

Minutes for the City of Worthington Hills
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Date: November 21, 2023

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

Citizens Present: 3

Derby City Protection: 0

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

Citizen Concerns:

- Ms. Hahn – Auditor with Bramel & Ackley, PSC did the FY 2023 Audit Presentation. No questions. Motion to accept the 2023 Audit was made by Commissioner Beville and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Vote unanimous. Mayor Stonum asked Ms. Hahn to file this report to Frankfort. He also asked that himself, Treasurer Small and City Clerk Lush to be included on the email to Frankfort. Mayor Stonum thanked the Commission for their help with running the city.
- The Commission, Treasurer and City Clerk introduced themselves to our visitors.

Minutes: The October 2023 minutes were brought up for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Metcalf to approve the minutes. Vote was unanimous. Commissioner Maupin gave her October report to City Clerk Lush who will update the minutes and provide to Mayor Stonum to post on web-site.

Financial Report: The November 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 Adams and seconded by Commissioner Metcalf. Vote was unanimous.

Expense Review: The cover sheet of November 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: None

Old Business:

- Per Commissioner Adams, most plants have been planted in the front island, Boydton and flagpole areas. She provided photos. There are 2 plants left and they will be planted behind where the tree fell in the green space near Rustburg Place in the next few weeks by Maximus Lawn Care.
- Commissioner Adams gave an update on our current lawncare situation. Maximus Lawn Care has pruned plants and 90% of the leaves are taken care of.
- Commissioner Adams called Evergreen irrigation about water meter, but no return call.
- Delinquent Tax Letters – Per Mayor Stonum, letter was approved. To be mailed this week, but no confirmation on that as of yet.
- Mayor Stonum spoke with Independence Bank about the lock box. Advised them we have met the revenue budget for the first time without much help from the lock box.
- Regarding Delinquent Tax Letters for properties 2022 and prior – Mayor Stonum advised there are no liens on any of these properties and those letters will be mailed after the 2023 tax letters are mailed.

- Mayor Stonum gave an update on the “Welcoming Ambassador” position that is posted on our website. No responses so far. Commissioner Beville explained the position to 2 citizens in attendance. They will think about it. Mayor Stonum advised COWH would like to fill the spots and continue the practice.
- Mayor Stonum spoke about CORRC Fulfillment – Treasurer Small confirmed he is attaching the new form to the tax requests to which he replies. Mayor Stonum explained the required Vacant and Rental forms.
- Mayor Stonum said that Mr. Schelling has called again about the car alleged damage from the speed hump. Mayor Stonum advised him to submit this complaint to the COWH info email address.
- Commissioner Adams discussed update on the possible water meter leak. She will update Mayor Stonum after discussion with Evergreen Irrigation.
- Mayor Stonum handed out the Salary Adjustments form. 2 sheets that explain this. Would like to have this decided by the January 2024 meeting.
 - o Discussed Clerk/Treasurer raise to be \$50/month as suggested by Commissioner Adams and effective July 2024. Commissioner Beville is ok with the monthly salary being raised to \$750, but no more than that. She wasn’t sure the exact job duties of the City Clerk, so Clerk Lush explained what she does for the city. Mayor Stonum will have the attorney complete the Ordinance and have the second reading at the December meeting and have it finalized.
 - o Salary increase for Commissioners from \$300 to \$400. It’s been 10 years since they have had a raise. This would be effective January 2025. Commissioner Adams feels it should be higher such as \$500. Mayor Stonum asked for opinions and be sure to take into account Rumpke’s possible increase. Commissioner Adams feels we will need water usage for new plants in 2024. Maybe split the difference to \$450. Commissioner Maupin is OK with \$400. Commissioner Metcalf agrees with the \$450. Mayor Stonum will advise the attorney to produce the Ordinance and vote on it at December meeting.
 - o Commissioner Beville is concerned about Mayor Stonum possibly taking a salary cut. He advised that a salary amount can’t be changed during current administration.
 - o Commissioner Maupin is concerned that our tax rate/monies may increase. Mayor Stonum said our next assessment is 2027. FYI – the tax rate can still be raised within the 4% increase limit.
- Green Space litter – still not an issue
- Commissioner Metcalf will do the radio check tonight on Channel 2
- Yard Waste Collection will continue as currently scheduled because Rumpke never sent documentation. Contract ends in July 2025. Mayor Stonum discussed all waste collection companies.

New Business:

- Mayor Stonum handed out blank financial statements to be completed and submitted to Ethics Board after our December meeting. This form is required annually.
- Mayor Stonum reminded the commission that the 2024 election petition period ends at 4:00 PM on June 4, 2024.
- Update on Boydton Court reconstruction of the landscaping area. Mayor Stonum checked it out. With it now being winter time, next spring it should look better and probably add some rock. These changes were done during the Boydton Court paving and curb moving project. Commissioner Adams said Maximus Lawn Care suggested removing extra dirt and regrading the area.
 - o She has huge Lamb’s Ear plants and could possibly donate some to COWH to plant along the edge.
 - o Maximus Lawn Care suggested using weedblock. Mayor Stonum has been researching weed mesh and it’s bad to use. Commissioner Beville added it can cause mold.
 - o Commissioner Maupin suggested ground cover.
- Mayor Stonum wanted to discuss:
 - o Rental property problems. Roughly 50% of the rental property owners in COWH have not registered their rental properties. 30-35% of rental property owners who have previously registered their property have not re-registered. Rental properties can cause zoning issues – Single Family Dwellings. “Just roommates” really means boarding houses and owner must live on property. Multi-Family living in some properties in COWH. Zoning Department won’t approach due to cultural issues. Mayor Stonum suggested that we take action against these owners such as a “nudge” letter. Have our legal office send out on their letterhead. This has been done to at least one property with a fine.

- Send 2nd notice. This same property needs property improvements. 1st issue would be property problems. 2nd issue such as who/how many live there would come up after that.*
- *Vacant property problem – 4101 Northumberland was bought by a “We Buy Homes” company. Once they investigated the property, the company found it was needing improvements so they resold it for \$70,000 more than for which they had recently bought it. All liens have been released. If we send out inquiry, not sure we have correct contact information. Non-compliance is a serious issue*
 - *Commissioner Maupin asked “aren’t there ordinances deeming certain criteria to “sleep areas”? NAACP – peoples rights/cultural issues.*

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Commissioners’ Reports

Road Commissioner Beville:

- *No real report needed because she only checked potholes.*

Utilities Commissioner Maupin:

- *11-5-23 Drove city for streetlight check. Streetlights were out at 11911 and 11917 Tazwell Drive and 4000 Pacelli Place.*
- *11-7-23 Reported streetlights out to LG&E*
- *11-18-23 Commissioner Adams called and reported streetlight down at entrance. Called LG&E and reported.*
- *11-19-23 Drove city for streetlight check. Streetlight at 11917 Tazwell Drive was flickering on and off. Streetlight at 11919 Tazwell Drive behind dumpster has tilted shade. Will report to LG&E on 11-22-23*
- *11-21-23 Attended city meeting and will participate in radio check.*

Property Maintenance Commissioner Adams:

Will participate in the radio checks with Commissioner Metcalf and everyone tonight – Nov. 21st.

There was one citizen call this month inquiring about driveway expansion. Forwarded to Mayor Stonum so he could give the citizen all the details.

I also received a call from a friend and citizen who knows I’m a commissioner on the morning of Nov. 19th. She called to inform The Commission that there was a light pole down at the Front Entrance area of Worthington Hills. I drove up to the location and took a few pictures and sent Mayor Stonum and Commissioner Maupin an email. I also called and left Commissioner Maupin a voicemail.

In October, I called Evergreen Irrigation and got the water lines turned off and winterized for the season. I also asked them to investigate if we have a leak.

I planted the two barberry bushes up on the Front Island myself in late October.

I kept the remaining bushes watered and at my residence.

In November, Maximus Lawncare took care of planting two crepe myrtle bushes on the Flagpole Island. He also planted two crepe myrtle bushes at the front of Boydton Island.

Two remaining city bushes still need to be planted. They are two euonymus bushes. These two will be planted where the tree fell in the easement near Rustburg Ct. Maximus Lawncare is aware and will do this soon. He currently has these two city bushes in his possession on his property. They have been recently watered and are in good shape.

Received an email from Commissioner Beville about Boydton Island. The landscaping rock and fabric were damaged during the construction phase of the new curb. Contacted Maximus Lawncare to get an estimate together to repair this area. Maximus Lawncare will provide a written estimate to my email soon.

