes in 3 months versus 19. Would he pull from us to cover them. Chief Throneberry stated he may divert from Woodlawn Park if something was going on in another city. Larry asked if the basic rate was \$46.00 per hour. Chief Throneberry stated it was. He left a sample of ordinance citations for the Council. Larry thanked him for coming to the meeting. He will take the information and any candidates that apply and make a decision.

**Guests:** Variance: None

Residents: Larry stated Chana had a list of residents that wished to address the Council. He stated each resident would be allotted 3 minutes, uninterrupted, to address the Council. Comments may not be addressed tonight at the meeting, but they will be considered.

Kim Horn, 6865 Green Meadow Circle stated she is troubled by the state of the Woodlawn Park Police and has been for years. She stated she has spoken publicly and privately with individual Council members. She stated she has asked for help from Mayor Brown and Mayor Lewis. She is concerned about speeding, stop sign running and on street parking. She had a meeting with Mayor Lewis at her house. She stated she and Scott have lived here for 17 years and have raised 2 children here. She stated she has seen speeding, stop sign running and parking on the street and fears for children's safety. She wanted to know why the things have been allowed to occur and why they still

continue. She stated this is a pattern that needs to be addressed. On 6/27/14 she narrowly avoided being t-boned by a Green Meadow Court resident who failed to stop at the stop sign and they still continue to do this. She contacted the Police Chief and former Mayor Mike Brown. She posted on any available message board. She stated sometimes her comments were deleted. She stated she taped a sign to the stop sign reminding residents this was a stop sign not a yield sign. She received an email from an official accusing her of vandalizing the City. She showed a video on her laptop to the Council of interactions with a resident in 2016. Council reviewed her videos. She stated the video showed the resident in question and his daughter parading around their car with signs and mocking her. She stated that it seems her identity as the complainant had been revealed. She stated she suspected Chief Heaton. On 07/27/16, another resident of Green Meadow Court blew through the stop sign. This continues and the resident appears to accelerate through the stop sign. This has been reported to Officer Heaton. This time Mayor Lewis responded. She stated these were on videos 2 and 3. Larry reminded her that her time was up. George asked that she be allowed to show the videos. He stated he has seen them.

Scott Horn, 6865 Green Meadow Circle stated that the videos showed a second resident treating him with displays that were menacing and truly bazaar, driving by his home and stopping for no apparent reason and flipping him off. He stated he suspects Chief Heaton revealed his identity as the complainant to the resident. He stated on 07/17/17 Mayor Lewis was shown the videos in Scott's home. He expressed concern and asked that they be forwarded to him. Scott stated that Mayor Lewis assured him something would be done. Scott stated the behavior still continues today. He stated he thinks this is the first that Council has heard of this. He stated that in his opinion, Mayor Lewis was in the habit of allowing Chief Heaton to make his own rules and decide which ordinance he would enforce and which he would not. That he specifically directed him in his job interactions and other residents have stated he was told to back off. He personally presented Chief Heaton with proof of these interactions and he can offer no other explanation. The most troubling is an event that occurred in the past few weeks with a new family in the City. He stated his behavior was becoming so egregious that it could not stand. He stated in the past week a dialogue had been opened, one that is cause for concern. He asked Council and residents to pause and reflect if this behavior will be condoned or curtailed.

Joe Douthitt, 4304 Darbrook Road, gave a handout to the Council. He stated he appreciates Council and loves Woodlawn Park. He may have ideas on what needs to be done. He stated he has lived in the City for 26 years. He is a Block Watch Captain. He stated he was concerned about living in the City and what police protection is in the City. He stated we need the same level of protection from the Police Department as we get for garbage and snow removal. He showed a map of crime areas to the Council. He recounted a couple of incidents in the past. He stated police patrols should not be at the officer's discretion, but should be planned based on need. He thanked George for the Block Watch. He gave a handout with his recommendation to get out of the Police business.

Rocky Rogers, 810 Ahland Road, has lived here 14 years. He stated 8 years ago, while on a walk he met 3 young thugs and he called 911. St. Matthews responded and went in pursuit. All were out on bail for armed robbery. He stated 3 years ago he met a strange man and called 911. LMPD responded. He showed then where he saw the man and they did nothing. 1.5 years ago, he saw a parked car and 3 young men verbally threatened him. He stated we need something more sophisticated than we have had in the past.

Pam Rudd, 802 Perryman Road, said she has lived here 25 years. She stated she loved having our own Police Officer. She stated she does not see why we need Graymoor-Devondale. She stated the gentleman before her said LMPD does not respond. She stated if you have an emergency to call 911. She stated we may need technology and to step it up. She stated she does not see what Graymoor-Devondale will do for 3 hours per day with tasers. She recounted some instances she had and when she called 911.

Lee Wilcox, 4317 Alicent Road gave a handout to Council. He stated he has lived here almost all of his life. He stated the Police have been to the house next-door to him 17 times in 6 weeks. They were evicted June 15 and someone was taken out in handcuffs. He asked what could be done to get rid of them. He gave some examples. George asked if he had called the homeowner. He stated they said they were sorry, but have let them move back in.

