

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
May 8, 2023

The Council and Officers of the City of Windy Hills met at Sojourn Community Church East, 2501 Rudy Lane, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor John Roberts called the meeting to order and welcomed any guests in attendance.

ROLL CALL: The following were present:

MAYOR

Dr. John Roberts

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Helen Davis

Kate Greer

Marianne Rademaker

Suzanne Spencer

Steve Teaford

Julie Theiler

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

Christine Haner, Clerk

Attorney Timothy Mayer

Don Ryan, Code Enforcement

MINUTES:

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the April 2023 Financial Reports which included the Profit & Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Davis moved to approve the April bills, totaling \$50,395.30; seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously after a quick question regarding the description on a check asked by **Councilwoman Spencer**.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Ralph Wirth, a long-time resident of 509 Indian Ridge Road, wished to discuss power outages and upgrades to power equipment in Windy Hills. While the Wirth family did not lose power during the recent storms, many others near him did.

Councilwoman Davis provided some insight. During February of 2022, an LG&E audit was requested for the City as a whole. Since then, our City has been undergoing replacement of power equipment. New poles have been installed as well as new transformers for every 2-3 homes. Streets like Antrim, Wicklow, Waterford, Wexford Place, Indian Ridge, among others have seen, or will see, activity, as the work moves through the City. It will be an estimated 18-month project, though most of it has been completed. The spurs have already been changed out. Each spur will be on a different grid. The goal is to be able to easily switch a home to another power source, essentially rerouting it, to mitigate outages. Mr. Wirth further expressed his concern that if the City of Windy Hills is only fed power from two main lines, that still may not prevent a future wide-spread outage. **Councilwoman Davis** said she will find a map for Mr. Wirth to view to better understand our City and the power grid.

Jodi Smiley of 4426 Greenbriar Road, an avid walker, had a question related to markings she has seen on some sidewalks in Windy Hills. This question was answered by **Councilman Teaford**. A sidewalk survey is underway to ensure that our City sidewalks are ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant. Tripping hazards are being identified and addressed. One of the most dangerous sidewalk areas was recently fixed on Windhurst Road with the gracious cooperation of the homeowner nearest to the repair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Financial Advisor/ARPA Committee Chair/Mayor Pro Tempore – Councilwoman Davis:

There were no bids submitted for the permeable path for the Green. This meant that our City Engineer reached out to potential companies for the work. One estimate was collected for \$1.1 million, which obviously will not work. ARPA requires a permeable surface for the Green, however. During the June council meeting, there will be another update, as the City is looking at all our options, including other potential surfaces/materials.

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

The Tree Board would like to add two new members, also recommended by **Mayor Roberts**. They are former councilwoman Laura Trachtenberg and Teri Breland, wife of Scott Breland, the Tree Board Chair. **Councilwoman Greer** made a motion to add the referenced new members; seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Greer further shared her report:

Adam (Vogelsang) of Brownsboro Lawn Care mulched the common areas in the City before Derby.

The Tree Board is looking at the City Ordinances regarding trees and the Tree Board. We will have several recommendations to change some of them. The next meeting of the Tree Board will be Wednesday, May 31st, 7PM, at Scott Breland's house. Arbor Day will be celebrated in October.

There are currently 23 people interested in joining the Garden Club. We have set an organizational meeting for Saturday, May 27th, at 10AM at Coach House, in the party room, at 5800 Coach Gate. **Mayor Roberts** asked if any resident is invited to attend the Tree Board meetings. **Councilwoman Greer** confirmed that visitors are welcome.

Residents are taking advantage of our City tree subsidy program.

ARPA Committee - Councilwoman Rademaker:

Nothing additional to report.

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

Welcome to Windy Hills: There were three new residents in April.

Caring Community: Nothing new to report.

Commemorative Plaques on the Green: Three plaques were replaced by Adam Vogelsang on April 13th.

A follow-up phone call was placed to Betsy Walsh (in Florida) re: a commemorative bench honoring her parents who lived and raised her and her sister at 120 Rudy Lane. This is the 2nd request for a bench in 2 years from families who lived for more than one generation in our City. Both parties have offered to buy the bench totally. One family agreed to maintain it as well. I will ask the council to reconsider its decision to deny these requests.

