

City of Woodlawn Park “Mayor State of the City 2024 Report”

By Mayor Mike Brown

Financials

For the 2nd year in a row, I was able to successfully obtain a grant by attending the KLC Stand Up for Your City Conference in September

- \$1,500 liability grant has been obtained to help offset the Orchid Hill sidewalk project- many spots were noted that needed repair. Cost of the project is \$3,000 of which ½ will be paid for with this grant.
- ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) will be exhausted by the end of 2024.
 - New HVAC was installed at the city hall for \$7,180
 - New banners and flags were purchased (8 along Westport Road, 10 within the city streets and a new flag) at a cost of \$4,505 (\$3,005 from ARPA and \$1,500 from budget)
 - LED Light conversion for 11 lights on Westport Road for \$2,780 will take place in early 2025.
 - Lastly, new signs will be installed at all 6 entrances, along with 6 no parking signs throughout, and 6 neighborhood watch signs for a cost of \$7,848 in early 2025.

We continue to have an above standard financial consultant in Charlie Veeneman, CPA firm. If I have a question about our finances, he and his staff always are quick to respond.

Communication

- We continue to use our customer management system AWeber to send the monthly Mayor email newsletter that goes out to residents and/or residents relatives each month on the last Monday of the month. This has been a great way to help keep residents updated on what is happening in the city quickly and inexpensively. Occasionally, a Reach Alert text may go out reminding residents for example about junk day pick up, the city yard sale, emergencies or other important messages and information, etc. Residents can still sign up for this online newsletter or Reach Alert by visiting the city website and clicking on the new member packet.
- The newsletter will be mailed out in July that will include the new fiscal year budget.
- The summary of Ordinances has been reviewed, and a few items were moved around.
- We rolled out our new city website- special features include an option to pay property taxes online, paying permit fees online, applying for business and rental license online and much more. This new website is costing us a little less and it's easier to maintain and update.

Police

- June 17th, we swore in Colonel Rich Wilson to serve as our next Police Chief. He has proven to be an outstanding choice for our city as he continues to go over and beyond what is expected.
- He is passionate about his work and staying connected to the residents by being on our streets more than in the office at city hall.

Drainage

- **I want to continue to encourage all our residents to keep their drainage culverts free of debris (leaves and sticks) so that water can flow freely.**

Sanitation

- We are ½ way through our contract with Eco-tech. The contract expires June 30, 2027. We have added the recycling calendar to our website so residents can now check the recycling week by visiting woodlawnpark.com. Two junk pick up days are planned for 2025- Saturday, May 17th and the date in the fall will be forth coming.

Streets and Signs

- Councilperson Cassaro and a few willing residents painted all 70 of our light poles.
- We will be repairing the sidewalks in Orchid Hill Place by utilizing a \$1,500 grant from the Kentucky League of Cities. The other \$1,500 will come out of the operational budget.
- New signs will be installed at all 6 entrances, along with 6 no parking signs throughout, and 6 neighborhood watch signs for a cost of \$7,848 in early 2025.

City Hall

- The HVAC (furnace and AC) has been replaced this year.

Grounds

- We added two asphalt curbs (one on the south side and one on the north side of Green Meadow Court.
- The landscaping of the island in Green Meadow Court will take place later 2025.
- The burning bushes will be cut all the way back on Westport Road this winter.
- We trimmed back the brush between the Ambridge Circle and I-264 wall.

Woodlawn Park turns 70 Years Old in 2024

- A new logo was created for the city. Thanks so much to our police chief for his involvement in this process.
- Vintage t-shirts are for sale at \$20 by going online. The more we market Woodlawn Park, the more we tell our story, the better off we become.
- New Banners have been installed along Westport Road and many smaller ones back in the city streets.
- A video has been produced that tells our city story- I have learned from other Mayors & from the state that telling our story will go a long way. You can check out the video on the front page of our website.

City Pride Awards

- City pride has returned and has been awarded to a resident for outstanding landscaping or overall pride taken in the upkeep of their home each month. A city pride sign will be placed in the resident's yard immediately following the monthly city council meeting along with a mailed certificate to the resident. (Winners will be announced each month at the city council meeting, our website and newsletter.

2025-2027 Projects

- City government development (we should all take an active role to help seek out residents with a desire to serve the government and their city either as a city official seat or helping with a particular project).
- We will review the ethics ordinance and revisit it to remove the partisan language that has been there forever. Since our elections are non-partisan, it makes sense to remove this requirement.

Significant Dates & Community

- January 15, 2024- former Mayors received recognition and plaques at the city council meeting,
- May 11, 2024 (50 residents participated in the city-wide yard sale)
- May 18, 2024 (Junk pick up day was held)
- May 18, 2024 (about 40 residents dropped off items in our 1st annual Recycling/Shredding event)
- June 17, 2024 (Chief Rich Wilson was sworn in as our next Police Chief)
- June 17, 2024 (Ethics committee sworn into office)
- July 4, 2024 (Annual 4th of July parade was attended by about 30 residents)
- July 10, 2024 (City Hall was painted and walls repaired)
- July 12, 2024 (City Hall front steps were repaired)
- October 18, 2024 (Fall/Chili social was held. About 50 residents attended)