
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: MAY 11, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
8:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives: D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Hargate, Ganser, Milroy, Stickan; 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.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 27, 2021 was dispensed with. Mr. DeLisio moved to accept the Minutes as amended; seconded by Mrs. Ganser.

Ayes: D'Amico, DeLisio, Ganser, Hargate, Milroy, Stickan

Abstain: DiLalla

Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner reported for the month of April the Fire Department responded to 135 calls for service. The Cleveland Water Department has postponed the maintenance work at the Beachwood Water Tower until the fall.

The hydrant flushing program will begin in May and June. Residents will be notified of the hydrant flushing in their area. Residents should run their tap water 10-15 minutes to remove any rusty or discolored water that may occur.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook announced the new patrol officer, Nicholas C. Cirino will start on May 17th.

Chief Cook reported for the month of April, the Police Department responded to 1,308 calls for service; 10 motor vehicle accidents with one involving an injury; 115 residential alarms; 89 mutual aid; 170 general assistance. There were 14 inmates in the jail facility for approximately 150 hours.

Chief Cook stated the first session for the national accreditation assessment will be June 11-19th. The second session will be July 26-August 1st.

Chief Cook stated item #2 on the agenda is a motion for Flock cameras. The license plate reader cameras are installed at the intersection of Alpha and Wilson Mills; Wilson Mills and Brainard/Bishop; Highland and Bishop; and the City Park.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore reported the Service Department staff has begun tree lawn restoration. The Service Department continues the weekly curbside brush collection throughout May and has removed and chipped approximately 65 cubic yards of brush from residents' tree lawns. The crews are mowing, trimming, and mulching the City Hall complex in preparation for the Memorial Day observance.

The March Household Hazardous Waste Round Up collected 3,184 pounds of hazardous material from residents.

Director Belfiore distributed a memo dated May 7th explaining item #1, the motion to purchase road salt from the City of Lyndhurst. Five hundred tons of salt will be purchased at a reduced price of \$45 per ton which will fill the salt dome to capacity at 2300 tons.

Director Belfiore requested an amendment to item #6, proposed Resolution 11-2021 to purchase mobile column lifts. The initial amount to purchase the mobile column lifts through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act was not to exceed \$50,000. Due to the increase cost of steel, the State contract vendors are amending their State contracts to reflect the price increase. The Resolution requires an amendment for the purchase not to exceed \$61,000. The price increase is in the 2021 capital budget; however, purchase of certain accessories will be postponed.

Director Belfiore explained that the vendors are only holding their quotes for 15 days due to the price fluctuations in the steel commodity rates. Director Filippo stated the original quote date had expired and the purchase was requoted at the new rates. President Stickan suggested in the future a suspension of the readings should be requested to eliminate the price increase.

Building Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Grabfelder reported for the month of April the Building Department issued 65 residential permits and 17 commercial permits. A new home permit was issued in Aberdeen which has only four remaining lots available. Seventeen zoning notices were issued regarding property maintenance.

Mr. Grabfelder stated plans were received from OMNI and are being reviewed by the Plans Examiner and Fire Chief. Details of the review will be forwarded to Council.

Mr. Grabfelder informed Council that negotiations for the proposed purchase of the Maypine property are underway. Mr. Grabfelder replied to Mr. DeLisio's question that approximately 20 new homes are anticipated on lots that are the same size as the existing lots.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated the Bishop/Wilson Mills intersection, and the Road Program will have a bid opening date of May 20th. Competitive bidding is anticipated.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo stated a bond rating conference call was held with Moody's and Mr. Szanto, financial advisor. Moody's viewpoint is not to grant rate increases during the COVID pandemic; however, the final report will be official soon.

Director Filippo responded to Mr. Milroy's question that the American Rescue Plan Funds spending regulations are undergoing review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated that a Thank You note was received from Mary Velotta thanking the Mayor and Council for the recognition reception held in honor of her 41 years of service with the City.

Ms. D'Amico stated the Senior Planting Event will be held on May 28th. Thirty-four participants are anticipated to attend. The Garden Club and Brownie Troop will assist at the event. High School community service hours will be available to students who wish to volunteer.

Ms. D'Amico announced that the Partnership on Aging has 5-6 computers available to Highland Height's homebound seniors that do not have access to these services. Computer, WiFi service and training will be available. Ms. D'Amico is requesting names of eligible senior residents to participate. The next Highland Heights Seniors meeting is May 24th at 1:30 on Zoom or at City Hall Conference Room.

Ms. D'Amico thanked all the volunteers who assisted with the Senior Lunch on April 29th. The lunch was distributed or delivered to 150 seniors.

Park & Recreation: Mr. DeLisio stated the next meeting is May 20th at 6 PM at the Park. Mr. DeLisio related that a Highland Heights resident was at the Park and lost his wallet. A Service Department employee found the wallet and returned it to the owner intact. Mr. DeLisio conveyed the resident's gratitude and appreciation to the Service Department.

Community Day: Mr. DeLisio stated the Committee is meeting once a month to work on the September 11th event.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla stated the Planning and Zoning Commission met May 10th. The request for a six-foot high solid privacy fence at 637 Jefferson Drive was declined. The commercial sign for Norman Noble at 5500 Avion Park was approved. The lot split at 5536 Wilson Mills Road was reviewed.

Safety and Service Committee: No report.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: No report.

Drainage Committee: No report.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Paluf stated item #3, the continuation of the Emergency Sick Leave in compliance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, is required to remain in compliance with federal law.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello reminded Council to submit newsletter articles to Executive Assistant Greve by May 28th.

Mayor Brunello reported that there are a record number of participants in the Summer Recreation programs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. Stickan stated there will be a Legislative and Finance Committee meeting to discuss committee compensation.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA: There were no items to be added or removed from 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 public participants on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy to enter into an agreement with the City of Lyndhurst, Ohio for the purchase of 500 tons of road salt in an amount not to exceed \$22,500.00. Funding for this purchase will come from the City's Road Salt budget; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser authorizing payment to Flock Safety in the amount of \$16,500.00 for 6 license plate reader cameras; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUATION: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy authorizing the continuation of the Emergency Sick Leave adopted in compliance with the terms of the Families

First Coronavirus Response Act up to a maximum of 40 hours through September 30, 2021; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

SECOND READING OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 15-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 15-2021 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with TAC Computer, Inc. in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$29,321.00), for a maintenance and service contract for the Police Department computer network, hardware, software, computer aided dispatch/records system; firewalls; safety services mobile data terminal server, units, software and reports and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 18-2021: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 18-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency." (General Fund to General Reserve Fund in the amount of \$25,000; General Fund to Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$250,000; General Fund to Fire Pension Fund in the amount of \$250,000) (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 11-2021: Council listened to the Third 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)

Mrs. Ganser moved to amend proposed Resolution 11-2021 to read: in an amount not to exceed Sixty-One Thousand Dollars (\$61,000.00); seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

Ms. D'Amico moved to adopt Resolution 11-2021 as amended; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 12-2021: Council listened to the Third 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.)

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 13-2021: Council listened to the Third 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.)

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 14-2021: Council listened to the Third 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.)

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

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 16-2021: Council listened to the Third 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.)

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Hargate and seconded by Mr. DiLalla to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council