

**City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive. City officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch, Commissioners Bill Bowman and Roger Owen and Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Commissioners Michael Adair and Barbara Rogers were absent. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the August 8, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Bowman 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 August 31, 2024 of \$318,075.15 and the City has no liabilities. August's total income was \$9,877.72 and total expenses were \$4,836.83. She said income and expenses to date are in line with the budget.

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the financials through August 31, 2024, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Comments on August 16 Meeting with Attorney John Singler

Mayor Wokutch reported that he, Commissioner Rogers and City Clerk Keats met remotely with Attorney John Singler on August 16. He said the discussion centered primarily on the Declaration of Restrictions, which the City Commission has no authority to enforce, the City's absence of local ordinances, and the kinds of problems that have surfaced as a result. He said that counsel Singler advised the Commission to stop focusing on the Declaration of Restrictions and turn its attention, instead, to enacting some ordinances with standards which the City Commission can enforce.

City Clerk Keats said she is in the process of gathering some ordinances from other Jefferson County cities to see if any might be helpful to the Commission as it considers how to proceed with this project. Mayor Wokutch suggested that she put them in digital book format for the Commission to review.

Review of Draft Amended Ethics Ordinance

The Commission had a brief discussion about the draft amended ethics ordinance that City Clerk Keats worked on and emailed to officials on August 9 for their review. As per advice from legal counsel, the dual-purpose Ethics and Improvements Board has been eliminated. Instead, the amended ordinance creates the position of an ethics administrator.

Mayor Wokutch made a motion for City Clerk Keats to submit the draft amended ethics ordinance to counsel John Singler for review, Commissioner Bowman seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Commissioner Bowman noted that the street light pole at the lower end of the driveway at 3202 Mt. Rainier, which LG&E recently straightened, is leaning again. Commissioner Owen said he would ask Willy Thiel of GreenUp LLC if, perhaps, the light pole is being hit by their mowers.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Removal of Damaged Tree

Commissioner Owen reported that Lopez Tree removed the storm-damaged tree along the upper entrance lawn, and the cost of \$1,400, which was approved at the August 8 Commission meeting, was paid with ARPA funds.

Irrigation System

Commissioner Owen said the entrance irrigation system may not be functioning, and he is looking into it.

ARPA Funded Projects

Invasive Species. Commissioner Owen discussed the possibility of expanding the project to clear out invasive species in the entrance woods to include not only bush honeysuckle but also kudzu on the rock wall to the north of the entrance sign. He will advise the Commission when he has obtained quotes.

Riprap Drainage Channel. Commissioner Owen also discussed replenishing some riprap in the riprap drainage channel at the entrance in areas where bare soil is exposed. He said he is going to meet with Willy Thiel Friday, September 13, to discuss costs.

He said ARPA funds would be used for both of these projects.

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to allow Commissioner Owen to move forward with the riprap project at a cost not to exceed \$3,000, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

The Commission and Treasurer Taylor then discussed using ARPA funds to remove plant material from the City's public roads right-of-way when the plant material extends into the paved

portion of the road and blocks the vision of both pedestrians and drivers. Treasurer Taylor said that health and safety issues are generally acceptable uses of ARPA funds. No action was taken.

Technology Services and Community Security

No report.

Communications and Neighborhood

No report.

Other Business

City Clerk Keats said she would mail the 2024 City of Hills and Dales property tax bills to property owners next week.

Adjournment

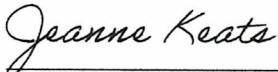
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



10-17-2024

Approved by
Mayor Andreas Wokutch

Date



Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

10-11-24

Date

***NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Treasurer, Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive***