

City of Hills and Dales
Minutes of the City Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The Commission met in regular session on Thursday, June 13, 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, Roger Owen and Barbara Rogers, Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Mayor Wokutch called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve the May 9, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Adair so moved, Commissioner Owen seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Resident Comments

There were no residents in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Financials

Treasurer Taylor reported total City assets as of May 31, 2024 of \$323,133.44, and the City has no liabilities. May's total income was \$4,254.68 and total expenses were \$4,566.23. Year-to-date income, as compared to the budget, is up and year-to-date expenses, as compared to the budget, are down. Treasurer Taylor reminded the Commission that the City's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds of \$19,397 must be contractually committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

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

Changes to City's Insurance

The Commission learned at the May meeting that many insurers are no longer insuring municipalities. Our broker, Arthur J. Gallagher Company (AJG) told Treasurer Taylor that our carrier, Liberty Mutual, is one such company. AJG seemed unable to find a replacement company for our City's commercial insurance package.

Treasurer Taylor sought assistance from the Prospect Insurance Group who found one insurer, Auto-Insurance Co. in Southern Indiana, that is still writing coverage for municipalities. Auto-Owner's quote for our City's commercial coverage was comparable to our current coverage and it also incorporates much-needed updated replacement values for our covered property. The one-year premium for coverage from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 is \$3,000. A quote from the Kentucky League of Cities was also discussed, but the premium was considerably more, and the Auto-Owner's product seemed to be a better fit for our small City.

After discussion, Mayor Wokutch made a motion for Treasurer Taylor to direct Prospect Insurance Group to proceed to obtain a commercial policy package from Auto-Owners Insurance for our City for the term July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at a premium cost of \$3,000.

Treasurer Taylor said that AJG will continue to insure the bonds of \$100,000 each for Mayor Wokutch and Treasurer Taylor.

Passage – 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission did their final review of the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

After discussion, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1, the 2024-2025 budget ordinance. Commissioner Rogers so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Passage - 2024-2025 Property Tax Ordinance

Treasurer Taylor and the Commission did their final review of the property tax ordinance which increases the City's current property tax rate of 19.5 cents to 20.0 cents per each \$100 of a property's assessed value.

After discussion, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-2, the 2024-2025 property tax ordinance which increases the property tax rate from 19.5 cents to 20.0 cents. Commissioner Bowman so moved, Mayor Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Once these ordinances are signed by Mayor Wokutch, City Clerk Keats will mail both ordinances by first-class mail to residents which will fulfill a Kentucky statute that requires all ordinances to be "published".

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Governance and Legal

Commissioner Candidate Filings

Mayor Wokutch inquired about the status of commissioner candidate filings. City Clerk Keats reported that current commissioners Michael Adair, Roger Owen and Barbara Rogers and resident Jeff Burnett have filed as commissioner candidates for the term January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. Their names will appear on the ballot for residents of Hills and Dales to consider on General Election Day, November 5, 2024. Any additional individuals who wish to run for the office of City of Hills and Dales commissioner may file as write-in candidates if they do so by the late filing deadline of October 25, 2024. Four commissioners must be elected.

Rumpke Renewal

Mayor Wokutch called on City Clerk Keats to provide the Commission with an update on the Rumpke Waste Management renewal. At the May meeting, the Commission voted to transition to all curbside trash collection in order to save a considerable amount on the cost of waste management services. Rumpke is to provide free 95-gallon trash carts to any resident who did

not already have one on June 26. Last week, Christopher Pierce, a Rumpke representative, said Rumpke wishes to eliminate their 18-gallon recycle bins and replace them with Rumpke's 65-gallon recycle carts on wheels. Mr. Pierce proposed that Rumpke provide one 65-gallon recycle cart to every household that does not already have one to replace the 18-gallon bins. City Clerk Keats informed the Commission and then polled residents regarding this change, and the responses were favorable.

