

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
January 8, 2024

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 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 December 11, 2023, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Spencer**. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Mayor Roberts drew attention to the following:

On the Profit and Loss Statement for the YTD period of July-December 2023, there is a loss of \$395,077. This is misleading as that loss relates to the ARPA (American Relief Plan Act) account and not our normal operating accounts. During July-December 2023, \$454,458 of ARPA monies was spent on the Green path and on replacing signs in our City. Those expenses came out of the ARPA monies received from the Federal Government and not out of our operating budget.

On the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023, the Total Assets equal Total Liabilities and Equity at \$2,397,064.

Councilwoman Rademaker moved to approve the December 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 December checks, totaling \$84,215.42; seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. After a quick question from **Councilwoman Spencer**, the motion passed unanimously.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Resident Bryan Carter, a member of the Moon Dogs band, signed in to speak. He would like to propose an amphitheater, in a simple pavilion-style for the Green. This would be used for musicians, plays, art shows, or other City events. He distributed color pictures of a potential structure from a company near Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Carter will submit a formal proposal to the council next month for their consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/FURTHER RESIDENTS' COMMENTS:

Mayor Roberts requested that if there were no objections, he wished to move up on the agenda the matter of Unfinished Business from last month related to the Proposed Dog Park seeing that the other residents who signed in to speak all had the same topic for discussion. With no objection, **Resident Jeff Feinberg** of Windsong Way handed out an addendum to his Dog Park Proposal. The addendum sought to answer the most common concerns or questions from his proposal.

Mr. Feinberg primarily stressed that a Dog Park would “maximize community usage”, as opposed to the ideas of a pavilion or a butterfly sanctuary, for example, especially considering an estimated 745 households in Windy Hills owning at least one dog.

Resident Staci Farris of Windsong Way signed in to say she was endorsing the Dog Park proposal. She gave her 3-minute time limit to Mr. Feinberg so he could continue his addendum topics.

Mr. Feinberg discussed the Norton Commons dog park with the manager of the Norton Commons Residential Village Association to learn how their dog park works to better address the concerns of Windy Hills. Mr. Feinberg stated that the cost of upkeep would be covered under the current lawn contract and shouldn't cost more. He suggested multiple gates for entry to allow for alternating wear patterns on the turf. Mr. Feinberg suggested that memorial plaques on trees potentially within the dog park enclosure could be moved if the families so choose.

Councilwoman Greer added that families often purchase a tree, not just a plaque, meaning it is not a simple matter of moving a plaque. The trees have meaning, and the tree identification is printed on the plaque, as well.

Resident Joel Faiman on Rudy Lane signed in to speak. He opposes the Dog Park for several reasons including the proximity to the street, proximity to properties next to the Dog Park, odor, litter, and noise by dogs and congregating humans. He noted that most residents in Windy Hills have backyards for their dogs to play and get exercise already.

Councilwoman Davis made a motion to reject the Dog Park Proposal; seconded by **Councilwoman Rademaker**, which opened discussion by the Council to explain the basis of their opinions.

Councilwoman Davis did some research to learn that there were 1,276 articles written about the pros and cons of Dog Parks from 1990-2022. The cities most successful with Dog Parks have been urban areas with apartments and condominiums as their primary type of residence. Cities not successful with Dog Parks traditionally are suburban areas with homes containing backyards. Hygiene is one of the main reasons. There is often conflict between dog owners vs. non-owners. Physical activity by humans is lower using Dog Parks because pet owners watch their dogs but do not interact with them, leading to a more sedentary interaction.

Councilwoman Rademaker shared that her reasons against the Dog Park are aesthetic. In addition, trees designated as memorials and their accompanying plaques deserve peaceful observance. These cost \$500 on average. Early on when the Green purchase came to be, Councilmembers Rademaker, Greer, and Spencer were on the council. The discussions among focus groups surveyed envisioned an oasis, a peaceful green space that would not infringe on any of the neighbors.

Councilwoman Greer confirmed that the Kentucky League of Cities assisted in the questionnaire and focus groups to survey Windy Hills residents when the city originally planned the park. The ultimate result was the desire for a “passive park” and green space, though several ideas were presented.

