

CITY OF WINDY HILLS

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting
March 10, 2025

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.

While not normally taken, attendance was observed by the Clerk as follows: 20 residents in attendance along with 2 visitors, Officer Flener with the Lyndon Police, and Deputy Mayor Nicole George from Mayor Greenberg's Office.

ROLL CALL: The following were present:

MAYOR

Dr. John Roberts

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Helen Davis

Kate Greer

Steve Teaford

Julie Theiler

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

Christine Haner, Clerk

Timothy Mayer, Attorney

Paul Eitel, Code Enforcement

MINUTES:

Councilwoman Davis moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, council meeting; seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. Having no need for discussion, the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS, APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Councilwoman Greer moved to approve the February 2025 Financial Reports which included the Profit & Loss Statement as well as the Balance Sheet: seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. With no discussion necessary, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Davis moved to approve the February bills, totaling \$85,760.87; seconded by **Councilwoman Greer**. Having no questions, the motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF 2025 STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS

At this time, **Mr. John Buchanan**, Community & Economic Development Advisor, from the Kentucky League of Cities, presented the results of the recent City of Windy Hills survey. A copy

of the presentation will be attached to these minutes. A pdf link will be placed on the City website Tuesday, March 11th.

After **Mr. Buchanan's** presentation, **Mayor Roberts** opened a discussion. Firstly, several City Officials provided insight to residents about what has been moving forward in their particular areas of concentration that is congruent with the focus areas in the survey results. Interspersed with this discussion were comments and suggestions from residents in attendance.

Public Safety

Regarding Public Safety, the highest priority for Windy Hills, **Councilman Teaford** shared that **Councilman Paul Morris** has been assisting him with the inventory of around 144 lights in Windy Hills. Evening rides are in the works to address dark areas on our streets. The light inventory will also help in verifying billing from LG&E, which is quite confusing to decipher, and to better understand the costs of updating light fixtures and bulbs. These steps will help to address residents' concerns regarding lighting. The old sodium-type bulb light fixtures are being replaced with LED lights when they cease to function. Lighting is a key safety issue for the council.

Most Windy Hills street signs were replaced last year and are Transportation Board compliant in their size, placement, and color. A sign inventory is in the works by **Councilman Teaford** and **Councilman Morris**. Once the signs are identified in totality, residents' concerns about specific signage or types of signs will be addressed. Residents have requested that the letters on the Signature Entrance Sign, and Entrance Signs into neighborhoods be painted with a color that stands out against the background for better visibility.

Regarding Sidewalks, some residents would like to see more sidewalks connecting neighborhoods within Windy Hills. Some of the locations mentioned are not within Windy Hills and were previously declined by St. Matthews or Metro Louisville. The city is aware that the part of the walking loop located in Coach Gate is rather hazardous but there is little remedy due to the width of the street being too narrow to add a walking lane. The measurements and compliance requirements were investigated by **Councilman Teaford**. Later in the meeting, resident Joyce Bridge suggested a sign warning of a blind curve and of walkers and fresh striping be painted on the roadway down the center. **Councilman Teaford** will look into this suggestion. Sidewalks connecting Hubbard's Lane to Brownsboro Road have been previously deemed too expensive to pursue. Metro Louisville is responsible for the sidewalks on Rudy Lane. Councilman Teaford has identified some spots in the sidewalks that have tripping hazards and will be working toward making those areas safe.

Continuing with Public Safety, it was stated that Lyndon Police generally average close to 85 hours per month in Windy Hills. Traffic is being monitored on Indian Ridge and Ambridge with the new speed mitigation signs. The data collected is sent to Lyndon Police to better time their presence to deter speeding. **Councilwoman Davis** stated that Windy Hills has the lowest crime rate in the area. Indian Hills and Northfield typically have the highest crime in our area.

Identity/Beautification

Numerous residents would like to see curbside leaf pickup service in Windy Hills. This service would be part of the sanitation services area. **Mayor Roberts** has discussed this with area Mayors and other officials. **Mayor Rick Tonini** of St. Matthews shared that it is a very expensive service to offer and the only way St. Matthews can provide it is because they are big enough of a city to use their own equipment, still a burden on their budget. LG&E and MSD do not encourage this service because leaves block the drainage ditches, culverts, and storm drains. Even when the leaves are out for only a short time before collecting, they blow and block critical drainage areas. It is not likely Windy Hills will be able to provide this requested service to residents.

Also related to beautification, **Councilwoman Kate Greer** mentioned the update to the Tree Ordinance related to allowing up to four trees eligible for a rebate by Windy Hills residents. The Tree Board would like to see fewer barriers to trees being planted, especially to replace trees that have been lost to age or storms.

Communication

The third focus area is Communication. **Councilwoman Theiler** is addressing a potential site map for the website as several residents find the website difficult to use when looking for specific things. She requested specific examples from residents if they find the website deficient so that we can make specific changes for ease of use. Later in the meeting a resident gave the example of searching for an ordinance. Minutes mentioning the ordinance searched for show up as the response, not the actual ordinance being searched for.

More residents should sign up for Reach Alert through the website to ensure they are receiving timely communications for road closures, power outages, storm-related news, etc. The settings on the Facebook account will be tightened up. While **Councilwoman Theiler** is the admin for the Facebook page, the conversations within it are not monitored daily. The Facebook page is not the voice of City Officials, merely a social outlet for residents. **Mayor Roberts** stated that if you want to vent about a problem, go to Facebook. If you would like your problem solved, call City Hall.

