

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting  
March 11, 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 TARDY 7:03PM

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 February 12, 2024, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Councilwoman Davis** moved to approve the February 2024 Financial Reports which included the Profit & Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet; seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. The motion passed unanimously.

**Councilwoman Rademaker** moved to approve the February checks, totaling \$58,157.30; seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:** NONE

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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Mayor Protem, ARPA Committee, Finance – **Councilwoman Davis:**

The annual ARPA report is due at the end of April. The online portal to complete the report has not yet opened. The report will require detailed information about the path on the Green.

**Councilwoman Greer** and I attended the KLC Women in City Government Summit in Lexington in early March. KLC will provide resources and assist Windy Hills in Strategic Planning to determine the wishes of our residents, likely through focus groups and surveys, as has been done in the past.

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

Klausing has mulched all the common areas. The Ambridge tree mulching was paid for by the Tree Board.

Klausing has planted new greenery at the Westport Road entrance and the Wexford Place entrance.

A Rosemarie magnolia, the favorite food of deer, has been planted on the Green to replace the one the deer ate. This one has a protective barrier for protection.

The next Tree Board meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Coach House Party Room.

Once again, we have received the Tree City USA award.

I have notified both Klausing and Robert Woodford to locate an Allegheny Serviceberry for the Greenbriar Circle. Whomever finds that tree first will get the job.

**Mayor Roberts** asked when the best time is to plant a tree and asked if March is okay.

**Councilwoman Greer** responded that she prefers early to late November but almost anytime as long as watering is the most important thing to remember.

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

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

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**Health and Fitness:** Windy Walkers will start their organized walks March 30, with a guided tour of Cave Hill Arboretum. We will meet at the main Baxter Avenue entrance as 2:30PM. Reservations are necessary by March 26<sup>th</sup>. The walking event will be free of charge for Windy Hills residents and \$15 for all other participants.

**Dedication/commemorative plaques on the Green:** Plaques from B Sign Group will be ready about March 18<sup>th</sup>. There has been a recent inquiry about another commemorative plaque, and we have several paid-for trees available for dedications. There are four new plaques, and one repaired plaque, for a total of five. **Councilwoman Greer** prefers to wait to plant them because of the most recent inquiry of a new plaque. **Councilwoman Spencer** stated that because the plaques are set in Quikrete®, the old material will need to be fully dug up before “planting” the new plaques. The goal is to have them all planted before the April 21<sup>st</sup> date for Shakespeare on the Green.

Public Works – **Councilman Teaford** reported:

- Five new parking bumpers have been ordered for the parking pad on the Green.
- Due to resident complaints on Deerfield, the grates over the drains on Deerfield will be corrected to stop the clanking noise, but the work cannot be guaranteed due to normal expansion and contraction of metal and concrete.
- A new wastebasket has been ordered for the Green. Libs Paving will take care of installing or correcting all the above.
- The street sign spelling was corrected on Ossulston Court as well as the one on Tottenham. One other sign was replaced due to vandalism at Pin Oak and Hubbard’s Lane.
- Regarding paving for 2024, three streets have been recommended for paving: Antrim Road, Foeburn Lane, and Windrow Place. Early estimations are \$65K for Antrim; \$120K for Foeburn; and over \$8K for Windrow Place in addition to patching of other streets. **Councilman Teaford** asked the council how they want to proceed. **Mayor Roberts** requested to let the residents know about their street as soon as possible considering a resident from last year did not want his street paved. **Councilwoman Davis** recommended to go ahead and have the City Engineer put out the ad for bids and have the Road Fund Hearing scheduled earlier this year, likely in April if possible. As the council appeared to be eager, Councilwoman Davis made a motion to move the Road Fund Hearing to April,

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Budget \$200k for paving projects, and instruct the City Engineer to move forward to place an ad to collect paving bids. This was seconded by **Councilwoman Spencer**; the motion passed unanimously.

- Regarding the new human & pet water fountain for the Green, Councilman Teaford wanted to firm up the location. It has been determined that it should be located to the east of the path, midway between the parking pad and the signature entrance, which is near the water line for cost savings. The color choices were red, blue, or green with green being the decision. **Councilwoman Spencer** would like to see a more natural color to the fountain, such as brown or bronze, or a finish that appears more natural. **Councilwoman Rademaker** stated that the quality of the fountain and the sturdiness long-term is her focus. It was determined that **Councilman Teaford** will move forward with the fountain recommended by the City Engineer after inquiring about a potential change in color.