Councilwoman Spencer mentioned that Mike Smiley with the Olmstead Park Conservancy endorses the green space. Councilwoman Spencer stated she believes that walking dogs in Windy Hills, as it is done now, is working.

With that, the Council voted unanimously to reject the Dog Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Application for Tree City USA: The application was completed with the help of Councilwoman Davis, signed by Mayor Roberts, submitted on time, and is expected to be approved.

City Maintenance: The Klausing Group submitted ideas for simple entrance plantings for each neighborhood entrance in Windy Hills with the goal to choose low maintenance, slow growing vegetation. It appears their pictures are too fancy and need to be modified.

Windy Hills Tree Board: The Tree Board will meet on Wednesday, January 17th, at 7PM at 6702 Kingslook Court to discuss changes to Tree Ordinances and discuss the budget for the next fiscal year, included how the new Tree Board plan will be presented on the City website.

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

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

Health and Fitness: Nothing to report.

Light Post Holiday Decorations: All decorations were removed by Brownsboro Lawn Care and put into storage by January 3, 2024.

Dedication/commemorative plaques on the Green: The missing Mike Smiley plaque was found and will be re-installed. It was decided to wait and move plaques later for those that will be affected by the construction of the new driving lane at Rudy Lane and Brownsboro Road. Councilwoman Greer stated we are unsure which trees specifically will be affected and the City arborist will help decide what new trees will be planted at that time.

City Clerk – Christine Haner reported:

Two liens were released in December after payment in full of two delinquent 2022 Property Tax Bills including all accrued interest, fees, etc.

Records were destroyed January 3, 2024, by Paper Predator from Shelbyville, Kentucky. A Records Destruction Certificate was mailed to the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives, Records Management Division in Frankfort. The records destroyed included deposits through June 2020, paid bills through June 2020, Paid Property Tax Bills for 2020, and Quarterly Municipal Insurance Premium Tax Returns from 2022 when Annual Returns were validated for year 2022. This destruction is in accordance with the retention schedule AND after a completed audit for the years mentioned. Training and resources are provided annually to me by the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency's Municipal Clerks Association to ensure compliance and accuracy of the destruction process.

As of today, there are seventeen unpaid 2023 Property Tax Bills. In the January 2023 Minutes from one year ago, there were thirty-two unpaid 2022 Property Tax Bills at this time last year.

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:

- First, Happy New Year everyone!

- I anticipate we will have another busy and productive year in Windy Hills:
 - In the next few months, we will put some finishing touches to the Green walkway project with the installation of a trash can by the new parking pad. As mentioned by Councilman Teaford we are researching the feasibility of putting a drinking fountain on the Green. There is approximately \$16,000 left in the ARPA fund and this project, because of code requirements, would likely consume the remaining funds.
 - Also, beginning this week, Rumpke moved Recycling Day to Mondays. So, Yard Waste and Recycling will be picked up on Mondays and Trash will be picked up on Tuesdays. Your Christmas trees can be put out on the curb tomorrow. All ornaments, lights and tinsel MUST be removed, and the tree cut into 4-foot sections. Alternatively, trees can be dropped off at the North Hubbards Lane Recycling Center between now and January 27th.
 - Metro Councilwoman Paula McCraney has offered us the opportunity to host Shakespeare on the Green again this year. We are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 21st.
 - We plan to conduct a Windy Hills city-wide survey this spring to capture residents' ideas about opportunities to improve the quality of life in Windy Hills.
 - Finally, you may have heard, this is an election year. The last day to register to vote for the Primary Election is Monday, April 22, 2024. In addition to the national election, we will also have state and local elections in November. All six of our Windy Hills City Council seats will be up for election. The candidate filing deadline, if anyone is

considering running, is Tuesday, June 4, 2024, by 4:00 p.m. Information and application materials can be obtained at the Jefferson County Clerk's Office.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

A resident in attendance mentioned that Recycling pickup on Indian Ridge Road had been skipped and asked for that to be checked on. Councilwoman Rademaker mentioned that the trash and recycling cans should not be overfilled and that the lids should be closed to be properly picked up with the fork-like arms of the Rumpke truck.

Resident Jeff Feinberg asked if the drinking fountain for the Green included a dog/pet option. The answer is yes.

There being no further business to address nor questions to answer of the Council, **Councilwoman Davis** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. The motion passed and the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:43PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk