

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A PUBLIC HEARING & BUSINESS MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE GARDENS OF PARK HILLS, 1622 DIXIE HIGHWAY, WITH MAYOR, KATHY ZEMBRODT PRESIDING.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: MONTY O'HARA, DR. JOE DAUGHERTY, SARAH FROELICH, PAM SPOOR, JOE SHIELDS AND STEVE ELKINS
ALSO PRESENT: CITY ATTORNEY, DANIEL BRAUN AND CITY ENGINEER, JAY BAYER

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed use of the Municipal Road Aid

Mayor Zembrodt explained the MRA is given to us by the state based on population. It is to be spent on road repairs and can be used on the public right of way.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Motion to approve the June 12, 2023 minutes, with changes, was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Mr. Shields. Roll call: all ayes.

TBNK's, Jason Dudas, was present at the meeting to present a certificate to Ms. Spoor for the National Award won for the Trolley Park video. TBNK produced, in conjunction with other cities, a documentary on the Green Line streetcar system that passed through our cities, Park Hills being one of them. Mr. Dudas stated that Ms. Spoor was a huge help as she took them to Trolley Park and walked them through the Trolley path located in Park Hills. She was able to give a lot of facts they would otherwise not have known. It won a local award and just recently won a national award called the Communicator's Award. Mr. Dudas presented Ms. Spoor with a certificate due to her involvement. Ms. Spoor thanked Mr. Dudas and TBNK for all their work on the documentary. Mr. Dudas stated that they also received help from other local cities as well as the Behringer Crawford Museum which provided them with many photos.

Petitioners:

A. Mr. Jim Pfaller regarding Park Hills' forest and greenspace preservation. Mr. Pfaller is a 31-year resident of Park Hills and thanked the Mayor and council for letting him speak this evening. He began by saying that with the purchase of the property at the intersection of Dixie Highway and N. Arlington, the city also purchased a portion of the forest behind the building. As a neighbor adjacent to the forest, he wanted to share a little about the green space. There used to be a small lake up the way that was filled in when CCH purchased it. He assumes that before that, the forest may have extended to St. James Avenue. The portion the city bought includes a small pond that fills up when it's rainy. It is home to a pair of Red Shouldered Hawks, various other birds and small animals. He stated that there are very few green spaces left along the west side of Dixie. He urged council to preserve this and other areas of the city. He asked if perhaps the city could set this area as a preserve that the city oversees and maintains. Ms. Spoor thanked Mr. Pfaller and told him they have talked about this before reviewing our zoning code. They created a Conservation Zone which Audubon Forest will be a part of. A little bridge will be built along the Audubon trail, and they will be repopulating the area with

indigenous trees. Dr. Daugherty is working with the Tree Board. Ms. Spoor invited Mr. Pfaller to join the Parks Committee to help with the preservation of our green spaces. Ms. Froelich stated the pond stands out and is important for drainage issues and that we should be mindful of the space around our new building.

B. Adam Heist regarding an encroachment permit.

Mr. Heist was present at the meeting to request an encroachment permit allowing him to build a stone wall across the front of his property. Council reviewed his plans over the weekend. Ms. Spoor stated that our zoning code does not permit permanent structures in the city's right of way as it may be needed for access. The code shows where walls and fences are permitted. They should ideally come from the side of the house. As a safety standpoint, they should not be in the right of way. Mayor Zembrodt stated that the right of way is 20' from the center of the street which would back his project up about 10' into his yard. Mr. Heist stated that he spoke with PDS and was given a stop work order but was told he could put back what was previously there. Mr. Shields suggested he get that in writing from them. Motion to deny Mr. Heist's encroachment permit was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Mr. Shields. Roll call: all ayes.

I. Second Reading; Ordinance No. 7, 2023 setting the 2023-24 trash collection fee was read in summary by Attorney Braun. Motion to approve Order was made by Mr. Elkins; seconded by Ms. Froelich. Roll call: all ayes

II. Second Reading; Ordinance No. 8, 2023 setting the tax rates for fiscal year 2023 – 2024 was read in summary by Attorney Braun. Motion to amend the Ordinance to leave the personal property tax at .75% was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Mr. Shields. Roll call: all ayes

Ms. Froelich asked to make clear that lowering the tax rate does not necessarily decrease the property tax amount.

III. First Reading; Ordinance No. 9, 2023 authorizing the execution of a franchise agreement with Spectrum Mid-American, LLC was read in summary by Attorney Braun.

IV. Municipal Order No. 12, 2023 accepting the re-appointment and appointment of the NKREA Enforcement Committee members was read by Attorney Braun. Motion to approve the Order was made by Ms. Froelich; seconded by Ms. Spoor. Roll call: all ayes.

V. Municipal Order No. 13, 2023 promoting Richard Webster to Captain was read by Attorney Braun. Chief Stanley stated that there will be no change in pay, but the title will validate his experience and expertise. Motion to approve the Order was made by Ms. Spoor; seconded by Mr. Elkins. Roll call: all ayes

VI. Executive Order No. 5, 2023 appointing and removing members of the Economic Development and Business committee.

VII. Department Reports

A. Police Department – Chief Cody Stanley

Chief Stanley's report contained the following:

Reports: 6

Citations:

- 0 Warrant Arrest
- 138 Traffic citations (137 Federal Grant Citations)
- 1 Criminal Arrests

City Citations: 1 (1 paid)

Additional:

965 calls for service less 163 traffic stops, 541 Vacation/Business/ Special Area Checks, 25 Special Detail we had a total of 236 police related calls.

A traffic study on South Arlington was attached.

Call Review:

- 0 citations & 1 report on Elberta Circle.
- 1 arrest & 1 report on St. Joseph Lane.

Chief Stanley stated that being busy with the move, he forgot to include the speed studies. He will include them next month. He stated the department is about 99% moved into their new building.

Ms. Spoor asked Chief Stanley to provide her with a traffic count on Park and Cleveland and the portion of Emerson and Breckenridge that leads to the park before summer is over. The Chief replied they only have 2 and it can take from 2-3 hours to move. The Mayor stated she would take a look along with Mr. Shields and Mr. Elkins

Dr. Daugherty would like to see officers on duty write at least one speeding ticket per day to help reduce speeding. Mr. Shields asked if there was data supporting this. Dr.

Daugherty replied that the KY State Police believe it does. Chief Stanley said Park Hills has the lowest speed limit in Northern KY and does not believe there is an issue with speeding regarding accidents, etc. He does not believe it is a good idea to write a bunch of tickets. He added that his officers do stop people when they are out and there is low crime in the city. Ms. Spoor believes we do have a problem with speed as it is the highest complaint she hears. The Chief said he would instruct his officers to enforce the speed limit and stop sign running and see if it helps.

Mr. Elkins is excited for the police to have their new space. Mayor Zembrodt said she is working on getting a new sign for the building.

B. Fire Department – Chief John S. Rigney

Chief Rigney's monthly report contained the following:

- A total of 29 calls were received during the month of June, and 38 for the month of July. The incidents are broken down by type on the Activity report.
- 2 additional AED units were purchased by the department. This will allow all front-line vehicles to be AED equipped.
- The KY Fire Commission completed an audit of the PHFD training program and found all to be in order.
- FD crews responded to a house fire at 1076 Jackson Road.
- Annual service testing of all ladders was completed with no issues.
- Crews have completed the majority of annual fire inspections of businesses and multi-families.

Mayor Zembrodt made it a point to mention our wonderful fire department. She received a call and email from Dr. Kevin Downes regarding an incident he suffered. He was working in the yard when he was attacked by a swarm of bees. His son drove him to the fire department and, thankfully, they were equipped with what he needed. Mr. Jimmy Adams kept him calm as he administered the drug. Dr. Downes went to the hospital as a precaution. He said Mr. Adams saved his life. Chief Rigney is happy he is ok and expected nothing less from his personnel. He also encouraged anyone in a similar situation to call 911 as their department is not always staffed.

C. Public Works – Dan VonHandorf

- Greetings Mayor Zembrodt and Council and thanks for another month, as always.
- I have been very busy spending most of my time working in the back of 1500 Dixie Highway, re-routing the roof drainage. Very tight quarters equal slow going.
- As most people know, school is, or will be, starting very soon so please drive carefully and be aware. Which leads me to the sidewalk work that I have been talking about, it is next on my list.
- We were able to get some paving work done on Exter and Irish Rose as well as some drainage work on Emerson. All looks good, thanks.
- Won't be long it will be leaf season.

Mr. VonHandorf added that the new bouncy snail was added to the playground. Ms. Froelich asked about the work being done to the outside of the new building. The Mayor stated that she was told by the engineer to get rid of the dirt behind the building and re-route the roof drainage to the street. Ms. Froelich asked why Mr. VonHandorf was doing the work instead of contracting it out. Mr. VonHandorf replied that it is a very expensive job and that he has the equipment to do it.

D. Engineering – Jay Bayer

Mr. Bayer was absent from the meeting. Mayor Zembrodt read over his report.

Projects in design phase:

St. Joseph Lane Sidewalk Project

The sidewalk construction project has been completed by TMS Construction. A final inspection was performed with KYTC. Bayer Becker has provided a letter to the city which recommends full payment.

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.

Ms. Froelich inquired about the gate at Old State for the new development. Mayor Zembrodt stated that she is working with the association to install a gate similar to the one on Scenic. Mr. Zeltwanger is hoping to have one by fall. Ms. Froelich reminded to leave space for people, bikes, strollers, etc.

E. Treasurer's Report – Julie Alig

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ms. Froelich; seconded by Ms. Spoor. Roll call: all ayes

Mayor Zembrodt told council that the A/C in the new building went out. The unit is 16 years old and must keep getting reset. She received 3 estimates to get it replaced should it go out completely. The bids are as follows:

Schneller Knochelman	\$23,000
BMP	21,000
Rusk	19,298

Mr. O'Hara suggested looking at resizing the unit as the one quoted may be too large for the building..

Motion to add \$20,000 into the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund to cover the replacement cost of a new heating and air-condition unit for 1502 Dixie Highway was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Ms. Froelich. Roll call: all ayes

VIII. Committee Discussions

A. Parks, Recreation and Beautification

Ms. Froelich stated that she spoke with Mr. Conway regarding the new entryway sign at NDA. She would like to see the design and have a plan for all the entryway signs. The Mayor said they are looking at a round stone style with a sign coming out of the side. It has a 25–30-year lifespan and will be lit.

B. Economic Development and Business

Ms. Froelich stated that the committee discussed reviving the business community in the city. Mayor Zembrodt stated that the businesses don't meet like they used to and suggested quarterly meetings. Ms. Froelich would like to have 3 business owners join the committee. Ms. Spoor added that there was a good article in the KY City Magazine regarding economic development.

IX. Old Business

Mayor Zembrodt relayed Mr. Tony Darin's health insurance report:

The budget looks good, and the pool consists of 14 public entities. They offer several plans and have recently included some additional. There has been an average premium increase of 6% over the last 6 years but recently was only 4%. They approved amending the plan to bring in compliance with the non-discriminatory provisions of the Affordable Care Act. There are more people in the reserve because there are more people that joined the pool which is a good thing to keep our costs down.

X. New Business

Ms. Spoor said 25 years ago, the city planted trees on the boulevard of Park Drive. The ones in front of Claypool's home are in need of treatment. Ms. Spoor recommended the city pay to have the treatment. The cost would be \$344.50, but one tree may be beyond treatment. Motion to expense cost for the tree(s) was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Mr. Elkins. Roll call: all ayes

8:47 Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Daugherty; seconded by Mr. Shields.

Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

City Clerk