
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: APRIL 13, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
8:00 PM**

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

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 23, 2021 was dispensed with. Two minor amendments were noted. Mrs. Ganser moved to accept the Minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated for the first quarter of 2021 ending March 31st, the Fire Department responded to 394 calls for service. The call volume is returning to normal levels. 194 fire safety inspections were conducted. 52 permits were issued. 610 hours of fire and EMS training was conducted during the first quarter.

Chief Turner distributed a memo to Council regarding the purchase of replacement front Fire Department apparatus bay doors. \$42,000 will be derived from the capital budget and the remaining balance of \$1,820 will be derived from the operating budget. Chief Turner was available to answer any questions and requested Council's approval on the motion.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook stated Mr. Duber thoroughly examined the Police Station and Chief Cook anticipates a detailed report will be provided.

Chief Cook stated the installation of cameras at two intersections: Wilson Mills and Bishop; and Highland Road and Bishop are completed and functioning.

Chief Cook stated final police candidate interviews will be conducted next week.

Chief Cook reported for the month of March, the Police Department responded to 1580 calls for service; 8 motor vehicle accidents with one involving injury; 127 residential alarms; 108 mutual aid calls; 242 general assistance. Sixty inmates were held at the jail facility for approximately 30 hours. The current process is towards personal bonds and seldom is a person held unless it is a violent offense.

For the first quarter of 2021, approximately 3,900 calls for service.

Chief Cook responded to Mr. DeLisio's question that one vehicle had been stolen this weekend and break-ins to cars has subsided. Chief Cook stated the vehicle that was stolen was unlocked and the keys were in the vehicle. Chief Cook reiterated that it is important for residents to lock their vehicles.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore reported that the Service Department employees completed a 10-yard concrete pad at the City Park for a storage shed. The shed will be delivered next week. Staff will maintain dug-outs and bleacher pads on Diamond 1. The continuing brush collection has removed 95 yards of material from residents' tree lawns.

The Household Hazardous Waste Round Up concluded on March 27th. The next HHW collection will be June 14-June 26 at the Service Department.

Computer Round Up is available until April 30th at the Service Department. Shred Day will be held April 24th from 9 AM until 1 PM at the Service Department.

Director Belfiore submitted a memo to Council requesting the purchase of mobile column lifts. The Resolution on tonight's agenda would authorize a contract with Mohawk Resources for the purchase through the Ohio Cooperative Purchase Act in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 which will be derived from the 2021 capital funds.

Building Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Grabfelder reported for the month of March, the Building Department issued 60 residential permits and 14 commercial permits. There was one new home permit in the Aberdeen community. Seventy-one zoning notices were issued, and one resident was taken to court.

Commissioner Grabfelder was available to answer questions on item #10, 3rd reading of the Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Lyndhurst.

Mr. DiLalla requested an update on the potential development of the remaining May Pine property.

Mr. Grabfelder stated one of the vacant lots on Longspur has been purchased and he will contact the developer for more information.

Mr. Grabfelder updated Council that La Fiesta is in the process of applying for a permit with the County Health Department.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader reported that the Bishop Road Bridge Replacement project is underway, and traffic is limited to one-way northbound only.

The contractor will provide minor restoration work to the Strumbly project this week.

The easement requests have been sent to the property owners on the Bishop Road and Wilson Mills intersection. The traffic plans have not been completed by the traffic engineer.

Bidding for the 2021 Road Program is anticipated to be held by the end of April.

The Franklin Road water main project did not receive funding through the Cleveland Suburban Water Main fund. Resubmittal to the program will be done this fall.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo stated the bond process is proceeding as planned. The City will meet with Moody's at the end of the month to discuss updating the city's bond rating.

Director Filippo submitted a memo to Council regarding the three Resolutions on tonight's agenda for grant payments. Swagelok and Progressive have met the requirements for their grant and will be receiving \$250,000. Lake Business Products' schedule identified a grant payment in the amount of \$80,000. The payments are due by June 1st; therefore, suspension of the readings of the legislation is not necessary. In response to Mrs. Ganser's question, the payment to Lake Business Products is an incentive and not based on payroll.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated the Highland Heights Seniors will hold a meeting on April 26th. There are 103 reservations for the senior lunch on April 29th and Ms. D'Amico

requested volunteers to assist with distribution. The May 28th Planting Event has already received 25 participants, with a maximum of approximately 30 participants.

Park & Recreation: Mr. DeLisio thanked everyone who participated to make the Easter Party a success. The next Park & Recreation meeting will be April 15th at 6:30 PM.

Community Day: Mr. DeLisio stated Community Day met last week and discussed honoring doctors, nurses, military veterans, and first responders who are residents as Grand Marshalls for the parade.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla stated Planning & Zoning met April 12th and scheduled a public hearing for a variance to minimum rear yard setback requirement for proposed deck extension and gazebo at 6043 Castlehill Drive.

Safety and Service Committee: Mrs. Ganser stated the Safety and Service Committee met this evening to discuss the Fire Department's request to purchase replacement apparatus bay doors as stated in item #1 on tonight's agenda. The Committee is in support of the motion.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: No report.

Drainage Committee: No report.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Paluf stated an amendment has been proposed to the hours of operation for the Mobile Food Units legislation. The amendment may be reviewed by Council and acted upon at the third reading.

Mr. Paluf stated the Wilson Mills and Bishop Road intersection easements were sent to the northern property owners' attorneys to review and approve.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated the Easter Bunny Drive Around Town held on March 27th was a successful event. Mayor Brunello thanked Fire Chief Turner, Asst. Fire Chief Bernhard, Police Lt. Matejic and Recreation Director Ianiro.

Mayor Brunello stated the city's website will be refreshed as provided for in the Civic Plus contract. The website will be reviewed to include enhancements that will present a user-friendly site. The new features are anticipated to be completed by the end of summer.

Mayor Brunello met with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and new officers were elected. The NEORS D anticipates increasing sewer rates 2022-2026 by approximately 4.7%. The community cost-share funds were reviewed for potential projects.

Mayor Brunello congratulated and presented a Proclamation to resident Bernice Barris on her 100th Birthday on March 28th. Mrs. Barris possessed many accomplishments as well as being a former first lady of Highland Heights as her husband, Robert, served as Mayor from 1960-1963. At Ms. D'Amico's suggestion, Mayor Brunello will invite Mrs. Barris to be a Community Day Parade Marshall as well as fellow centurion Mr. Angelo Cassaro.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ms. D'Amico to add a motion to authorize the Perspectus Group to prepare plans for Council Chamber renovation in an amount not to exceed \$45,000; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all, motion carried.

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 public participants on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE: A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio authorizing the Perspectus Group to prepare plans for Council Chamber renovation in an amount not to exceed \$45,000; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser authorizing the purchase of replacement front Fire Department Apparatus bay doors from J and L Door Service, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$43,820.00; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 11-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 11-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Mohawk Resources, Ltd., for the purchase of mobile column lifts, pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act in an amount not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 12-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 12-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to make a payment to Lake Business Products from nontax revenues in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) pursuant to the Economic Development Grant Agreement dated November 30, 2020 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 13-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 13-2021 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.)

FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 14-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 14-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to make a payment to Progressive Casualty Insurance Company from nontax revenues in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) pursuant to the Economic Development Grant Agreement dated December 28, 2017 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 16-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance amending Ordinance 1-2021 establishing compensation for certain employees of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio commencing January 1, 2021, repealing all ordinances inconsistent therewith and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 10-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 10-2021 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. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 14-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance creating Chapter 732 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, pertaining to the regulation of Mobile Food Units and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 15-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 15-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance establishing compensation for employees of the Recreation Department of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio for 2021, repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 8-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 9-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 7-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

Mr. DeLisio moved to enact; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 8-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 9-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

Mr. DiLalla moved to enact; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 10-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 11-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 12-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 13-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. Milroy to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

President of Council