

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
July 10, 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.

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 Davis moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2023, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

Councilwoman Rademaker moved to approve the June bills, totaling \$52,299.41; seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. The motion passed unanimously.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Former councilman, Mr. Bruce Blue, was first to speak. He had attended a public meeting by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Metro Louisville's Vision Zero/Road Department regarding lane changes and "right-sizing" of Brownsboro Road from Zorn Avenue to the Watterson Expressway. There were no mayors present from any area Municipal City and it was determined that communications and announcements about the meeting were not properly sent to area Mayors. About 150 people attended the meeting, however, and according to Mr.

Blue, there was an overwhelming response from the citizens that the lanes on Brownsboro remain unchanged. Mr. Blue was unsure if a second meeting is guaranteed to occur. There is a link online to a survey for community input. That link is:
<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/vision-zero-louisville/roadway-reconfiguration-right-sizing>:

Councilwoman Theiler asked if this reconfiguration is the same that happened on Lexington Road. The answer was yes.

Councilwoman Spencer claims that Frankfort Avenue, after having gone through the process, is now a “traffic snarl”.

Councilwoman Davis then spoke to mention that **Metro Councilwoman Paula McRaney** was in attendance and had been involved in attending meetings about the proposed changes in the roadway. Currently, 16k-20k vehicles drive over all 4 lanes. There are 300 car accidents per year as it is now. **Councilwoman Davis and Mayor Roberts** had attended a Saturday, June 17th Muffins with McCraney session and had heard of the proposal but did not know about the meeting Mr. Blue attended.

Councilwoman Spencer thanked Mr. Blue for his attendance at the meeting and for his expertise on the issue.

Mr. Allan Ware, a resident in attendance, mentioned that the newsletters from Metro Councilwoman Paula McRaney are very informative about issues like this in our area. There is a link in her newsletter to information about the project and the survey.

Next to speak was **Jane Martin**, a resident for over thirty years, who is 85 years of age. She expressed her need for back door service for sanitation. She liked Ecotech as the provider, and has found her neighbors to be very helpful in the interim to help move her cans. Years ago when she had Rumpke service, they required some clean up of the street and area after pickups. She asked that Windy Hills make trash and sanitation services more of a priority.

Mr. Mike Skelton, a resident on Rudy Lane, and former councilman asked why Ecotech was so high in the bidding process and inquired about other cities. **Councilwoman Davis** replied that the results of the bidding process showed that the cost of recycling was higher with Ecotech. She mentioned that with all cities, the cost of trash, recycling, and yard waste pick up has gone up significantly, regardless of the service provider. Mr. Skelton requested that back door pickup be prioritized over recycling. He stated the low tax rate in Windy Hills should be manipulated to reduce the discount so that the change would cover the expense of back door pickup for residents.

Mr. Skelton mentioned that Windy Hills gave out donations when that money could have been used for back door pickup. This was corrected by **Councilwoman Davis** who stated that ARPA

funds (American Rescue Plan Act) were used to provide donations to select organizations who met the criteria for relief funds due to the pandemic.

Mr. Skelton then stated that he reported over 4 months ago that the sign “City of Historic Homes” on the Green is still so covered with vegetation that the sign cannot be read. He thinks this is an eye sore and that the City should be quicker in response.

Mr. Rick Feldhoff of Chelsea Road shared that he would have liked to have seen a survey by the City regarding sanitation services so that the residents’ concerns would be known. He prefers recycling pick up every other week, believes the 95 gallon rolling carts are too large. He mentioned the idea of a sticker being placed on the mailbox of residents who require back door pick up so that they are quickly identified and not missed.

Mrs. Laura Trachtenberg, former councilwoman, and resident on Rudy Lane, stated she thinks the 95-gallon cans are okay. She requested residents be given guidance and instructions for the list of those who need back door pickup.

Mr. Jerry Ditsler of Grassy Fork also had a comment about City recycling services.

Mr. Mark Spickard, a 7-year resident then commented. He likes back door pickup. He likes Windy Hills because it is clean, neat, has plenty of trees, and is a happy place. He likes hidden trash cans. He is planning to build a turnaround for around \$25k to accommodate trucks to be able to turn around. Currently, trucks can’t do back door pickup at his location at 519 N. Hubbards Lane.

Ms. Karen Redmon added that recycling is a plus but she wants smaller cans, however.

Mr. Allan Ware of Westgate Place spoke about the paving in the Green of the new trail. He stated that ARPA funds will be used for that. He read in the May minutes about the Green trail and wanted an update. Mr. Ware stated that permeable surfaces are no longer required when using ARPA funds as that requirement was rescinded. Mr. Ware prefers solid concrete.

Mayor Roberts provided an update stating that the ARPA funds have already been earmarked for use by the City council and that remaining ARPA funds will be used for new City signs, as well, which is in process now. A rubberized walking surface for the Green trail is preferable as it is easier on a walkers’ joints but can still be stable enough for strollers or wheelchairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Financial Advisor/ARPA Committee Chair/Mayor Pro Tempore – Councilwoman Davis:
No report

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

MAINTENANCE

I met with Luke Tedder of the Klausing Group last week to tour the City. His company will do the work on Thursdays (weather permitting), which is good as most of our events on the Green take place on weekends. When I drove around the City Thursday, it looked good.

