

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A CAUCUS MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024, AT 7:00 PM. STREAMED THROUGH TBNK WITH MAYOR, KATHY ZEMBRODT PRESIDING.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: JOE SHIELDS, DR. JOE DAUGHERTY, SARAH FROELICH, AND PAMELA SPOOR

ABSENT: STEVE ELKINS & MONTY O'HARA

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

I. Mr. Paul Zeltwanger, Joshua One, joined the meeting to give an update on the Park Pointe development gates. He thanked everyone for their patience on the gate installation. There was a couple who was interested in purchasing the adjacent lots off Old State Road and he was planning to install the gate and build the home at the same time. The purchase fell through so that caused a delay. They are now ready to move forward with the main and access gate installation. His plan drawing was forwarded to Council for review. He added that the development is seeing a lot of sales activity with 6 homes to be constructed within the next 2 months.

He plans for both gates to be done between April 15-26 as he is waiting for asphalt plants to open and is working on a bid with Riegler Construction.

Mr. Zeltwanger stated that lot # 72 falls over the hill up from the new liquor store which makes him skeptical of a sale. There has been discussion about making this into a common area or a dog park. A walking path will also be added from the entrance.

Ms. Froelich thanked Mr. Zeltwanger for attending and giving them a timeline. Ms. Froelich is curious to see what the plan will look like with the sidewalk installed off of Old State and asked when that plan drawing would be ready. Mr. Zeltwanger replied that he has asked his design person to integrate the sidewalk into the plans after looking at adjacent property lines. He hopes to have something by next week. Ms. Froelich stated that the area behind the Stamm and liquor store properties may have some opportunities for use. She would like for Council to discuss.

Ms. Spoor asked if there would be lighting on the signs. Mr. Zeltwanger replied that there will be. There are no streetlights planned yet so lights will be installed on the top of the sign columns and under the top caps. They will continue to talk to Duke about adding a streetlight. Ms. Spoor would like to look into Park Hills expanding its streetlighting. Mayor Zembrodt stated that she has talked with our Duke representative, Mr. Muth, regarding streetlighting in the city.

II. Chief Cody Stanley joined the meeting to discuss a new hire for the Police Department. Mayor Zembrodt stated that she sent out a rough draft of the budget's revenues and expenditures including raises and new hires for the police. Chief Stanley is looking to hire a recruit who will ride along with an officer until attending the academy, hopefully this summer. He stated that Officer Ricky Grigson is leaving sometime this year. The Chief stated that he was unable to find another retired officer or even a lateral.

He said Park Hills wasn't as competitive in salaries as other cities. He added that last year the state changed its hiring policies for new hires. Once an agency sends a recruit through the academy, they are required to remain with that agency for five years. Sergeant Dewaine is wanting to get off third shift, so the new hire would take over that shift for him. Ms. Spoor asked how long the academy is. Chief Stanley is not entirely sure but said recruits go through five weeks of training before entering the academy so he believes it would be less than 5 months. After the academy, she will ride along with another officer for 2-3 weeks and then be able to work alone. Recruits must attend the academy within one year of hire. Chief Stanley met with her and said she has a good head on her shoulders. She will need to go through the hiring process again and is willing to work for our agency. The Chief stated that even after this new hire, he will still be short an officer due to Lt. Webster's absence.

Ms. Spoor asked the cost of the academy. Chief Stanley replied that the academy is free, and the city covers her salary and uniform. He would like to swear her in at the next Business meeting.

III. Mayor Zembrodt stated that the Police Department's budget increased about \$30K to include raises. The contract lines went down as she hopes to receive the St. Joseph Lane sidewalk reimbursement by the end of the fiscal year. There was some hold-up as there were inspections that needed to be sorted out. The ARPA funds will still have \$285K left for next year. The Mayor is adamant about keeping our expenses under our revenues and not getting into the savings.

Mayor Zembrodt will tweak the budget for the next Caucus meeting. She will visit each department head to discuss their needs. Ms. Spoor will also have the budget discussed at the Financial Oversight meeting. The Mayor stated that she budgeted for a retired officer in the event we are able to hire one next fiscal year. Mayor Zembrodt said hiring and training of police officers was discussed at the last Mayor's Group meeting. Ms. Froelich asked Council to consider what would make us more competitive by looking at the whole picture and meeting standards. The Mayor is working with Chief Stanley on this. She added that Park Hills also allows our officers to earn extra money doing details such as high school games, dances and bingo. Dr. Daugherty added that the new building is also a big improvement.

Discussion turned to safe internet usage on city property. Mayor Zembrodt said that to use the wi-fi in Trolley Park, you need to sign in which may make it safer to use. She will talk with someone at Alta Fiber and Mayor Hatter on ways to make our internet safe for users.

Ms. Froelich stated that we don't always hold Caucus meetings but when we do, we should make sure that residents are aware of them, so they are able to attend/view.

7:41 Motion to adjourn from Caucus meeting was made by Mr. Shields; seconded by Ms. Spoor.

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Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

City Clerk