

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: APRIL 11, 2023
Highland Heights City Hall Council Chamber
7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Goff, Hargate, Milroy; Clerk of Council Donatelli; Law Director Lograsso; Police Chief Matejcic; 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 March 28, 2023, was dispensed with. Mrs. Ganser moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes D'Amico, DeLisio, Ganser, Goff, Hargate; DiLalla and Milroy abstain; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated for the month of March the Fire Department responded to 167 emergency calls with 26.95% overlapping. For the first quarter of 2023, the department has responded to 446 calls, 21.9% of which were overlapping. Also in the first quarter, 244 life safety inspections were completed, in which \$9,075 in inspection fees were collected and \$16,125 in permit fees. The ambulance billing is \$96,100 as of March 31.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic reported for the month of March the Police Department received a total of 1,322 calls. 14 calls included property damage, 74 were alarm calls and 32 mutual aid police calls. The department entered 91 warrants. Officers conducted 434 prisoner safety checks and the jail housed 7 prisoners who served 71 hours of time. Chief Matejcic stated he has two items on the agenda. One is for a range simulator to allow officers to conduct range in active threat style weapons training with animated scenarios and laser weapons. This simulator is mobile and may be used indoors and outdoors. Chief Matejcic also stated the desire to use the simulator to give residents and media a shoot/don't shoot experience. The cost is budgeted and Chief Matejcic requested suspension of the resolution to take advantage of sale pricing that expires April 30. Chief Matejcic stated that there is a renewal of the FLOCK safety contract on the agenda. The current contract ends April 19. There are currently 6 cameras at various intersections throughout the city. The new contract is for five years. The cost for 2023 is budgeted.

Mr. DiLalla asked if the alarm calls reported are home security systems and whether they are mainly false alarms. Chief Matejcic responded that they are home security alarms and most are false alarms.

Mayor Brunello asked Chief Matejcic to explain the FLOCK system. Chief Matejcic stated that the cameras are set up at the major intersections (Bishop and Highland; Alpha and Highland; Alpha and Wilson Mills; Brainard and Wilson Mills) and these cameras read license plates as they go by. In the past two years of utilizing these cameras, the department has been alerted of stolen vehicles that go through the intersection and help track shoplifting suspects. Chief Matejcic reported that this past weekend the department was alerted of a stolen vehicle that was at the Marathon Gas Station and officers were able to quickly move in and arrest four

suspects before they were able to leave the station. Chief Matejcic stated that the data is shared with other cities that have FLOCK cameras. Alerts are sent to both dispatch and cruisers.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated the department is cleaning the community park. Mowing and trimming have begun and the plumbing has been de-winterized and the water is turned on. Mr. Belfiore reported that the bathrooms are now open to the public for use. Mr. Belfiore stated the department is grading and filling in areas of the pool parking lot with asphalt grindings.

Mr. Belfiore reported the brush collection has collected 190 cubic yards since January 1.

Mr. Belfiore reminded council that computer round up is throughout the month of April. There is a table set up at the service department for residents to place their items.

Mr. Belfiore stated there are two items on the agenda pertaining to his department. One is for road salt and the final date to submit legislation to Ohio Department of Transportation is May 1. The other item is to receive reimbursement for the purchase of a mini excavator through a community cost-share program. Mr. Belfiore requested suspension on both items to allow him to submit documentation to both entities and processed for approval.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder stated that for the month of March there were 56 residential permits and 11 commercial permits granted; there 3 violation notices for zoning.

Mr. Grabfelder stated there were 2 more homes approved for Grappa Farms; making the total 10 lots either being built on currently or will be built on. There are 11 lots left.

