



**Council Meeting #740 Minutes
January 17, 2024**

Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Stover called the January 17, 2024, Meeting of City of Villa Hills Council (Meeting #740) to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Dennis M. Stein Municipal Building, 719 Rogers Road, Villa Hills, Kentucky. Mayor Pro-Tem Stover led Council in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Lipson called the roll. Those in attendance:

Mayor Pro-Tem Stover
J. Cahill
S. Ringo
S. Thompson
S. Wadsworth
K. Walsh

Craig T. Bohman, City Administrator
Jennifer Lipson, City Clerk
Matt Hall, Police Chief
Derick Yelton, Public Works Director
Elivia Rabe, City Attorney

Mayor Jansen was absent.

A quorum was present.

Mr. Thompson arrived at 6:02 pm.

Students Adam Kolar, Tommy Wenning, and Sydney Short from Villa Madonna High School were present to share information about a race they are planning to honor former classmates Chase and Cole Fischer who passed away in 2023 in an accident. The money raised from the race will go to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati. They are still working on a time and date, the route still needs to be determined, as they want to start and end at Villa Madonna Academy. They would like the walk/run to go through Country Squire, past the family home. The students are looking for guidance and a contact person with the City. Chief Hall will assist and let Council know if anything will be needed from the City. Council is in support of the students organizing the event.

First order of business was approval of the minutes of the December 20, 2023, Council meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Ringo, seconded by Mr. Thompson. A vote was taken. Ringo, Thompson, Cahill and Walsh voting in favor, Stover and Wadsworth abstained. Motion passed.

Chief Wendt gave his annual fire report to Council. The department responded to 1,251 EMS calls and 568 Fire calls in 2023. Total fire losses reported in 2023 were \$819,750, with a total of 3 house fires responded to during the year. He reported that staffing was still an issue and that the department was on the state's radar for shifts where they are unable to have paramedics available.

Chief Wendt hopes that they will be into the new building by the end of January. He advised that word is already out that they are looking to hire full-time for July. Several part-time employees of the department have expressed interest in applying for the full-time positions.

Committee Reports:

Police:

- Chief Hall presented the Power Point of the December 2023 Police report; the department had 1,166 calls for service. There were 14 reported crimes, 16 traffic collisions, and 35 citations issued. The department had 7 active cases under investigation in December.
- Chief Hall reported that the department training for the month was review of Chapter 17.7 Diminished Capacity/Excited Delirium from KLC. Other training included: K-9 training, Officer Black attended training for SWAT Negotiations Team.
- There were 9 canine deployments, 7 were within the 2 cities, 2 were assisting other agencies. Officer Dooley and Onexx were credited with 5 felony arrests and 9 charges, resulting from K-9 deployment.
- Chief Hall reported 54 hours of overtime for the month, which included 10 hours for court, 2 hours for FOT, 9.5 hours for investigations/late calls, 4.5 hours for shift coverage, 1 hour for Administrative, and 27 hours for Shop with a Cop/Fireman.
- Chief Hall advised that unit 150 is on the road and has been assigned to Officer Robbins.
- Unit 151 is being outfitted currently, and when it is finished unit 152 will be sent to be outfitted. Both units should be on the road by February.
- Chief Hall reported that Taser replacement costs are being worked on. Many of the current Tasers are outdated and will need to be replaced. AXON, who department contracts with for the body cameras, and storage, also has a program for maintaining and replacing Tasers.
- Chief Hall is working on reviewing policies for Accreditation. Accreditation is every 4 years and is due in 2024.
- Chief Hall reported that Villa Hills assisted Park Hills with the SD1 call in Bromley in December, and also assisted Fort Mitchell with a shooting in the Kroger lot.
- Officer Dooley and Onexx attended an annual conference at Ark Encounter.

Safety Committee:

- Mr. Walsh advised that the committee is in favor of getting the new Tasers for the police department. AXON's program already covers body cameras, vehicle cameras and video storage for the department, Tasers would be an addition to the existing coverage. Taser cost is \$5,500 per unit. If the department utilizes the 10-year rotation program with AXON, the contract would replace Tasers as needed. Chief Hall does not want to remove this less lethal use of force option from officers.
- Mr. Walsh reported that a resident had inquired about speeding on Amsterdam and reducing the speed limit. The concern was forwarded to the state, because Amsterdam is a state road, and the state regulates the speed limit.
- There was also speeding concern on Walburg near Amsterdam. A speed study was conducted, and overall there is not a critical speed issue. There were a few vehicles posing speeding concerns.

Public Works Committee:

- Mr. Thompson advised that the Bayer Becker contract and the Niewahner project contracts have both been signed by the Mayor.
- Mr. Thompson reported that Valley Trails to Dalewood and Dry Creek should be started in Spring 2025.
- Mr. Thompson reported that Northern KY Water District may cause a delay in the start of Rogers Road, so they can replace the water main along the road.

- Replacement bridge to Pineview, the committee is checking on need and placement for downspout collectors, for those houses which drain to the street.
- Sidewalk on right side of Rogers Road as one travels downhill connects to the street midway down. This creates the appearance of an intra-block crosswalk that is unmarked. Council had discussion of what to do, this will be forwarded to Safety Committee for input.
- Meadow Wood is in bad shape, but the City is trying to keep it passable. Crossing should be finished by end of 2024. Looking at 2025/2026 for joint replacement of road with Crescent Springs.
- The Salt bin bid for pier work is on the agenda, to be voted on. The building design is almost completed.
- A sinkhole was located along the driveway leading to Franzen fields. The committee is asking for authorization for up to \$100,000 to cover cost for repairs. The proposal is to fund these necessary repairs from reserves.