Councilwoman Rademaker responded that if the families purchase the bench(es) themselves, there is no conflict, it's simply a matter of finding an appropriate location. A conflict would only occur if ARPA funds were requested to pay for the bench as that would not comply with the ARPA guidelines.

Health and Fitness: "Windy Walkers" will meet on Saturday, May 20th, at 2PM, for a second historic house walk. Our contact group has grown by three, possibly four people, to walk by the Historic Taylor House and then visit the Rudy family headstones on Victoria. We will meet at

the Green to walk the blocks. We will have some discussion about the home, whose new owner, Michael Cunningham, has additional research to share with us and return to the Green. We will also have information on the Rudy family.

Our original plan for the May walk was to visit Cave Hill Arboretum, but last winter's ice and freezing temperatures played tragic havoc on spring blooms.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford:

- Responding to neighbor complaints: the limbs and lawn debris at the dead end of Windhurst Road has been cleaned up.
- Responding to neighbor complaints: with the help of Councilwoman Paula McCraney, Metro Louisville is doing a survey of the trip hazards in the sidewalks on Rudy Lane. She has requested Metro funds to be used for repair and we are awaiting a reply.
- The project to replace the dangerous sidewalk at 6711 Windhurst Road has been completed. Excellent work was completed by two contractors. Councilwoman Greer has been advised of possible replanting of non-evasive trees at the site.
- A review of the City LG&E billing has been completed. The goal was to locate the location of each street light and meter where our City is being billed.
- The bid process for Waste and Recycling as well as City lawn maintenance has been started. The bids are due by Noon on Monday, May 15th. Updates will be provided at the next council meeting.
- Other issues were addressed at specific locations regarding drainage and LG&E work but they were of no concern to the City as a whole.

Print Newsletter/The Breeze digital newsletter – Councilwoman Theiler:

Monday, May 15th is the date the next digital newsletter will go out to residents.

Mayor Roberts thanked **Councilwoman Theiler** for scheduling the Copper Kitchen Food Truck from 5-7PM prior to this meeting.

Code Enforcement – Don Ryan reported:

The dumpsters and trailers used for clean up from the March storms are mostly gone from our City homes now.

Timely articles from Code Enforcement can be found in upcoming newsletters.

Regarding numerous portable toilets in the City, there is a discussion about potentially revising the requirements for placement. It is recommended they be placed in the back of the home or furthest from the street when that is possible.

Inspections of rental homes and vacant properties are ongoing.

City Clerk – **Christine Haner** reported:

No report. The Clerk is simply supporting the Council and Mayor.

ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

Tim Mayer, City Attorney, mentioned he has simply been working on City business as questions naturally arise, and there was nothing else of note to report. However, he will be attending an event of the Municipal Attorneys Association of Kentucky as part of his continuing education in his role with Windy Hills.

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts reported:

Police Report: During the month of April there were 96 hours of Lyndon Police Support for which we paid for 95 hours plus an additional 3 hours of support during the Shakespeare on the Green event. There was House Watch for one residence for a total of 30 days. There was one citation issued for speeding at Victoria Place and Brownsboro Road.

Liens were filed against properties for unpaid taxes in April.

Property Taxes: The City received the updated PVA 2023 Tax information, and those numbers were verified to be correct. That information was used in formulating the 2023-2024 budget which will have its first reading tonight.

Traffic Signal at Rudy Lane and Brownsboro Road: I have received a few complaints about the traffic backup that occasionally occurs on Rudy Lane since the timing and rotation sequence of the traffic signals at the intersection were reprogrammed. About two weeks ago I asked the Department of Transportation to reevaluate the traffic pattern but have not yet heard back from them.

Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Spencer, and other councilmembers mentioned the ability of our City to have Lyndon Police issue tickets when drivers block the intersection.

The Shakespeare on the Green Event occurred on Sunday, April 23rd, Shakespeare's Birthday. The play was Hamlet, and it was well received by the 50 or so people who attended. We thanked Metro Councilwoman Paula McCraney for allowing us the opportunity to host the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Teaford shared that a single bid of \$30,000 was submitted to the City for the replacement of street signs and other sign tasks. However, additional information will be submitted by the bidder regarding the brackets for some of the signs. The bidder was given a deadline for clarification and more information will be shared in June. It will take approximately 12 weeks for the sign project to be completed once approved.

