

**Minutes for the City of Worthington Hills**  
**Mail: [info@cityofworthingtonhillsky.gov](mailto:info@cityofworthingtonhillsky.gov)**  
**Website: [www.cityofworthingtonhillsky.gov](http://www.cityofworthingtonhillsky.gov)**

**Date:** February 16, 2021

**Present:** Robert Stonum                      Dennis Metcalf                      Crystal Adams                      Susan Maupin  
Harold Hall                                  Dan Small                                  Steve Schwager                      Bev Lush

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Stonum. Opening Motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Adams. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited, followed by a moment of silent prayer.

**Citizens Present:** There were no residents present and no representative from Derby City Protection.

**Minutes:** The January 2021 minutes were brought up for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Maupin to approve the minutes. Vote was unanimous.

**Financial Report:** The January Financials had been distributed to the Commission for review and posted on COWH website prior to the City Meeting. Approval motion was made by Commissioner Maupin and seconded by Commissioner Hall. Vote was unanimous.

**Expense Review:** The cover sheet of February invoices along with invoice copies were passed around for Commissioners to review and initial. No approval motion was needed since Commissioners had already initialed and approved.

**Mayor's State of the City and Budget Message:**

- 2020-2021 FY – Policy to generate revenue to timely pay City expenses, the most critical of which are security, waste collection, and property and road maintenance.
- Because gross revenues for this fiscal year will increase by less than four percent, no need to increase taxes. Expenses are being covered.
- Delinquent tax payments that we receive should be enough to cover any unplanned expenses without the need to utilize the Carryover Funding budget line item
- Is in strict compliance with the Kentucky audit statute
- To develop an Action Emergency Plan in conjunction with the Louisville Metro Government Plan, sixteen Midland radios have already been purchased.

**City Attorney Presentation:**

- Requested updated list of names and contact information for the Mayor, Treasurer, and Commissioners.
- Delinquent Taxes Update: Treasurer Small provided list of 2020 delinquent taxes owed. Bev Lush prepared and mailed 37 letters to these property owners. The letters ask for property owners to pay the delinquent taxes along with fees and attorney fees, or provide proof the payments had been made.
- Delinquent tax liens from 2009 through 2019 – Attorney Schwager and Bev Lush are preparing tax lien information to be filed.
- Attorney Schwager explained about the reading of ordinances:
  - o First reading – General wording
  - o Second reading - More specific wording
- Budget Ordinance – Attorney Schwager explained about new budget format which is more flexible – just 2 lines. (Revenue line and expense line). Any changes to the budget must still be amended with another ordinance. He did the first reading of the 2021-2022 budget ordinance.
- Attorney Schwager explained the Insurance Premium Tax ordinance. When insurance companies receive life and other insurance premiums, 6% of that money comes to COWH. This is one of the major income sources

for cities. METRO may decide to pass an ordinance to raise this to 10% and COWH needs to have this ordinance ready to pass prior to 100 days before July 1st in order that this extra 4% comes to COWH; not METRO. Attorney Schwager did the first reading of the Insurance Premium Tax ordinance.

- Law requires cities to pass an annual ordinance for their property tax amount. A tax increase can not result in an additional revenue to the city of more than 4% over last year. Our tax rate will stay at .2047 per \$100 of property value. We've also added a provision to our ordinance this year to charge .75 per \$100 for dilapidated properties. Attorney Schwager did the first reading of the Property Tax ordinance.
- Attorney Schwager read an amendment to ICA & ICA Resolution. This resolution was for the name change. ICA was formed in 1994. Each month, JCLCCC (Jefferson County League of Cities Cable Commission) provides revenue income to cities.
- Interlocal Cooperative Agreement must be submitted for the name change. Series 2021 Resolution #1 (resolutions only require 1 reading) for cable and communication name change. Vote was taken by name and everyone voted yes.
- Attorney Schwager gave us the Ground Effects update. He explained the past situation for the new commissioners. Violations to the original Planning Agreement includes no music, lights pointed toward neighborhood, and black top area was expanded. The business has also expanded their hours. Over time, these issues have become adverse effects to the nearby residents. After COWH contacted Ground Effects, they came up with a tree planting plan. They suggested 1 type of plan for East part of property and different plan for the West end. We suggested they use the same type of plants for both ends. We also suggested that the driving lanes be changed to face East and West instead of current North and South. Attorney Schwager also explained how the completed trucks seem to race out of property and down Westport Road to the Ford plant entrance in such a way to avoid any police interaction.

#### **Old Business:**

- Emergency Radio Equipment - The radio equipment has been programmed and assigned to the Mayor, each City Commissioner, City Clerk, and City Treasurer. Everyone who received a radio signed the acceptance tracking form with their serial # and unit #. Mayor Stonum explained the Call Sign for our city had been mis-read and let us know that the correct Call Sign is WOKI278.
- Commissioner Adams wanted to be sure it was explained, in regards to the NextDoor social media site, that no city business be discussed on the site. Other topics are OK. Mayor Stonum told us that any city concerns must be dealt with through our city assigned email addresses.
- Mayor Stonum explained that a "Buyers' Beware" area has been added to COWH website.

#### **New Business:**

- Commissioners' Input:
  - o Commissioner Adams suggested the City use an alert-type system to contact residents with emails/texts in case of emergencies or urgent matters. (Such as road conditions/treatments due to weather). Mayor Stonum informed us that COWH used to use Reach Alert for that purpose, however, not enough residents signed up and provided their contact information to justify the cost.
  - o Mayor Stonum explained what had been done for the roads during the recent numerous weather events. He helped Commission Adams.
  - o Commissioner Maupin suggested possibly putting a Weather Alert button on COWH's website for updates to the residents. Mayor Stonum will add this to the website.
  - o Commissioner Metcalf made suggestion to create a duffel-bag type container in our vehicle including safety vest, flashlight, and tape to mark light poles needing attention. Also get a sign to put in our vehicle's window stating "City Official" so when we are out doing city business, residents will know the vehicle is parked for City business.
  - o Attorney Schwager noted that Wennetta King had paid the wrong tax amount. She sent another check to the attorney in the correct amount so he asked Commissioner Maupin to drop off the reimbursement check to Ms. King.
  - o Mayor Stonum advised us of the pipeline webinar on March 17 at 6PM – Virtual CORE Program – and suggested that we sign up to attend. This webinar will help us to be aware in emergency situations such as: gas lines, electric lines, etc. that run underground through our city.

- Mayor Stonum informed the commissioners that when he and City Clerk Lush went to the post office last week, we received an insurance premium tax form from an insurance company that showed they had paid our city \$11,000 overpayment so they now owe us nothing. He asked Attorney Schwager to check into the process of having an audit performed to be sure this is true.
- Mayor Stonum advised of the Million Dollar Surety Bond 3 year premium that is due February 1, 2021. He thinks it would be best if COWH paid for this coverage from February 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021 to ease budgeting in this area for next year's budget, and so it would coincide with our other policies with KLCIS. The renewal extension will cost \$468.28. The renewal extension approval was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Maupin. Voting was unanimous.
- Commissioner Adams advised us that she needs more money in her budget due to numerous weather events already this winter season. She has spent \$36,700 already which has nearly depleted the \$40,000 in the budget. Since another winter event is predicted for this week, the budget needs to be amended. Attorney Schwager did the first read on an ordinance to amend the budget ordinance to fund more weather events. \$40,000 of our General Fund reserves will be added to the Carryover budget line item for additional snow removal costs.
- Commissioner Metcalf advised that the radios have been charged and should not be left on the chargers all the time.
- City Clerk Lush asked about the items lying in 2 yards on Northumberland that Rumpke has not picked up. Commissioner Maupin explained that there are work orders on file with Rumpke to pick up those items. Rumpke has 2 types of trucks – Trash truck and junk truck. They are currently behind on picking up junk as those trucks are helping with the trash pickup during the winter weather event.

#### **Commissioner Reports:**

##### **Property Commissioner Hall**

- Nothing to report

##### **Utilities Commissioner Maupin**

- January 28<sup>th</sup> I replied to Mayor Bob's email in regards to the streetlight on Baygarden Dr
- January 30<sup>th</sup> I placed tape on the street lamp and reported it to LG&E
- February 7<sup>th</sup> I rode the city to check streetlights and street lamp on Baygarden was on
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Dawn Eichenberger emailed asking if she was getting her trash picked up today. She did not give her address. Rumpke was a day behind and picked up trash that day. I checked Rumpke's website and it stated that they were on a delay due to the weather. I emailed Ms. Eichenberger back on February 14 Sunday and told her what Rumpke's website said and apologized for any inconveniences to her
- February 14<sup>th</sup> William Taylor emailed stating that he contacted Rumpke and they told him to put his mattresses out for trash pickup. Rumpke did not take them. He did not give his address. I emailed him back that evening asking for his address and offered to contact Rumpke myself. No reply.
- February 14 I drove the neighborhood. All street lamps on
- February 15<sup>th</sup> I spoke with Mayor Bob he gave me Mr. Taylor's address. He stated he is unhappy with Rumpke's service. As well as the Seas in regards to trash that is lying on the easement of their driveway that hadn't been picked up for 2 weeks. I contacted Rumpke by phone and a work order has been put in for both addresses. Rumpke stated that they had left voicemails for the Seas to bag trash for pickup. No reply.
- February 16<sup>th</sup> I emailed Mr. Taylor and stated a work order has been put in for the mattresses. No reply.