Transportation

Being the fourth focus area, transportation was discussed. Rudy Lane is a Metro Louisville roadway, as is N. Hubbard's Lane. Brownsboro Road (Highway 42) and Westport Road (Highway 1447) are Kentucky Department of Transportation roadways. Some streets that feed off of N. Hubbard's Lane, as an example, are partly Windy Hills and partly in St. Matthews. We have a handful of those types of streets that may be confusing as to whom they belong.

The biggest conversation in regard to transportation is congestion of traffic. From landlocked neighborhoods, like Wexford Place, to landlocked streets, like Victoria Place, it is a challenge to enter and exit without extra care and patience.

Deputy Mayor Nicole George, of Mayor Greenberg's office, was in attendance. **Mayor Roberts** asked whether a petition signed by Windy Hills residents could sway the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, regarding some of our problem areas. She said possibly and her office would also provide an extra level of support. Along with Metro Public works, it was recommended we invite the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to observe traffic patterns and car counts during on-site visits at key points of frustration in light of VA Hospital construction, River Road closure (detours), and other area construction projects.

Gathering Spaces

Gathering spaces was the fifth highest priority for Windy Hills. **Mayor Roberts** is pleased to listen and entertain numerous ideas received in how to utilize our City Green for various events or opportunities, and ways to enhance the space. Secondly, folks are still unsure where City Hall is located. Signage directing residents to City Hall was recommended.

Community Involvement

While Community Involvement ranked sixth in priority on the survey, numerous residents responded that they have attended events or meetings. A request was made by resident Laura Trachtenberg to do a better job of featuring upcoming events on our website, adding signage to the Green to promote and billboard events. In this way, involvement will be increased. Adding additional events was recommended and suggestions were made by residents within the survey.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Resident Denise Traynor of Old Stone Lane signed in to share the issue of dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets on Old Stone Lane, which is a dead-end street frequently used by pedestrians and dog-walkers. Some of the dog walkers may not live in Windy Hills. She stated

the edge of the roadway is littered with evidence. She asked if signs and maybe a container with bags be provided to deter such behavior.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

I received the latest Tree City USA package from the Arbor Day Foundation. We will celebrate Arbor Day on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, before Shakespeare on the Green. There will be an ice cream truck. More details to come.

It looks like our Fall plantings at both the Clerkenwell Circle and at Wexford Place have survived the winter.

There will be a Tree Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7PM in the Board Room in City Hall. Residents are welcome to attend.

Public Works – Councilman Teaford reported:

The two yards that were damaged during plowing of snow have been corrected.

I recently reported four different lights out in the city. Most of them have been repaired.

Hopefully work will start on expanding the parking pad on the Green toward the end of this month.

The review of Windy Hills roads for potential street paving will begin at the end of the month.

An adjustment was made to the Ambridge Speed Radar sign to be consistent with the sign on Indian Ridge. We continue to monitor the data from those speed signs.

City Clerk/Treasurer – Christine Haner reported:

The Jefferson County PVA announced that for 2025 and 2026, the Homestead Exemption will increase \$2,750 to \$49,100.

We have 3 delinquent 2024 tax bills. In all, we have 13 unpaid bills for various years from 6 residents totaling \$17,500.

Code Enforcement Officer – Paul Eitel

Code Compliance has been busy from January to March so far.

As a reminder, please place any dumpsters necessary during renovations behind the front line of the home, when possible. Dumpster bags for debris are often in the way and should only be used when necessary and removed as soon as possible.

Several front yards on Regency Lane were adversely affected when water was drained from a water line from the VA Hospital construction site. MSD, Metro Councilwoman Paula McCraney, and the US Corps of Engineers have been notified. Ongoing conversations will continue as we monitor future issues.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Traffic monitoring signs have been deployed on Ambridge Drive and Indian Ridge Road. The data for the month of February:

- Ambridge Drive: While the average speed is 25 mph and 85% of the traffic travels below 30 mph, over 3,000 vehicles traveled the road at speeds greater than 30 mph, and with one motorist clocking in at 47 mph. Looking at the daily detail it seems the peak times of offenses is between 11 am and 1 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm, and 11 pm – MN.
- Indian Ridge: The average speed is 20 mph and 85% of the traffic travels below 28 mph. Over 500 cars were traveling above 30 mph in the month.

The data was shared with the Lyndon Police and will be used to strategically monitor traffic with radar.

Policing Report for February:

- Lyndon Police patrolled within Windy Hills for a total of 82.5 hours
- There were 5 sessions of radar monitoring
 - 4 on Ambridge Drive
 - 1 on Rudy Lane at Brookview Road
 - And 1 occasion of monitoring the stop sign at Indian Ridge and Kitty Hawk
 - No traffic stops were required.

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- 4 Citations were issued for overnight street parking
 - Clerkenwell Road (1106)
 - Penwern Court (6874)
 - Victoria Place (700)
 - Tottenham Road (6801)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Greer made a motion to hear the First Summary Reading of several proposed Tree Ordinance Revisions. This request was seconded by **Councilwoman Davis**. Having no discussion, the motion to read passed.

The City Clerk read:

This is a summary first reading for the revisions to Ord. 12-04, passed 10-8-2012; Ord. 4 Series 13-14, passed 2-10-2014; Ord. 7 Series 14-15, passed 6-8-2015; and Ord. 3 Series 16-17, passed 6-13-2016. Said ordinances encompass the Tree Board; its composition and terms of office; operation; scope of work; and ancillary ordinances defining the scope of work. The ancillary ordinances include tree planting, maintenance, trimming, and topping; removal of trees, shrubs, vines, invasive species, and stumps; public nuisance trees and shrubs; enforcement of said ordinances; and notification and appeal of fines.

A second summary reading is planned for the April 14, 2025, Council meeting.

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 Davis**. The motion passed and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:25PM.

Dr. John Roberts, Mayor

Christine Haner, Clerk/Treasurer