

City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive. City Officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch and Commissioners Michael Adair, Bill Bowman and Roger Owen. Commissioner Barbara Rogers was absent. Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats also attended. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the April 13, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. After discussion, Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Bowman seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Resident Comments

No residents were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported on financials through April 30, 2023. She told the Commission the Balance Sheet showed City assets of \$314,164.50 and the City has no liabilities. The Profit and Loss Detail showed total income for the month of April of \$483.43 and total expenses of \$3,108.64. As per Commission approval at the April meeting, Treasurer Taylor told the Commission that she has transferred \$1,600 from Reserve to Maintenance in order to have sufficient funds to cover maintenance services through June 30, 2023.

Mayor Wokutch then called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report on April financials. Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Second Reading 2023-2024 Tax Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission discussed the City's Property Tax. City Clerk Keats told the Commission that the PVA's 2023 property assessments for our City remained approximately the same as the 2022 assessments. After discussion, the Commission agreed it would be prudent to increase the property tax rate from 18.9 cents to 19.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value in order to address inflation issues.

The Commission will formally approve the 2023-2024 Property Tax Ordinance at the June meeting following a brief public hearing which will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, at the home of Commissioner Roger Owen. This hearing will be an opportunity for any property owner to discuss the property tax increase with the Commission. City Clerk Keats will email a notice to residents.

Second Reading 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission continued discussing the 2023-2024 proposed budget. The Commission will formally approve the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance at the June meeting.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS
Municipal Governance and Legal

No report.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Tree Uprooted and Rock Dislodged

Commissioner Owen reported that a tree was uprooted and a large rock was dislodged at the top of the rock wall along the entrance. He said the tree fell on the Allen's property at 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive, and it will be their responsibility to have it cleared away. Commissioner Adair expressed interest in finding a way to have the large rock moved to his property.

Review of ARPA Proposed Projects

Following up on the Commission's discussion at the April meeting, Commissioners Owen and Bowman discussed two quotes recently obtained from GroundWorx Landscape Management.

Small Rock Drainage Channel. In late summer 2022, GroundWorx Landscape Management provided a written quote of \$4,907.80 to repair the small rock drainage channel at the entrance. Due to an increase in the cost of stone, the quote now is \$5,050.

Large Drainage Ditch along the Entrance Woods. In the late summer of 2022, GroundWorx provided a ballpark figure of \$4,000-\$4,500 to clear out and reconfigure certain areas of the drainage ditch along the entrance woods to make it functional again. The current quote for this project is \$6,300. The quote includes a French drain-like structure in the small swale that runs from below the Allen's driveway at 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive into a drain that goes under Mt. Rainier and into the drainage ditch. This quote also includes some erosion repair adjacent to the paved road.

Commissioner Owen said that GroundWorx can schedule the small rock drainage channel project in May. While this project is currently budgeted for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, Treasurer Taylor said there are sufficient ARPA funds available in the current budget for this project. Therefore, she will adjust the 2023-2024 ARPA budget figure to reflect the earlier timing of this project. It is anticipated that the larger drainage project will still occur after July 1 in the next fiscal year.

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve these two projects, Commissioner Adair so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Commissioner Bowman told the Commission that he submitted an online service request to LG&E regarding the entrance lights along Mt. Rainier Drive which have been out for over a

month. Others have also called to report these outages. He said he received a tracking number which will aid him in tracking the progress of the repairs.

Technology Services and Community Security

Network Video Recorder (NVR)

Commissioner Adair reported that there have been no issues with the new NVR that Unified Technologies recently installed.

Next Steps Website

Commissioner Adair said that there is nothing to report at this time.

Communications and Neighborhood

Summer Gathering

Commissioner Rogers was absent from the meeting, but she emailed city officials to say that Bob and Lisa Hall have agreed on June 24 for the City's summer community gathering at their home. Their time preference is 4-7 p.m., and Lisa is looking into getting a taco truck. Treasurer Taylor asked if a pool party sponsored by the City created liability issues for the City. The Commission was not sure. No action was taken.

Other Business

Ralph Johanson and the Unused Public Roads Right-of-Way

Commissioner Owen said he told Ralph that the Commission believed he would need to seek legal counsel regarding his desire to acquire all or part of the unused public roads right-of-way that abuts his property. Commissioner Owen said Ralph seemed inclined to drop the matter.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Andreas Wokutch
Approved by
Mayor Andreas Wokutch

June 8, 2023
Date

Jeanne Keats
Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

June 8, 2023
Date

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Public Meeting, Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.
Home of Commissioner Roger Owen, 3315 Mt. Rainier Drive