Called Evergreen Irrigation to get the results of their investigation of our water meters. Left a voicemail message and will follow up.

Safety Commissioner Metcalf:

- Drove the City on multiple occasions.
- Conducted radio checks after last City meeting and will conduct radio checks tonight using channel two.
- Went to P.O. with Mayor Stonum each Friday except Friday 11/10/23. Beverly Lush and I went.

- On 11/3/23 I issued parking permits to 4907 Northumberland Dr.
- On 10/23/23 I issued parking permits to 12017 Bay Run Dr.
- On 11/3/23 at 6:59 PM I received a call from Residents at 11007 Lunenburg Dr. about big dogs running loose. The dogs belong to 11005 Lunenburg. I attempted to talk to the owners of the dogs. They would not answer the door and the dogs were back inside.
- On 11/9/23 I received a call from a resident complaining about a car parked on street in front of 12112 Bay Garden Dr. The vehicle was Jeep Grand Cherokee with no doors or license plate. I placed a no parking on street flyer on vehicle and forwarded info to Derby City Protection.

Mayor's Comments –

Earlier this month, COWH property owners received their 2023 Jefferson County property tax bill. On each bill there is a listing of the governmental agencies and its per hundred dollars of value tax rate. Most property owners are just paying their bill and think nothing more about it. But then there are some of us that wonder what these agencies are providing for services in exchange for my tax dollars.

As an individual property owner, you only see your tax portion, and not what's the total amount of Jefferson County property tax being collected for COWH properties. So for those interested in full disclosure, here's the breakdown:

1. Total adjusted COWH land & improvements property tax value:: \$119,057,610

2. Agency's Tax Rate per one hundred dollars, and the Grand Total received:

State:	.11% - \$130,963.37
Metro:	.124% - \$147,631.44
JPCS:	.76% - \$904,837.84
A/M Fire:	.16% - \$190,492.18
Grand Total:	\$1,373,924.82

As far as State and the Anchorage/Middletown Fire District, most of us agree, these two agencies are providing valuable and adequate services to us. As far as JPCS, it's a matter of personal opinion. But when it comes to Metro's merged government, property owners and/or the residents of Home Rule Cities aren't receiving their monies worth of services from Louisville Metro/Jefferson County Government.

Even though COWH's property tax revenue to Jefferson County only amounts to \$147,631.44, we are one of the 83 Home Rule Cities contributing to Metro's combined government revenue stream. And let's keep in mind, each of the 83 Home Rule Cities have budgeted and are providing some type of police/security protection, waste disposal services, and various needed/required utilities, at a minimum and without any monetary reimbursement from Louisville Metro/Jefferson County.

Case in point 1, LMPD Division 8, has the smallest assigned number of police officers and the largest assigned territory in Jefferson County, and as such, non-emergency response time may take hours (if at all).

Case in Point 2. Metro Public Works consistently refuses to issue various permits, when the property is located in a Home Rule City, even though we are required to comply with Louisville Metro's Land Development Code As a reminder, they refused to provide COWH and other Home Rule Cities with clean-up support and equipment after the June 26, 2018 F-1 tornado.

Final point: District 18 Councilman Winkler, in my opinion, has very little interest in encouraging and/or improving Metro's Public Works Services to residents living in any of the Home Rule Cities within his district. COWH has had issues with noise and light pollution coming from a neighboring facility, which he failed to assist COWH residents with, even though it was an obvious and serious health and welfare issue. This matter could have been resolved by Zoning Code Enforcement requiring the facility to remove the unpermitted asphalted parking lot expansion, which encroached on our city's boundary, and restore our 50 foot grassy utility easement. In addition, Councilman Winkler deflects to either "there's not an interlocal agreement in place" or "you need to speak with the Metro/County attorney" whenever it's a convenient means to ending a conversation.

The Kentucky Legislature is currently holding hearings on the Louisville / Jefferson County merger.. What's their legislative resolution going to be regarding the merger? Hopefully something favorable to every tax paying property owner and/or resident currently being under-served by Louisville Metro / Jefferson County government.

Mayor Stonum asked if there were any further concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM with a motion by Commissioner Beville and seconded by Commissioner Adams..

Signatures:

City Clerk: _____

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Date: _____