

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD: FEBRUARY 23, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
7:45 PM**

PRESENT AT COMMUNITY CENTER: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 9, 2021 was dispensed with. Mrs. Ganser moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all, motion carried.

AGENDA

Discussion of Bonds
Appropriation Amendment

Mayor Brunello stated last week's meeting with bond counsel provided a lot of information on the purchase of bonds to Council. Mayor Brunello stated he is comfortable with borrowing \$8 million which would allow for \$6.2 million for new spending. Mayor Brunello stated he has been having several meetings with the Department Heads to finalize the capital project lists.

Mr. Milroy and Mr. DiLalla agreed with borrowing the \$8 million due to the low interest rates. Director Filippo recommended borrowing not more than \$8 million as the debt payment would be \$700,000-\$710,000 in the second year. The first two years will be paying other issues that will be due. \$1.1 million will be collected yearly for capital through the millage. The millage amount collected may increase as property values increase. Mr. DeLisio, Mrs. Ganser, Ms. D'Amico, and Ms. Stickan agreed with borrowing the \$8 million amount.

Mayor Brunello stated the bond legislation will be on for first reading on March 9th. Director Filippo stated having a first reading on March 9th will conform to the bond counsel timeline.

Director Filippo requested an amount be determined to be spent on road work for the next three years. Mayor Brunello suggested based on borrowing \$8 million to allocate \$1.2 million per year for road work totaling \$3.6 million in three years.

Mr. DeLisio questioned if there is a priority list of roads for 2021. Mayor Brunello stated 2021 work will include the Wilson Mills/Bishop Road intersection and approximately \$550,000 in the Canterbury area. Discussions also included for 2021 miscellaneous repairs and Lander Road extension. Recommendations for 2022 and 2023 will have to be evaluated as information is received on the Franklin watermain grant. The road evaluation list will be updated.

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Mayor Brunello responded to Mr. DiLalla's question that he is in the process of compiling a capital projects list with the Chiefs and Department Heads. The proposal for the Council Chamber will be received next week and will be reviewed along with the other projects. Mayor Brunello will provide a listing to Council to allow for further discussion.

Director Filippo confirmed that Council is committed to borrowing the \$8.5 million and legislation will be drafted accordingly.

APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT

Director Filippo submitted a memo to Council listing the amendments to the initial 2021 budget. The changes were discussed during the budget meetings reflecting a total decrease to the General Fund by approximately \$88,000. The budget reflects a General Bond Retirement fund revenue increase by \$8 million which can be adjusted when the actual amount of the bond is determined. The amendments will allow for a \$6.7 million general fund balance.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Ayes all; motion carried.