

## **Council Meeting #712 Minutes September 15, 2021**

Mayor Heather Jansen called the September 15, 2021 Public Hearing and meeting of City of Villa Hills Council (Meeting #712) to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Dennis M. Stein Municipal Building, 719 Rogers Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky. Mayor Jansen led Council in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Jennifer Lipson called the roll. Those in attendance:

**Mayor Jansen**  
**R. Baehner**  
**S. Ringo**  
**C. Stover**  
**S. Thompson**  
**S. Wadsworth**

**Craig T. Bohman, City Administrator**  
**Jennifer Lipson, City Clerk**  
**Bryan Allen, Police Chief**

**Bryce Rhoades, City Attorney**  
**Matt Bogen, City Engineer**

**J. Cahill – absent**

A quorum was present.

The first item of business on the agenda was approval of the minutes of the August 18, 2021, Public Hearing and Council meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Baehner, seconded by Ms. Stover.  
A vote was taken 5-0 in favor. Motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the minutes of the September 8, 2021, Caucus Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Ringo, seconded by Ms. Wadsworth. A vote was taken 5-0 in favor. Motion passed.

### **Legislation:**

#### **• 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Approval of Ordinance 2021-I**

An Ordinance of the City of Villa Hills, in Kenton County, Kentucky levying an ad valorem Real Estate tax of 22.1 cents per each one hundred dollars in real estate valuation within the City and providing for interest and penalty charges for late payment; and levying a Personal Property tax of 6.2 cents per each one hundred dollars in valuation of personal property within the City.

Mr. Bohman informed Council that this is the annual tax rate ordinance. This ordinance will need to be passed before staff can begin to print and send tax bills out.

Mr. Ringo made a motion to approve the Ordinance, second by Mr. Baehner. Roll call vote taken, Baehner, Ringo, Stover, Thompson and Wadsworth, all in favor, Cahill was absent, motion passed.

### **This will become Ordinance 2021-7**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Discussion of Ordinance 2021-J**

An Ordinance of The City of Villa Hills, Kentucky in Kenton County, Kentucky, Amending and adding a new section to Chapter 90 of the Villa Hills Code of Ordinances titled Animals.

There was no discussion, Council will hold discussion during committee reports.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Police:**

- Chief Allen presented a Power Point of the August 2021 Police report.
- Chief Allen reported on crimes, accidents, overtime, training and K-9 activity.
- Chief Allen advised that of the 9 crimes reported for the month, 1 was an auto theft at Crescent Springs Park, where the vehicle was unlocked with keys inside. Chief Allen reminded residents to remove all valuables, including keys and key fobs and lock vehicles.
- Chief Allen reported that most citations are being issued on I-75 using the FOT grant and other problem areas for speeding include Buttermilk Pike and Amsterdam Road.
- Chief Allen reported that the department held monthly training on sexual harassment.
- Chief Allen reported that Onexx was able to assist in the apprehension of a fleeing gun suspect near Beechwood.
- Mayor Jansen informed Chief Allen and Council that she had received a commendation letter from Fort Mitchell Police Department, for our department's response and apprehension of the suspect.
- The department's overtime for the month included 40 hours for court, 15 hours for Safety Night, 14 hours for the protest in front of St. Elizabeth's CEO's home, and 17 hours for shift coverage.
- A resident sent a note to Council Member Stover, the resident was unaware of the run event that occurred on September 11<sup>th</sup> until she attempted to leave her home. She asked why residents were not better informed. The department and City had shared the event information on the website and both Facebook pages. A resident that was present noted that she does not have a Facebook account and did not see the information either and requested signs and possibly use of email as well. Chief Allen assured the residents and Council that they will work on better public relations in the future and advising race sponsors also to assist by providing signage for future events and road closures. Chief Allen will follow up with Kenton County Sheriff regarding the resident's encounter with an officer from that department. Chief Allen asked Ms. Stover to tell the resident that he personally apologizes for the encounter with the officer.

#### **Safety:**

- Mr. Baehner reiterated Chief Allen's report about vehicle thefts and asked residents not to leave their keys in their car.

- Mr. Baehner announced that Onexx has been recertified with his NAWPD certification – a national police dog certification. Onexx has been a valuable resource in the county.
- In reviewing police calls, Mr. Baehner pointed out to Council that many of the Crescent Springs calls have been self-initiated calls by officers, not calls taken by dispatch. A number of the narcotics calls and arrests were the results of proactive officer initiated stops by officers.
- Mr. Baehner reported that as a result of the narcotics arrests, seizures and forfeitures, the department will be purchasing 2 body cameras and 1 radio with funds received.
- Officers, Krull, Bullard and Black played an instrumental role saving a patient's life including use of an AED to deliver a shock. They will be awarded the Department's Life-Saving Medal in the near future.
- Mr. Baehner informed Council that 15<sup>th</sup> officer on track to start in January with internal training, then will start the Academy in April. Mr. Daly and Mayor Hartfiel have met with Mayor Jansen and Mr. Bohman about the additional costs for the officer. Mr. Daly indicated that Crescent Springs fully supports and should have their formal alignment to proceed by the end of September.
- Mr. Baehner followed up on speeding reported on Sunglow, a study was completed and there were a couple outliers, but they did not see a chronic issue with speeding. They will continue to monitor the area for speeders.
- Traffic issues at River Ridge along Amsterdam, the police are aware and have addressed this as a safety problem. Mr. Baehner is requesting contact information, so he can go to the School Board to address the issue.
- Firehouse project has started seeing clearing of trees and plans call for bid process to start in a month or so.
- Crescent Springs rescinded TIFF for the Crossings, it will be a 1 way in, 1 way out access to the Crossings subdivision.
- Mr. Daly thanked Chief Allen and Sergeant Hall at the meeting for organizing the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and a successful Towers Run.
- Next meeting for Safety Committee is October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

#### **City Engineer:**

- Mr. Bogen presented the City Engineer's report.
- Mr. Bogen reported that Buttermilk and Lakeshore have both been inspected by SD1 and both are now complete.
- Mr. Bogen reported that Robin Lane set back to September 27<sup>th</sup> start date, but completion date will remain the same. They will go straight from Robin Lane to the 2021 resurfacing project.
- Mr. Bogen reported that the Rogers Road project ran under cost, so the bridge is also being milled and overlaid.

#### **Public Works Committee:**

- Mr. Thompson gave an update on Collins/Amsterdam. City representatives will meet with County and Cincinnati Bell representatives on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Cincinnati Bell has reported that there are 855 residents and business lines wired to the building, 660 of those are in Villa Hills. If residents don't take the service on their own, it will potentially cost the City \$800,000. Cincinnati Bell needs County and City to decide as soon as possible on the project, in order to get the ball rolling. ARPA funds can be used to cover this expense. The committee hopes to have more information after the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Mr. Thompson reported that there are significant tire ruts at Collins and Amsterdam at the intersection are on a state road and the state needs to address the issues.
- Ms. Wadsworth stated that several teacher friends of hers had asked her to thank the City for the improved sidewalks and crossing on Prospect Point Drive.
- Mr. Thompson reported that the base repairs on Rogers Road were 80% completed.
- Signs for Sanctuary have been installed.
- Pricing is being obtained for guardrail repairs for Prospect Point and Short Amsterdam guardrails that are in need of repair.
- City has received the check to cover 50% of the cost of the sidewalk improvements along Prospect Point, from the Prospect Point HOA.

#### **Events & Beautification:**

- Ms. Wadsworth gave the following updates:
  - Music Fest will be September 18<sup>th</sup>. Bands have been confirmed, food truck, beer trucks will be presents, Fireworks will be provided and they have received sponsorships to cover most of the costs for the event.
  - Haunted Trail will be the last Saturday in October. Ms. Wadsworth is contacting several schools for student volunteers. She is looking for help building sets for the event.
  - Yard sale had over 140 households participating.
- Next meeting will be on October 4, 2021.

#### **Finance:**

- Mr. Thompson advised that the committee met on Monday. The committee recommends accepting the August Financial reports subject to any audit changes. They are not recommending posting of the reports until audit is final.
  - Mr. Baehner made a motion to accept August Financial statement, subject to any audit changes, seconded by Ms. Stover. A vote was taken, all in favor. Motion passed.
- Mr. Thompson advised the committee also discussed the benefits package, budget shortfalls, and made council aware that services may need to be cut or revenues increased to balance future budgets.
- Next meeting will be held on October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

#### **Administration:**

- Ms. Stover advised that Administration Committee met for a Special meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Stover advised that the committee had made recommendations, which resulted in draft Ordinance 2021-J.
- The committee gave recommendations:
  - Add the necessity of obtaining a permit
  - Add a separate line denoting that a coop or hutch must be located in the backyard.
  - Separate out the guidelines for the location of a chicken coop as opposed to a rabbit hutch as far as distance from the owner's house and distance from neighbors' houses.
- Mr. Thompson inquired about the number of pets in the ordinance, if it was 5 pets total, or 5 each. The committee's intention is 5 total pets.
- The ordinance will require inspections 4 times per year by the Department of Agriculture.

- A resident inquired about how many properties would meet the requirements to have chickens, initial rough calculations showed approximately 198 properties could be permitted to have chickens.
- The ordinance 90.14(P) would add chickens and rabbits to the list of pets and will limit to 5 per dwelling.
- With the assumption that Draft Ordinance 2021-H1 passes, this ordinance would also be passed. If Draft Ordinance 2021-H passes, then Draft Ordinance 2021-J would be irrelevant, as chickens would be prohibited.
- Mr. Rhoades indicated that there may be a way to construct an ordinance that would permit the coops to remain in the city if they were already in place, but ban the harboring of any additional chickens. He would look at this and get an answer back to Council prior to the next meeting.
- Next meeting will be on October 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.

#### **Recreation:**

- Mr. Ringo reported that fall soccer, baseball and football are all using fields currently. The last day that fields will be open will be October 24, 2021.

#### **Fire Authority:**

- Mr. Ringo advised that the Fire Authority had not met for the month yet.
- Mr. Ringo advised that on Monday the joint committee had met with Firehouse Committee. The design work is completed for the firehouse and will be bid out for construction.
- Mr. Ringo reported that the water issue, they are working with the property owner of the apartment across the street for a resolution.
- Next meeting will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Firehouse.

#### **City Attorney:**

- Mr. Rhoades advised he had no report.

#### **City Clerk:**

- Ms. Lipson advised Council that now that tax rate had been set, they would begin working on tax bills. She reminded those submitting items for the Newsletter that she needs the items as soon as possible.

#### **City Administrator:**

- Mr. Bohman gave a review of the 3-year budget which he shared with the Finance Committee. Mr. Bohman showed Council shortfalls and several options for cuts or solutions for where to generate revenue. Council thanked Mr. Bohman for the work he put into creating the 3-year budget and sharing of his advice.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

- On September 1, 2021, Paul Gabis Day was celebrated at Ameristop and was well attended by the community. Mayor Jansen presented a Proclamation to Mr. Gabis.
- 9/11 Memorial – Mayor Jansen thanked Mayor Justin Hartfiel, City Administrator Mike Daly and Crescent Springs Council for inviting her to participate. Mayor Jansen also thanked Chief Allen and Sergeant Hall for planning the event and Crescent Springs Public Works for work done for the event.
- With the passing of Mayor Lou Hartfiel, it was realized that a new committee needs to be formed to plan future 9/11 Memorials.



**Old Business**

Ms. Wadsworth informed Council that she will be meeting with Martha Lang and the landscaper who had completed the work at the City Sign to redesign some of the landscaping to bring more color to the area.

**New Business**

NONE

**General Comments**

NONE

**Executive Session**

Mr. Baehner made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(N), seconded by Mr. Thompson. A voice vote was taken, all in favor. Motion passed

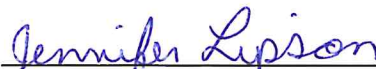
Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.


At 8:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Baehner, seconded by Mr. Ringo to leave Executive Session. A voice vote was taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

At 8:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Baehner, seconded by Ms. Stover to adjourn. A voice vote was taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

Time of adjournment was 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jennifer Lipson, City Clerk

  
Heather H. Jansen, Mayor