

City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive. City officials present were Mayor Pro Tem Roger Owen, Commissioners Michael Adair, Bill Bowman, and Barbara Rogers, Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Mayor Andreas Wokutch was absent. Mayor Pro Tem Owen called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the June 13, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting minutes as well as the minutes of the Public Hearing held on the same date. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Adair 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 the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 2024, of \$320,706.41, and the City has no liabilities. June's total income was \$973.77 and total expenses were \$3,399.80. Total 2023-2024 fiscal year income, as compared to the budget, was up and total fiscal year expenses, as compared to the budget, were down, leaving a balance of \$31,284.57 in reserves.

Mayor Pro Tem called for a motion to approve the financials through June 30, 2024, Commissioner Rogers so moved, Commissioner Adair seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Status – City's Commercial Insurance

Treasurer Taylor reported that as of July 1, 2024, the Prospect Insurance Group has placed the City's commercial insurance with Auto-Owners Insurance. This new one-year policy, which went into effect July 1, 2024, incorporates updated replacement values for all of the City's covered property.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Attorney Review of City's Restrictions and Enforcement Issues

In Mayor Wokutch's absence, City Clerk Keats reported that the Commission made a motion at its October 12, 2023, meeting to seek out an attorney with municipal law experience to review the City's Declaration of Restrictions, including the Planning Committee restriction, and to establish a budget for implementing appropriate remedies for the issues which are identified through the review. Funds are now budgeted for this project to proceed.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Commissioner Bowman said he is attempting to contact LG&E regarding some maintenance work that needs to be done on several of the City's streetlight poles. He filed an online report with LG&E and will continue to try to reach someone regarding these matters.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Quote for Removal of Forsythia Bushes in the Public Roads Right-of-Way

Mayor Pro Tem Owen reported that he received a quote of \$948.35 from Willy Thiel of GreenUp LLC to take out some overgrown forsythia bushes between 3412 and 3420 Mt. Rainier Drive which are located in the public roads right-of-way and a utility easement. These bushes frequently grow into the roadway and may impede a driver's line of vision. GreenUp has proposed cutting the bushes back about 15 feet from the edge of the road, digging out the roots and seeding the area. Mayor Pro Tem Owen said that if the Commission wishes to go forward with this project, it should not be done until fall when grass has a better chance of growing.

The Commission expressed concerns about using City funds for this project due to the fact that it is not the City Commission's responsibility to maintain these areas. Maintenance of these areas is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner(s). The Commission decided to discuss the issue with legal counsel before taking any action.

Other

Mayor Pro Tem Owen said he recently did a thorough weeding of the pachysandra bed at the entrance, and he thanked resident Greg Litaker for helping him mulch both the pachysandra and daffodil beds.

Technology Services and Community Security

Enforcement of Louisville Metro Animal Ordinances

Commissioner Adair discussed his frustrations regarding Hills and Dales' dog owners' frequent violations of Louisville Metro Animal Ordinances. He expressed concerns about the safety of residents, especially children, when dogs are not legally restrained. The Commission discussed the possibility of enacting a local City of Hills and Dales animal control ordinance with a penalty clause including fines for violations; however, the City Commission decided to discuss this issue with legal counsel before taking any action.

Communications and Neighborhood

Violations of Louisville Metro Peddler (Solicitor) Regulations

Commissioner Rogers reported that she has been in contact with 8th Division District Resource Officer Brittany Rausch regarding the recent increase in the number of solicitors in our City. Officer Rausch told her that some solicitors are using high pressure tactics and deceptive sales practices to gain entry into homes. Commissioner Rogers told the Commission she will invite Officer Rausch to attend the Commission's next meeting on Thursday, August 8 to talk about these issues. On the advice of Officer Rausch, Commissioner Rogers recommended that the City Commission make "no solicitors" stickers available to those residents who wish to put one on their front doors. The proposal to provide the "no solicitors" stickers to residents at the City's expense was not brought to a vote, and the Commission took no action.

Special News Alert to Residents re: Solicitors

Commissioner Rogers shared a draft community news alert about solicitors with the Commission. This news alert has a number of links to LMPD articles on the topics of door-to-door sales scams and even “cult trafficking sales”. It also contains tips on what residents can do to protect themselves from solicitors in the neighborhood including placing a “no solicitor” sticker on the front door. The news alert will be emailed to residents shortly.

Other Business

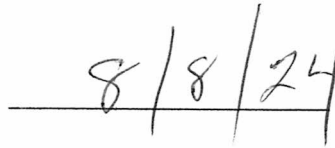
The Commission discussed some historical photos of Hills and Dales found by resident Kathy Weisbach, and it was suggested that these photos be added to the photo gallery on the City’s website. City Clerk Keats said she would follow up with Kathy.

Adjournment

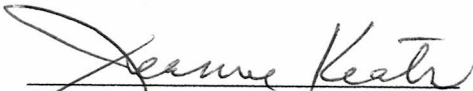
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Adair seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



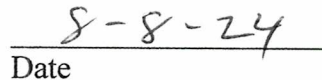
Approved by
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Owen



Date



Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats



Date

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, August 8, at 7:00 p.m.

At the home of Treasurer, Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive