

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
August 14, 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

MINUTES:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

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

Mayor Roberts mentioned that the July financials were light in income because the Municipal Insurance Premium deposits were made the first few days in August instead. He also mentioned that ARPA funds were used to pay for new signs in the City which made the expenses look greater than normal.

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the July bills, totaling \$72,198.13; seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**. The motion passed unanimously.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Mr. Ralph Williams, a resident on Indian Ridge, signed in to speak. He first complimented the City on the full-color quarterly newsletter and the monthly digital Breeze newsletter.

Mr. Williams then stated his concern over the issue of speeding on Indian Ridge Road. He requested the City consider speed humps to slow down drivers. He also mentioned that the stop signs installed in that area are not all blackened on the back side, as they should be.

Councilman Teaford stated he would contact the sign company used by the City to blacken the backs of the stop signs as that was the intention. **Councilman Teaford** also mentioned that previous councils did not want speed bumps as was confirmed by Councilwoman Rademaker who has heard both sides of the argument over the years and has witnessed no consensus so far.

After a short banter among the councilmembers, it was determined the City Engineer will be consulted for his input, recommendations, and experience to assist with all potential options.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

In response to residents who have questioned the newly contracted surface of the Green: The surface is permeable, sturdy enough for wheelchairs and strollers, but is low-impact for ease on the joints of our aging residents. It mitigates heat better than alternative surfaces, is better for the environment, and is the best solution for our long-term goal. This new surface is for the whole community, now and in the future, not just us.

After a question posed by **Councilwoman Spencer** regarding maintenance, **Councilwoman Davis** further shared:

The surface has a 20-year warranty but will likely last for decades. Hall Construction has been contracted to create the framework of a concrete perimeter/railing as a first step. The permeable surface will then be poured into the frame. Asphalt walkways will connect other areas to the path. To avoid any potential tripping hazards, there will be a smooth transition from surface to surface around the path. Lawn mowing equipment will be able to drive to the grassy areas without destruction of the surface.

Regarding the cost, provided by Mayor Roberts:

Federal Funds from the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) will be used for this purpose. The ARPA balance on July 1, 2023, was \$462,466.32.

\$335,700 Hall Construction

\$ 73,272 Bluegrass Recreation Sales

\$408,972 Total ARPA funds used for the Green Path/Trail

\$ 29,953 B Sign Group contract for City signs, repairs, painting, installation

That will leave \$23,541.32 in ARPA funds.

Councilwoman Greer asked when the project would begin. **Mayor Roberts** answered that it is unknown at this time, but soon. **Councilwoman Spencer** asked about the surface material for the benches to rest on. It was answered that the surface for the benches will not be permeable.

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

GREEN: I have taken pictures of the signature entrance to see what kind of shrubs that can be planted to replace the overgrown existing ones so that the words are visible. I measured the height where the writing starts. It is less than 2 ½ feet tall. I plan to make an appointment with Shelly Nold at the Plant Kingdom to see what she recommends. I would like to use native plants as they will stand freaky drops in temperature such as we had last December. So many boxwoods took a beating.

I also want to do something about the evergreens behind the entrance. They are blocking the plaque and the electrical outlets. In my opinion, the people who planned the vegetation did not think this out completely.

TREE BOARD: The Board met Wednesday, August 9. One of our most contributing members had to resign due to health reasons. The Board would like to plant a tree honoring her on the Green. Would this cause a legal problem? We also have an article for the August Breeze announcing that we are seeking a new member.

Arbor Day will be celebrated on October 1st and will be moved to Sojourn due to work on the new path on the Green. We can do everything there that we could do on the Green. In addition to the ice cream truck, we are investigating a shredding truck, and tree trimming demonstrations.

Our arborist walked Ambridge and said that there needed to be serious pruning and care done to the trees that the City planted in the right-of-way. The Board would finance the operation as well as continue to care for the Westport Road trees.
You should have received the minutes of the meeting.

OTHER MATTERS:

The fence at Merrifield has a board loose. The fence at Regency was cleaned by Councilwoman Theiler. Our new landscaping service has started. The unfortunate thing is that in our bid specs, we asked that grass be cut only twice a month in August-November because for the last 5 years it has been so dry. This August has had an abundance of rain so far.

I had a list of chores for them to do that have not been up to par, such as retrimming the Rudy Bridge drastically and removal of 3 dead azaleas at Old Farm, to be replaced with native shrubs.

The date for Glow on the Green has been set for Thursday, November 30th, 5-7PM.

ARPA Committee - Councilwoman Rademaker: No Report

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

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

A new Historic Homes brochure will cost \$99.75 for 100 brochures. I will use some of my discretionary funding to produce the first 100.

The metal banners on our light posts talk about the City of Historic Homes. People often ask. I am getting permission from each historic home resident to put their address in the brochure. I will use the address only if it is given by the individual owner.