Public Works Director

- Mr. Yelton reported that they have been addressing an issue along Short Amsterdam leaving ice due to runoff from the culvert. This is in the area where a prior hill slide occurred.
- Mr. Yelton advised that his crews are placing new signs and replacing faded and damaged signs in they area of Robin Lane. They are also conducting in-house training, and vehicle inspections.
- The road crew has used 40 tons of salt, they have a 50 ton delivery next date and will have 100 tons in the garage.

Events & Beautification Committee:

No Report

Finance Committee:

- Mr. Cahill advised that the committee met on Monday night and reviewed the December financials. The committee recommended approval of December financials.
 - Mr. Cahill made a motion to approve December Financials, and to post the financials to the website, seconded by Ms. Wadsworth. All voted in favor, Motion passed.
- The Finance committee reviewed the agenda for the joint finance meeting with Crescent Springs. The split calculation for the Fire Authority will remain at 60/40, and the calculated rates for the new Police split will be 58/42. The police split will be recalculated each year based on valuation, population, and calls for service.
- Mr. Cahill announced that the committee discussed the date of their meeting for February falls on a federal holiday, therefore Finance Committee will hold a special meeting on February 12, since financial statements are already planned to be completed early in February.
- Mr. Cahill asked staff to update financial statements on the website, and to also add the audit report.
- Mr. Cahill reported that the Joint ILA meeting discussed squad billing and salaries, which were both over and will even out the overage on overtime expenses for the year. Full-time staffing for the fire department had some contention at the ILA meeting. Mr. Cahill will be attending the Crescent Spring Council Meeting with Chief Wendt to answer questions.

- The Joint ILA meeting reviewed requirements for fire authority split between cities of Villa Hills and Crescent Springs. The current split is 60/40, the requirement is for that split to be reviewed every 5 years. It was noted that the split for the police department was similar at 58/42, but the Police ILA will be reviewed yearly.
- There was discussion by Council regarding ARPA funding and what happens if a project designated by the end of 2024 falls through after January 1, 2025. Council inquired if the City would lose those funds. Mr. Bohman will check on this.
- Next meeting is Monday, February 12th at 7:00 pm.

Administration Committee:

- The committee did not meet.

Recreation Committee:

- Public Works is working on the bridge and roadway leading to Franzen Park.
- Knothole field enlargement is being worked on and will have additional fencing added.
- February will be when fields are assigned, with activity anticipated to return to the fields in March.

Fire Authority:

- Mr. Ringo advised that Chief Wendt gave the Fire report, and December financials were presented and approved at the Fire Authority meeting.
- Mr. Ringo reported that they had a final walk through of firehouse and their punch list of items to complete is being worked on. Inspection for the occupancy permit is due to occur in 1-2 weeks, then they anticipate moving in.
- Mr. Ringo informed Council that the benefits package for future full-time employees is being worked on.
- Next meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 6:00 pm at the firehouse.

City Attorney:

Ms. Rabe reported that the property at 2727 Vera Cruz was sold, then buyer filed a motion to set aside sale. The issue was procedural and was filed on January 22. Attorney will follow up on this.

City Clerk:

No Report

City Administrator:

- Mr. Bohman reminded residents that with potential bad weather coming into the area, that the snow rule in Villa Hills is that 2 inches of snow fall requires removal of vehicles from the roadways, and park in driveways. This allows road crews to clear all roadways.

Mayor's Report:

No Report

Legislation:

Ms. Rabe presented the following Legislation:

Discussion and approval of draft Municipal Order 2024-A

A Municipal Order of the City of Villa Hills, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Accepting the bid of Peterson Contractors, Inc. for the installation of Rammed Aggregate Piers in connection to the Salt Garage project in the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00).

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Walsh. A voice vote was taken, All were in Favor. Motion passed.

This will become Municipal Order 2024-1

Discussion and approval of draft Municipal Order 2024-B

A Municipal Order of the City of Villa Hills, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Authorizing the expenditure of surplus reserve funds to make repairs to the Franzen Lake Dam outlet pipe including restoration in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Wadsworth. A voice vote was taken, All were in Favor. Motion passed.

This will become Municipal Order 2024-2

Discussion and approval of draft Resolution 2024-A

A Resolution of the City of Villa Hills, in Kenton County, Kentucky, Appointing Councilmember Cathy Stover as the city's representative to the Planning And Development Services Council and appointing Heather Jansen as the alternate expiring December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Ms. Wadsworth, seconded by Mr. Ringo. A voice vote was taken, All were in Favor. Motion passed.

This will become Resolution 2024-1

Discussion and approval of draft Resolution 2024-B

A Resolution of the City of Villa Hills, in Kenton County, Kentucky, appointing Seth Thompson to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors for a term ending December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ringo. A voice vote was taken, All were in Favor. Motion passed.

This will become Resolution 2024-2

Old Business

Mr. Ringo informed Council that final essays for Shadow Night are due to him on Friday. He will sort and asks that each person select 2 candidates from 2 different schools by the end of the day on Wednesday, so notifications can be made to the schools. Shadow Night will be held February 21 at Villa Madonna Academy in the theater.

New Business

NONE

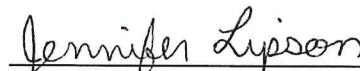
General Comments

NONE


At 7:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Ringo, seconded by Ms. Stover to adjourn. A voice vote was taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

Time of adjournment was 7:44 p.m.

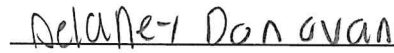
Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Lipson, City Clerk



Heather Jansen, Mayor



Delaney Donovan, MAYOR-FOR-A-DAY
Student, River Ridge Elementary School