There was a tree on the Green that suffered some serious damage with the June 25 storm. I contacted Cornerstone and asked the owner Ben Luking to evaluate it, thinking it might have to be cut down. He determined that he could save it by taking out the damaged branches. His estimate was very reasonable (\$450).

I have had several calls from residents about damaged trees. They were asking me for companies who could either prune damaged ones or remove them totally. I gave them Cornerstone to remove the tree. This company is extremely reasonable. I suggested several arborist companies for pruning.

I am continuing to monitor several evergreens to see how they are recovering from the December sudden temperature drop. I think they will recover but it may take several years. Last summer's drought did not help them. At least we have had plenty of rain so far this summer.

TREE BOARD

The Tree Board has posted its meetings for the fiscal year on the Web Site.

Concerning meeting places, we decided that there is more room for visitors at the Chair's home than the conference room, which would not be open at 7:00. We do post all the information ahead of time.

The Board had tote bags made which were distributed at the Fourth of July picnic to residents who stopped by the table. We had literature about our tree subsidy program. We are also looking into getting an agreement with Earl Theineman for the program. We had a raffle for a \$100 gift certificate at the Plant Kingdom. There was a \$350 certificate for a tree from the Plant Kingdom awarded to a Windy Hills resident.

ARPA Committee - **Councilwoman Rademaker:** No Report

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

Welcome to Windy Hills: There were five new residents in June.

Community Caring:

St. Matthews' firefighters brought smoke alarm information which we passed out to the 4th of July picnic revelers. The information included an opportunity to call the firehouse and ask that a firefighter come to the home and help with battery installation and to test the alarm. City Hall will carry the information and have the number to call so residents not in attendance can call as well.

I will ask that Julie include the number in the upcoming Breeze.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford:

Rumpke and Windy Hills are working together to make sure we accommodate the residents.

B Sign Group has started making new City signs and in about 2 weeks will start removing and replacing various signs in the City.

MAC Construction will begin road paving in about 3 weeks. The milling work will be first and will be dusty.

There was storm damage primarily on Waterford, Indian Ridge, and Wicklow, among others. The City tried to get the streets cleared as soon as possible.

Print Newsletter/The Breeze digital newsletter – Councilwoman Theiler:

The results from the July 4th Parade and Picnic are in!

- 40 families signed up online
- 11 called or emailed the office to sign up
- 34 attended who were not registered for a meal
- 16 email addresses were added to Mail Chimp
- There were 169 adults and 52 children in attendance for a total of 221
- There were \$1,300 in giveaways
- We have 783 email addresses in Mail Chimp for City communications
- We have 110 members on Facebook
- Attendees will be sent a survey for follow up

A big thank you goes to all the picnic volunteers and to Sojourn East, especially Mr. Doug Mauer for all the work to make it a success.

The next newsletter issue is the Breeze digital format. It will include helpful information about Rumpke, the Tree Board, information about storm debris expenses, and much more.

Code Enforcement – Don Ryan reported:

Dumpsters and Pods, by Ordinance, should be removed within 30 days. If a resident needs more time or has questions, please call the office. We understand that sometimes contractors and construction timetables cause delays but Code Enforcement must be informed of the status.

Boats and RVs need to be kept behind the house. Temporary parking in a driveway for cleaning or maintenance should be limited to a few days.

City Clerk – Christine Haner reported:

Thanks to the high number of questions from residents about sanitation and storm debris, numerous new email addresses were added to our City contacts in Mail Chimp and a few folks were added to Reach Alert for emergency communications.

Three Certificates of Deposit matured on June 23, 2023, at Eclipse Bank. Mayor Roberts and I contacted several other local banks to find the best rate on CDs for Windy Hills. Ultimately, we left those CDs with Eclipse Bank after their CFO approved a rate of 5% APY for 12 months.

There were 21 Citations issued by Lyndon Police in June for overnight parking between the hours of 2-5AM.

ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

Tim Mayer, City Attorney, mentioned he has been busy reviewing various City contracts and working on any other issues as they arise.

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:

There was a total of 92 hours of police support conducted in June for a total expenditure of \$5,336.

Mayor Roberts advised that citations from Lyndon Police have increased because we have seen increases in vehicle burglary and thefts around Metro Louisville. The goal of the City, as well as Lyndon Police, is to enforce the overnight parking Ordinance as a way to increase safety of our residents and keep our vehicles secure.

While no emergency has been declared yet, Windy Hills will be collecting data from residents for the state of Kentucky about the costs they incurred from the June storm. Residents are encouraged to email info@cityofwindyhills.com or call City Hall to report the total expense they

incurred to remove fallen trees, repair damage, and clean up their property after the storm. We are collecting the data in hopes that if the storm damage was significant enough, the state might declare an emergency and our City can recoup some of the costs.

Mr. Allan Ware requested that communication go out to citizens via the newsletter with information.

Councilwoman Davis announced that Wexford Place has its own Facebook page and that neighborhood data can also be collected there and shared with the City.

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

Former councilman, **Bruce Blue**, mentioned that a curb repair needs to be investigated at Rudy Lane and Two Springs Lane. According to councilman Teaford, that is a Louisville Metro area.

Mr. Rick Feldhoff, a resident, asked the council what the status of the Pohl property was.

Councilwoman Davis responded that the status is unknown currently as there has been no activity after a survey was completed and a fence was installed after the Pohl's expressed an intention to build.

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 8:07PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk