

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A BUSINESS MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PARK HILLS CITY BUILDING, 1106 AMSTERDAM ROAD, 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

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was called for the purpose of obtaining written or oral comments regarding the proposed budget and use of the Municipal Road Fund. No discussion occurred.

BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Motion to approve the June 10, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Mr. O’Hara; seconded by Ms. Froelich. Roll call: all ayes Mr. Shields abstained as he was absent from that meeting.

I. First Reading; Ordinance No. 8, 2024; amending Section 4 of the Personnel Policies regarding holidays was read in summary by Attorney Braun.

II. First Reading; Ordinance No. 9, 2024; setting the 2024 tax rate was read in summary by Attorney Braun.

III. Department Reports

A. Police Department – Chief Cody Stanley

Chief Stanley’ report contained the following:

Reports: 8

Citations:

- 2 Warrant Arrests
- 8 Traffic citations (2 DUI)
- 1 Criminal Arrest

City Citations: 1

Additional:

444 calls for service less; 38 traffic stops, 145 Vacation/Special Area Checks, 7 Special Detail we had a total of 254 police related calls.

Calls for assistance from other police departments:

Ludlow	24
Ft. Wright	8
Covington	4
Ft. Mitchell	2

Call Review:

- 2 reports on Elberta Circle
 - 1 report & 1 citation on St. Joseph Lane
 - 2 reports and 4 traffic citations on Dixie Highway
- Chief Stanley stated that Officer Ricky Grigson will retire at the end of the month and that he has been an excellent officer. Chelsea Little is still at the Academy and the Chief stated that Lt. Webster will not be returning. Officer Bradford will replace him.

B. Fire Department – Chief John S. Rigney

- A total of 23 calls for service were received during the month of June. The incidents are broken down by type on the Activity report.
- Covington FD rescue assisted with the removal of a stuck ring.
- FD crews conducted Recruit training and evaluated new equipment.
- Crews have been out conducting annual fire safety inspections.

C. Public Works – Dan VonHandorf

- Greetings Mayor Zembrodt and Council and thanks for another month.
- It's very hot and some things, grass but not the weeds, so much has slowed down.
- I am working on the paint striping some. I was able to put a pressure washer on the tractor and spray the stop bars and lines to get some of the dirt off of them, and just that made a big improvement. Plus, the fresh paint will stick better.
- The paving work on Old State (Park Pointe) is complete and some landscaping as well and looks really nice.
- City wide yard sale this weekend. Other than that, things are pretty quiet.
- Oops, I almost forgot the traffic counter. There have been over 21,000 vehicles cross over N. Arlington in 28 days. The highest day was June 26th at 1,286. Most days average 500 to 600 vehicles a day.

D. City Engineer – Jay Bayer

Mr. Bayer was absent from the meeting. Report read by Mayor Zembrodt.

Private Projects in the City

Gateway Development (aka Park Pointe)

The Emergency Access Drive from Old State Road has been partially constructed. The drive is to be maintained by the HOA. The easement may need to be revised to reflect the final pavement location. The city has asked for this confirmation

The city has a bond in place until the punchlist work is completed. With the long delay in completing this task, a new inspection and punchlist is suggested before the bond is released. A plat is to be prepared by the developer to dedicate the proposed right of way along Amsterdam.

E. Finance Department – Julie Alig

The June & July financial reports will be available at the August 12th meeting.

Ms. Froelich asked that the receipts be attached to the VISA invoices for all departments as they have been previously.

IV. Committee Discussions

A. Brent Spence Bridge

Mr. Shields attended the bridge meeting on June 30th and had an opportunity to speak with the KYTC's project manager, Stacey (Hans). The discussion began on how the bridge will impact Park Hills' traffic and to ask if funds would be made available for any road repairs that could arise from this. The KYTC is just now getting to the detour management part of the planning and Stacey shared that there probably won't be any money available.

The design is still preliminary. The design team will begin its work in detail, which will also include noise and traffic maintenance. Completion is likely in 2032 with heavy construction to begin January 2026.

Mr. Shields also brought up the GPS and how it reroutes drivers to Park Hills' streets. Stacey told him they have had similar experiences. She asked that we get back to them on how we are handling this, and she will see if there is a way to combine efforts. This will also be on the upcoming infrastructure meeting agenda.

