

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS  
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD: JANUARY 10, 2023  
Highland Heights City Hall Council Chamber  
7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DiLalla, DeLisio, Ganser, Goff, Hargate, Milroy; Clerk of Council Donatelli; Lieutenant Dassati; Fire Chief Turner; Service Director Belfiore; Finance Director Filippo; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; Police Chief Matejcic.

**ACTION ON MINUTES:** The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held December 13, 2022, was dispensed with. Mrs. Ganser moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

**Oath of Office:** Mayor Brunello administered the Oath of Office to Daniel Corsillo to officially swear him in as a Firefighter for the City of Highland Heights.

**Recreation Director's Report:** Mr. Ianaro stated that the pool boiler broke at the end of the 2022 season. He added that he wants to order the boiler now to ensure its arrival before the 2023 season begins; therefore, he cannot wait for the budget to be approved and needs permission to purchase a new boiler. Mr. Ianaro recommended the purchase of two boilers so there is a backup in the case that the first breaks.

Mayor Brunello ensured Mr. Ianaro that the motion to approve the purchase is on the agenda. Mr. Goff asked what the lifetime is of a boiler. Mr. Ianaro responded that the one that broke was installed over 10 years ago.

Mr. Ianaro added that the recreation department is looking for a day camp director for the summer.

Ms. D'Amico asked if the cost is \$45,000 for both boilers. Mr. Ianaro responded yes.

Mr. Milroy asked the cost of just one boiler. Mr. Ianaro stated that they did not receive that number because two boilers was the recommendation.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Turner stated for the month of December the Fire Department responded to 158 emergency calls. The Department ended 2022 with 1,801 calls, which is an increase of 5%. Chief Turner informed council that the annual report should be distributed in February. Chief Turner stated that the trade in value of the truck mentioned in item 6 is \$9,500. Chief Turner added that he is requesting a motion to enter into an agreement with Stryker. Chief Turner informed Council that the HVAC and Interior renovation project is out to bid and the opening is on February 2.

**Police Chief's Report:** Chief Matejcic stated for the month of December the Police Department received a total of 1,168 calls. 10 calls included property damage, there was one injury, and there were 84 alarm calls. There were 60 arrests and a total of 246 checks. The Department held 8 prisoners for a total of 28 hours.

Chief Matejcic stated that the department received a \$64,000 grant for upgrade and replacement of body cameras. The total cost will be \$117,000 for the project.

Chief Matejcic stated that Gabe Liberatore was sworn in on January 4 and is training in dispatch.

Chief Matejcic informed Council of the ladies self defense class on April 4.

Chief Matejcic updated Council that the first two nights of deer culling brought in 51 deer. They will be back to do some more culling.

Mr. Goff asked if there is an age limit for self defense class. Chief Matejcic responded no.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that staff is removing Christmas lights from the City Hall complex. He added that the LED project was completed last month, funding for which was from the NOPEC grant. Mr. Belfiore reported the curbside leaf collection completed in December with 9,500 cubic yards of leaves. Mr. Belfiore stated that item 4 for City Sweeping will be reimbursed through the cost share program.

Mr. Milroy asked for an update on the salt swap. Mr. Belfiore stated that the program went well and Richmond Heights is back up and running. The salt loaned to Richmond Heights was returned to Highland Heights. Mayor Brunello stated that the mayor of Richmond Heights appreciated the help.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder stated that for the month of December there were 23 residential permits and 9 commercial permits granted. Two new homes were approved for Grappa Farms. There were 5 zoning letters issued as well.

Mr. Grabfelder reiterated that the plans for the Police and Fire bid opening on February 2 are available at his office.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated in December Spectrum installed conduit on Aberdeen and completed within a week, including restoration. The ATT project may be postponed until the spring due to weather conditions. The ATT equipment has been removed. Mr. Mader stated that the Lander project is done through spring and will have some touch up work to be done. The community cost share has been submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Mader submitted the application for the County Maintenance project. He added that roads are being evaluated for the 2023 Road Project.

Finance Director's Report: Mr. Filippo stated that items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are for compensation for various City employees. There was a 2.5% increase per labor agreement. Mr. Filippo requested suspension of all forementioned legislation.

Mr. Filippo informed Council that he is working on the 2023 budget and will have it for Council to review soon.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Parks and Recreation:** Mr. DeLisio stated that there is a meeting for Community Day on January 12 and a Parks and Recreation meeting on January 19.

**Planning and Zoning:** Mr. Milroy reported that the Planning and Zoning commission had three hearings. The Tijuana Taco sign was also approved and the restaurant is set to open in late February or early March.

Mr. DiLalla asked for the result of the Building and Zoning Appeal meeting. Mr. Milroy responded that there was a 3-2 vote to uphold the denial of the variance. Mr. DeLisio asked what happens now. Mr. Milroy responded that it can go to common pleas court. Mr. Grabfelder stated that the residents have ten days to remove it.

**Law Director's Report:** Mr. Lograsso informed Council that he sent the updated Legislation for the Assistant Law Director Resolution to everyone's email. He also requested an executive session be added to the agenda to discuss pending litigation.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Brunello wished Council a Happy New Year.

Mayor Brunello stated that his office received a donation from the former Highland Heights 50 plus Social Club in the amount of \$3,200 to be put into the Memorial Day Service day.

Mayor Brunello thanked the Service, Fire and Police Departments for their work during the snowstorm over Christmas weekend.

Mayor Brunello attended Millridge Elementary to teach about Local Government and how to be Mayor.

Mayor Brunello stated that he received the Heritage Home Year End Report. There were 34 inquiries with 7 site visits and projects valued at \$509,000.

Mayor Brunello stated there will be 21 additional banners to the Hometown Heroes banners, making a total of 47 banners.

Mayor Brunello stated that the Senior Snowplow program was completed and 9 seniors received \$125 towards a snowplow contract.

Mayor Brunello informed Council that the newsletter articles are due by February 17.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ms. D'Amico stated that the Senior Holiday Party went well. She thanked those on Council who attended and helped at the event. There were two member changes in the committee and the first meeting is January 12.

Ms. D'Amico confirmed that the Executive Session will need a motion to be added to the agenda. She also informed Council that she sent the Bay Village Ordinance pertaining to Group Homes to all members of Council.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS:** A motion authorizing a multi-year agreement with Stryker Inc. for maintenance and service for 2 stretchers and 3 Power Load devices in an amount not to exceed \$21,914.40.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser to add the motion to the agenda; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

Motion to adjourn into executive session by Roll Call vote pursuant to Section 121.22 (G)(4) of the Ohio Revised Code and Highland Heights Charter 4.05 to discuss pending litigation.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio to add the motion to the agenda; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:** No Public

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION FOR AGREEMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Goff authorizing a multi-year agreement with Stryker Inc. for maintenance and service for 2 stretchers and 3 Power Load devices in an amount not to exceed \$21,914.40; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR APPOINTMENTS:** A motion was made by Mr. Milroy to confirm Mayor's re-appointments and appointments; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT:** A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser to appoint Lydia Donatelli as Clerk of Council; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR AGREEMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Milroy authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Sweeping Corporation of America, dba Reilly Sweeping Inc. to perform the City's street sweeping in 2023; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR PAYMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio authorizing payment to J.R. Sbrocco Plumbing Inc for the purchase of a new pool boiler in an amount not to exceed \$45,000; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR SURPLUS:** A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser declaring a 2011 Ford 250 Pickup, serial number ending in 42277 as surplus equipment no longer needed for municipal use and to be traded in for a new vehicle; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 1-2023:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 1-2023 which description is: "A Resolution approving the mayor's appointment of Susan Olson to the position of Secretary for the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Planning Commission and the Civil Service Commission, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to allow Ms. Olson to commence her position.

A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes All, motion carried.

Mr. Milroy moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes All, motion carried.

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2-2023:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 2-2023 which description is: "A Resolution providing for the employment of an Engineer for the City of Highland Heights and establishing the compensation of the City Engineer for 2023 repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 3-2023:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 3-2023 which description is: "A Resolution establishing the terms, conditions and compensation for the Law Director's services commencing January 1, 2023 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 4-2023:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 4-2023 which description is: "A Resolution establishing the terms, conditions and compensation for the Assistant Law Director's services for 2023 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 5-2023:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 5-2023 which description is: "A Resolution establishing compensation and other terms of employment for the City Prosecutor for 2023 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

**ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 1-2023:** Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 1-2023 which description is: "An Ordinance establishing compensation for the Recreation Director of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for 2023, repealing all ordinances inconsistent therewith and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third Readings of Resolutions 2-2023, 3-2023, 4-2023, 5-2023 and Ordinance 1-2023 to begin employment of the respective employees.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff to suspend the Resolutions and Ordinance; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mr. Milroy moved to adopt and enact; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn into Executive Session by Roll Call vote pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(4) of the Ohio

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Revised Code and Highland Heights Charter 4.05 to discuss pending litigation; seconded by Mr. Hargate.

Roll Call on Motion to adjourn into Executive Session: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 8:29p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Milroy and seconded by Mr. Goff to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council