

**City of Hills and Dales**  
**Minutes of the City Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 8, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Commission met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mayor Ralph Johanson at 3209 Mt. Rainier Drive. Present were Mayor Johanson and Commissioners Roger Owen, Barbara Rogers, and Andreas Wokutch, and Treasurer Joan Taylor and City Clerk Jeanne Keats. Commissioner Michael Adair was absent. Mayor Johanson called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

*Mayor Johanson called for a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Wokutch so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.*

*Mayor Johanson called for a motion to approve the July 23 Special Commission Meeting minutes. The special meeting was called to hear the first reading of amended tax and budget ordinances. These ordinances were being amended as a result of information provided by the Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration (PVA) that the City's tax rate of 21.5 cents/\$100 of assessed property was going to create tax revenues in excess of the 4% increase as outlined in House Bill 44. The PVA's 2022 much higher property assessments caused this situation. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.*

**Resident Comments**

No residents were in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report on Financials**

Treasurer Taylor reported on financials through August 31, 2022. She said the Balance Sheet showed City assets of \$287,794.79 and the City has no liabilities. The Profit and Loss Detail showed total income for the month of July of \$3,853.37 and total expenses of \$4,456.94. She said there were no concerns in the Profit and Loss Previous Comparison and the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual showed that revenues and expenses were in line with the budget.

Treasurer Taylor further reported that she had received receipts from Commissioner Owen for crack fill and weed killer in the amount of \$44.50 and would reimburse him as per the motion made by the Commission at its **July 13, 2017** meeting. The motion allows discretionary spending from the City's maintenance budget up to \$300 a month. The Commission made this motion to facilitate completion of routine and minor maintenance tasks in a timely manner rather than making Commissioner Owen wait until the next Commission meeting for approval.

*Mayor Johanson called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report on the financials. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.*

**One-Time Premium Pay – Suburban Fire Districts**

Treasurer Taylor reported that the Jefferson County League of Cities (JCLC) has asked each Home Rule city to report by October 1 what amount, if any, it will pledge from its American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) funds for a one-time premium pay to suburban fire districts to cover some \$5,000,000 in extra expenses as a result of COVID 19.

Metro Council recognized that suburban fire personnel were providing services in portions of Metro Louisville that Metro EMS would normally be responsible. Treasurer Taylor said Metro Council's premium pay ordinance was amended to include language that sets aside funding for premium pay for suburban fire personnel ***on the condition that Home Rule cities partner with Metro Council to fund it.*** Metro Louisville has pledged \$3,600,000 towards the \$5,000,000 being requested by Suburban fire districts for one-time premium pay, and Home Rule cities are being asked to fund the remaining \$1,400,000.

***Following discussion and noting the very small allocation of ARPA funds received by the City of Hills and Dales in comparison to the total allocation of ARPA funds received by all Home Rule cities in Jefferson County, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to approve \$1,000 of the City's ARPA funds for one-time premium pay for suburban fire districts. Commissioner Wokutch so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

City Clerk Keats will report the City of Hills and Dales' \$1,000 pledge to the Jefferson County League of Cities and wait for further instructions.

## **REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration and Environment**

#### Second Reading and Passage – Amended Property Tax Ordinance

***Following the second reading and discussion, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to pass the Amended Ad Valorem Tax Ordinance 2022-4 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, lowering the tax rate from 21.5 cents to 18.9 cents to be in compliance with House Bill 44. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded, and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

#### Second Reading and Passage – Amended Budget Ordinance

***Following the second reading and discussion, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to pass the Amended Budget Ordinance 2022-3 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which reduces property tax income from \$62,966 to \$54,730 as a result of the rollback of the property tax rate from 21.5 cents to 18.9 cents. Commissioner Wokutch so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

Both the amended tax and budget ordinances will be mailed to residents on September 9, 2022 via first-class mail ("published") as required by statute.

#### First Reading – Amended Planning Committee Ordinance

***Following discussion, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to accept the first reading of the Amended Planning Committee Ordinance which allows planning committee members to appoint a property owner to fill a mid-term vacancy on the committee instead of having to hold a special election. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

### **Roads, Maintenance and Utilities**

#### Tree Removal

Commissioner Owen reported that Lopez Tree Service removed two trees for \$1,200 (approved at the July meeting). He went on to say that he is getting another estimate from Lopez Tree Service to remove



four dying sycamore trees that are growing out of the rock wall along Mt. Rainier Drive and leaning over the road. He will report on that estimate at the October meeting.

#### Trees and Overgrown Bushes along U.S. 42

Commissioner Owen also plans to get Lopez Tree Service to provide a quote for cutting back overgrown bushes and trimming trees along U.S. 42 just behind the guardrail. This overgrowth prevents drivers turning left out of Hills and Dales onto U.S. 42 from seeing oncoming vehicles. Tree limbs and vines are also blocking the light from the light post at the intersection of U.S. 42 and Mt. Rainier Drive. Commissioner Owen reported that City Clerk Keats had submitted online requests to both the Kentucky Department of Transportation and also Louisville Metro for this maintenance. U.S. 42 is a state road, but City Clerk Keats was told that this stretch of U.S. 42 is maintained by Louisville metro as per contract.

***Note to Minutes: Louisville Metro performed the requested maintenance work on Friday, September 9.***

#### Discussion of Potential Projects for ARPA Funding

**New Electric Line.** Commissioner Owen discussed a quote of \$23,650 from Ready Electric Company to replace the spliced and deteriorating electric line from the small electric pole near the Stuck's property all the way down Mt. Rainier to the entrance. Electric service to the entrance has been unreliable for years.

***Following discussion, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to accept the Ready Electric quote (adjusted if sales tax has been included), and for the project to be paid from ARPA funds. Commissioner Rogers so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote.***

**Small Rock Drainage Channel.** Commissioner Owen discussed a quote of \$4,907.80 from GroundWorx Landscape Management to replace the deteriorating small rock drainage channel located just under the City's stone entrance sign.

***Following discussion, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to accept the GroundWorx Landscape Management quote (with the 6% sales tax deducted), and for the project to be paid from ARPA funds. Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Rogers seconded and the Commission approved. Commissioner Wokutch abstained.***

**Drainage Ditch in the Woods.** Commissioner Owen told the Commission he received a verbal "ballpark" figure of \$4,000-\$4,500 from GroundWorx to clean out the debris that is clogging the drainage ditch in the woods. GroundWorx and Commissioner Owen will look at this project further later in the fall when the leaves have fallen to get a more accurate assessment of the work to be done.

**Drainage Project through Private Properties.** Finally, Commissioner Owen told the Commission he received a verbal "ballpark" figure of \$25,000, also from GroundWorx, to reconfigure the drainage swale along Mt. Rainier from the Pircher's property at 3206 Mt. Rainier down the hill through the Adair's property at 3206 Mt. Rainier and also through the Stuck's property at 3202 Mt. Rainier. This project would include installing culverts under the Adair and Stuck properties.

The Commission tabled further discussion on these two projects in order for Commissioner Owen to obtain more information. However, it is believed that one or both of these projects could be funded with ARPA funds if the funds are available.

## Technology Services and Community Security

No report.

## Communications and Neighborhood

### 2012 Planning Committee Election Timeline

Commissioner Rogers discussed the timeline for the Planning Committee election. After discussion, City Clerk Keats said she would send an email reminder to residents about the upcoming November Planning Committee election encouraging them to read the October newsletter for more information. A candidate filing form will be included in that newsletter. Commissioner Rogers told the commission that the general timeline is that all candidate filing forms must be mailed to the City's P.O. Box by October 31, and election ballots will be mailed to residents by November 15. Residents will be asked to return their ballots to the City's P. O. Box by December 1. Finally, ballots will be opened and counted at the December 8 Commission meeting.

### October Newsletter

Commissioner Rogers said the October newsletter will include Planning Committee election information, information regarding the November election of a City of Hills and Dales mayor and four commissioners and other articles of interest to the community.

## Legal and Governmental Relations

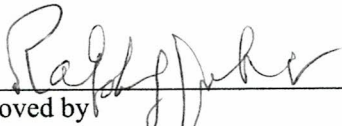
No report.

## Other Business

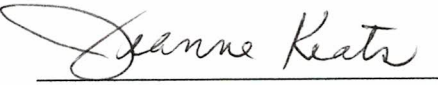
There was no other business.

## Adjournment

*There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Johanson called for a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Owen so moved, Commissioner Wokutch seconded and the Commission approved by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

  
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Approved by  
Mayor, Ralph Johanson

10-13-22  
Date

  
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Submitted by  
City Clerk Jeanne Keats

10-13-22  
Date

***NEXT MEETING-Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mayor Ralph Johanson at 3209 Mt. Rainier Drive unless otherwise notified.***