

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

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, April 11, 2024, 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, Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Commissioner Roger Owen was absent. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Commissioner Adair seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported total City assets as of March 31, 2024 of \$327,923.17. March's total income was \$750.37 and total expenses were \$2,872.28. Both income and expenses to date are in line with the budget.

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

First Reading – 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission discussed the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. After discussion, Treasurer Taylor said she would make appropriate adjustments and have them available for the second reading at the May 9 Commission meeting. City Clerk Keats said she would contact Rumpke to obtain a quote for costs associated with the City's contract renewal. The current contract expires on June 30, 2024.

Treasurer Taylor ask the Commission to continue thinking of appropriate uses for the City's remaining ARPA funds of \$21,125. Commissioner Adair said he would still like for the Commission to consider using ARPA funds to develop a park with walking paths in the City's common area.

First Reading – 2024-2025 Property Tax Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission discussed the City's property current tax rate of 19.5 cents/\$100 of assessed property value in light of the City's current and future financial needs. Commissioner Adair suggested that, while the City's roads are in good condition now, it may be useful for future planning to get some road paving estimates at today's prices. Road paving has historically been the City's largest expense. Commission Bowman said he would make some calls and have some estimates for the May meeting.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Commissioner Candidate Filing Deadlines

Mayor Wokutch reminded commissioners that a new Commission will be elected at the General Election on November 5, 2024, and that 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. The new term for those elected on November 5 will be January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Bowman told the Commission he did not plan to run for another term. Therefore, Commissioner Rogers said a notice would be sent to residents letting them know that at least one opening on the Commission would need to be filled.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Completion of Rock Drainage Channel Project

Reporting for Commissioner Owen, City Clerk Keats told the Commission that Green Up LLC completed the clean-up around the rock drainage channel in the woods. Green Up was paid \$1,700 from ARPA funds for the project. This was approved by the Commission at the March 14 Commission meeting.

Tree Planting

City Clerk Keats also reported that Commissioner Owen is still looking for a couple of nice dogwood trees to plant in the entrance common area. At the March 14 Commission meeting, the Commission approved an expenditure up to \$420 per tree (including tree installation).

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

No report.

Technology Services and Community Security

Hills and Dales Mass Email Management

Commissioner Adair recommended a procedure to the Commission which would better protect residents' email privacy when they are recipients of one of the City's mass emails. City Clerk Keats, who is the person who generally sends mass email communications to residents on behalf of the Commission, said she will use this recommended procedure in the future.

Communications and Neighborhood

Summer Neighborhood Outdoor Gathering

Commissioner Rogers told the Commission she is ready to email Punch Bown invitations to residents for the summer community potluck which is scheduled for Sunday, June 9. The event will be held in the yard of Treasurer Taylor and her husband, Greg Litaker.

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 the meeting, Commissioner Bowman so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Andreas Wokutch
Approved by
Mayor Andreas Wokutch

5/9/24
Date

Jeanne Keats
Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

5/9/24
Date

***NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Treasurer, Joan Taylor, 3300 Mt. Rainier Drive***