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

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES:**

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 23, 2021 was dispensed with. Ms. D'Amico moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner reported for the month of February the Fire Department responded to 115 calls for service. The department will be providing CPR-AED training courses. The dates, times and registration information will be in the spring newsletter. Chief Turner has been working with the Law Director in drafting a new ordinance regulating Food Trucks. Chief Turner will be meeting with EOS Energy and an ODNR inspector regarding a proposed natural gas well at 916 Lander Road.

Chief Turner was available to answer any questions on item #12, third reading of the legislation to purchase a Chevy Tahoe for the Fire Department.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook thanked the Fire Department for training the police officers in CPR. Chief Cook reported for the month of February, the Police Department responded to 1,117 calls for service; 11 motor vehicle accidents with 3 involving injuries; 96 residential alarms; 64 mutual aid calls and 190 general welfare. The jail facility held 5 inmates for approximately 75 hours. The jail number are down due to COVID as departments are not picking up warrants unless they are for a felony or serious assault.

Chief Cook was available to answer any questions on item #3, first reading of the legislation to purchase a Ford Explorer for the Police Department.

Chief Cook stated three candidates have been selected and will be continuing through the hiring process.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore reported that the Service Department has completed painting in the Building Department, Council Office and Finance Dept. hallway. Cold patch road repair was performed on Blair and Rutland. The cold patch will be replaced when the asphalt plant opens.

The Service Department submitted a request for a grant to the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Campaign program to receive funding to cover the costs of the city's 2021 Tree Planting Program. The grant recipients will be awarded by the end of March.

Director Belfiore requested Council's approval on item #1, a motion for LED lighting in the Service Department facility. The funding will be through the NOPEC grant.

Building Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Grabfelder reported for the month of February, the Building Department issued 21 residential permits which included one new home in the Maypine community. Ten commercial permits were issued. The Veterinarian hospital anticipates being open in June. Three zoning citations were sent. Mr. Grabfelder thanked the Service Department for painting the Building Department's lobby and offices. The LaFiesta restaurant is having final inspections and anticipates being open by the end of the month.

Mr. DiLalla questioned if there has been any activity from the developer on the remaining Maypine property. Mr. Grabfelder responded that he will inform Council when the property has transferred and the subdivision will be brought before Council.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader reported that a pre-construction meeting was held on the Bishop Road bridge and construction is anticipated to start on March 22nd. The traffic will be limited to one-way northbound between Curtis Wright Parkway and the UPS/Swagelock driveway.

The businesses have been notified and the city will receive construction notifications.

A meeting was held on the Bishop Road and Wilson Mills intersection and discussions are still pending with the gas station owners.

The annual Phase II EPA report is being compiled for submittal in April. The 2021 are being prepared to advertise for bid in approximately a month.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo had no report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated the Highland Heights Seniors will be meeting on March 15th at 1:30 PM via Zoom.

Community Day: Mr. DeLisio stated the Community Day Committee met last Tuesday and is planning the parade and events for the day. Two entertainment bands and fireworks have been reserved.

Park & Recreation: Mr. DeLisio stated Easter Drive-Thru will be held Saturday, March 20th from 10 AM - 11:30 AM at the Highland Heights Community Park. Pre-registration is required for Highland Heights residents only and there is a \$5 fee per vehicle. The next meeting will be March 18th at 6:30 PM at the Community Center.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla stated Planning & Zoning met March 8th and scheduled public hearings for the four items on the agenda. Crostata's Pizzeria and Mulligan's Pub have requested outdoor dining areas. A resident on Dunbar Lane has requested a variance for a patio. Weathervane Builders have requested a front yard setback variance on a new condominium on West Inverness Drive.

Safety and Service Committee: No report.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: No report.

Drainage Committee: No report. Mr. Milroy announced a Mayfield Union Cemetery meeting for March 16th via Zoom.

**Law Director's Report:** Mr. Paluf stated the Food Truck regulation ordinance will be presented to Council on March 23rd. Mr. Paluf extended Mr. Mader success in discussions with the remaining corner property owner on Bishop Road and Wilson Mills.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Brunello announced the Newsletter and Summer Sizzler are complete and will be mailed to residents.

Mayor Brunello held a meeting with representatives from Euclid Creek Watershed and West Creek Conservancy to discuss preliminary plans for walkways in the City Park.

Mayor Brunello thanked the Fire Chief for offering the fire bay area to provide shelter for the Memorial Day observance in case of inclement weather. A planning meeting will be held on March 18th and volunteers are being solicited.

Mayor Brunello attended a meeting with the Community Partnership on Aging and many activities and events are being planned for the seniors this year.

Mayor Brunello announced the Easter Bunny's fire truck visits will be held on March 27th at 10 AM to 2:30 PM. The route will be posted on the city's website.

Director Ianiro requested volunteers to assist with the Easter Bunny events on March 20th and March 27th.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Stikkan had no report.

**ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA:** There were no items to be added to tonight's agenda.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Milroy authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Tri-County Electric for material and installation of LED lighting throughout the Service Department facility in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00. Funding for this project is from the City's NOPEC grant; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

**FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 8-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 8-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid Agreement for the interchange of Building Commissioner and Inspection Services with the City of Lyndhurst, Ohio on an as needed basis, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr., and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 9-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 9-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Statewide Ford Lincoln Mercury for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor, pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Six Dollars (\$32,736.00), and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 7-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 7-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$750,000 for the purpose of

acquisition of Fire Department apparatus and equipment, and other related expenses thereto, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 8-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 8-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$565,000 for the purpose of improving, rehabilitating, and equipping various city buildings for municipal purposes, and other related improvements thereto, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 9-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 9-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$655,000 for the purpose of the acquisition of communications systems and other equipment, furnishings, and vehicles necessary for the operation of the Police Department and other related expenses thereto and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 10-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 10-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$595,000 for the purpose of improving, rehabilitating, and equipping various municipal recreation facilities, and other related improvements thereto, and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 11-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 11-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$4,180,000 for the purpose of widening and reconstructing Lander Road Extension and Brainard and Wilson Mills intersection, resurfacing and otherwise improving Franklin Boulevard and other city streets, replacing segments of concrete in various city streets, and all drainage and other related improvements thereto, and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 12-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 12-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$765,000 for the purpose of the acquisition of various equipment, furnishings, and vehicles for the Service Department, and other related expenses thereto, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-2021:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 13-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$1,920,000 for the purpose of widening and reconstructing Miner Road, resurfacing and otherwise improving Ford Road and other city streets, improving Culvert No. 15 in Highland Road, replacing segments of concrete in city streets, and all drainage and other related improvements thereto, and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 7-2021:** Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 7-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing a Community Cost-Share Agreement by and between the Northeast Ohio Regional

Sewer District and the City of Highland Heights and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 6-2021:** Council listened to the Third 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)

Mr. Hargate moved to adopt; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

**ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 5-2021:** Council listened to the Third 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)

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

**MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser 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 personnel matters; seconded by Mr. Hargate.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:30 pm and reconvened in public session at 8:45 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio and seconded by Mrs. Ganser to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council