Councilwoman Rademaker asked if a vote could be taken now for the project. **Councilman Teaford** advised to wait on the vote until further information regarding the brackets is made clear in the event it raises the cost significantly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Salary:

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to increase the salary of the City Clerk, Christine Haner, from \$25 per hour to \$30 per hour. This was seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously. This will be effective on July 1, the first day of the next fiscal year.

First Reading of Ordinance 2, Series 2022/2023 Ad Valorem Taxes for 2023:

Councilwoman Greer made a motion to have Ordinance 2, Series 2022/2023 regarding the Ad Valorem Taxes for 2023 read into record. **Councilwoman Davis** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. City Clerk, Christine Haner, read the summary of Ordinance 2, Series 2022/2023 into record.

First Reading of Ordinance 3, Series 2022/2023 Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024:

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to have Ordinance 3, Series 2022/2023 regarding the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 read into record. **Councilman Teaford** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. City Clerk, Christine Haner, read the summary of Ordinance 3, Series 2022/2023 into record.

A second reading and vote of both Ordinance 2 and Ordinance 3 will be at the next City Council Meeting on June 12, 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SPENDING ROAD AID FUNDS ON CITY PAVING

Councilman Teaford communicated that conversations with City Engineer Mark Madison revealed Mr. Madison recommends the approval of MAC Construction & Excavating, Inc. among five bidders. This was after further clarification of the cost between Mr. Madison and MAC Construction of more extensive work to Deerfield Lane.

Councilman Teaford made a motion to accept the bid from MAC Construction & Excavating, Inc. that includes the alternate projects of Deerfield Lane and Indian Ridge Road at \$211,180. This was seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Davis expressed that work will not begin before July 1 because this Road Fund approved expenditure is for the next fiscal year's budget.

Councilman Teaford also mentioned that some of the paving is actually in the City limits of St. Matthews to be consistent with paving an entire street. St. Matthews will contribute their portion of approximately \$30,000 or more of the total \$211,180.

MAYOR'S BUDGET REPORT:

As Mayor, I would now like to make a few remarks about the Budget for 2023-2024. I begin by thanking my predecessor, former Mayor and current Councilwoman, Helen Davis and the previous City Council for their stewardship of the City's finances in the current fiscal year. Despite the Covid Pandemic, despite winter and windstorms, and despite increasing costs and inflationary pressures our city will have accomplished the goals of the previous budget and end the fiscal year with a small surplus.

As you are aware, the City Budget is an important document. The City Budget publicly illustrates what the City Administration and the City Council view as important to their community. In that sense it represents the City's Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The Mission and Vision should be true to the Core Values, so I will begin with what I believe those values to be. In addition to any religious or spiritual belief one holds, I believe there are three things people value most – Health, Family, Home. In keeping with these values, I therefore believe our Mission should be to assure that Windy Hills remains a safe, attractive, friendly, and prosperous residential community in which to enjoy life and a raise family. My Vision is that Windy Hills will forever be a community in which our citizens respect each other as neighbors, a community that promotes health, safety and prosperity, and a community that has the resources to control its own destiny. And so you will see additional resources put towards maintaining the beauty of our environment, enhancing our outdoor activities, and publishing a colorful quarterly newsletter.

During the past two years, in recognition of the financial impact that Covid was having on our economy the city offered a 45% discount to citizens who paid their tax bills in the month of October. As we come out of Covid we all have experienced inflationary costs. The City is no

different. We have been notified that there will be a 10% increase in the cost of policing. We anticipate increases in the costs of Sanitation and Recycling. Office supplies will also increase. Therefore, while we will still offer a steep discount to those who pay their taxes in October, the discount will be 43% for the coming year. Through competitive bidding for the large contracts, such as the Road Repaving contract you heard earlier tonight, we will strive to hold costs down.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

None.

There being no further business to address nor questions to answer of the Council, **Councilwoman Greer** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed and the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:46PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk