

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A CAUCUS MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020. DUE TO COVID-19, THE CITY HELD A VIRTUAL MEETING WHICH STREAMED LIVE THROUGH TBNK WITH MAYOR, KATHY ZEMBRODT PRESIDING. COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: PAMELA SPOOR, SARAH FROELICH, JOE SHIELDS AND KEVIN THEISSEN  
ABSENT: STEVE ELKINS AND WESLEY DETERS  
ALSO PRESENT WAS CITY ATTORNEY, DANIEL BRAUN

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

I. Petitioners – None

II. Infrastructure Discussion

Mr. Elkins was not in attendance. Mayor Zembrodt read off the items Mr. Elkins wished to discuss:

- Traffic calming
- Speed humps
- Line painting
- Communications
- GPS

Attorney Braun will write up an Executive Order to declare Cleveland Avenue as not a thru street. Mr. Shields is concerned drivers will think it is a dead end. He wants people to understand they can still get through. Mr. Braun will look into further. He believes the term thru street meets the premise but can tweak in the Executive Order if necessary.

Mayor Zembrodt gave the mill & overlay update based on Mr. Bayer's priority list.

- Park Drive and the Boulevard
- Audubon Road
- Upper Jackson
- Lower portion of Montague (partnered with Covington)
- Cleveland curbing to be replaced

St. Joseph Lane sidewalk update:

Mr. Bayer got with the state regarding the grant. Application is 70% complete and Mr. Bayer would like to get approval as we go. Right-of-Way issues could take up to 60 days. The grant is good until June 2022.

Mr. Shields commented on the speed sign at the bottom of Arlington Road. Mayor Zembrodt said she talked to Chief Stanley about moving it.

Mayor Zembrodt stated she has received information from the state regarding the placement of humps/bumps. She was told, unless it is a state road, it is usually up to the city on where to place them. She would like to put together a policy and procedure for use on every street in the city.

Ms. Spoor mentioned adding crosswalks after a resident on Amsterdam Road voiced concern. The Mayor would like crosswalks added to the intersections of Hillcrest and

Amsterdam, Lawton and Amsterdam, as well as from the city building to the parking lot across the street. She added; other crosswalks in the city are in need of painting. Ms. Froelich asked if the traffic calming on Cecelia has been resolved. Mayor Zembrodt stated that the residents on Cecelia never followed up with a petition. She said she has received complaints for residents on Exter so the speed hump will be moved there temporarily. Ms. Froelich suggested Chief Stanley reach out to Cecelia residents once a policy and procedure is in place. Mr. Theissen suggested revisiting Mr. Froelich's legislation regarding speed humps/bumps. Discussion turned to election signs. Ms. Spoor would like the Ordinance put on the website. She would like to amend the Ordinance to establish the placement of signs. Ms. Froelich stated she emailed regarding traffic calming to Council and would like everyone to take a look.

### III. Financial Oversight discussion

Mr. Shields began discussion with the following points:

- We are in a strong position financially
- Wald Court is making a positive impact on our finances
- We don't need to, and therefore will not, take the compensating rate
- Tax rates remain the same in FY20-21 - indeed, have been the same for 10 years
- The EMS contract with Ft. Wright stayed the same
- We continue to look at other items as a committee, including the Capital Improvement Plan, contracts, fees and other items

Mayor Zembrodt mentioned that Mr. Huff estimated the 2020 tax revenue to be \$470,000 which is very close to the \$474,000 budgeted to be collected. Wald Court construction will generate an additional \$25,000 in tax revenue.

Discussion regarding tax rate and compensating rate took place.

Mayor Zembrodt stated a petitioner emailed her regarding the city's business tax. Park Hills' current rate on gross receipts is .0035 with a \$25 minimum and a \$1,000 maximum. The petitioner suggested lowering the tax rate but raising the cap. Mayor Zembrodt read the rates of some other local cities and does not believe Park Hills' rate is high. She would, however, like to discuss raising the cap on the payroll tax which is currently \$50,000.

Ms. Froelich stated some residents who work from home could pay as much in taxes as someone who runs a much larger business. Ms. Spoor would like to visit putting a floor amount on the payroll tax and raising the cap to the FICA limit, which is now at \$137,000.

Ms. Froelich stated that someone who makes \$7,000 would be required to pay the \$25 and the \$1,000 would be paid by someone making \$286,000 or more. Ms. Spoor would like to discuss this further at the next meeting. Ms. Froelich added; she would like to look at business making beyond the \$286,000. What about a business making millions?

Mayor Zembrodt would like to revisit tax rates put into place by prior administrations. Ms. Froelich would like to be clear and transparent about how the city is spending its money. She suggested adding the General Fund and Restricted Fund balances, along with the Capital Improvement Plan and outstanding debt, on the monthly agenda. Mayor Zembrodt stated that all of this is available on the city's website and does not believe it is proper to have it shown everywhere. Ms. Froelich believes it would be helpful for the residents to understand what Council is voting on.

Mr. Theissen responded by saying everyone here loves this city and that we need to be prudent with our finances. He would like to discuss this more moving forward as there are two Council members missing this evening to give their opinion.

Mayor Zembrodt asked Mr. Froelich to share an email with her ideas. Ms. Froelich would also like to see a better Capital Improvement Plan in place. Mayor Zembrodt stated she would look at the plan in place.

8:53 Motion to adjourn Caucus Meeting was made by Ms. Froelich; second by Mr. Shields

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Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

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City Clerk