Following discussion, Mayor Wokutch made a motion for City Clerk Keats is to accept, on behalf of the City Commission, Rumpke's offer of one free 65-gallon recycling cart along with one free 95-gallon trash cart for each household in Hills and Dales. Furthermore, City Clerk Keats is to coordinate with Rumpke personnel to amend the contract Addendum for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 to include both the free trash carts and the free recycle carts; all other terms of the Addendum to remain the same. Commissioner Adair seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.

Rumpke is to deliver the new trash and recycling carts to those residents who do not already have them on Wednesday, June 26, and all residents will begin using these carts for curbside service only on Monday, July 1.

Roads, Snow Removal and Signage

Commonwealth's Quote for Road Paving

Commissioner Bowman briefly reiterated Commonwealth Paving's proposal of \$250,000 to pave our City's roads at today's costs. This is double what it cost for all the roads in Hills and Dales to be paved in 2015, the last time the City's roads were paved. Road paving is the City's largest expense and, therefore, it is a cost that needs to be carefully monitored.

Maintenance, Utilities and Beautification

Control of Invasive Honeysuckle in Entrance Woods (ARPA funded)

At the May meeting, Commissioner Owen provided the Commission with information about how invasive honeysuckle can destroy woodlands. The Commission agreed this is a significant problem in the City's entrance woods which should be addressed. Therefore, they asked Commissioner Owen to get some quotes for control of this invasive plant for discussion at the July meeting.

Quotes for Other Projects

Commissioner Owen said that he was unable to get quotes for several other projects from Willy Thiel of GreenUp LLC in time for this meeting. The projects are:

1. removal of an older red bud tree that is in poor condition and hanging over the Allen driveway at 3200 Mt. Rainier Drive;
2. trimming plant material (primarily viburnum) in the "project area" (toward the upper end of the entrance road behind the curb); and
3. trimming and removing some of the overgrown forsythia bushes in an easement between 3412 and 3420 Mt. Rainier Drive.

After discussion, the Commission asked Commissioner Owen to try to accomplish items 1. and 2. in this budget cycle (which ends June 30) for a cost not to exceed \$500. Commissioner Owen agreed, and said he would also obtain a quote or quotes for the forsythia bush project for the Commission to discuss at the July Commission meeting. July 1 begins the new fiscal year.

Commissioner Rogers said she would contact the property owners at 3200 Mt. Rainier Drive to let them know of the Commission's conversations about removing the redbud tree.

Technology Services and Community Security

Vehicle Break-Ins at 3503 Mt. Rainier Drive

Commissioner Adair said there was no new information regarding the recent vehicle break-ins at 3503 Mt. Rainier Drive. However, he reported that LMPD just announced the arrest of six suspects they believe are responsible for a string of vehicle thefts in the east end of Louisville and, in fact, in neighborhoods all across the Louisville Metro.

Communications and Neighborhood

Summer Neighborhood Outdoor Gathering

Commissioner Rogers told the Commission that the weather, the venue, the food and the general camaraderie of the community made the potluck on Sunday, June 9, a great success. The Commission complimented Commissioner Rogers for her excellent planning and execution of the event, and also thanked Treasurer Taylor and her husband, Greg, for hosting the event and providing such a comfortable location for everyone to enjoy.

Neighborhood News Flyer

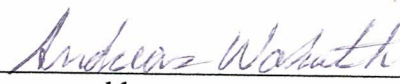
Commissioner Rogers said she would try to get a brief neighborhood news flyer out in June.

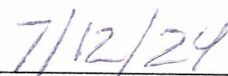
Other Business

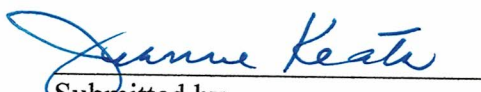
None.

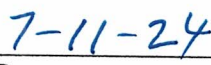
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Wokutch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.


Approved by
Mayor Wokutch


Date


Submitted by
City Clerk Jeanne Keats


Date

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