

Forest Hills Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023

The City of Forest Hills, Tennessee Board of Commissioners met at 5:00 PM on December 21, 2023. Mayor Lanson Hyde presided over the meeting. Vice Mayor Henry Trost and Commissioner Jim Gardner were also present for the meeting. City Staff present included City Manager Mark Hill, City Engineer Brad Bivens, City Attorney Marshall Albritton, and City Recorder Charlotte Hunter. A copy of the agenda is attached to these Minutes as a matter of record.

1. Approval of Minutes: The first item on the agenda was approval of the Minutes of November 2023. Vice Mayor Trost moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner. All aye and the motion carried.

2. Approval of Financial Statements: The second item on the agenda was approval of the Financial Statements for October 2023. Commissioner Gardner moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Trost. All aye and the motion carried.

3. New Business:

- a) Metro Police Monthly Briefing – Sgt Valiquette from the West Precinct gave a report from the last 6 weeks: 1 larceny, 1 burglary and 1 traffic stop.

The Board asked him about the length of time it takes for an incident to hit his report. He wasn't sure. The Board asked the way to get follow up on incidents. He suggested we call the Commander. Valiquette says auto thefts are up everywhere and to Park Safely!

- b) Resolution 2023-04 – A Resolution to Establish the City of Forest Hills Surplus Property Policy.

After an explanation from City Manager Hill, Vice Mayor Trost moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner. All aye and the motion carried.

- c) Resolution 2023-05 – A Resolution to Declare Certain Property Owned by the City to be Surplus to the City's Needs and Directing the Disposal of the Same.

Vice Mayor Trost moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gardner. All aye and the motion carried.

- d) Bison Meadow Park– In a report brought forth by the Cultural & Natural Resources (CNR) committee, the CNR recommends that work needs to be done to upkeep the native wildflowers and topiary Buffalo in the Park:

- i. There is only one sign representing Bison Park on the Hemingway side. The CNR proposed that additional signage would be appropriate, but the commission decided against a new sign along Hillsboro Road

- ii. The Bison are in need of renewed topiary pruning. All of the “Dense Yew” shrubs need to be reworked, and “trained” to grow properly with the frame, with regular pruning. There will be additional discussion over the largest of the Bison, which has outgrown the sculpted frame.
- iii. The originally intended native prairie plants have been neglected and beds are being overgrown by undesirable volunteer plants such as Bradford pear, walnut, and honeysuckle which need to be mechanically removed. These native areas need new attention with continued maintenance.
- iv. Estimates for plant replacement, clean up, and additional signage were offered by Todd Breyer to manage the work with the CNR committee. The initial price is quoted at \$6,500, but that is dependent upon the CNR use of volunteer labor and various options of the timing of the work. Beyer recommends a “burn” or a “hot water injection to kill off the undesirable roots. Steve Ward at Radnor Lake has equipment that could potentially be utilized. Annual bush-hogging will be delayed until spring to give the CNR time to work out the plans.
- v. Vice Mayor Trost will work with the CNR to gather more details and firm up the pricing for this project.

5. Reports from Staff

- a) Mark Hill/City Manager
 - Gave an update about the camera utilization agreement with SkyCop (Vendor) and the City of Belle Meade. The city will only keep footage for 90 days unless involved in a criminal case.
 - Grants are all moving forward on their timeline.
 - TDOT grant requires a request for qualifications (RFQ) from the engineer consultant. The TDT Multimodal Grant is still pending, and we should hear something in early spring.
 - ARPA funds that are left over will go towards matching grant fees.
 - Tyne Blvd repair project is complete except for permanent asphalt which will be applied in March when it is warmer, and the plants reopen.
 - Kingsbury delineators are in place.
 - Building permits to date are 534 so far for 2023. 2021 was only 328. Fees totaled \$650,000. We had 64 BZA applications and only 2 Planning, and 984 building inspections so far this year.
- b) b) Brad Bivens/City Engineer
 - Bivens introduced Kenny Fields as he does a lot of work for the City.
 - Paving will start in the city mid-March when it warms up.
- c) c) Marshall Albritton/City Attorney
 - Albritton advised there is no update from the Chancery Court regarding the street name changes with the Historical Commission. This is 90 days past due.

6. Citizen's Comments:

Henry Trost gave an update from Percy Priest PTO fundraising efforts. There is an extension for the timing for the funds until the end of February, and their efforts continue. They are in contact with the HCA Foundation, Titans Foundation, and the Community Foundation. The PTO representatives plan to appear at the next BOC to discuss the process further, but their initial research suggests that approximately 38% of the students that go to PPE live in Forest Hills which is about 130 children. There are also 87 student that attend that live in Oak Hill

With no further items of business for consideration, Mayor Hyde adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Lanson Hyde

City Recorder Charlotte Hunter