

Minutes for the City of Worthington Hills
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Date: March 18, 2025

Present: Robert Stonum Dennis Metcalf Susan Maupin Cristina Recendez
Linda Beville Dan Small Bev Lush Rob DeWees

Citizens Present: 6

Derby City Protection: 0

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

The Mayor, Commissioners, Treasurer, City Clerk and Attorney introduced themselves to our visitors.

Minutes: The February 2025 minutes were brought up for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Recendez to approve the minutes and seconded by Commissioner Beville. Vote was unanimous.

Financial Report: The February 2025 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 Metcalf. Vote was unanimous

Expense Review: The cover sheet of March 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/Contracting:

- Mayor Stonum advised that COWH had received trash pickup bids from 2 companies. A third company was present at the meeting and there was no objection to also accepting their bid.
- Republic Services was represented by Todd Preher and he handed out their bid.
 - o Questions:
 - Commissioner Beville – What are white goods? APPLIANCES
 - Commissioner Beville – One large item per week per house? YES
 - Commissioner Beville – Still require bedding to be wrapped? YES
 - Mayor Stonum – Recycle? BI-WEEKLY 95 GALLON BIN
 - Commissioner Beville – Snow plow? NO
 - Mayor Stonum – Yard Waste?
 - Commissioner Beville – Enviro services like paint? Must be property prepared?
 - Commissioner Beville – Additional cost for special collection event for COWH? Electronics, etc?
 - Attorney DeWees – Contract? NO – JUST PROPOSAL RIGHT NOW
 - Mayor Stonum – other cities that are clients? LAGRANGE, ANCHORAGE, OLDHAM COUNTY, ETC.
 - Mayor Stonum – Collection Day? WEDNESDAY
 - Mayor Stonum – Wind Storms cause extra yard waste
 - REPUBLIC – Republic pays a vendor to mulch yard waste. Trash is dumped either at transfer spot on Poplar Level Road or landfill in Sulfer, KY
 - How to inform citizens of pickup change? FLYER WOULD BE HANDED OUT WHEN NEW BINS ARE DELIVERED; AND THEN A MAILER

- *Rumpke Waste and Recycling was represented by Chris Pierce and he handed out their bid.*
 - o *Questions*
 - *Mayor Stonum – Had heard a rumor that Rumpke will soon start dumping at Grade Lane? NOT TRUE. A FEW TRUCKS TO OUTER LOOP; MOST TO MEDORA, IN.*
 - *Yard Waste? RUMPKE PICKS UP ALL YEAR*
 - *Mayor Stonum – How did Rumpke figure the tonnage numbers provided by Chris Pierce? THAT IS FIGURED BY WEIGHT.*
 - *Mayor Stonum figured the annual costs per option*
 - *PICKUP DAY WOULD BE FRIDAY*
 - *Eco Tech was represented by Connor Slade and he handed out their bid.*
 - o *QUESTIONS*
 - *Pickup Day – NOT DECIDED YET. WOULD BE 2 TRUCKS COLLECTING IN COWH*
 - *Bulk per house – ONE PER MONTH. POSSIBLY NEED A WEEK’S NOTICE*
 - *Mayor Stonum – Separate trucks per pickup items?*
 - *Mayor Stonum – Is it possible to have invoice broken down into type of waste picked up? YES IF THAT’S HOW COWH WANTS IT*
 - *Commissioner Beville – Dumpsters twice per week? YES*
 - *Mayor Stonum – Only hurdle would be 1 bulk item pickup per month*
 - *Mayor Stonum asked each company:*
 - o *How much lead time needed when our decision is made? (Since supplies must be ordered)*
 - *Republic – 60 DAYS*
 - *Rumpke – NONE SINCE COWH ALREADY USES RUMPKE*
 - *Eco Tech – 60-90 DAYS*
 - o *Commissioner Maupin – COWH Junk Days? Extra Cost?*
 - o *Mayor Stonum advised we would table the discussion for now and decide in April.*
- The three companies were informed they were free to leave at this point.*
- o *Attorney DeWees advised that all contracts looked good*
 - o *One good item – Eco Tech only requires a 30 day notice to be able to cancel*
- *No solicitation matter – Mayor Stonum advised that Attorney DeWees had responded to an email with a letter explaining COWH doesn’t allow solicitation. No reply so far from the email sender.*
 - *Mayor Stonum advised that METRO did not move to increase their insurance premium tax percentage so COWH doesn’t need to move further on this subject.*

Citizens Comments:

- *A couple Bay Garden residents were concerned about*
 - o *a young man hanging around and they would like to have a “No Loitering” sign posted.*
 - o *Advised that part of a fence has been blown down and they are getting bids for the repair.*
- *Commissioner Beville commented that the new mulch in their area looks good.*
- *Same residents said that*
 - o *Bay Garden wants to change from Condominium Association to an HOA.*
 - o *Concerned about the snow removal and paving of streets in their area. Mayor Stonum advised that they are part of COWH so we handle those items. Also streetlights.*
 - o *Advised one resident that the only taxes he would receive living here would be COWH in July and Jefferson County in November.*
 - o *Who owns the chain link fence next to condo building that has fallen down?*

Old Business:

- *Bike to Beat Cancer*
 - o *Mayor Stonum said any involvement by the residents would be fine. He has the contact information if anyone needs it. Police will be both in front and back of COWH. Officer will be at Northumberland and Westport Road to direct traffic for bicyclists' safety. Rules for this event requires riders to obey all traffic rules.*
- *Delinquent Tax Listing*
 - o *There will be a new one created after we receive the PVA information for COWH.*
 - *PVA should be sending out information around April 23, 2025.*
 - *At the April meeting, we will have the first read on property tax rate ordinance.*
 - *The second read will be at the May meeting.*
- *No discussion on the Budget Worksheet*
- *Welcome Committee information on website – still no responses*
- *Commissioner Metcalf advised Channel 2 for radio check tonight.*

New Business:

- *AI Deep Seek software can not be used on city devices or city business. State government also made same decision.*
- *Mayor Stonum and Commissioner Metcalf are aware of illegal immigrants and MS13 in Fincastle.*
- *Municipal ordinance was proposed in 2019, but not completed. KLC said privacy issue.*
- *Mayor Stonum presented a Resolution to the meeting which declares COWH's position on illegals. He would like to pass it and post it on our website. There was much discussion on this resolution including COWH is not a Sanctuary City and how are we to know if someone we see is an illegal?*
- *Commissioner Metcalf advised that Louisville is a sanctuary city, but the police officers are directed to ignore ICE. They can't contact ICE directly. Mayor Stonum wants to state on our website, per the Resolution (a deterrent) that COWH is not a sanctuary city. Mayor Stonum will get Attorney DeWees to look at this sample Resolution*

Commissioner Reports:**Road Commissioner Beville**

- *February 19 – February 28, 2025 – Attended the daily snow/flooding coordination webinar presented by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Office of Emergency Management*
- *March 11 – Attended the 2025 KY Pipeline Safety program*

Utilities Commissioner Maupin:

- *2-27-25 Emailed Christopher Pierce with Rumpke to tell him that the city would be posting the bid for trash pickup.*
- *3-5-25 Email from Mayor Stonum stating that he had spoken to Echo Tech's and Republic's sales representatives in regards to the city's trash pickup*
- *3-11-25 Attended 2025 pipeline Safety Training*
- *3-16-25 Drove city for streetlight check*
- *3-18-25 Voicemail from Elizabeth Stevenson in regards to trash pickup and trash cans. She stated she was told she was to pay for trash service. She will be renting at 4615 Pulaski Court. I will return call 3-19-25*
- *3-18-25 Attended city meeting.*
- *3-18-25 Will participate in radio check tonight*
- *Read all March emails.*

Property Maintenance Commissioner Recendez:

2/19 I received a voice message from a citizen asking about parking regulations. I forwarded the message and the information they needed was provided.

3/11 I attended the Pipeline Safety Program.

I did not receive any complaints from citizens about damaged trees or large branches after the strong winds over the past few days. I saw many fallen branches while driving around. Some of them have already been picked up and removed.

I drove around the city on several occasions, and on Sunday 3/16, on a property along Lunenburg Drive, I noticed a tree was damaged; it was broken. I will follow up in a few days to see if it has been cleared.

Safety Commissioner Metcalf:

- Drove city on multiple occasions.
- Conducted radio checks after last City meeting using channel one. Tonight's radio check 3/18/25, we will be using channel two.
- On 2/25/25 I received a message from Steve Schwager that he was contacted about a lien payoff for 4107 Northumberland Dr. I contacted Dan Small to inquire and the situation had already been taken care of.
- On 3/11/25 attended Paradigm pipeline safety class.
- On 2/14/25 Issued parking permits to 11908 Queen Annes Ct.
- On 3/17/25 issued parking permits to 4711 Lunenburg Dr.

No report from Mayor Stonum

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm with a motion by Commissioner Maupin and seconded by Commissioner Beville.

Signatures:

City Clerk: _____

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Date: _____

**State of the City
and
FY 2026 City Budget Message**

The City's Commission's primary budget objective is to generate sufficient revenue to pay expenses during fiscal year 2026. The cost of goods and services continued to rise during 2024, and they're continuing to rise daily for various reasons, all of which are beyond our control. As such, our City Commission will need to be making appropriate fiscal decisions, while properly preparing our required annual Ad Valorem Tax and Budget Ordinances.

The Jefferson County PVA office will be providing the City of Worthington Hills with our property assessment values for 2025 in late April. Once their reports are received, the City of Worthington Hills City Commission will be finalizing our city's 2025 Ad Valorem tax ordinance, which will comply with the requirements set forth in KRS 132.027.

The most important FY 2026 Budget Worksheet line items continue to be Security, Waste Collection, Property Maintenance, and Road Maintenance. Our City Commission should develop and approve a budget designed to cover these ordained expenses without using our city's reserve funds.

In conclusion, the City Commission needs to continue the practice of being fiscally responsible. Both the City Commission, and our city's residents, need to understand our primary revenue sources are limited to our Property Tax and the Insurance Premium Tax collections. Losing any portion of either one of these revenue sources, for any reason, would quickly deplete our reserve funds, which is also known as our "Rainy Day Fund". Our reserve funds should only be used for natural or man-made disasters, and/or pandemics, since they are unpredictable and devastating to a city's revenue stream. Being financially prepared for the worst case scenario, is always the best and correct path to take and follow.

Respectively Submitted,

Mayor Robert Stonum
2/18/2025