Mr. Grabfelder stated there was a setback at the Tijuana Tacos restaurant. The owner purchased new kitchen equipment that was bigger than the previous and now needs to purchase a new hood to cover all of the equipment.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated that the 2022 concrete program is mostly finished. The project should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Mader stated that Highland Heights received a segment of one of the projects submitted to Cleveland Water. Mr. Mader stated that he let the company know the city will still complete the whole project. The company then asked for an updated cost estimate. Mr. Mader reminded Council that this agreement would reimburse the city up to \$271 per linear foot. This reimbursement will not cover the whole project and the city would have to cover the rest.

Mr. Mader received the coring report for all of the roads. Mr. Mader stated that he will put together a 2023 road program with this information.

Mr. Mader stated that Wilson Mills is being worked on by the county and they hope to be completed with the west bound lanes by the end of the week.

Mr. Mader stated that the 2023 Street Striping Project will be advertised for bids. This will be for the main roads and a few touch-up areas.

Mr. Mader stated that the he hopes to have the tennis court resurfacing will be out to bid in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Milroy asked if there has been consideration to put signage up for the work by the county. Mr. Mader said he will reach out and let them know.

Mrs. Ganser asked if the work done with Suburban Water will fix the issue the city had over Christmas. Mr. Mader responded no. He added that he submitted many of the main issues and stated he would accept a segment if necessary. Mr. Mader stated that certain cities receive more projects awarded than others.

Finance Director's Report: Mr. Filippo stated that the legislation making a payment to Swagelok can have all three readings. He also reiterated that Progressive and Lake Business are not receiving their payments because the company did not meet the requirements of the agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative and Finance: Mr. DiLalla stated the committee met to discuss the training equipment for the police department, ideas about income tax, and listened to Chief Turner about some disinfecting machinery to purchase.

Drainage: Mr. Goff stated the committee met to discuss two residents' complaints. Mr. Goff stated that Mr. Belfiore will reach out to the Northeast Ohio Sewer District to follow up on a previous investigation for the first resident. Mr. Goff stated that Mr. Grabfelder will meet with the other resident to discuss the responsibility for drainage on their property.

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy reported that the variance for the storage company at 625 Alpha under Codified Ordinance 113.09. A variance was approved for a sign at the Wilson Mills Landscape Company to replace their current sign.

Mr. Milroy stated someone came into the meeting to discuss a potential use for the collection of properties on the west side next to Mulligan's. The person is interested in bringing the issue in front of Council as well. The planning commission was interested in the prospect; however, several variances would be required. Mr. Milroy stated that Mr. Lograsso will look into what Council may be able to do.

Mr. DiLalla asked if Mr. Milroy knows which variances will be needed. Mr. Milroy directed the question to Mr. Grabfelder who responded there would have to be side, front, and rear yard setbacks because the proposed lot sizes are smaller than the lot sizes currently are. Mr. Lograsso added that those would be the three main setbacks. Mr. DiLalla asked if there are any issues with access to water. Mr. Milroy responded that the water line is new enough to handle the development. Mr. Grabfelder stated there would have to be a retention basin in place to take care of the storm water, which all developments put in place now anyway. Mr. DiLalla stated he would be interested in having the developer come and speak to Council. Mr. Goff asked how the property is currently zoned. Mr. Milroy stated that it is zoned as a single family residential. He added that the developers would have to combine the two lots and then split them to sell. Mayor Brunello stated it is a total of just under 5 acres and they kept the road there as a street. Mr. Grabfelder added that they ensured the largest fire truck in the city can make the turn in the cul-de-sac at the end of the road. Mr. Lograsso stated that planning and zoning would just have to approve the three variances per lot and Council does not have to necessarily do anything. Mayor Brunello supported the prospect of the development, but knows there is a lot of work to be done for it to be reasonable. Mr. Hargate stated that the current lot sizes were approved by the voters. Ms. D'Amico asked if the current property owners nearby would receive notice if this goes to a vote/hearing. Mr. Milroy responded that anyone would see the development would receive notice. Mr. Grabfelder added that it would be published in the newspaper.

Ms. D'Amico asked what the vote was for the denial of the variance for 625 Alpha. Mr. Milroy responded it was 3 to deny and 1 to approve and one member recused himself. Mayor Brunello added that he agrees with the decision of planning and zoning to deny the variance. Mr. Milroy stated this may go to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Lograsso added that if it is denied there, the issue may be brought to the Court of Common Appeals. He also recommended there be an expert witness hired to testify if this becomes the case.

Law Director's Report: No Report

Mr. Milroy asked for an update with the moratorium on group homes. Mr. Lograsso stated that Council can extend the moratorium another six months if necessary. Ms. D'Amico requested the topic be discussed at a Legislative and Finance meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello thanked Chief Matejic, former Chief Cook, Patrolman Stefanic, and Mr. Lograsso for conducting the women's self defense class. There were 40

women in attendance. Mayor Brunello stated there are plans to do a second class. Chief Matejcic added that there may be a class in the fall at a higher level.

Mayor Brunello stated he met with Tony Ramos from NOPEC. The company will be conducting several meetings both in person and virtual to address residents about the reenrollment process for NOPEC. The public information meeting for all communities in the Hillcrest area will be April 26 at 7pm at the Lyndhurst Community Center. Information about the meeting was posted to the City website and Facebook page. Additional information can be found at nopec.org.

Mayor Brunello stated that he met with Lake Business Products to inform them they will not be receiving their grant this year.

Mayor Brunello stated that he is working with West Creek Conservancy on the trail project. They came up with a preliminary plan to move forward with phase one.

Mayor Brunello reminded Council that this is the final week to register for baseball/softball. Observation day will be Sunday at the park.

Mayor Brunello reported that plans are underway for the Memorial Day Memorial Service.

Mayor Brunello stated that the funds for the stair project on the agenda will be coming out of the County ARPA grant fund.

Mr. DiLalla asked if the stair project was between ball fields 4, 5, 6, and 7. Mayor Brunello responded yes and there will be many other upgrades made to the park and the fields.

Mr. Milroy asked if there are plans for the new high school driveway. Mayor Brunello responded that he has drawings and he will look into them.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico reminded Council that the Senior Committee has the Spring into Safety event on April 18 from 5pm to 7pm. There are currently around one hundred people registered.

Ms. D'Amico stated that the senior planting event is May 26 and they are hoping to have close to 100 people.

Ms. D'Amico asked Chief Matejcic if the police can do a self-defense class specifically for senior citizens. Chief Matejcic responded that he will speak with the leader of the class and see if it is possible.

Ms. D'Amico stated there is an item on the agenda for the city engineer to advertise for the 2023 Street Striping Program. Mayor Brunello requested this item be removed because the cost of the project is low enough that the motion is not needed.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: No Items to be Added

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: No Public

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO REMOVE MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Goff to remove the motion authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and advertise for bids for the 2023 Street Striping Program; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION FOR PAYMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio authorizing payment to Titan Cement in amount not to exceed \$29,300 for the Community Park Stair Project; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Goff, Hargate, and Milroy; Abstain D'Amico; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 16-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 16-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a participation agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt) to the municipality and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to submit the agreement to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 17-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 17-2023 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. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to allow the agreement to begin.

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

Mr. DiLalla moved to adopt; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes All, motion carried.

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 18-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 18-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to make a payment to Swagelok Company from nontax revenues in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand dollars (\$250,000) pursuant to the Economic Development Grant agreement dated July 28, 2015 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 19-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing payment not to exceed the amount of Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$17,315.00) to Digimation/Dart Range for the purchase of Weapon Training Simulator and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to secure the quoted price.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 20-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with FLOCK Safety in an amount not to exceed Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) for a maintenance and service agreement for six (6) vehicle license readers and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to renew the contract before its expiration date.

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

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

SECOND READING OF RESOLUTION 15-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 15-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ECS, in the amount of Sixty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents for additional design and construction oversight services for the police and fire building renovations, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

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 employee salaries and personnel matters; seconded by Mr. DiLalla.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 8:36p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council