

**Caucus Meeting
March 8, 2017**

Mayor Irvin T. "Butch" Callery called the March 8, 2017 City of Villa Hills Caucus meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Dennis M. Stein Municipal Building, 719 Rogers Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky. Mr. Kilburn gave the prayer and Mayor Callery led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance:

Mayor Butch Callery
G. Bruns
G. Kilburn
M. Koenig
S. Ringo
J. Vaden
G. Waugaman

Bryce Rhoades, Assistant City Attorney
Craig T. Bohman, City Administrator/Clerk
Chief of Police Bryan Allen
Buck Yelton, Public Works Director

A quorum was present.

Mayor Callery recognized Girl Scout Troop 1930 which was visiting Council and urged everyone interested to buy their Girl Scout cookies from this troop.

Discussion items: Summaries of the following listed items on the agenda are as follows:

- **PDS "Zoning for the 21st Century" project**
Staff reported that Planning and Development Services is in the process of selecting a consultant to review and diagnose where the current city code differs or does not meet the recently updated county-wide comprehensive plan. After the diagnosis is complete, the city will have the option to update the city's zoning code, reformat the existing code, or completely rewrite the zoning code. Staff recommended having the diagnosis completed then decide a course of action. Questions about the cost were made and the cost of the diagnosis is being paid for by Planning and Development Services, but additional services would probably incur a cost to the city. Consensus emerged to proceed with the diagnosis.
- **KCPC Updating signage regulations**
Staff reported that the Kenton County Planning Commission would be making recommendations to each jurisdiction about updates to the sign regulations based on a recent ruling by the Supreme Court to bring local codes into compliance with the ruling. Legal counsel explained the ruling on common issues with local sign regulations.

- **Solar panel regulations (citizen request)**
 Staff presented a citizen-drafted ordinance amending the city's zoning code to include regulations on the installation and placement of solar panels. Currently there are no regulations on such devices and a recent installation in nearby Crescent Springs has highlighted issues to be addressed. Discussion followed about the need for the regulations and the contents of the proposed ordinance. Staff noted that a resolution to send the draft to the Planning Commission for a recommendation would be needed and that staff would work with the drafter and PDS staff to rework the ordinance prior to submission.
- **Recertify Detective and Sergeant as Hazardous Duty positions.**
 Staff noted that the only position in the police department certified a Hazardous Duty for employees hired after September 1, 2008 is police officer. Staff requested that the positions of Detective and Sergeant be recertified as Hazardous Duty. Council would need to pass a resolution petitioning the Kentucky Retirement Systems Board of Trustees to certify the positions as Hazardous Duty for those hired after September 1, 2008. Consensus emerged to recertify all the remaining police department positions as soon as possible.
- **Proposed employer match plan**
 Staff presented a proposal to create a 3% employer match plan for all full time employees contributing to the city's 457 plan (the government version of the 401K). Staff noted that the proposal would include a provision for a 6% match (2 for 1) for rehired-retired police officers employed on contracts as an incentive to retain their services. Staff reported that the cost of the proposed employer match plan was \$34,000 while hiring retired police officers saves the city \$112,000. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the pros, cons, and need for incentives to retain employees, The efforts by other cities to recruit retired officers away from their current city when their contracts expire, the cost of the proposed program, the ability of the city to compete with other departments, benefits like paid time off which may be more desirable to retired officers, the responsibility of employees to save for their own retirement, and the cost of the city's contribution to the state retirement system. No consensus emerged regarding the program. Council requested that staff interview the contracted police officers to determine the types of benefits they find most desirable.
- **Budget**
 The preliminary budget was presented to Council with the unfunded wish list items. It was noted that the draft budget includes a 4% increase in property tax revenue and consensus emerged to take the 4%. Individual budget items were also discussed.

At 8:07 p.m., during the budget discussion, Mr. Kilburn left the meeting due to attend to a family situation.

With no further listed discussion items, the meeting proceeded to General Discussion.

General Discussion:

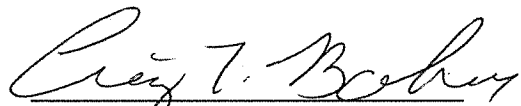
- Mr. Waugaman asked if the city participates as a safe place for Craigslist exchanges. Chief Allen explained that the city does not offer its location as a safe place due to staffing, lack of cameras, and legal concerns.
- Ms. Vaden inquired about getting the traffic light at Buttermilk and Collins retimed. Mr. Bohman replied that he has calls into the District 6 traffic supervisor. Discussion followed about how difficult it is to turn left from Collins after the schools let out until the conclusion of evening rush hour.
- Mr. Ringo reminded the Mayor, Council and the public about the upcoming shadow night on April 5th at Villa Madonna Academy Auditorium.
- Mayor Callery announced that the Kenton County Planning Commission approved the change in the land use of the St. Walburg property 19-0.

With there being no further general discussion items, the meeting proceeded to the next item, a potential executive session. There was no need for an executive session.

With there being no further business or discussion, Mayor Callery adjourned the meeting.

Time of adjournment was 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Craig T. Bohman, City Administrator/Clerk


Irvin T. "Butch" Callery, Mayor