##### **Safety Commissioner Metcalf**

- Drove the city on multiple occasions.
- Went to storage shed with Mayor Stonum on one occasion.
- Mayor Stonum and I went to P.O. multiple times.
- Mayor Stonum and I unboxed the Two Way radios and charged them.
- Mayor Stonum and I programed privacy codes into the radios.

- *The Mayor and I went to Attorney Steve Schwager's office on one occasion.*
- *The Mayor and I delivered the KLC City Officials Legal Handbooks.*
- **Derby City Protection**
  - o *Traffic Stops 8*
  - o *Check on open garage doors 2*
  - o *Parking Citations 8*
  - o *Abandoned Sticker Placed on Vehicle 1*

### **Road Commissioner Adams**

- *There some citizen inquiries and questions relating to the ice storm on February 10th and 11th.*
- *Responded to the citizen inquiries and questions via phone and email within 24 hours.*
- *Also reached out to the Coldstream mayor in regards to their treatment plan for the ice storm so that I can learn from how they handled it. Hoping to get in touch with them so they can let their snow vendor know our snow contract is up for bid in 2021.*
- *There was one citizen inquiry about the snowstorm on February 15th. Responded via email. He wrote back and Mayor Stonum responded via email and explained the area over by Pacelli and Tazwell and what was COWH's responsibility and what was not.*
- *Went to the Post Office with Mayor Stonum on January 30th.*
- *Went to the Post Office with Mayor Stonum on February 13th.*
- *Weather event - Saturday, January 23rd. Called Billy at Minor & Company. Told him we didn't need any plowing or salt put down. The brine from earlier in the month (January 15th) was still doing its job and we only got a small dusting of snow that night.*
- *Weather event-January 27th. Called Billy in the morning for the brine treatment and Minor & Company was able to get it down before noon. We had accumulation on the roads so I ordered for plowing and salt to be put down.*
- *The morning of January 28th Mayor Stonum informed me that the plowing had taken place but was an extremely poor job. He said several streets were missed and not plowed at all and they did a terrible job at Northumberland and Halifax. Mayor Stonum had Billy come out personally to assess the situation and Billy said he would not charge us for plowing, only the salt. The sun came out and warmed the area and the streets were clear but wet by noon.*
- *Weather event-Sunday, January 31st. There was still quite a bit of salt down from the January 27th/28th event so I opted not to have any additional salt or plowing done for this event. The salt that was already down worked well to keep the roads clear from snow accumulation.*
- *Weather event-Saturday, February 6th. I opted to not put any brine or salt down. The snow didn't stick to the road so there was no need for plowing.*
- *Then the ice storm came!!! I called Billy and had salt put down the afternoon of February 10th as a pretreatment for the upcoming ice storm. Mayor Stonum and I drove the city streets together to check that the salt was applied and working.*
- *Since I'm newly elected and have never dealt with an ice storm before, I consulted Mayor Stonum for his opinion late on the 10th. He advised that it would be better to let the slush refreeze and be lumpy like gravel for traction rather than to call for plowing and have it smoothed out which would then refreeze and leave nothing in the way of traction. I went with his recommendation and we opted not to plow.*
- *The morning of the 11th, the roads thawed a bit with the rise in temperature and the traffic. However, the ice didn't melt enough for any plowing to be effectively done and anything that melted froze again that evening.*
- *On Friday, February 12th, I authorized an application of salt. This wasn't Magic Salt and the negotiated price between Mayor Stonum and Billy of Minor & Company was \$3,000. Between the salt, temperature, and traffic, the ice melted enough for Minor & Company to be able to get the roads plowed later in the day. Minor & Company then applied an additional layer of salt to work on any residual ice and as a pretreatment for the upcoming storm on Sunday, February 14th.*
- *Weather event-Sunday, February 14th/Monday, February 15th. We received some snow accumulation. Minor & Company came out and plowed and salted multiple times in order to keep the roads clear and drivable.*

- *Weather event-Monday, February 15th/Tuesday, February 16th – Minor & Company came again the plow and salt the roads.*
- *All of this ice and snow was very expensive to the budget so I need to ask for a budget increase. I am currently at \$36,700 so with Thursday’s weather coming in, I will go over budget.*
- *The current budget for the roads is \$41,000. \$40,000 is for snow removal and \$1,000 of it is for signs and sign replacement. We will need to carry over some funds from last year’s road fund because last winter we only used \$4,100 of the \$40,000 snow removal budget.*

*Commissioner Hall is looking for information on the free tree give-away event. He thinks it is usually scheduled for Late March/Early April as a drive-through event. He would like some of our group to get together and get free trees for our open space.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with a motion by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Maupin.*

*Signatures:*

**City Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_