

**City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Commissioner Roger Owen, 3315 Mt. Rainier Drive. City officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch, Commissioners Roger Owen, Barbara Rogers and Kathy Weisbach, and Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Commissioner Jeff Burnett was absent. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Approval of April 10, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the April 10, 2025, Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Resident Comments

There were no residents in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported total City assets as of April 30, 2025 of \$341,165.89 and the City has no liabilities. The City's total income for April was \$2,364.91. Total expenses were \$16,591.51 which included 1) the invasive honeysuckle control project in the City's entrance woodlands (an ARPA funded project), 2) the annual spring cleanup of the common area, and 3) sod replacement to repair damage done on the entrance lawn during winter storms.

Mayor Wokutch made a motion to approve the financials through April 30, 2025, Commissioner Weisbach seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Second Reading – Budget Ordinance for fiscal year July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

The Commission had further discussion regarding the proposed 2025-2026 budget. At the June 12 Commission meeting, the Commission will enact a budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Second Reading - Property Tax Ordinance for fiscal year July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026

The Commission had further discussion regarding the proposed 2025 property tax rate, including a proposal to increase the rate from the current 20 cents to 20.5 cents. Such a rate increase is within the KRS guidelines and would provide the City with an estimated \$2,292 in additional property tax revenues. Residents will have the opportunity to discuss the tax rate with the Commission at a public meeting at 6:45 p.m. on June 12. The Commission will enact a 2025 property tax ordinance during the general meeting that follows at 7 p.m.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Mayor Wokutch reported that Carla Sandusky, Director of State Government Affairs for Charter Communications, has requested that she speak with the Commission virtually at its meeting on July 10 2025 to discuss renewal of the City's franchise agreement with Charter which expires in September 2027. Ms. Sandusky said she would extend an invitation to members of the Commission for this virtual discussion.

Snow Removal, Roads and Signage

Status – Post Winter Road Repairs

In the absence of Commissioner Burnett, Commissioner Owen reported that the pothole which formed on Mt. Rainier Drive near the “project” area during the winter has been patched.

Road Depression in front of 3311 Mt. Rainier Drive

In the absence of Commissioner Burnett, Commissioner Owen reported that Commissioner Burnett has contacted MSD regarding the deepening depression in front of 3311 Mt. Rainier Drive, but that no additional information is available at this time.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Invasive Honeysuckle Containment Project (ARPA funded)

Commissioner Owen reported that there are 21 man hours remaining on the contract between the City of Hills and Dales and Green Up LLC for the project to remove invasive honeysuckle in the entrance woods. He said he will ask Green Up to use these hours to remove honeysuckle located between Goose Creek and U.S. 42 during the coming weeks.

Commissioner Owen went on to say that if the remaining ARPA funds (approximately \$5,000) were not being used for other projects, he would like the Commission to consider using the funds to continue the invasive species project in the fall, removing any plants that were missed in the spring/summer. The Commission agreed that preservation of the City's wooded area was important since the woods provide a barrier between our community and I-71.

After discussion, Commissioner Owen made a motion to engage Green Up LLC to continue the invasive species project in the fall using the remaining ARPA funds available, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

General Spring Cleanup

Commissioner Owen told the Commission Green Up LLC performed the annual spring cleanup in the entrance common area. The cleanup included edging, cleaning and mulching plant beds and other general cleanup activities. Commissioner Owen said a slight savings was realized due to the fact that pine straw was used in some areas in place of hardwood mulch.

Post-Winter Lawn Repairs

Commissioner Owen also reported that the entrance lawn has been sodded and repaired where snow removal equipment, salt and other vehicles damaged the grass.

Technology Services and Community Security

Status – Battery Backup Issues

Commission Weisbach reported that she worked with technical support from Unified Technologies, and the security system's battery backup was replaced at no cost to the City. She went on to say that there have been no outages since the equipment was replaced.

Communications and Neighborhood

Code of Ordinances

Commissioner Rogers reported that following the April 10 Commission meeting, she spoke with attorney John Singler to further explore the challenges the Hills and Dales Planning Committee faces in order to be effective. She said Mr. Singler reiterated that the Planning Committee was developed by landowners in the 1968 Amended Declaration of Restrictions, and it will always be driven by the landowners – not the City Commission.

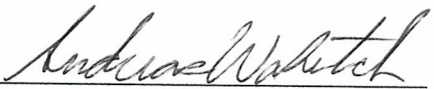
She said Mr. Singler recommended that the City of Hills and Dales Commission turn its attention to developing and enacting a code of ordinances (laws) that would apply to residents of the City of Hills and Dales. Commissioner Rogers said Mr. Singler directed her to a code of ordinances he wrote for one of his clients, one of the smaller Jefferson County cities.

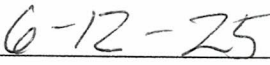
Commissioner Rogers said she would prepare a preliminary outline detailing the kinds of topics that might be included in a City of Hills and Dales code of ordinances and bring it to the June meeting for discussion.

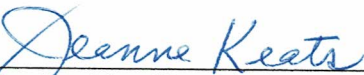
Other Business

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Owen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mayor Wokutch seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.


Approved by Mayor Andreas Wokutch


Date


Submitted by City Clerk Jeanne Keats


Date

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Commissioner Roger Owen, 3315 Mt. Rainier Drive