

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A CAUCUS MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 WITH MAYOR MATTONE PRESIDING AND MEMBERS PAMELA SPOOR, KATHY ZEMBRODT, STEVE ELKINS, GREG CLAYPOLE, KARL OBERJOHN AND JASON RESER PRESENT.

ALSO PRESENT: CITY ATTORNEY, TODD MCMURTRY

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

I. Financials

Mr. Chamberlain will be present the results of his recent audit of the City's finances at the February meeting.

II. New Business

Councilmember Spoor reported that Dr. Paul Tenkotte, a leading expert on the history of Northern Kentucky, is scheduled to offer a public presentation in late May. He will focus on lives, lifestyles and architecture of early residents on Park Hills. Ms. Spoor also encouraged the public to share memories for inclusion in Park Hills for a picture book to the City building. Black and white photos are a priority. Any person with pictures can drop them off at the City building.

Infrastructure

Mr. Oberjohn reported to Council that he took a day off of work to attend a full day class on pavement and management of streets. The class addressed the importance of a good maintenance program. Mr. Oberjohn advised that the City needs a thorough evaluation of streets. The life of City streets can be preserved and extended through preventative maintenance. Mr. Oberjohn recommends we ask PDS to have a proposed pavement assessment completed. The Mayor encouraged discussion on the matter.

Duke Energy has put down stakes along Amsterdam where the new electric poles will be installed. The poles should be more easily serviced in these new locations.

Ms. Spoor asked about the repair trucks at Amsterdam. Mr. VonHandorf said it was due to a water main break.

III. Old Business

A. Berling Update

Mayor Mattone reported he does not have an update at this time. The second set of §106 Mitigation talks will be in Louisville on January 30 at 1:00 PM. The parties will meet to discuss appropriate mitigation. Kevin Theissen addressed Council. He will attend the meeting on mitigation to seek various remedies. Ms. Spoor recommended that Mr. Theissen be sure to ask for things which Mr. Berling is not otherwise obligated to do. Ms. Spoor also made a number of recommendations of things Mr. Theissen could do to persuade Council, including various photos.

Mr. Oberjohn asked if the design guidelines were could be addressed at the § 106 meeting. He is uncertain if such relief would be possible. Ms. Spoor indicated she would attend the meeting.

B. Gateway Update

Mr. Zeltwanger advised the City that demolition of the Park Hills School would begin the week of January 27th. The site may be cleared by February. Mayor Mattone says Zeltwanger has filed for a demolition permit.

Ms. Spoor suggested the City advise residents of the impending demolition. She expressed concern that the trucks hauling waste from the demolition would damage City streets.

C. Code Enforcement Board

Mr. Gray reviewed recommendations on citations for CEB violations. He indicated that he would seek that property owners pay some fine when cited. He advised that the code enforcement process takes some time, and that property owners have repeated opportunities to resolve problems before a citation is issued. He recommended that the City endorse his recommendation that once cited, after lengthy process and an opportunity to avoid the citation, that property owners in Park Hills pay some fine to deter future misconduct. Mayor Mattone asked for motion for support of Mr. Gray's recommendation. Ms. Spoor moved to approve Mr. Gray's recommendation. A second was made by Ms. Zembrodt. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Vehicle Tags/ Franchise Fees

Councilmember Zembrodt researched franchise fees. She concluded the City can replace revenue from the City's existing vehicle license fee with the imposition of a franchise fee. Franchise fees apply to businesses and apartments. This will spread the tax burden among all residents. Ms. Spoor suggested that franchise fees merits study. Councilmember Claypole wanted to know what Duke will charge and would like to limit where the funds paid by the franchise fee will go. Mayor Mattone wants to consider a sub-committee to examine this issue. He says the City can save a lot of administration time. He also said the City will be facing

higher pension costs in the near-future. He explained Park Hills has limited means to raise revenues, so the City should examine this issue carefully.

Mayor Mattone also mentioned that due to some changes with the City's relationship with Spectrum that there will be funds available to the City from a cable franchise fee. He noted that the City needs to opt-in the cable franchise fee by February. Mayor Mattone will ask TBNK to attend the next meeting.

E. Mayor/Council Vacancy

Council turned to discussion of a proposed ordinance to establish a structure to fill vacant council seats. This revised structure, in short, would instruct future councils to vote on applicants to fill a vacant council seat in a particular order. The key component would be to vote first on applicants who ran in the general election. For example if 8 people ran for 6 seats, then the 7th highest vote recipient would be the first person council would consider to fill an open seat.

Ms. Zembrodt was concerned the system may make it harder to pick the best person. If all candidates are there at the same time, would it embarrass someone not selected as compared to simply making a motion to nominate a particular person to the empty seat? For example, if the 7th highest vote recipient was the first person brought before council for action and not selected, would that embarrass that person? This is truer, when in fact, the 8th highest vote recipient is the person who clearly enjoys the favor of a majority of council members.

In response, Mr. Oberjohn reasoned that people who have run in the general election deserve first consideration. Because these individuals put forth the effort and expressed a strong willingness to serve, they deserved an up or down vote. Ms. Zembrodt reiterated that she believed it would be a hardship to be publicly rejected.

Ms. Spoor suggested the proposed process was too cumbersome. She also stated that because she might not agree with the political views of someone who ran for office and left that the proposed process did not recognize the political reality that she would vote for the person, regardless of whether the person ran for office or not, that best supported the views of the people who elected her. Thus, the proposed procedure did not reflect that political reality that the majority would pick whomever it wished no matter the order of the vote.

Mr. Oberjohn responded that ill-defined process used in the past was flawed and proposed legislation could improve the process.

Ms. Spoor then stated that she would like to hear from everyone before voting for someone. So, to the extent the ordinance was passed, it would have to allow all prospective candidates to address council.

Sara Froehlich asked about how the proposed ordinance would work. She was concerned it was not being interpreted properly. She said "as a voter, I would like to see top voters get priority consideration." It is recommended that language should be added that all candidates can speak before voting starts. Luann Holmes spoke in favor of the proposed legislation. Ms. Spoor renewed her request that proposed legislation be posted on the City's website no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting in which it will be discussed in order to facilitate access to the proposed legislation and attendant council discussions.

IV. Pension Reform

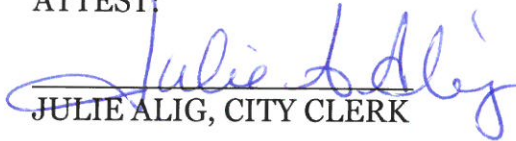
Nothing further

V. Tree Board Ordinance

The Tree Board Ordinance is still under review.


MATT MATTONE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JULIE ALIG, CITY CLERK