

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS  
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING  
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
HELD: APRIL 13, 2021  
Highland Heights Community Center  
7:45 PM**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 23, 2021 was dispenses with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all, motion carried.

**AGENDA  
Council Chamber Upgrades  
Bond Legislation Discussion  
Grant Payment Legislation**

President Stickan stated the first two items on the agenda are interrelated and will be discussed simultaneously.

Mayor Brunello noted the federal government has issued a \$1.6 million stimulus package. Approximately \$200,000 of those funds will be allocated for AV and technical upgrades in the Council Chamber renovation. The Perspectus Group will be the overseer of the project.

Mayor Brunello suggested if Council is in agreement, a motion be added to the Council Agenda to authorize the Perspectus Group to begin the Council Chamber project. The project will take approximately six months to complete, and the Council meetings will be held at the Community Center during renovation.

Mr. DiLalla clarified that the federal stimulus package will be granting \$1.6 million to the City and the administration suggests that \$200,000 of those funds be used towards the Council Chamber renovation which will be completed this year. Mayor Brunello concurred.

Mayor Brunello responded to Mr. Milroy's question that the Perspectus Group fee will be separate, and they have incurred \$6,000 for the renovation renderings. Their proposal fee is approximately \$49,000.

President Stickan requested the status of the Council Chamber roof as it relates to the renovation project. Mayor Brunello stated Mr. Duber has inspected all the building's roofs in the municipal complex. A report will not be completed for approximately 2-3 months as the buildings require additional repairs along with the roofing issues. Mayor

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Brunello stated the City Hall roof will not require as much attention as is needed in the Police and Fire Department buildings.

Mr. Grabfelder stated the building needs evaluation was conducted this week and Mr. Duber anticipates 2-3 months to procure a full assessment of the municipal complex. The report will address the concerns of the buildings' roofs, water problems and insulation.

Mr. Hargate stated that it is important to discuss financing of these building repair issues as the buildings are demonstrating some serious issues with serious costs. Mr. Hargate stated decisions need to be made on discretionary expenditures as he is concerned with the extent of the problems with the municipal buildings and the financing of the repairs.

Director Filippo answered Mr. Milroy's question that the federal stimulus funds do not address their use for infrastructure.

Director Filippo stated the \$6.2 million in bonds will receive the low interest rate that is currently available. The municipal tax collections are anticipated to increase as COVID restrictions lessen; thus, the general fund will increase and may be used for special capital projects.

Mr. Hargate noted that the bond legislation on tonight's Council Agenda, along with the anticipated building repairs, may reach \$10 million which will require additional note funding.

Mayor Brunello stated the renovation costs for the Council Chamber is \$475,000. Approximately \$200,000 can be derived from the federal stimulus funds.

Director Filippo will address the grant payment legislation at the Council meeting.

President Stickan stated a full discussion will be held when the buildings' needs report is completed. President Stickan requested a motion be added to the Council Agenda to authorize Perspectus Group to proceed.

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