

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD: JANUARY 26, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
7:30 PM**

PRESENT AT COMMUNITY CENTER: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Hargate, Milroy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Cook; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader; Finance Director Filippo; Law Director Paluf.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Council Representative Ann D'Amico

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held December 8, 2020 was dispensed with. Mr. DeLisio moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes all, motion carried.

AGENDA

2021 Appropriation Ordinance
FFCRA – Families First Coronavirus Response Act
Street Sweeping
Engineering Fees

Engineering Fees

Mayor Brunello stated tonight's Council Agenda proposes a First Reading of the resolution for the 2021 City Engineer fees. There has been no increase in the requested fees from 2020. The legislation is straightforward and itemizes the charges.

Mayor Brunello stated also on tonight's Council Agenda are proposed First Readings of the legislation for the compensation of the Law Director; City Prosecutor and Recreation Director. Council had no questions or concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

Street Sweeping

Director Belfiore submitted a detailed memo to Council regarding the 2021 Street Sweeping Services. There is a motion on tonight's Council Agenda authorizing the city to enter into an agreement with Sweeping Corporation of America, dba Reilly Sweeping Inc., for street sweeping services in 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The services would be performed in the spring, summer and fall. An application has been submitted to the Regional Sewer District for the Community Cost Share Program and full reimbursement will be received.

FFCRA

Mayor Brunello stated tonight's Council Agenda proposes a motion to authorize the continuation of the Emergency Sick Leave adopted in compliance with the terms of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act up to a maximum of 40 hours through April 30, 2021. The terms of this proposal were previously discussed with Council.

Mr. DiLalla questioned the length of the term and Mayor Brunello responded it will be from January 1, 2021 until April 30, 2021.

2021 Appropriation Ordinance

Director Filippo stated the 2021 Appropriation ordinance is on tonight's Council Agenda as First Reading. The legislation is proposed after discussions with the Department Heads and the Legislative and Finance Committee were held. The budget was reduced to reflect a \$5.7 million ending balance. Amendments will be made as required. Amendments will be made to the 401 capital and debt service when it is determined how to proceed with long term bonds.

Director Filippo stated a conference call was held with the Mayor, Council President and himself with Sudsina & Associates, the city's financial advisor, reviewing prior years' notes and terms. The bond process was described as a ten-week process. Mr. Szanto from Sudsina & Associates will be available to provide a presentation to Council if requested. Council needs to determine projects requiring bond funding. The funding can be allocated within a three-year timeframe.

President Stickan stated a meeting can be scheduled with Sudsina & Associates to provide more information to Council.

Mayor Brunello stated Mr. Szanto provided detailed information and emphasized that now is the time to borrow funds. Mayor Brunello stated a five-year plan will be created listing the items/projects requested by the Chiefs, Directors and Department Heads. The duration of the bond can be 10-15-20 years and will be determined. Director Filippo stated after a five-year period, there is no pre-payment penalty and refinancing is an option. The 20-year note is recommended to allow for additional debt service payments if necessary. The 10-week bond process is needed for a closing in June. The individual projects will require a separate ordinance to ensure Council approval. A plan will be assembled.

Mr. DeLisio questioned if the interest rate fluctuates with the number of years on the loan. Director Filippo stated the interest rate generally increases as the length increases. The city has a AA2 bond rating which is very favorable. The city has the ability to generate income. Currently 4 mills are charged with the opportunity to charge 10 mills without voter approval.

Director Filippo requested a transfer ordinance which would transfer Capital Improvement Funds that were unused and unneeded to be returned to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ayes all; motion carried.