David Corona, 6860 Green Meadow Circle, stated he moved in 1 year ago. He stated he wants his voice heard in dealing with the Chief. He realizes it wasn't just him he was picking on since he has seen Next Door. He stated they were made to feel like they were the only ones. He stated he wants an apology from the Mayor and any documentation about any incidents of residents with the Chief. He stated he does not feel comfortable his own space. He stated he has great neighbors and we all need to respect each other. He stated he needs an apology and nothing was done about the Chief.

Garrett Sorenson, 6809 Green Meadow Circle, stated he has lived here 10 years. He stated he appreciates the Council. He stated he is standing with Mr. Corona and the Horns. He stated he also had incidents with the Chief. He felt like he was singled out and harassed. It was reported to the Mayor and he was not being responded to. He threatened to sue Chief Heaton and involve the ACLU, then it stopped. Any direction needs clarity and residents need to have a voice. He stated on Next Door young families with kids feel singled out. He stated he loves Woodlawn Park and is proud to live here.

Leslie Bates, 4325 Wingate Road asked if Council would entertain comments being lengthened to 5 minutes from 3 minutes.

Elizabeth Sorenson, 6809 Green Meadow Circle stated this is an awesome place to live. She would like to propose speed bumps. There are a lot of speeding cars and children would benefit from not having speeding cars. She asked if the new police presence will be able to address issues, or do we call 911 or call the nearest officer on duty. She stated Chief Heaton did not want to deal with issues. He yelled at her mother about a ramp for car that was in the grass. She shared comments and bad interactions with the Chief. She stated she wants to be able to call a Police officer for issues. She does not want them to just handle grass issues. She wants the next person to be able to handle all issues. She stated she loves Woodlawn Park.

Larry thanked everyone for coming and stated we will continue with the meeting.

**Old Business:** Chana gave the second reading of Ordinance #4, series 2018-2019. A roll call vote was taken: Shannon- Aye, George- Aye, Doug-Aye, Tom-Aye. The ordinance was passed.

**New Business:** Open Council Seat Larry stated a couple of people have expressed an interest in the vacant seat. In the past qualified residents were presented to the Council then they made the decision. He stated it must be made by the next meeting. Matt stated if not, the Governor will make the appointment. He stated the procedure is the Council appoints a nominee and this can be done at the next meeting. Tom asked if there were any names. Larry stated that residents could contact him. Kim Horn asked Larry if he was going to thank Scott for

his service. Larry thanked Scott for his service. Scott asked Larry for the return of his dead mother's gavel. Larry stated of course he would return the gavel. Shannon asked if people present names, how does the process work and will there need to be a special meeting. Matt stated it has do be done in an open meeting. Larry stated if anyone was interested, to forward that to the council. Tom asked of they would speak at the next meeting. Shannon asked if presentations would be first then a vote or a special meeting. Matt stated any interest should be in an open meeting. A special meeting could then be called. Shannon asked if they could present at the next meeting, which is in 28 days and then have a special meeting to vote.

### **Mayor's Report**

**Flag Pole** Larry stated that last Friday the lights were repaired and the flag was flying.

**Beechwood Tree Removal** Larry stated the trees were taken out last weekend.

**Westport Road/Orchid Hill Fence** Larry stated a portion of the fence was taken out in the last storm. 2 panels were taken out. It was installed with the wrong side out. Code Enforcement has talked to the owner. Scott Horn looked at the fence. The fence was grandfathered in and more than 50% would need to be replaced in order to make them fix it. It has not been repaired and the trees have not been removed. Matt asked when the fence was put up. Larry stated he did not know but probably around 1994. Matt stated if it was after 1996, it would be under ordinance, if before it would not if the cost to repair is 50% more than the cost of a new fence. He stated there is not enough information to decide. Larry stated 2 panels need to be replaced and if it is just those 2 would it need to be done correctly. Matt stated to find out when it was built.

### **Council Focus**

**City Hall** Greg Claypool was absent.

**Street and Signs** Tom Nunn stated he had nothing new to report. He will map all the potholes and go from there. He will review the proposal to see where the areas of concern are.

**Lighting Grid** Doug Watson asked about the light by Chana's house. She stated it is still out and it is a bus stop corner. Both Doug and Chana have reported the light.

**Drainage/Sanitation/Block Watch** George Langford stated on 07/17/18 he posted about Coffee with a Cop. He also posted on the website. He stated he received a call on 07/18/18 from the Chief about a drainage issue on Beechwood. He checked behind Stivers and emailed Angela Leet about the ditch. On 07/27/18 he contacted 311 and MSD about the sidewalk and the concrete blocks that have sunk about 4 inches. He cleaned and cleared the sewer grate on Westport Road. On 08/06/18, he attended Coffee with a Cop with Joe Douthitt. They discussed JCPS and LMPD in the schools. On 08/04/18 he cleared a deer off the railroad tracks near 6837 Green Meadow Circle. On 08/9/18 the ditch behind Stivers was cleared by MSD but the debris was not removed. The debris in the detention basin had been moved, but not removed.

**Historian** Shannon Seidt stated the Holiday activity is coming up. She is connecting with the community. She stated she has seen a huge amount of connection in the Next Door app. She stated to keep using this and to keep connected. She stated she encourages everyone to stay connected and to use the Council's emails, phone calls, etc.

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shannon seconded the motion. All voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chana R. Elswick  
City Clerk