

**City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive. City Officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch, Commissioners Michael Adair, Bill Bowman and Barbara Rogers, City Clerk Jeanne Keats, Treasurer Joan Taylor and resident Kathy Weisbach. Commissioner Owen was absent. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the June 8, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting minutes and the minutes of the Public Hearing on the tax rate increase also held on June 8. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Adair seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Resident Comments

See "Special Guest" below.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported that as of June 30, 2023 (the last date of the 2022-2023 fiscal year), the City had total assets of \$307,501.84. She reviewed actual revenues and expenses vs. the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 which showed that the City received 93.3% of budgeted revenues and spent only 63.9% budgeted expenses. Finally, she reported that City revenues were 23.4% more and expenses were 4.8% less in fiscal 2022-2023 than in the prior fiscal year.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's financials through June 30, 2023. Commissioner Rogers so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Special Guest Kathy Weisbach

Resident Kathy Weisbach attended the meeting to participate in continued discussions following the June 8 commission meeting regarding the proposed community website. Each city official had been provided with a link to the proposed website prior to the meeting. (See Technology Services below.)

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technology Services and Community Security

Website Project

Commissioner Adair reviewed with the Commission the various issues regarding the proposed community website including whether to use WordPress or Weebly, domain and email issues, overall web administration and cost factors.

Following discussion, Mayor Wokutch made a motion for Commissioner Adair to point the hillsanddales.city URL to the Weebly website, for the Commission to name resident Kathy Weisbach as the web administrator and for the parties involved to resolve any website related cost details with Treasurer Joan Taylor. Commissioner Adair seconded the motion, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

(Resident Kathy Weisbach left the meeting after the motion passed.)

Municipal Governance and Legal

No report.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Review of ARPA Proposed Projects

In Commissioner Owen's absence, Commissioner Bowman reported on the current drainage projects. He told the Commission that GroundWorx has been on site for over a week dredging and installing rip rap where needed in the natural drainage channel in the woods along the entrance road. Ground Worx has also done some preliminary work on the repair of the small drain located below the entrance sign.

Restoration/Repair of City Entrance Sign

In Commissioner Owen's absence, City Clerk Keats told the Commission that Commission Owen asked her to inform them of the poor condition of the City's entrance sign. She said she has sent photos of the sign to both Pohl Iron Works and Rueff Signs and has asked each for cost estimates for restoration/repair (or even replacement) of this sign.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Road Repair "Watch List"

Commissioner Bowman told the Commission about several small areas of asphalt in the community that are beginning to fail. He said that repairs are not needed right away, but these areas bear watching. He said he would keep the Commission advised.

Resident Complaint re: Appearance of Woods

Commissioner Bowman reported that a few residents have complained about the look of the wooded area along the City's entrance road, specifically the number of large downed trees. The Commission noted that downed tree logs in the woods provide habitat for many animals and organisms and, as trees decompose, nutrients are recycled into the soil creating a favorable habitat for the growth of new trees. Nevertheless, some suggested that after the current drainage project is complete, there may be the need for some "tidying up" along the edge of the woods.

Communications and Neighborhood

Summer Newsletter Topics

- **New Topics:** Commissioner Rogers gave the Commission a copy of last summer's newsletter for review and asked for any new topics which they would like included in this summer's newsletter.

- **Summer Gathering:** She asked the Commission if they wanted her to pursue a summer community gathering later in the summer since the response to a June gathering was low. The Commission was not in favor of pursuing a late summer event.
- **Residents Leaving/New Residents:** She said residents Troy and Karen Willis recently put their home on the market, and new residents Matt and Leah Williams have moved into the home they recently purchased from Ned and Maryann Reifschneider who have relocated to Florida.
- **Website Launch:** She said she would get with Kathy Weisbach re: a website launch date and include it in the newsletter.

Proposed Amendment to Declaration of Restrictions


At the June 8 Commission meeting, Commissioner Rogers and the Commission discussed the fact that the language in the 1968 Amended Declaration of Restrictions regarding the Planning Committee is so vague that, over the years, the Committee's effectiveness has been limited. The Commission agreed a first step in finding out what might work better for the community would be to consult with an attorney who practices municipal law. Mayor Wokutch said he would make some inquiries.

Other Business

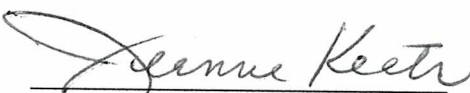
There was no other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Adair made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mayor Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


 Approved by
 Mayor Andreas Wokutch

8/14/23
 Date


 Submitted by
 City Clerk Jeanne Keats

August 10, 2023
 Date

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive