

**City of Hills and Dales**  
**Minutes of the City Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive. City officials present were Commissioners Bill Bowman, Roger Owen and Barbara Rogers, Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Mayor Andreas Wokutch and Commissioner Michael Adair were absent. Mayor Pro Tem Owen called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

***Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the February 8, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

**Treasurer's Report**

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported total City assets as of February 29, 2024 of \$330,045.08. February's total income was \$6,475.24 and total expenses were \$10,129.51. Both income and expenses to date are in line with the budget.

***After brief discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the financials through February 29, 2024, Commissioner Rogers so moved, Commissioner Bowman seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

Municipal Road Aid Cooperative Program

Treasurer Taylor went on to review a letter which was sent to all city mayors regarding the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's voluntary Municipal Road Aid Cooperative Program for the state fiscal year 2025.

***After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion not to participate in this program, and to direct City Clerk Keats to inform the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet of the Commission's decision by the response date of March 29, 2024. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

Discussion of Budget and Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Treasurer Taylor, reviewed each line item of the proposed 2024-2025 budget with the commissioners and preliminary estimates of income and expenses were made. City Clerk Keats noted that the city's waste management contract with Rumpke (the city's largest single expense item) expires June 30, 2024 and a new contract will have to be negotiated.

City Clerk Keats said the city will not receive its 2024 total property assessments from the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration until late April. When that information becomes available, the commission will be able to fully discuss the city's property tax rate.

The Commission will have its first reading of the proposed budget and property tax ordinances at the April 11 commission meeting.

## REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Municipal Governance and Legal**

In Mayor Wokutch's absence, Mayor Pro Tem Owen reminded commissioners that a new Commission will be elected at the General Election on November 5, 2024. Current commissioners' terms will end December 31, 2024 and those wishing to run again must either submit their candidate paperwork to the Board of Elections by June 4 at 4:00 p.m. or, alternately, file as a write-in candidate by October 25, 2024.

It is anticipated that there will be vacancies on the Commission that will need to be filled. The term for commissioners elected on November 5, will be January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

### **Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification**

#### Damaged Street Light

Mayor Pro Tem Owen reported that the damaged and leaning street light at the corner of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Rainier has been replaced by LG&E.

#### Spring Cleanup

Mayor Pro Tem Owen said that Green Up, LLC has completed the spring cleanup and mulching at the entrance for a cost of \$4,963.50.

#### Completion of Rock Drainage Channel Project

Mayor Pro Tem Owen reported that Green Up LLC quoted \$1,700 to complete the clean-up of the rock drainage channel along the woods which was refurbished this past summer. Work would include removing honeysuckle and other unwanted plant material, fallen branches and smaller downed trees, etc. in and around the drainage channel. This channel was refurbished this past summer using ARPA funds, and ARPA funds would also be used for this related work.

*After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve Green Up LLC's quote of \$1,700 to clean up in and around the woods drainage channel and to use ARPA funds for this work which constitutes the completion of the summer drainage project. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.*

#### Tree Planting

Mayor Pro Tem Owen told the Commission there are sufficient funds in this year's maintenance budget to plant two dogwood trees, and he suggested one right at the entrance and one near the daffodil bed further up the Mt. Rainier. He anticipates the per tree cost including installation to be approximately \$420.

*After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to approve the planting of two dogwood trees in the entrance common area for a cost of approximately \$420 each, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the commission approved by unanimous vote.*

#### Entrance Forsythia Bushes

Mayor Pro Tem Owen also talked about the forsythia bushes at the entrance again. He said that since they did bloom fairly nicely this season, he believes leaving them is reasonable; however, he will ask Green Up LLC to weed and clean up around these plants.

### **Roads, Snow Removal and Signage**

Commissioner Bowman reported that he did not foresee any expenses in the new fiscal year for street signage or road maintenance. Additionally, since LG&E owns and maintains the street lights, he said repairs/replacements should be handled by LG&E as needed at no cost to the city.

### **Technology Services and Community Security**

#### Break-In Attempts

Commissioner Adair was absent from the meeting, but prior to the meeting he emailed the Commission. He said that there was evidence of a couple of unsuccessful attempts to access autos the week of February 12; however, he is not aware of any further incidents.

#### Homeless Camp

He also communicated with the Commission that the homeless camp which was discovered last month on private property that backs up to U.S. 42 across from the entrance to our community, is being cleaned up, and it appears that the homeless couple has moved on.

Our District Councilman Scott Reed's office, Metro Louisville 311, and LMPD were all notified of this camp by Hills and Dales city officials and concerned residents, and all agencies were involved in the resolution of the situation.

### **Communications and Neighborhood**

#### Next Neighborhood Handout

Commissioner Rogers talked with the Commission about topics for the next neighborhood handout such as the November election of a new commission. She said these short handouts will continue to direct residents to the City's website for more information about our community.

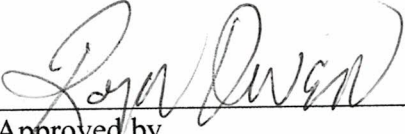
#### Summer Neighborhood Outdoor Gathering

Commissioner Rogers also discussed preliminary thoughts regarding an outdoor summer community gathering.

**Other Business**

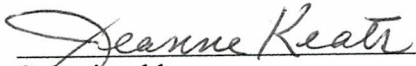
**Adjournment**

*There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Pro Tem Owen called for a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Owen

4/11/24  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Submitted by

City Clerk Jeanne Keats

4-11-24  
Date

***NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - Thursday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m.  
At the home of Treasurer, Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive***