

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

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mayor Pro Tem Roger Owen, 3315 Mt. Rainier Drive. City Officials present were Mayor Andreas Wokutch, Commissioners Michael Adair, Roger Owen and Barbara Rogers and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Commissioner Bill Bowman and Treasurer Joan Taylor were absent. Mayor Wokutch was running a little late, so Mayor Pro Tem Owen called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the November 9, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Adair so moved, Mayor Pro Tem Owen seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

There was no meeting on December 14, 2023, as there was not a quorum.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor was absent from the meeting, but she provided the Commission with financials through December 31, for their review. Mayor Pro Tem Owen asked if there were any questions regarding the financials.

After brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the financials through December 31, 2024, Commissioner Rogers so moved, Commissioner Adair seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

At this point, Mayor Wokutch joined the meeting.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Discussion – Municipal Attorney to Review Declaration of Restrictions

Mayor Wokutch reported that he had communicated with attorney John Singler about doing a legal review of the City's Declaration of Restrictions and, perhaps, other selected documents. He said Mr. Singler would be able to perform the review and his fees are reasonable. After discussion, the Commission determined that this year's budget for legal/professional fees was insufficient to fund this project right now; however, the Commission would like to engage Mr. Singler as soon as possible after July 1, the start of the City's new budget cycle. Mayor Wokutch will follow up with Mr. Singler.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Discussion – Maintenance Projects for 2024

Commissioner Owen told the Commission about some of the projects he is considering for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Forsythia Bushes. Removal of the old forsythia bushes to the left of the entrance sign and near U.S. 42. He would like to either let the periwinkle fill in this area or select more suitable plant material(s).

Bush Honeysuckle. Control of the invasive bush honeysuckle in the entrance forest. He said this invasive honeysuckle shades saplings and prevents them from growing into mature trees for the forest.

General Cleanup of the Woods. Selective removal of dead logs in the upper part of the entrance forest. This would be in conjunction with this past summer's drainage project using ARPA funds.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

In Commissioner Bowman's absence, Commissioner Owen reported that the Nalley's Lawn Service LLC is set to provide snow removal services for the City this winter.

Technology Services and Community Security

Commissioner Adair told the Commission that Unified Technologies recently adjusted the NVR (network video recorder) at the entrance for better identification of license plates.

City Clerk Keats also told the Commission that Treasurer Taylor just paid an invoice for \$1,824.56 for the City's 3-year renewal of the UnifiedCare Complete program. This program provides technical support for equipment related to the City's entrance security system. The cost of this program was approved for inclusion in the City's 2023-2024 budget under Entrance Security System.

Communications and Neighborhood

After Event Report 2023 Holiday Gathering

Commissioner Rogers reported that 26 people attended the annual holiday gathering hosted by Cindy and David Daunhauer on Friday, December 15. The City's total expense for food and services for the event was \$766.17. The Commission thanked Commissioner Rogers and the Daunhauer's for making this event so enjoyable.

Communications Updates

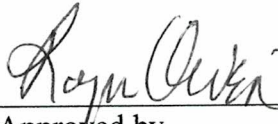
Commissioner Rogers told the Commission that she would like to add a new "Resident Reminders" page to the City's website. This page will include things that need to be remembered all the time such as the speed limit, leash law, parking regulations, DIG law, etc. The existing "Announcements" page would continue to be for the purpose of informing residents of such things as meeting dates and events. The Commission was favorable towards these changes to the website.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

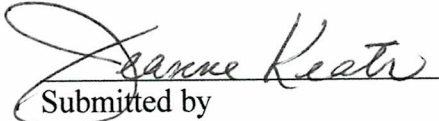
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

 Mayor Pro Tem

Approved by
~~Mayor Andreas Wokutch~~
Mayor Pro Tem Roger Owen

2-8-24

Date



Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

2-8-24

Date

***NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Treasurer, Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive***