

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
December 11, 2023

The Council and Officers of the City of Windy Hills met at Sojourn Community Church East, 2501 Rudy Lane, at 7:03 P.M. Mayor 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

Timothy Mayer, Attorney

Don Ryan, Code Enforcement

MINUTES:

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Mayor Roberts:

On the Profit and Loss Statement I will point out that you will find two large expenditures in November. The first is an amount of \$219,000 to the MAC Construction Company for the paving of portions of eight roads in Windy Hills this fall. The second is for the amount \$422,702 from the ARPA funds for the construction of the new walkway on the Green and for our new City street signs. These two expenditures account for the negative net income amount of \$633,900 seen at the bottom of the Profit and Loss Statement.

On the Balance Sheet for November, you will note our total investments are \$1,660,591 and total assets, including investments, property, and road value approximately \$2,419,000. Our investments are predominantly in Certificates of Deposits in four different banks and a newly opened Money Market to hold property tax revenues in order to earn interest on these funds until the funds are needed for city expenses later in the year.

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

Mayor Roberts:

Finally, the Check Detail for the month of November has been distributed to the Council. On the check register you will find 19 checks to individuals for refunds for double payment of property taxes. People are so afraid of missing the 43% discount that they pay the taxes personally, only to have the taxes also paid by their mortgage company.

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the November checks, totaling \$353,763.86; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

In anticipation of **Mr. Jeff Feinberg's** presentation for a proposed dog park, **Mayor Roberts** made a motion to suspend the typical 3-minute time limit for residents and requested a formal motion from the council to extend a courtesy 10-minute time limit to Mr. Feinberg. No motion was made by a council member, so the 3-minute rule stood.

Mr. Feinberg handed out to the mayor and council members a prepared Windy Hills Project Proposal & Definition Form in accordance with instructions from the Council at the meeting on November 13th. The report was complete and thorough demonstrating compliance with City procedure and included research, maps, images, prices, and other supporting documentation.

After the initial 3-minute presentation, questions were presented to Mr. Feinberg:

Councilwoman Theiler asked if Mr. Feinberg had talked to the residents who would be the closest to the proposed dog park because of potential barking. The answer was no.

Councilwoman Greer and Councilwoman Rademaker shared concerns about the dog park adversely affecting the trees that have been identified as memorials. These trees and accompanying plaques have been paid for by residents or families as a memorial. The councilwomen did not want the trees hidden within a fenced area nor subjected to dog urine.

Councilwoman Davis noticed the last page of the report included a registration and rules information sheet from the dog park at Norton Commons. Councilwoman Davis expressed that

Norton Commons has an HOA while we are a city. Annual upkeep and long-term maintenance of the dog park is a big concern.

Councilwoman Greer mentioned her concern about liability issues and Mayor Roberts shared that he contacted the Kentucky League of Cities Insurance Services division, where the City is insured. The dog park liability insurance is included in our policy as long as the rules are posted.

Resident **Dick Woolley** from Indian Ridge Road signed in to ask if dogs can currently use the Green. The answer is yes, but dogs must be on a leash at all times. The dog park idea from Mr. Feinberg is to provide a leash-free option for dogs.

Councilwoman Spencer reminded Mr. Feinberg about Ordinances related to fence height.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Green: Work at the Signature Entrance removing the old plantings and placing the new plants has been completed.

Klausing Group has broken two signs. Councilwoman Spencer is working to replace them, and Klausing Group will pay for them.

Mike Hayman has ordered two new Rose Magnolias to replace those destroyed by deer. Poles will be placed around the new trees to deter deer.

Ambridge: Trees have been pruned. They will be fertilized in January or February. The tree(s) removed in a certain area on Ambridge will not be replaced as trees do not thrive in that area from poor soil.

Other Common Areas: I will contact the Klausing horticulturist and pick out plants for Wexford Place and the Signature Entrances on Westport Road. I selected a Kousa Dogwood from Ecotech's donation to be planted in the island circle at Clerkenwell.

Application for Tree City USA: The Tree City USA Application will be worked on this week.

Glow on the Green: Attendance was low at Glow on the Green despite the mild weather. For 2024 we plan to move the event to the weekend before Thanksgiving to hopefully entice more participation.

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

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

Health and Fitness: Windy Walkers met to walk the backside of Windhurst area. Earlier in the month we walked the Zachary Taylor cemetery. We won't meet in December but after the new year we will pick back up.

Dedication/commemorative plaques on the Green: 2 plaques – one for Erin Morris and one for Bud Otte will cost \$254.67 each plus \$80 each for installation if B Sign Group does the “planting”.

I have spoken for several months to Mr. and Mrs. Hudson. The Hudsons were married on the Green last October and would like to have a plaque commemorating the event. Due to health reasons, they will not be ready to discuss the tree and wording until January.

I believe the mowers ran over two signs up next to Brownsboro Road. One was the Summit's gift for the Autumn Ginkgo and the other was the Black Gum, gift of I.G. Spencer's family. We only have scraps of the Autumn Ginkgo from Klausing Group. I will continue to explore the situation and have a price for them to replace ASAP. Klausing Group has been very forthcoming on this issue.

Tree Board – Councilwoman Greer: Councilwoman Greer wished to add important business to her earlier report. She proposed that Bob Jacobs, retired PhD from UofL be added to the Tree Board as he is a great asset and enjoys horticulture. Councilwoman Greer made a motion to formally add Dr. Jacobs to the Windy Hills Tree Board; seconded by Councilwoman Rademaker. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford:

- Reported 5 light pole outages during November with 3 more reported in December so far.
- Reported a decapitated deer in front of Coach Gate. Metro removed promptly.
- A pad has been poured next to the parking area on the Green. This is for a waste receptacle which the council needs to purchase and have installed. Mayor Roberts is working on this detail so that the trash can matches the ones from Metro in the area.
- Worked with an electrician to disable the photocell on the tree for the timer used for the Christmas lights to function properly.
- Began investigating the cost to install a water fountain on the Green. This project was previously approved by the council using ARPA funds though the estimates will likely come in much higher than we thought. Per the City Engineer, the tentative location is close to Rudy Lane so that water lines are more easily accessible.
- Adam Vogelsang is ready for upcoming snow and ice events. When snow is 2 inches deep, primary streets are cleared and salted. When snow is 4 inches or more, the whole City is cleared and salted.

At this point **Councilwoman Spencer** asked a question. Several intersections have light fixtures with different types of bulbs across from one another resulting in varying degrees of brightness (i.e. Chelsea/Rudy, Windy Way/Rudy, Victoria/Brownsboro, Two Springs/Rudy). She asked if they could be replaced so that they uniformly match. The Mayor has also mentioned this issue.

Councilwoman Rademaker asked how it works when this occurs. **Councilman Teaford** responded that LG&E is a bit vague. If we proactively choose to have a working light replaced with a new LED bulb, it will cost \$260 for installation plus \$20/month for the service. If the light fixture is deemed broken, LG&E typically replaces the lamp with a new LED bulb without additional cost. The old sodium lights in our City have heat sensors are often fickle. They go off when overheated. This results in many residents reporting lighting outages when the sodium lights are simply cycling off and on intermittently. The timing of the lights turning back on is inconsistent.

City Clerk – Christine Haner reported:

Just after the last Council meeting an ad was placed in the Courier-Journal regarding the completed audit report as required by law. The audit can be found on our website.

As of today, there are 39 unpaid property tax bills for 2023.

Letters for rental properties along with accompanying 2024 Rental Registration Forms went out last week. Forms and payments are already rolling in.

We are still observing mail delivery delays. On December 4th, Mr. Veeneman's CPA office received a check for payment of property taxes. The envelope was postmarked October 25, 2023, and we were happy to give the resident the discount amount accordingly. It took almost six weeks to arrive.

ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

Tim Mayer, City Attorney, shared that he has been working on issues or questions as they arise from the City. He previously worked on a new Ordinance regarding parking that will be addressed in the future with the council.

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:

- First, I want to thank Councilwoman Spencer and her holiday elves for decorating all of our city's light poles for the holidays. The decorations give our city a festive and welcoming look. And a big thanks to Councilwomen Greer, Davis and Theiler for coordinating a very special Glow on the Green event on Thursday, November 30th. In addition to the lighting of the Norway Spruce it gave people the opportunity to walk the newly finished Green Walkway.
- On a more somber note, we had two car break-ins, one on Two Springs Lane and one on Highview. I have discussed this with Chief Schroeder of Lyndon Police, and he will step up patrols in the overnight hours. There was confusion as to who the residents should call if there is a potential crime occurring. So, we will be distributing the following information in the newsletter and on the website: For emergency situations residents should call 911; for non-emergency but urgent situations Metro Police should be called at 502-574-7111. Lyndon police will continue to provide preventative patrols and traffic monitoring. We will also remind residents of Windy Hills not to park on the city streets overnight, lock your car, and don't leave valuables in the car. Security lighting and doorbell video cameras can also be deterrents.
- As announced in the November newsletter, Rumpke will continue to pick up yard waste on Mondays, year-round. In the past we went to alternate weeks during the winter months, but it was always hard to remember whether this was the week. So, Rumpke stepped in and

offered to do it weekly year-round. Also, starting after the beginning of the new year Rumpke will move the Recycling pickup day to Mondays also. This will avoid the concern expressed by some residents that the trash and recycling sometimes get comingled on Tuesday. So, starting the week of January 8th Yard Waste and Recycling pick-ups will occur on Mondays and Trash pick-up will occur on Tuesdays. Residents will be receiving a flyer from Rumpke announcing this change.

- Finally, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

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 7:43PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk