

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting  
April 12, 2022

The Council and Officers of the City of Windy Hills met at Sojourn Community Church, 2501 Rudy Lane, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present:

**MAYOR**

Helen M. Davis

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kate Greer  
Marcia Myers  
Marianne Rademaker  
Suzanne Spencer  
Laura Trachtenberg

**OTHER CITY OFFICIALS**

Christine Haner, Clerk  
Attorney Clay Barkley  
Steve Teaford

**SWEARING IN OF NEW CLERK:**

Mayor Davis requested we deviate from the Agenda to swear in the new Clerk. City Attorney, Clay Barkley, swore in Christine Haner so the Clerk could perform duties for this meeting.

**MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Council meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Rademaker. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

The financial reports for March 2022 were moved for approval by Councilwoman Trachtenberg, seconded by Councilwoman Rademaker. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Rademaker moved to approve the March bills, totaling \$54,313.19 and was seconded by Councilwoman Greer. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

A resident, Mr. Ware on Westgate Place, noted that the Minutes for the end of 2021 and all of 2022 were not posted on the City website. Additionally, he wished to see the Agenda posted prior to his arrival to the meeting. He also expressed continuing concern over the donation to the Louisville Orchestra using ARPA funds and would like assurances that ARPA funds are used appropriately but would like to further understand how those funds can be distributed to maximize the benefit of the residents of Windy Hills.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Police Report: There were 102 hours of Police support reported during March. Most of the time was spent on 2 houses on House Watch. They issued 2 traffic citations. There were 4 hours of traffic monitoring. There was either 1 or 3 parking citations. The report was contradictory. There were 3 parking warnings.

The office has eight outstanding 2021 property taxes. Liens were filed on April 12, 2022 for non-payment. The Federal Reserve has sent the monthly update for the First Financial account of Pledged holdings that back up the Windy Hills accounts.

Councilwomen Greer, Rademaker, and Trachtenberg and I represented Windy Hills at the first statewide Women in City Government Summit. The presentations were excellent and there were many opportunities to network and share ideas.

One of the attendees at the Summit was Beverly Chester-Barton, Mayor of Shively, KY. I want to introduce Mayor Barton to the Windy Hills residents and Council. I appreciate her attending our Council meeting. She currently serves on the JCLC Board of Directors as is running for State Representative from her district.

Ecotech has requested a modification of the current contract. The current contract was approved by the Council in 2021 and extends through June 30, 2022. The council discussed the Ecotech proposals at the Friday, April 8, 2022 caucus meeting. After much discussion, we decided that none of Ecotech's proposals worked for our City. I emailed Bobby Lee, the CEO, and asked for a quote for one day a week back door pick-up, instead of the current 2 days, with other contract provisions continuing as is. During this discussion, our lawyer reminded us that we do not have to do anything since we have an enforceable contract through June 30, 2023.

Many Windy Hills residents lost their power during the recent storms, my family included. After some detective work on my part, I figured out the LG&E CEO's email address and emailed him. My email specifically addressed the reliability of service in the City of Windy Hills especially the neighborhoods north and west of Rudy Lane: Wexford Place, Indian Ridge, and Two Springs. Over the years, these areas have experienced frequent power outages and delays in repairs.

I explained how the lack of reliability impacted our residents on multiple levels. I requested that someone from the company contact me about improving the service to our City. He emailed me back 2 hours later to notify me that he had passed on my email to the director of operations who would be reaching out to me. I spoke to the LG&E director and when he returns from vacation, the company will begin a reliability audit for our City. They will review the frequency and length of outages, the causes including their equipment, trees, animals, etc. This audit will take some time but I hope it leads to

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improved service for our whole City. I look forward to working with LG&E and I appreciate their responding to our concerns.

Marianne Rademaker, my husband, and I met with the Kentucky Highway Department Right of Way Agent to talk about the State's offer for our property on the Green. After reviewing the offer, I informed her that I thought it was too low.

To ensure that we do what is best for the City, we are reviewing the separate parts of the offer and have contacted outside experts who are knowledgeable in those particular areas to enlist their help.

I spent a couple of hours reading the finalized Treasury Department's Compliance and Reporting Guide for State and Local Governments. Our initial report has to be filed by April 30, 2022. I will have the report submitted by the deadline.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance and ARPA Committee: Councilwoman Rademaker reported:

She communicated that the bench for Old Farm Road/Greenbriar Road has been purchased using ARPA funds, is being assembled, and will be installed forthwith.

Councilwoman Rademaker is currently accepting applications for ARPA funds and will consider the impact on the residents of Windy Hills in regards to the dispensing of funds.

A drinking fountain for both humans and pets is being investigated in cost and design to benefit residents who use the Green. ARPA funds will likely be used for this potential project.

Since the KYDOT Brownsboro Road/Rudy Lane project has almost been finalized, the City will begin the bidding process for a permeable path on the Green.

Code Enforcement: Steve Teaford reported:

He reviewed Code Enforcements for March 2022. Steve communicated the Indian Ridge Stop Sign Proposal. Councilwoman Spencer shared her concern regarding the role of stop signs and "Children At Play" signs.

Mr. Teaford expressed his desire to update a few Ordinances based on his experiences and observations over the last seven years. His proposed Ordinance changes will be introduced to the Mayor and the Council in the coming months, some of which will include the number of cars parked at each residence and the Ordinance covering the subject of heavy equipment.

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Windy Hills Green/City Maintenance/Newsletter/Tree Board - Councilwoman Greer:

(In her own words): I talked to Andy Smart at the Plant Kingdom about the trees that are going in on Ambridge. Plant Kingdom is going to make some changes at their business. Because of the difficulty of retaining qualified landscapers, the store is going to stick to retail only. Andy is leaving at the end of May. We will still get the 20% discount of trees through the City but they will give us the names of an independent business to have them planted. Andy, who is a certified arborist, says the group that is planting our Ambridge trees is very qualified.

As Ottes on Bardstown Road seems to know nothing about the 20% agreement, I intend to take copies of past invoices to show the new management.

I told Mike Hayman about the loss of land and trees on the Green. He told me that Trees Louisville has two of the Sycamores and recommends that we get one and plant it while it is available. He also said that he was unable to create a new leader on the damaged evergreen as it was too tall. I will contact Caroline about it.

Friday Helen and I are meeting with Grayson Shipreck to get an evaluation of the trees that will be removed or possibly hurt by the widening of the roads.

I met with Steve Saulter today to get a written estimate of the irrigation system on the Green for the Eminent Domain action on the Green. He is also going to either walk with me on the Green to show me where all of the faucets are or give me a copy of the blueprint.

I was not happy with the amount of weeds on the Green. I emailed Aaron and told him to get on it.

One other thing that needs attention is the Bear. I plan to go over to Mike Skelton's house this week and see what he did to stop the rot in his bear and then fix Rudy.

TREE BOARD: The Tree Board has set Arbor Day for Monday, June 20 from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Recycling Center on Hubbards Lane. The program will center on Stream Remediation and replanting. We hope to have experts on water cleanup and landscaping with native plants suitable to the area. We will have the Ice Cream truck and Goody Bags for children. There will be a raffle for an hour long evaluation from Caroline Westfall.

We need to get some new Tree Board members. Jim Ising has moved. I have two people who are interested now. I will need two more in July.

Aaron will start mulching, pruning shortly before Derby week.

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Newsletter - Councilwoman Myers: Councilwoman Myers reported

Councilwoman Myers reminded us of the April 13<sup>th</sup> deadline to submit articles or topics of interest to The Breeze. A grand effort has been made to maintain the database of both residents and area business subscribers. The Clerk has been assisting Councilwoman Myers in updating both the email communication list and the Mail Chimp listing. Councilwoman Myers commended the Mayor and the Council for submitting articles and information on many topics to add to the variety in the newsletter.

Community Caring/Health & Fitness/Welcome to Windy Hills – Councilwoman Spencer:

Councilwoman Spencer reported the following: **Welcome to Windy Hills:** There were four real estate transfers. She always meets and greets New Residents and gives them a copy of “Welcome to Windy Hills”.

**Caring Community:** There was nothing new to report regarding refurbishment of “Aging In Place in Windy Hills”.

**Health and Fitness:** Yoga with Anne and the Windy Walkers has had a small uptick in numbers thanks to the promotion of these health and fitness options mentioned in The Breeze newsletter. The Windy Walkers have walked in Seneca Park and Brown Park and have received invitations to walk in other areas of the city, as well. With the weather starting to warm up, all are encouraged to join in the fun!

Public Works – Councilman Blue:

Councilman Blue was absent during this meeting but wished to convey that he has been doing cost research on two stop signs that are down. Re-bidding for snow removal will commence in the Fall of 2022. We were under budget this last winter. Councilman Blue has also been involved in the design options and cost research for the proposed human and pet fountain for The Green, as discussed by Councilwoman Rademaker.

Food Truck – Councilwoman Trachtenberg:

By popular demand the Food Trucks are back! While a specific list of Food Trucks will be known closer to summer, the Eggroll Truck is scheduled for Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The location is still Sojourn Community Church – East, at 2501 Rudy Lane, and the time will be 5 -7pm. We anticipate seven Food Trucks in all and look forward to the variety.

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City Clerk – Christine Haner:

To save time, as well as the cost of payroll preparation, the City Clerk will be paid monthly, rather than weekly.

City Hall made the leap to QuickBooks Online from QuickBooks Desktop. The bookkeepers at Charles Veeneman's CPA office have been wonderful to work with.

Since the March Minutes have been approved, the City of Windy Hills website will be updated.

The office receives 2-8 requests per day from Abstract and Title Companies requesting proof of payment of property taxes.

Christine is also maintaining the RSVP list for the Candidates Forum on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

There are 8 Delinquent 2021 Property Taxes. Christine will work with Mayor Davis to file Liens this week.

Revised Office Hours for City Hall: 11-2 M-F

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Councilwoman Trachtenberg reported that a Candidates Forum for the upcoming primary election will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at All Peoples, A Unitarian and Universalist Church at 4936 Brownsboro Road from 7-8:30p.m. This is in partnership with the Cities of St. Matthews, Crossgate, Graymoor-Devondale, Northfield, and Woodlawn Park. We encourage residents to attend and learn about the candidates for County Attorney, County Clerk, Judges for District, Circuit, and Kentucky Supreme Courts, Senators.

Another Candidates Forum will be held, hosted by the City of St. Matthews, to include the U.S. House of Representative Candidates. There will be more information to come on the specifics.

Steve Teaford reported on the Indian Ridge Stop Sign Proposal. With the help of the City Engineer, Mark Madison, we have all the information needed.

Councilwoman Myers made a motion to approve the Stop Sign Proposal, Councilwoman Rademaker seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilwoman Rademaker stated the ARPA committee's desire to start the bidding process for the permeable path in The Green. As Chair of the ARPA committee, Councilwoman Rademaker made a motion, "In keeping with Resolution 1, Fiscal Year 2021-22, I move that we expend an initial amount of \$150,000 of the Windy Hills ARPA funds for the permeable surface for the Green walkway." After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**ATTORNEYS COMMENTS:** Attorney Clay Barkley reported he is working with Mayor Davis on the proposed Brownsboro Road development project. As of this meeting, no plans had been filed with Metro. He will assist Mayor Davis with Liens Collections for unpaid Property Taxes. Mr. Barkley stated there are many provisions for proper disbursement of funds from the American Relief Plan Act but they come down to four main provisions. He will provide guidance and support to ensure the ARPA funds disbursement is within the provisions of their intended purpose.

**COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:**

Mr. Ware, resident, brought up his concern over the School Board tax on his 2021 Property Tax Bill and reiterated his desire to utilize ARPA fund disbursement to benefit all, or most, of the City of Windy Hills residents.

Councilwoman Greer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; seconded by Councilwoman Trachtenberg and the motion passed unanimously.

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Helen M Davis, Mayor

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Christine Haner, City Clerk