

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A SPECIAL CAUCUS MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022, AT 6:30 PM. 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, STEVE ELKINS, JOE SHIELDS, TONY DARIN AND DR. KEVIN DOWNES
ALSO PRESENT: CITY ATTORNEY, DANIEL BRAUN

SPECIAL MEETING:

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

I. Emergency Reading: Ordinance No. 2, 2022 increasing the Mayor's salary was read in summary by Attorney Braun. Motion to adopt Ordinance was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Dr. Downes. Ms. Froelich asked about the reason for the emergency statuses. Mr. Braun explained the Ordinance was read as an emergency because the statute says you have to fix the compensation to be paid to the Mayor and City Councilmen by May 1st in the year which you are elected. There wouldn't be enough time for two readings. Mayor Zembrodt added that, with Council's approval, the salaries can be raised in accordance with the annual change to the CPI. This will affect the next elected Mayor and Council members.

Ms. Froelich asked about the increase in the Mayor's salary to 10K versus some other dollar amount. Ms. Spoor replied that this has been talked about for 5-6 years. The City of Park Hills does not have a city administrator like most cities. This position usually makes between \$80 - \$150K. The previous Mayor, Matt Mattone, looked to hire a part time administrator for \$50-\$60K per year. She believes the raise to \$10K is a great value to the city as the Mayor does the work of an administrator. A raise in salary, she believes, ensures good people step up to serve the city. Ms. Froelich stated she does not have a problem with the increase, but with the emergency status.

Mr. Shields asked if there was some way to let people know. He doesn't want the emergency reading to look secretive. Dr. Downes believes we should communicate with citizens on the website on why we are increasing the salaries of the Mayor and Council.

Roll call: Ms. Spoor; aye, Ms. Froelich; nay, Mr. Elkins; aye, Mr. Shields; aye, Mr. Darin; aye, Dr. Downes; aye Motion carried.

Ms. Spoor asked Mr. Shields to write a post explaining the emergency status since a non-unanimous vote may cast a shadow over the Ordinance. Mr. Shields stated he would try to get something written.

II. Emergency Reading; Ordinance No. 3, 2022 increasing the Council's salary was read by Attorney Braun. Motion to adopt Ordinance was made by Dr. Downes; seconded by Mr. Elkins. Roll call: Ms. Spoor; aye, Ms. Froelich; nay, Mr. Elkins; aye, Mr. Shields; aye, Mr. Darin; aye, Dr. Downes; aye Motion carried.

6:59 Motion to adjourn from Special Caucus meeting was made by Mr. Darin; seconded by Dr. Downes. Ms. Spoor left the meeting.

CAUCUS MEETING:

Call to Order

I. Discussion: Proposed 2022-2023 budget

Mr. Shields asked about Covington Catholic's School Resource Officer. The Mayor stated that she has not heard back from the school but would like to have an answer by the May meeting.

Ms. Froelich commented on the salary raises for the PD and the FD but no increase to the pension line. She wants to make sure they are accounted for. The Mayor replied that four of the officers are not in the pension plan and that there was not a lot of change. Ms. Froelich asked the Mayor to email her the numbers given to her by the police and fire chiefs. Mayor Zembrodt stated she would.

Ms. Froelich asked why there was nothing entered in the PD cell phone and tech lines. The Mayor replied we will no longer be reimbursing the chief for his cell phone and that all their computers have been recently updated.

Ms. Froelich also questioned why some of the FD lines were budgeted at 0, such as training, medical director, etc. Mayor Zembrodt stated that these items are taken out of the Creighton Fund but left as line items for any future GF expenses.

The city clerk will email Rumpke again to see if they have updated rates for the coming fiscal year.

The EMS contract went up \$4K for next year.

Ms. Froelich asked if the computer line needs to be raised. The Mayor stated that she, along with the city clerk, both received new computers so that line shouldn't need to be increased.

The Mayor budgeted \$81K from the general fund to be put into the capital improvement fund. She would also like to put money in there for future playground equipment. Also, the city should receive the rest of its CARES money which will be put into the city's reserve fund to help fund the Amsterdam Road project. The Mayor signed a contract to give the current potholes on Amsterdam a temporary fix.

Mr. Darin commented on the medical insurance lines. The rates are set to increase by 6.2% next fiscal year. The clerk will figure out the rates for the upcoming budget.

Ms. Froelich would also like to see the city use more of our training and membership budgets for employee training.

7:22 Motion to adjourn Caucus meeting was made by Dr. Downes; seconded by Mr. Shields

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Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

City Clerk