

City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Commissioner Roger Owen, 3315 Mt. Rainier Drive. City Officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch and Commissioners Michael Adair, Bill Bowman, Roger Owen and Barbara Rogers and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Treasurer Joan Taylor was absent. Resident Kathy Weisbach also attended. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the May 11, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Resident Comments

At the April 13, 2023 Commission meeting, the Commission made a motion to give resident Kathy Weisbach access to view the City's proposed community website on WordPress and then present her ideas for enhancing the visual appeal of the site to the Commission. Using Weebly, another website builder, Ms. Weisbach created some preliminary concepts which the Commission viewed. It was agreed that she should build on those concepts and present and discuss more detail to the Commission at the July 13 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor was absent from the meeting; however, she had emailed the May financials to the Commission in advance of the meeting for their review.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's May financials. Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Passage of 2023-2024 Tax Ordinance

After brief discussion, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 property tax ordinance which increases the City of Hills and Dales property tax rate from 18.9 to 19.5 cents per \$100 of PVA assessed property value. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

2023-2024 Budget Ordinance

After brief discussion, Mayor Wokutch made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance, Commissioner Adair seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Planning Committee Issues

Mayor Wokutch and the Commission discussed the City's Declaration of Restrictions and the Planning Committee's role therein. The discussion centered around the failure of some residents to present their plans for exterior construction projects to the Planning Committee for review prior to building. The Commission noted that the Declaration of Restrictions does not give the Planning Committee or the Commission any enforcement authority as it relates to these kinds of situations.

The Commission discussed the possibility of changing the Declaration of Restrictions to address this issue; however, the Commission noted that changing the Declaration of Restrictions requires written approval by **“owners of one-half or more in the area of the property restricted”**. No action was taken.

Maintenance Concerns Reported by Residents

Mayor Wokutch told the Commission that a resident expressed concerns about overgrown bushes in the public roads right-of-way which makes seeing traffic difficult when drivers exit Hills and Dales towards Prospect. Right-of-way maintenance along U.S. 42 is the responsibility of the State Transportation Department; however, Commissioner Owen said he would take care of this.

Mayor Wokutch said another resident was concerned about vines growing on some trees in the forest along the upper lawn area. Commissioner Owen said he would take care of this as well.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Review of ARPA Proposed Projects

Commissioner Owen reported that GroundWorx is behind schedule but still plans to begin work on the City's two entrance drainage projects shortly. GroundWorx has quoted \$5,050 to repair the small rock drainage channel at the entrance and \$6,300 to clean out the large drainage ditch that runs along the entrance woods. Both projects will be paid from ARPA funds in the new fiscal which begins July 1, 2023.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Commissioner Bowman reported no activity.

Technology Services and Community Security

Network Video Recorder (NVR)

Commissioner Adair reported that Unified Technologies has re-programmed the NVR and it is working. He said some issues with the license plate reader are still being addressed.

Website Project

Commissioner Adair told the Commission there are pros and cons to both online website builders, WordPress and Weebly. He told the Commission that if the decision is for Kathy to go forward with the website using Weebly, the hillsanddales.city domain would have to be transferred from WordPress to Weebly, and he would have to initiate the transfer.

Communications and Neighborhood

Summer Gathering

Commissioner Rogers reported that very few residents have responded that they will attend the planned June 24 summer gathering. She said the flat fee for the taco truck is \$1,100, and she and the Commission were concerned about spending this amount for a very small number of attendees. Commissioner Rogers said she would give it a few more days, discuss the situation with the Halls who had agreed to host the event in their yard, and report back to the Commission.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Wokutch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Bowman seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Andreas Wokutch
Approved by
Mayor Andreas Wokutch

7/15/23
Date

Jeanne Keats
Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

July 13, 2023
Date

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive