
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: FEBRUARY 9, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
8:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives: D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Hargate, Ganser, Milroy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Cook; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader; Finance Director Filippo.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Director Paluf

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 26, 2021 was dispensed with. Mr. DiLalla moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner reported for the month of January, the Fire Department responded to 126 incidents which included 21 simultaneous calls. Item #2 on Council's agenda is the annual payment to Cleveland Water for use of the fire hydrants. The amount is the same as last year.

Chief Turner stated item #3, a Resolution to purchase a Chevy Tahoe, is being requested. Chief Turner stated initially the cut-off date for ordering was March 30th; however, the cut-off date was moved to February 1st. Ganley Chevrolet will hold the vehicle at State pricing until March. Chief Turner stated if the purchase is not made in March, the State purchasing contract will not re-open until November or December.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook reported for the month of January, the Police Department responded to 1137 calls for service; 194 general welfare calls; 96 residential alarms; 12 motor vehicle accidents with one involving injury. The year-end report will be completed by next council meeting. In 2020 approximately 13,500 calls for service were received, 900 residential alarms and 125 accidents and over 1,000 mutual aid calls with adjacent cities.

Chief Cook stated interviews are progressing for the open Sergeant's position. The Civil Service Commission will discuss lateral transfers at their next meeting.

Chief Cook stated item #1, is a motion to pay the annual dues for S.P.A.N. in the amount of \$23,000. Each participating community pays the same amount. The City received \$20,000 from S.P.A.N. that was deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to be used for training.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore reported the Service Department personnel has completed the lighting upgrades and repairs and painting of the walls in the City Hall rotunda. Personnel will continue working in the rotunda by painting the woodwork trim, installing new ceiling tiles and upgrading of receptacle switches.

Director Belfiore reported for January 2021, the city-wide weekly curbside brush collection program collected approximately 32 cubic yards of material from residents' tree lawns. The staff is insulating the exterior garage walls; installing an additional wash sink and relocating the water fountain.

Building Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Grabfelder reported for the month of January, the Building Department issued 21 residential permits which included one new home in the May Pine Development and 1 commercial permit. Two zoning notices regarding parking of commercial vehicles were sent.

Commissioner Grabfelder stated the building report has been filed with the State of Ohio Board of Building Standards and the annual report will be forthcoming to Council.

Commissioner Grabfelder responded to Mr. DeLisio's question that La Fiesta is required to pass the fire inspection test prior to opening.

Commissioner Grabfelder responded to Mr. DeLisio's question that the new business to enter the Mulligan's plaza is having difficulty in obtaining plan approval. The building was built in 1930 and must comply with 2019 Ohio Building Codes for fire separation walls.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated the Cleveland Suburban Water Renewal applications are due February 19th. The water main breakage report indicated Franklin Blvd. ranked the highest in occurrences. Franklin Blvd. will be submitted to the program.

Mr. Milroy requested an update on the Wilson Mills and Bishop Road intersection. Mr. Paluf will update during his report.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo requested item #5, proposed ordinance to transfer \$1,000,000 from Capital Fund into General Fund be suspended this evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated the Highland Heights Seniors met February 8th with Mayor Brunello, Administrative Assistant Greve and a representative from Partnership on Aging in attendance. The next senior carry-out meal will be April 29th. The senior planting event will be May 28th at the Barn.

Community Day: Mr. DeLisio stated the Community Day Committee met February 8th and announced the date of September 11th for the Community Day Parade commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the City of Highland Heights.

Park & Recreation: No report.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla reported the Planning & Zoning Commission met on February 8th. The Commission held a public hearing and approved a request for an oversized shed at 542 Miner Road.

OMNI Senior Living, Bishop Road; Parcels 821-05-007, -008, -009, 011, 018 for lot consolidation approval is contingent upon the closing of the lots by end of day on February 10th. Mr. DiLalla requested Commissioner Grabfelder send out notification if the closing has occurred.

Safety and Service Committee: No report.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: No report.

Drainage Committee: No report.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Paluf reported that the attorneys are reviewing the easements for the Wilson Mills and Bishop Road intersection. There are no further updates.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated the owner of La Fiesta anticipates opening in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Brunello stated a new developer is interested in developing the May Pine area to existing May Pine subdivision zoning and not requiring variances.

Mayor Brunello thanked the Service Department for the work performed in the City Hall rotunda. Work will continue with the cleaning of floors and carpets and the new Mayors Wall.

Mayor Brunello announced after discussions with Director Ianiro that all summer programs will be moving forward for 2021.

Mayor Brunello announced that there will be three Music at the Gazebo events this summer. The event dates and bands will be forthcoming.

Mayor Brunello stated the Community Center Coordinator will be developing the program for this year's Memorial Day Observance.

Mayor Brunello reminded Council to submit their articles for the Spring Newsletter by the February 19th deadline. The Summer Sizzler is anticipated to be released in March. The city's website will be refreshed with new updates and lay out changes that will allow for easy navigation.

Mayor Brunello congratulated Sarah Carlile and Gianna Somrak. The Mayfield High School students and Highland Heights residents were recognized for their writing achievements, scholastic art and writing competitions.

Mayor Brunello stated the capital requests by department will be distributed to Council.

Mayor Brunello requested a motion be added to tonight's agenda authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans for the 2021 road program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Stickan announced a Committee of the Whole meeting for February 16th at 7 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting to discuss the capital requests and a presentation from bond counsel.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA: Mr. DiLalla moved to add a motion to tonight's agenda authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans for the 2021 road program; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: There were no comments from participants on Zoom and no questions or comments were received by the Council Office.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION AUTHORIZING PLANS: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans for 2021 Road Program; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING DUES: A motion was made by Mr. Hargate authorizing payment to S.P.A.N. in the amount of \$23,000.00 for annual dues for the fiscal year 2021; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser authorizing payment to the City of Cleveland, Division of Water, in an amount not to exceed \$23,200.04, for the annual charge for water based on the number of hydrants, per Codified Ordinance No. 535.28; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 6-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 6-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Ganley Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe, pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Nine dollars (\$38,239) and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 5-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 5-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2021 Energized Community Grant(s), and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 6-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 6-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency. (Capital Improvement Fund to General Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000) (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings as recommended by the Finance Director and Law Director. A motion made by Mr. DeLisio to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mr. Hargate moved to enact; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 3-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 3-2021 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 2021 repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 4-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 4-2021 which description is: “A Resolution establishing the terms, conditions and compensation for the Law Director’s services and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 5-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 5-2021 which description is: “A Resolution establishing compensation and other terms of employment for the City Prosecutor and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 2-2021 which description is: “An ordinance establishing compensation for the Recreation Director of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for 2021, repealing all ordinances inconsistent therewith and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 3-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 3-2021 which description is: “An ordinance appropriating for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for the period commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 4-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 4-2021 which description is: “An ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of Highland Heights, Ohio and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Third Reading as recommended by the Law Director. A motion was made by Ms. D’Amico to suspend the Third Reading; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mr. Milroy moved to enact; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2-2021: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 2-2021 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to provide technical assistance regarding public information and public education, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mr. Milroy moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

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

Clerk of Council

President of Council