

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
February 12, 2024

The Council and Officers of the City of Windy Hills met at Sojourn Community Church East, 2501 Rudy Lane, at 7:01 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

MINUTES:

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilwoman Rademaker moved to approve the January 2024 Financial Reports which included the Profit & Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. At this time, **Councilwoman Spencer** requested that Mayor Roberts explain why there was no Police Support expense for the month of January. **Mayor Roberts** stated that Chief Schroeder of Lyndon Police had taken a review of his officers assigned to Windy Hills with the goal being three hours per day in Windy Hills using one officer on the task at a time. Chief Schroeder believes that we should only be billed for the time of one officer at a time in the City. This billing change effectively gave us a large enough credit that we did not have an invoice for police support in January. **Councilman Teaford** shared that the previous Police Chief utilized 1.3 hours for each shift dedicated to Windy Hills. **Mayor Roberts** stated he has been tracking patterns of the officers and that patrols are dedicated to problem streets as they are needed. Subsequently, the motion passed unanimously to approve the Financial Reports.

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the January checks, totaling \$64,161.94; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. After a quick mention from **Councilwoman Spencer** requesting further detail on the invoices especially seen in the Road Fund, the motion passed unanimously.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Joyce Bridge, a resident of Coach House in Coach Gate signed in to speak. She wished to address speeding in Windy Hills and asked how it is monitored. Mayor Roberts affirmed the concern and assured the resident that the topic is known. Lyndon Police have been shooting radar on Rudy Lane, Ambridge Drive, and Indian Ridge predominantly as those streets are most often reported by residents as having speeders. **Mayor Roberts** mentioned that his Mayor Report later in the meeting will provide additional details.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Ecotech planted a serviceberry in the Clerkenwell Circle.

The Tree Board Minutes from January 17th and a proposed budget plan from the Tree Board has been submitted to City Hall.

Mike Hayman is still trying to locate a Rose Magnolia for the Green.

Klausing Group has submitted a much simpler and less expensive plan for Wexford Place and the Ambridge/Westport Road entrances. They will be starting to prune and work on spring tasks soon. I asked them to locate an American Hornbeam and a Persian Parotta to replace the ones that will be removed when Rudy Lane gets widened. They can also help locate a Rose Magnolia. Caroline Westfall will be consulted as to where the new trees should be planted.

Councilwoman Greer mentioned in reference to **Councilwoman Spencer's** earlier concern that Adam Vogelsang's invoices from Brownsboro Lawn Care could indeed be improved for better detail. Oftentimes, things are listed as a unit when more detail would be appreciated.

Mayor Roberts noted that he can also look at cost trends as invoices come in for payment, reviewing past invoices for comparison.

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

Welcome to Windy Hills: There were four new residents in January.

Health and Fitness: Windy Walkers will start their organized walks mid-March.

Dedication/commemorative plaques on the Green: 4 plaques have been ordered from B Sign Group and will be ready for installing mid-March. One is for Erin Morris and one for Bud Ott at a cost of \$254.67 each plus \$80 each for installation unless installation is done by someone else. Replacement plaques for I.G. Spencer and Summit Executive Suites are the other two. Invoices will be forthcoming totaling \$1,170.

The post is knocked off the plaque dedicating one of the Parottias to Mike Smiley, Landscape Architect of the Green. It must receive a new soldered-on stake to be reinstalled at the base of the tree. Pohl Iron Works can do the soldering but must have an aluminum post which had to be ordered from Grainger. It should be delivered February 16th and I will take it to Pohl so they can attach it.

As mentioned by **Councilwoman Greer**, our nurserymen are looking for the following trees to be planted when the current trees will be lost when Rudy Lane is widened:

- Persian Parrotia honoring John & Martha Walzer
- American Hornbeam honoring Kent Vogelsang

The above trees can be located and planted out of the path of construction and the accompanying plaques installed.

According to Councilwoman Greer, it appears the London Plane tree, gift of Windy Hills Garden Club, can be saved, based on its location on the Green.

Light Post Holiday Decorations: All decorations were removed by Brownsboro Lawn Care and put into storage by January 3, 2024. If anyone knows of someone who would like to head up the light post committee for Holiday 2024, please let us know their name and contact information at City Hall.