Newsletter, Windy Hills Breeze, Communications, Social Events – Councilwoman Theiler reported: The City website is under construction with the help of Lee Ann Lyle, our web designer. It will be a big improvement. It is likely to go “live” in June. There will be a color print newsletter mailed in March. **Mayor Roberts** indicated there may be pictures to add to the newsletter from the walk on Saturday, March 9th in our City by the group from Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion.

Code Enforcement – Don Ryan: While Mr. Ryan did not have a specific update in his role, **Mayor Roberts** reported on recent Code Enforcement issues as reported to City Hall or to the Mayor directly.

- Reports have come in about vehicles blocking Rumpke from collecting trash/recycling/yard waste, especially on the narrowest streets. Mayor Roberts asked if Windy Hills should update our Ordinances to prevent street parking on collection days, or a portion thereof. **Councilwoman Davis** mentioned that the previous Police Chief also had concerns about access for emergency vehicles on certain streets in Windy Hills at all hours.
- Speeding concerns are still being reported. **Councilman Teaford** confirmed that residential streets in Windy Hills are 25MPH, except for Rudy Lane, which is 35MPH. Mayor Roberts noted that it is hard to find a speed limit sign in some areas. **Councilman Teaford** will move forward to add approximately 10 new speed

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limit signs on streets that are problematic without current signage. Typically those cost \$125 per sign plus the cost of installation. **Mayor Roberts** recommended to Metro Louisville that a solar-powered speed sign be utilized in Windy Hills. Speeding on Old Stone Lane was addressed. The process to make that street 15MPH will be investigated. **Mayor Roberts** has spoken to Chief Rob Schroeder about these concerns and potential options for solutions.

**City Clerk – Christine Haner reported:**

Windy Hills is in the reassessment area for property valuations for 2024. Residents were mailed a post card from the Jefferson County Property Valuation office listing the schedule of public meetings in April for more information. Updated assessment values will be mailed to Windy Hills property owners on April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive your postcard, there is a handout on the table and in City Hall. Residents can be assured that the new valuations will be considered by the council when the upcoming Budget is prepared for Windy Hills. The property tax rate of \$ .17/\$100 for Windy Hills will not change. The totality of all budgeted items will determine the percentage of discount for the 2024 property tax bills.

6 Liens from prior tax years were released after being paid in full to the City. As of today, we have 16 unpaid tax bills, 7 of which are from 2023. Liens will be filed April 1<sup>st</sup> if the 2023 bills are not paid in full before then. Formal letters were mailed appropriately from Mayor Roberts.

We have already received several construction permits for March from Metro's Construction Review. These are typically forwarded to Code Enforcement by me so Mr. Ryan can observe potential use of dumpsters during demolition, changes to parking, storage of materials in yards, or any other need for potential code enforcement intervention. We encourage residents to contact City Hall about their projects if we can be of assistance.

**MAYOR REPORT – Dr. John Roberts:**

- Budget planning for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is in the works.
- Mr. Tad Long of Kentucky League of Cities will assist the City with Strategic Planning resources and facilitate the process.
- Mayor Greenberg and Jennifer Caummisar-Kern, Louisville Metro Public Works Director, invited me to participate in a focus group to develop a department of transportation to serve Louisville Metro. I will represent the Northeast corridor, the City of Windy Hills, as well as the Kentucky Medical Association in this effort and role.

- Concerns about the piles of brush near the curve of Rudy Lane have been sent by a few residents. These will be addressed as it appears folks are pruning and cleaning the area.
- Several residents complained about the raised garden beds in the front yard of a home on Old Farm Road. After research, it has been determined that no Ordinance in Windy Hills nor Metro Louisville has been violated.
- **Councilwoman Greer** inquired about the basement cleanout procedure with Rumpke. Residents can call Rumpke to request special pickups and do not need to go through City Hall for approval. Rumpke will be sending out a flyer about special junk pickups and the information will also be shared in a future newsletter to residents.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Due to the Independence Day holiday and other calendar constraints, the July caucus and council meeting need to be canceled. **Councilwoman Rademaker** made a motion to call a Special Meeting of the July Caucus on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and call a Special Meeting of the July Council on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. **Councilwoman Davis** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The new dates will be reflected in the March print newsletter, future digital newsletters, a door posting at City Hall, and as an email reminder during July.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:** Attorney, Tim Mayer, stated he has simply been working on tasks as normal business arises. Mayor Roberts tasked the attorney with reviewing City Ordinances for update in light of changes in Kentucky law and in the effort to make sure all Ordinances are reviewed every 5-6 years for accuracy and further updates.

**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 7:44PM.

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Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

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Christine Haner, City Clerk