

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A BUSINESS MEETING ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022, AT THE GARDENS OF PARK HILLS, 1622 DIXIE HIGHWAY, WITH MAYOR, KATHY ZEMBRODT PRESIDING.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: PAM SPOOR, SARAH FROELICH, JOE SHIELDS AND DR. KEVIN DOWNES

ABSENT: STEVE ELKINS, TONY DARIN, CITY ATTORNEY, DANIEL BRAUN AND CITY ENGINEER, JAY BAYER

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Motion to approve the April 11, 2022, minutes was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Mr. Shields. Roll call: all ayes

Motion to approve the April 25, 2022, Special meeting minutes was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Dr. Downes. Roll call: all ayes

Motion to approve the April 25, 2022, Caucus meeting minutes was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Dr. Downes. Roll call: Ms. Froelich; aye, Dr. Downes; aye, Ms. Spoor; abstain, Mr. Shields; aye Motion carried

I. Presenter:

A. Senator Chris McDaniel was present at the meeting to give a legislative update. Senator McDaniel thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak this evening. The Senator stated it was an interesting session with historic opportunities. He touched on topics such as raises in the Commonwealth, state pension fund, workforce initiatives, tax reform, funding for higher education as well as a Life Science Center coming to Covington. There was also discussion regarding the 4th Street and Brent Spence Bridge repairs. Ludlow Independent School will receive \$23 million for renovations. Senator McDaniel believes one of the biggest issues facing Kentucky is the workforce crisis and commented on some ways to alleviate the problem. Ms. Spoor commented on his mention of eliminating personal income tax. The Senator replied that it is in the process but could take 8 – 10 years.

Discussion turned to the Kentucky Pension.

Senator McDaniel replied to Dr. Downes that the new bridge will not have tolls. Mr. David Gray brought up his concerns about his, and three other homes near him, that may be affected by the bridge construction. Senator McDaniel admitted he does not know about this but asked Mr. Gray to email him the addresses and he will look into it with the Transportation Cabinet.

II. Mr. Bill Hemmer, Wald Court, was present at the meeting to discuss speed bumps at some stop signs in the city. He began with the speed bump that was at the intersection of Amsterdam and Hamilton Road junction. The bump was removed for snow removal, but he has heard it is going to be put back. He mentioned that another large bump could be installed at the Audubon/Lawton intersection. He asked why these bumps are necessary. He believes they delay emergency vehicles, put excessive wear and tear on vehicles, holes drilled in the pavement may cause water to get in and cause damage and may bother people with back and/or neck injuries.

Mayor Zembrodt said she would like to hear ideas as the city receives a lot of complaints about speeding and the running of stop signs. She said they did discuss putting bumps on Audubon perhaps as a trial. Dr. Downes added; we have to weigh the inconveniences of a bump and the safety of children.

Mr. Brian Donnelly, also of Wald Court, was present in the audience. He stated he is a 22-year senior traffic engineer for the Department of Transportation. He believes the installation of these speed bumps are contrary to every standard engineering practice that exists. He encouraged the city to use the city engineer, Jay Bayer, or himself, as a resource. A speed hump, which is meant for speed control, is usually between 12' – 15' long and is made from concrete or asphalt. He believes speed bumps are a cause for liability and do not belong near stop signs. These types of bumps, he added, are mainly used for parking lots and apartment buildings. He suggested using LED lights on the stop signs. Ms. Froelich stated she has been talking about this subject for a long time. She believes there are opportunities to include speed humps to our road repairs.

Ms. Spoor asked Mr. Donnelly's opinion of rumble strips. He replied they can slow down traffic but tend to be noisy to nearby residents.

Mr. Shields suggested discussing this further at an Infrastructure meeting. Mayor Zembrodt agreed and will also get input from the city engineer, Jay Bayer.

III. First Reading; Ordinance No. 4, 2022 amending the 2021-2022 budget was read in summary by city clerk, Julie Alig.

IV. First Reading; Ordinance No. 5, 2022 proposing the 2022-2023 budget was read in summary by city clerk, Julie Alig.

Ms. Froelich asked if the SRO for Covington Catholic High School has been confirmed. Mayor Zembrodt stated that it has, and we are awaiting a new contract.

Ms. Froelich commented on the pension benefit amount for the police and fire departments. The budgeted amount is the exact same as last years' even with raises. She believes these numbers should be modified. The Mayor will have the city clerk recalculate these numbers.

V. Municipal Order No. 3, 2022 authorizing use of the Standard Allowance for the Local Recovery Fund as authorized by the ARPA, was read in summary by the city clerk, Julie Alig. Motion to approve Order was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Ms. Froelich. Ms. Froelich asked if this is something we can use for the Amsterdam Road deep fix. The Mayor replied yes; it can be used for internet, sewers, utilities, etc. and can be used towards the grant match. Roll call: all ayes

VI. Department Reports

A. Police Department – Chief Cody Stanley

Chief Stanley's April report contained the following:

Reports: 4

Citations: 80 (some of the traffic and criminal are on the same citation)

- 1 Warrant Arrest
- 79 Traffic citations (71 Federal Grant Citations)

- 1 Criminal Arrests

City Citations: 2 (0 paid/voided)

Additional:

914 calls for service less 113 traffic stops, 528 Vacation/Business/ Special Area Checks, 38 Special Detail we had a total of 235 police related calls.

Traffic study on South Arlington: avg speed 20.92, # vehicles 18,282, max speed 39, 85% speed 24, 50% speed 20.

Call Review:

- 4 citations; 4 traffic and 1 warrant arrest on Dixie Highway.
- 1 citation on Elberta Circle and St. Joseph.

Mr. Shields stated he would like to see a study on the volume of traffic on Dixie Highway.

B. Fire Department – Chief John S. Rigney

Chief Rigney's monthly report contained the following:

- A total of 21 calls were received during the month of April. The incidents are broken down by type on the Activity report.
- New Engine 601 has been placed in service; just waiting on some accessories.
- Crews completed annual hydrant flushing in most all of the residential areas.
- FD office had re-painting, ceiling replacement, and new countertop installed.
- Clothes dryer in front bay has been replaced.

Chief Rigney stated the open burn ban will be in effect from May 1st through September 30th. This does not apply to fire pits and grills.

Ms. Spoor thanked Chief Rigney for pursuing the new fire truck. Also, to Mr. VonHandorf in acquiring his new PW's truck.

Ms. Froelich asked if the new truck will be in the parade. Chief Rigney replied it will.

C. Public Works – Daniel VonHandorf

- Greetings Mayor and Council and thank you for another month.
- Just want to say how great it is to see everyone in person.
- Thanks to all who helped to get Amsterdam Road in better shape than it was. Please remember these are patches and, as always, patches are never very smooth; even out on the big jobs can be rough at times. He thanked GCB, Mayor Zembrodt and Council members for their help in getting this done.
- It's springtime for sure and 100 things going on. I have not forgot about the bumps and walks, trying to keep up with the grass in between rains. Also, we have the parade coming up and as always, we need everyone's help.
- Finally, getting the old 350 ready to go away and moved into the new truck, which by the way has 3 different looks (beds) and now it has the summer look (bed); utility bed and flat bed on it. I actually entered it in a contest with the University of KY just for the fun of it. They are wanting to highlight new truck ideas and innovations. Kenton County Public Works won last year. They will be coming from Lexington to look at the truck and will be doing a video on it.

Dr. Downes asked how long it will take to fix the 'red' sidewalks. Mr. VonHandorf replied this is a never-ending job. Dr. Downes would like to see a timeline and a stop

point for when residents will take over repair responsibilities. He also added that help could possibly be provided to those who can't afford repairs. He does not believe the city should be in the business of repairing personal property.

D. City Engineer – Jay Bayer

Mr. Bayer was not present at the meeting. Mayor Zembrodt read his report.

Projects in design phase:

St. Joseph Lane Sidewalk Project

The city has provided all requested information. In an email dated 5/6/22, KYTC will provide final review. KYTC estimates 5-6 weeks for final approval for the city to bid the project.

Hamilton and Arlington Sidewalk Project

The Public Works Director and City Engineer are finalizing the plans and details. A proposed walk will be constructed along Hamilton Road by city staff in the first phase. One sewer needs to be raised.

Private projects in the city:

Gateway Development (aka Park Pointe)

The city has a bond in place until the punchlist work is completed. A plat is being prepared by the developer to dedicate the proposed right of way along Amsterdam.

Mayor Zembrodt stated that a traffic study was done on Amsterdam and she will be meeting with the county in June regarding the grant.

E. Treasurer's Report – Julie Alig

Motion to approve the April financial reports was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Dr. Downes. Roll call: all ayes

Motion to pay the Vehicle Fund invoices in the amount of \$6,547.50 was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Dr. Downes. Roll call: all ayes

V. Committee Discussions

A. Joint Code Enforcement Board - David Gray

No report as there was not a quorum last meeting.

The property at 806 St. James cited for protective treatment and debris in the yard pleaded no contest and were fined \$400. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday night.

B. TBNK - Dick Lange

Mr. Lange stated that TBNK welcomed its newest Board member, Alicia Revelly, who takes the place of Steven Goodpaster. The Board is focusing on making efforts to do more promotion and advertising on its programming. The Franchise Renewal Committee has been negotiating with Charter Spectrum and hopes to reach an agreement in the near future. Jason Dudas and Tim Broering have been working hard with the Kenton County

Clerk's Office to have live election results on May 17th. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th.

C. Parks, Beautification and Recreation committee – Pam Spoor

Ms. Spoor stated she, along with Mr. Darin and some CCH students, put wood chips on the walking path (Audubon Preserve). She thanked the following students for their hard work: Carson Stone, Ty Rottinghous, Michael Zeckella and Graham Coomes. Mayor Zembrodt stated dirt and trees were put along Hamilton Road. Wildflowers and grass will be planted, and a bench installed. Ms. Spoor relayed to everyone that Mr. Jack Loos would like to donate the bench. Thank you to Mr. Loos. Dr. Downes let everyone know that Ms. Alma Finke, 86, passed away. She taught at CCH. His thought was to make a path from the end of the Trolley Line up to Altavia Avenue where Ms. Finke lived and make it part of the conservancy. Ms. Spoor stated it could be addressed at an upcoming Parks meeting. Mr. Shields reminded that we would need Altavia residents' approval. Ms. Froelich asked if committee meetings are going to be held on a consistent basis. Mayor Zembrodt stated the chambers are always open to hold meetings.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

9:00 Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dr. Downes; seconded by Mr. Shields

Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

City Clerk