Community Caring: No report

Health and Fitness: The questions from residents about the new surface of the Green were answered in Councilwoman Davis' report.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford:

1. Street sign update- 3 way sign at Kinglan and Brookview has been reinstalled after it was knocked down. Street light at Regency/Rudy was also knocked down and has been reinstalled by LGE. Regency sign was rescued and was reinstalled with new Rudy Sign on Friday. BSign group began installing 13 signs on Friday. They have worked out a system where they will replace and install the new signs the same day. So, no street will be without marking. Current expectation is to do 10-15 signs per week. We will be advised as they go along. Late summer is the estimate for completion.
2. Sidewalk update -Received final approval from Metro Louisville Public Works that the most serious trip hazards on Rudy Sidewalks will be done in this fiscal year. Completion date will be confirmed when contact is set. We will be advised. Thanks to Paula McCraney for paying for half of this work, and Public Works for the rest.
3. In my review of our LG&E bill in February, I did find that in addition to the street lights we are also being billed for usage at 8 separate meters, metering usage of our Green, six other lighted entrances, and one island. At each of these meter locations there is an outdoor plug. (Green has 2) None are up to code, some are shorted out due to exposure, and none are secured for unauthorized usage. It was noted that one location was being used by nearby residents for I would assume XMAS decoration. The Council has given approval to seek the cost to secure the plugs and to seek electricians to do the work.
4. Street Paving Update- Due to continuing engineering concerns on Deerfield (now resolved) signing the contract with MAC Construction was delayed. Now approved I am told paving will begin the following week. We will get an update as to which streets will be done first to advise residents. The Mayor's paving list will be shared with St. Matthews, as well.
5. Council instructed me to seek the services of a handyman to do some painting of a traffic island fence at Rudy Lane and Merrifield and tuckpointing repairs of a brick wall are also in the works.

Print Newsletter/The Breeze digital newsletter – Councilwoman Theiler:

The responses were positive from the surveys of the 4th of July Parade & Picnic. It is likely the format will stay the same next year but there were suggestions submitted for the future to enhance the event.

There will be a print edition of our quarterly newsletter mailed in September.

Old photos were shared with the City out of interest for future newsletters. If any residents have old photos of Windy Hills, you are welcome to share them with City Hall.

Code Enforcement – Don Ryan reported:

In Mr. Ryan's absence, **Mayor Roberts** shared that Code Enforcement has seen boats parked improperly in the City. While three had been cited, overall, residents know to be quick with their maintenance or cleaning and secure their boats elsewhere. Yard signs continue to be an issue. Code Enforcement pulled 6-10 signs that were improperly placed.

City Clerk – Christine Haner reported:

Emails and calls have slowly been decreased regarding trash, recycling, and yard waste issues.

On July 19th, City Hall had two new computers installed. No data was lost in the transition. Every document moved to the new computers via the cloud. Mayor Roberts and I now function with some shared folders, cloud backups, and better efficiency. The old Clerk computer has been kept until we deem it to be unnecessary.

Z-Jak installed the new computers, has been monitoring our security, and providing IT support.

Mayor Roberts secured about \$2,000 for our City by applying for a grant to reimburse us in our efforts to become more cybersecure. All this additionally protects our City from higher deductibles by the Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services in the event of an actual security breach.

ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

Tim Mayer, City Attorney, shared that he has made himself available as issues or questions arise for him from Mayor Roberts. He reviewed several contracts this month and looks forward to a new contract template for future use. He will be revisiting the Neighborhood Plan project that the council voted to explore last year, starting with Metro Louisville's Planning & Development Services site.

Mayor Roberts suggested that a Survey Monkey or other method be used to collect resident input.

Councilwoman Davis shared that Attorney Randy Strobo had done some preliminary work learning that the plan must be addressed by an outside group, using focus groups, so the results are not collected by the City, to prevent bias. \$25,000 was voted to be set aside for this project. (See June 13, 2022 Minutes).

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:

Regarding the transition to Rumpke, 35 residents requested 65-gallon cans initially. Now we are up to 60. Backdoor pickup requests are at 16. A smaller Rumpke truck is used for those residents and they will be billed \$9.35/month by Rumpke for that service.

Effective July 1, the police support went from \$58/hour to \$64/hour. There were 12 citations for overnight on-street parking. Because of the increase in car thefts, vandalism, and break-ins, Lyndon Police and our City has made a greater effort to remind folks about our Parking Ordinance.

Several Lyndon Police officers enjoyed a meal at the 4th of July Parade & Picnic. It was enjoyable seeing them mingle with our citizens.

Lyndon Police monitored traffic speed by Radar on Ambridge and on Rudy Lane. Five warnings were issued.

Due to the storms on June 25th and 26th, our City collected data from residents about their costs of storm damage to their property. While we did collect the information, Governor Beshear announced that the state of Kentucky fell short by several millions of dollars to meet the minimum threshold for Federal Emergency Management Aid (FEMA).

The rent for City Hall increased from \$1,085/month to \$1100/month.

As mentioned by the Clerk, the Kentucky League of Cities offered grants to Cities who demonstrated their commitment to upgrading their offices in the areas of IT and Cybersecurity. \$2,000 has been awarded to Windy Hills but the funds have not yet been received.

Last Saturday in St. Matthews there was a meeting among area Mayors regarding feedback to the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) Board discussing goals and future directions of JCPS.

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

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 7:53PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk