

Minutes for the City of Worthington Hills
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Date: August 15, 2023

Present: Robert Stonum Crystal Adams Dennis Metcalf Susan Maupin
 Dan Small Bev Lush

Citizens Present: 1

Derby City Protection: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Stonum with motion by Commissioner Maupin and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Vote was unanimous. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited, followed by a moment of silent prayer.

Citizen Concerns: None

Minutes: The July 2023 minutes were brought up for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Maupin to approve the minutes. Vote was unanimous.

Financial Report: The August 2023 Financials had been distributed to the Commission for review and posted on COWH website prior to the City Meeting. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Maupin and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Vote was unanimous.

Expense Review: The cover sheet of August invoices along with invoice copies were passed around for Commissioners to review and initial. No approval motion was needed since Commissioners had already initialed and approved.

Legal Services:

- Only Mr. DeWees attended last month. Commissioners Maupin and Beville have had previous experiences. He sent a letter of engagement and Mayor Stonum sent it via email to our commissioners.
 - o Motion to accept engagement letter for month-to-month services was made by Mayor Stonum and seconded by Commissioner Metcalf. There was a roll call vote and everyone was in favor.
- Unpermitted construction –There was a ‘Stop Work Order’ issued on July 28 for the construction taking place on the property at 4711 Middlesex Drive. Mayor Stonum said no permit was issued. During the building permit application review process, MSD denied permitting the project, and METRO’s Permitting Department ruled to have the structure removed. August 25, 2023 is the next scheduled action date.

Old Business:

- Litter problem – Still doing well
- Commissioner Adams advised that she had misunderstood Mason with Mow Better that he was offering a used can. Maximus Lawn Care is happy with the garbage situation.
- Budget 2023 Final Adjustment – Printed out for all to see as of Monday August 14. Only thing on the ordinance is revenue and expense amounts. Mayor Stonum explained meaning of the 3 columns. Commissioner Adams asked about snow removal a little low. Treasurer Small explained it was for 2023.
 - o Motion to finalize 2023 Budget Worksheet after changes was made by Mayor Stonum and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Vote was unanimous.
- Salary Schedule Plan – still have a few months to finalize. Commissioner Beville was not in attendance at the meeting so this subject was tabled until September meeting.

- Commissioner Metcalf advised to use Channel 16 for radio check this evening.
- Commissioner Adams wanted to discuss the purchase of plants for our islands. Use which card? Tax exempt. Commissioner Maupin advised of annual plant sales around Labor Day. Commissioners Maupin and Adams had a few comments including: maybe plants for front island; no water available; drought resistant; Otte's hours, Harold Hall would like to go; and Commissioner Adams offered lambs ear.

New Business:

- Commissioner Maupin is concerned about school buses coming into the city with unfamiliar new routes. Commissioner Metcalf has noticed drivers are seem confused. There was some discussion on new stop locations and additional stops needed.
- Lockbox – Mayor Stonum had documentation re: lockbox. Asked Treasurer Small about quality of images from lockbox. We are charged for viewing images. Question – are we charged each time he logs in to view checks? Some of the larger payors sent to our P.O.Box. Tax services didn't receive the letter included with tax bills. Does Independence Bank charge to view documents? On-line they have a list of each transaction. Treasurer Small told us that it's much easier doing the tax payments City Clerk Lush's way because she adds the Parcel ID #'s for him, but a lot of extra work for her. City Clerk Lush advised that in 2022, she processed 181 tax payments to forward to Treasurer Small. In 2023, that number increased to 555 (over 320% increase). Only 5 checks went to the lockbox. Treasurer Small asked about the roughly \$32,000 daily limit on deposits at Independence Bank. Mayor Stonum believes that amount is closer to \$36,000, but will ask bank why there is a balance limit. Mayor Stonum has heard lockbox charges will be increased starting August 1.

Commissioners' Reports

Utilities Commissioner Maupin:

- 8-3-23 Received email from resident at 12202 Hideaway Ct stating she had moved and wanted to make sure that she wasn't responsible for any trash bills, etc.
- 8-4-23 I replied to email and assured the resident that she wouldn't be.
- 8-6-23 Drove city for streetlight check
- 8-8-23 Received voicemail from resident asking if the city has a junk pickup day.
- 8-8-23 Replied to Commissioner Beville's email requesting for Rumpke to avoid curb on Boydton Court. I emailed and forwarded Commissioner Beville's email and pictures to Christopher Pierce with Rumpke. I also asked Christopher if Rumpke had ever offered the city a junk day. * I still haven't had a reply from him as of 8-15-23.
- 8-12-23 I called the resident in regards to a junk day. I told him that I didn't recall the city ever having a junk day, but that I had emailed our representative at Rumpke for more info. I then directed him to Lou.gov for info on junk and shred days.
- 8-15-23 Attended city meeting and will participate in radio check with Commissioner Metcalf.

Property Maintenance Commissioner Adams:

- Will participate in the radio checks with Commissioner Metcalf and everyone tonight – Aug. 15th.
- There weren't any citizen requests or concerns this month.
- Advised Maximus Lawncare that their quote was accepted for the tree down in the greenspace near Rustburg Place.
- Advised Maximus Lawncare to schedule the tree removal of the above-mentioned downed tree and also to trim the landscaping and remove the nearly dead bush at the front entrance.
- Will continue to monitor the bushes and landscaping for wilting and stress. Will continue to monitor the temperature and the rain/storms to determine the need for the sprinklers to be turned on.

- Early in the morning of August 9th, I called Mayor Stonum and 911 to report a disturbance and attempted home invasion occurring on Luray Court. Police arrived and suspect was taken into custody and subsequently arrested.
- On Sunday, August 13th, I attended a public forum hosted by state legislators about the JCPS bus situation and lobbied to get a bus stop placed at Kayfield Academy for any children attending Chancey Elementary. I spoke with state Representative Tina Bojanowski about the situation and told her that I find it unacceptable that daycare workers have to walk children down Middlesex Drive all the way into Coldstream in order for them to catch the bus to Chancey Elementary.

Safety Commissioner Metcalf:

- *Drove the city on multiple occasions.*
- *Went to PO with Mayor Stonum each Friday.*
- *Participated in radio checks after last City meeting.*
- *7/23/23 issued a parking permit to 3815 Northumberland Dr.*
- *7/29/23 issued a parking permit to 4507 Micklenburg Ct.*
- *7/30/23 issued a parking permit to 4518 Micklenburg Ct.*
- *7/31/23 issued a parking permit to 3902 Northumberland Dr.*
- *8/5 23 issued parking permits to 4511 Lunenburg Dr. and 4400 Baygarden Ct.*
- *8/8 23 at 1AM I received a call from Mayor Stonum. He had talked to Commissioner Adams. An adult male was knocking on doors on Luray Ct He had been knocking on Harold Hall's door. He advised her to call LMPD. When I got off the phone with the Mayor I went to the location. When I arrived the police were on the scene. I talked to the police officers and they had the individual in custody.*
- *Will conduct radio checks tonight using channel 16.*

Road Commissioner Beville: (Provided to our City Clerk via email after the meeting):

- 7/19/2023 - The Boydton Court project was completed today. It was the first major project of this first time Road Commissioner and it was a success thanks to the help of Mayor Stonum and Commissioners Metcalfe, Maupin and Adams. As of 8/14/2023, despite two major rain storms, we have not experienced any problems with standing water.
- 7/29/2023 – Andrew with Saf-ti-co sent me the proofs of the new speed hump and no parking signs and I approved them.
- 7/25/2023 – Called Even Meyer with All Terrain and discussed my concerns about the newly installed speed hump on Bristol Bay. I was mistaken in thinking the vertical slope was less than the ones installed on Pacelli and other streets throughout the City. The following day when the chevrons were installed the appearance of the slope changed.
- 8/7/2023 – Contacted Commissioner Maupin via email and reported that the Rumpke driver had come within 18” of the newly installed curb on Boydton Court and provided a photo of the tire tracks. She forwarded my email to Chris Pierce at Rumpke explaining why she is requesting he instruct the drivers to use more caution when they are collecting on Boydton.

Mayor's Comments

The City of Worthington Hills is a home rule city, but there are limits on what we have authority to control with ordinances, and if we have an ordinance, we have to have the means to enforce it. Since COWH residents also pay Jefferson County property tax, COWH has opted to have Louisville Metro / Jefferson County Government to enforce their ordinances, codes, and regulations within the City of Worthington Hills. There are several areas of authority that COWH can never have control of. Planning & Zoning is one of them. This agency is the sole enforcement authority on Land Development Code. Their departments are responsible for reviewing and approving or denying permits for new developments, improvements to existing properties, replacement or improvements on HVAC, electrical, plumbing, etc. Honestly the responsibility, liability, and enforcement factors associated with permitting are best left up to the appropriate Louisville Metro / Jefferson County Government agencies.

The top to bottom echelon of authority is... Federal, State County, and City. So, if COWH doesn't have an ordinance covering an issue, and Louisville Metro / Jefferson County Government does, then they have the responsibility, liability, and authority for enforcement.

As a final recommendation to all COWH property owners or residents, if you ever get a response from a Louisville Metro / Jefferson County Government employee stating they can't issue a permit or enforce a Metro ordinance because you live in the City of Worthington Hills, ask that person for their full name and then ask them to email you a written statement justifying their response to you. If they won't do so, ask to speak with their supervisor, and ask that person for their full name and title, and again ask them to email you a written statement justifying their response to you. Do this until you get the justification email or a letter from a Metro employee, so you'll have documentation if an issue or situation arises at a future date and time.

City Clerk Lush asked to confirm City-Wide Yard Sale Date which is Saturday September 16 with rain date of Sunday September 17. Mayor Stonum asked the Commissioners to pay attention and count how many residents participate in the yard sale day to possibly not have specific dates in the future. Might also no longer have the Christmas decoration contest due to the fact that the same people vote for themselves each year.

Mayor Stonum was concerned about the HVAC work being done in the city. No supervisor on site. Vehicle had no proof of license # and no permit was obtained. Whether gas appliances such as HVAC or water heater, permits are required for safety and property assessment.

Mayor Stonum gave an example of grass height. 8 inches vs. 6 inches. METRO already has 10 inches. Why should we duplicate?

METRO parking ordinance states further than 30 feet from stop sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM with a motion by Commissioner Maupin and seconded by Commissioner Metcalf.

Signatures:

City Clerk: _____

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Date: _____