Mayor Roberts stated that a 10 x 10 storage unit was just rented on Warwick Avenue in Lyndon. It does not have temperature control. He has the keys. Councilwoman Spencer will be donating some gently used shelving to the City for use in the storage unit.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford reported: Two timers and some extension cords were removed from the Green for return to their owners. Locks will go back on the plugs shortly with a waterproof sticker informing anyone who needs access to that plug for electricity to call the City Official's phone number for access.

I will continue to move forward with the drinking fountain project for the Green.

Our City streets will be looked at in anticipation of paving needs.

A resident only recently noticed an incorrect sign. A street sign that was purchased in 2015 was misspelled on Tottenham (spelled "Tottemham" instead). A new, corrected sign is being made by B Sign Group and they will be paid \$80 for installation.

Newsletter, Windy Hills Breeze, Communications, Social Events – Councilwoman Theiler reported: The 4th of July celebration planning is in the works. A survey of attendees after the event last year was helpful for planning purposes. New this year will be Farmer Steve and his petting zoo of baby animals. There will be an inflatable obstacle course, and a return of City BBQ but with a new menu of items they are known for. A teaser of the summer event will be mentioned in the Windy Hills Breeze in February. We plan to have better signage leading up to the event in additional locations. We are looking for additional volunteers to help our event run smoothly.

Mayor Roberts, who just signed the contract for the inflatable obstacle course, mentioned that only adults can supervise that particular attraction.

Code Enforcement – Don Ryan – reported by the Clerk in his absence: Physical rental inspections will begin when the weather warms up, likely mid-March. The Clerk has been assisting with the collection of rental fees and forms. Don has been reporting pothole issues to **Councilman Teaford** for repairs.

Councilwoman Greer mentioned there are numerous signs in Windy Hills in the ROW and need to be cleaned up. Victoria Place and Rudy Lane come to mind. **Mayor Roberts** also confirmed some signs reported for Code Enforcement to address.

City Clerk – **Christine Haner** reported:

As of today, there are 7 unpaid 2023 Property Tax Bills. Communications have been ongoing in accordance with Ordinance No. 2 Series 2022-2023 for this current fiscal year. As a reminder, liens will be placed on property whose owners are delinquent in paying the 2023 tax bill by March 31, 2024.

In total for all years, there are 24 unpaid bills from 9 homeowners.

MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:

- On the **Profit and Loss Statement** approved earlier tonight I would note that we spent \$22,486 from the Road Fund in January for the salting of our roads during the two snowfalls we had in January. This expenditure brings our current road fund balance down to approximately \$57,000. We anticipate an additional \$23,000 from the Commonwealth over the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends in June. This would bring the balance of our Road Fund account to approximately \$80,000, minus any additional snow clearing and pothole filling cost we experience between now and June. This past year we paved all or portions of 9 streets for a total cost of \$180,000. I mention this to let the residents and council members know that we will likely need to budget additional funding from our general funds to supplement the State Road funds in the next and future year's budgets. We currently receive about \$50,000 each year from the State for the maintenance of our roads in Windy Hills. Steve Teaford and I will work with Mark Madison of Milestone Design to review the conditions of our roads this spring to determine what roads need paving. We will bring back to the Council a proposal in the next budget.
- That said, the City's Revenues are ahead of budget for this fiscal year by about \$40,000 and Expenses are running behind budget by about \$100,000. And, as seen on the February Balance Sheet, the City has approximately \$1.6 million in cash and savings on hand. So, the City is in good fiscal shape at this time.
- Beginning last month, Rumpke, with the City's approval, moved the Recycling pick up day to Mondays. We received one complaint about the truck noise prior to 7 am waking people up. I contacted Rumpke regarding our ordinance that prohibits pick ups prior to 7 am and I have heard no complaints since.

At this time, **Councilwoman Davis** spoke to say that Wexford Place regularly has noise at 6:15AM on Mondays from Yard Waste and Recycling pickups beginning too early and against Ordinance.

- Let me say a few words about Road Safety.
 - First, the intersection of Rudy Lane and Brownsboro Road. I have alerted the Kentucky Department of Transportation and Metro Louisville about the risk of collisions at this intersection. Several individuals have reported near miss accidents when turning right onto Brownsboro Road from Rudy when the green right-turn arrow is lit. Drivers on Brownsboro Road turning left onto Rudy have a flashing yellow left-turn signal at the same time and some drivers have been known to make a U-turn from this lane into the accessory road to enter the Shopping center or to go north on Brownsboro. I have asked for the Highway Department to consider blocking off the accessory road entrance and to post a No U-turn sign on the median. The No U-turn sign hanging high up on the traffic signal wires seems to be ineffective. Our residents need to be very cautious at this intersection.
 - Second, the intersection of Ambridge Drive and Westport Road and Foeburn Lane and Westport Road. We all recognize that it is very difficult to exit Ambridge or Foeburn onto Westport Road, especially when turning left. We also know that the Ambridge and Westport intersection was the site of a fatal accident in 2021. The speed limit on this section of Westport Road is 45-mph, but drivers often exceed this limit. Cars moving at this speed give drivers who wish to turn out of Ambridge little time to do so safely. Westport Road is the only Metro road leading out of Louisville and intersecting with the Waterson Expressway that has a 45-mph speed limit. ALL the others (Dixie, Taylor Blvd, Preston, Poplar Level, Newburg, Bardstown, Shelbyville Road) have a speed limit of 35-mph. I have asked the Kentucky Department of Transportation and Metro Louisville to consider lowering the speed limit on this section of Westport to 35-mph and to explore additional traffic calming measures to create safer intersections at Ambridge and Foeburn. Traffic through these corridors will only increase once the Brownsboro Road and Waterson Expressway construction begins in 2025.

Councilman Teaford raised concerns about drivers traveling west on Westport making U-turns on Westport Road near Ambridge in order to bypass the traffic backup on Westport that occurs during rush hour. This poses an even greater risk of an accident at this site

Councilwoman Theiler and **Councilwoman Davis** contributed to the conversation about road safety. There is a state law about the distance between lights, being 150 feet. State data shows that fatalities are few in the area. However, **Councilwoman Davis** shared that is no consolation to those personally affected by a tragedy, recounting the accident that took the life of her son on Highway 22 in 2012. Despite the Davis's efforts to draw attention to roadway dangers, only just now is that area of Highway 22 being widened.

The consensus among the council members is that we should continue to report the issues. It was mentioned that Westport Road is the 14th most hazardous road in the Metro Louisville area.

Mayor Roberts shared that he floated the idea of a roundabout to slow down vehicles and manage traffic effectively.

- Third, Rudy Lane. I have asked Lyndon Police to monitor for speeding along Rudy Lane. Recently a distracted, or drunk, driver ran off the road and broke a utility pole near 4315 Rudy Lane. This is less than one block away from where a 7-year-old boy was killed by a driver traveling over 50-mph on Rudy in February 1990. I have also asked Metro Louisville to consider placing a speed feedback sign along this stretch of Rudy Lane.
- A parade will be on Saturday, March 9th, from 9AM-10:30AM, as approximately 50 people will walk from the Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion at 411 N. Hubbards Lane through Coach Gate, onto Brownsboro, to Rudy Lane and back. Police support will be provided to help the group safely cross roads.
- 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.
- Finally, as a reminder, 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, but 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 for a Council seat, is Tuesday, June 4, 2024, by 4:00 p.m. Information and application materials can be obtained at the Jefferson County Clerk's Office. The office of Mayor of Windy Hills will be up for election in 2026. If anyone is looking ahead

and think they may want to run for the Mayor position in 2026, and they have not served on the City Council before, I would strongly encourage the person to run for a Council seat in the coming election. Take it from me, it is hard to be mayor if you have not had the experience of being on the Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A Neighborhood Plan was voted on by the council in 2022 and \$25K was budgeted to begin work on such a plan providing a vision for the City by residents. **Councilwoman Davis** recognized that this plan has not moved forward and encouraged us to pursue completion of this unfinished business. She recommends Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) be used for assistance in strategic planning, which is a free service they provide except for some out of pocket costs. Focus groups are recommended so that we have a more accurate picture of the residents' vision for the future of Windy Hills. This should include a vision for the Green, Windy Hills roads, where any surplus from a fiscal year should go, etc.

The council members supported this old business to move forward.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE:

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 7:59PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, City Clerk