The decision regarding noise abatement will be made by the public, which is by invitation only to those who are near in proximity.

Mayor Zembrodt stated that she reached out to Ft. Wright about the welcome sign on the new bridge. They are looking for funding and asked what Park Hills can contribute to be included on the sign.

B. Parks, Recreation & Beautification – Pam Spoor

Ms. Spoor stated that the committee met on July 3rd to discuss how they will allocate the new budget. They discussed goals including a park on the south side of Park Hills. They are looking at 2 specific sites and the budget numbers to accommodate. They also talked about putting a small bridge over the creek in the Audubon Preserve. Mr. VonHandorf has taken the initiative to get this done. They would like to have the infrastructure committee discuss walkable access to the parks as well as the ongoing mediation of the hillside by Park Pointe.

The committee discussed the continuing need for volunteers, especially for the Audubon Preserve, maintenance of the public areas and the community garden. The city received a grant from Duke Energy about 3 years ago for the removal of invasive species. They did a great job with that, but Ms. Spoor emphasized the need to keep up on it as they will return. She will put an article in the newsletter asking for help in accomplishing this. She also has 2 volunteers from the committee who have committed to help.

At the recommendation of the city engineer, Jay Bayer, the dirt was pressed into the hillside off Hamilton to hold it in place.

Mr. Elkins wanted to thank his neighbors, Jeff and Amy Perry, for maintaining the corner of Arlington and Dixie Highway. Ms. Spoor also thanked them and all the volunteers that the city is fortunate to have. She also thanked Ms. Maffia for watering the wildflowers.

C. Economic Development & Business – Sarah Froelich

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The committee held a Town Hall meeting on June 11th with about 40-50 people in attendance. At their last meeting, June 25th, they discussed activation of what they are going to do as a result and will continue the discussion in July. The survey results were shared with Council and are also available on the city website under the Economic Development & Business committee page.

Ms. Froelich asked if there were any updates on the gates and roadways in Park Pointe. Mayor Zembrodt replied that there is nothing new to report and that Mr. Zeltwanger will need to get together with the attorney and the HOA.

Mr. Shields asked about the legislation regarding public speakers and meeting protocol. Mayor Zembrodt replied that the city hasn't held a Caucus and so it never came back up for discussion. Mr. Shields suggested forming a committee to get something together for discussion. Ms. Froelich and Ms. Spoor were both under the assumption that this Ordinance was dead. Mr. Shields replied that if this is so, there should be an explanation of why it is not being brought back. Ms. Froelich believes that the same should be done regarding the tabled Landmark Tree Ordinance.

Ms. Spoor asked to clarify for anyone listening that the status of the Park Pointe gates is, no gates as long as this is a public road. Mr. Zeltwanger might have options available to him but currently, the gates cannot be closed. If he were to hold an event, he would still have to go through a process.

V . Old Business

Ms. Froelich asked about the timeline for the Szechuan Gardens demolition. Mr. Gray stated that they have 6 months to demolish the property, or they will be up for another citation. The Board is meeting on Thursday, but Szechuan is not on the agenda.

Mr. O'Hara asked if the house on Morgan Court is being taxed as Abandoned Urban Property (AUP) and if not, it should be. Ms. Spoor asked Mr. Braun if he could look at what qualifies a property to be taxed as an AUP. Mr. Braun stated that as long as the city and PVA believe there are code violations such as blighted, deteriorated, no utilities, etc., the property can be labeled as AUP. Mr. Gray stated that the property on Morgan Court has not been issued a citation in almost a year. Mr. Braun stated that it is too late this year to assess the AUP rate. Once the PVA sends out evaluations, the city indicates back to the PVA what properties they want included on the AUP list. A letter from the PVA gets sent to the property owner and they have a certain amount of time to appeal. If they do not, they are automatically assessed the higher rate for the next tax year. Ms. Spoor would like to start the process for next years' taxes.

VI. New Business - None

7:42 Motion to enter into executive session was made by Ms. Froelich; seconded by Mr. Elkins. Mr. Braun stated that no action will be taken so the meeting will be adjourned.

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Mayor, Kathy Zembrodt

ATTEST:

City Clerk