

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: MAY 23, 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; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader.

EXCUSED: Finance Director Filippo

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held May 9, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Goff moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner reported that the department received 155 calls for service in the month of April with 20% overlapping. Chief Turner stated that he met with the Legislative and Finance committee to discuss adding a resolution to the agenda to approve payment to PCS & Build for additional interior work for the police and fire buildings. Chief Turner added that members of Council have a memo explaining the extra cost for the work to be done.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic stated that there is an item on the agenda for a new Motorola watchguard camera system. The department currently has an older system for in-cars, body cameras and on-site server, but that system is from 2016 and is out of warranty. Chief Matejcic stated that replacement cameras are \$450 a piece currently and the server hard drive has been replaced in the last few years. Chief Matejcic added that the department is seeking the newest Watchguard offering to replace the in-car cameras and the body cameras. The server will be replaced with a Cloud-based storage with a 5-year warranty and accessories. The new system costs \$117,000, which is the sale price with certain discounts. Chief Matejcic explained that the new system is proprietary and will allow the migration of existing data from the old server to the Cloud-based storage. Chief Matejcic added the department secured a state grant for \$64,273 for the body camera purchase in the project and the remainder has been budgeted in the capital. Chief Matejcic stated that this new system will benefit the community with high-grade recording and keep the city in the forefront of the technology for the next five years. Chief Matejcic stated there have been some vehicle thefts within the municipality. This year, there have been 6 vehicle thefts. The number is increasing in other surrounding cities as well. Chief Matejcic stated that none of the stolen vehicles were forced open or had their columns peeled, meaning these vehicles were unlocked and the keys were inside. Chief Matejcic stated that cars in general, even if not stolen, are being entered per the shared footage residents are sharing with the department. Chief Matejcic explained that a car will come onto a street and multiple people will exit it, check every vehicle in the area to see which are unlocked, and steal whatever items are in the vehicle. Alerts have been posted on the Highland Heights Police Department Facebook page and in the e-newsletter. Patrol officers are driving through neighborhoods every night and attempting to capture those involved. Currently, there are two suspects identified. The department

is participating in regional meetings and investigations to identify and arrest additional suspects. Chief Matejic stated that the suburbs are more targeted because there are unlocked vehicles with keys and valuables out in the open.

Mr. DiLalla stated that one stolen vehicle was in Ward 2. He reminded residents to be diligent in keeping their property safe within his newsletter article. Mr. DiLalla stated that the department should be transparent in all of the extra work being done with the situation so the residents are aware that the department is doing everything in its power. Chief Matejic added this was a reason for the e-bike to allow patrolman easier access to sneaking around on night shift. Chief Matejic added that while this is a higher number for Highland Heights, the crime rate in the city is still lower than surrounding cities.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that the filling of the pool was completed last week and is now being circulated to balance chemicals and to verify the motors and pumps are operating properly. The pool opens June 10.

Mr. Belfiore stated that staff applied herbicide to outfields and grass areas through the community park to control weeds.

Mr. Belfiore stated that staff completed mounting the 47 Hometown Hero Banners along Highland Rd and South on Miner. Limbs that were obstructing views of banners were trimmed back.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the department will meet with Sunni D'Angelo to discuss any last-minute plans for the Memorial Day Service in front of City Hall at the Veterans Peace Memorial. A final walkthrough of the area will be completed at the end of the week.

Mr. Belfiore stated that Riley Sweeping will complete sweeping the entire city by the end of the week. They will return in August to complete the summer sweeping circuit.

Mr. Belfiore stated that shred day on May 13 was a success. There were 14,040 pounds of paper shredded. The computer round up through the month of April collected 8,912 pounds of electronic waste to be brought to the Solid Waste District.

Mayor Brunello commended the department and added that the grounds look fantastic. Mr. Milroy commended the department for their work on the Hometown Hero Banners as well.

Parks & Recreation Report: Mr. Ianiro thanked all involved with the Easter party.

Mr. Ianiro stated that the baseball and softball programs started while tee ball will begin next week. He added that some people were not parked properly, but that should settle down once the season gets further. The fields and grounds have received positive feedback so far.

Mr. Ianiro stated that some fencing repairs have started and will be completed in the fall. The new stairs between four and five are in the works, but if they are not completed, there will be temporary railings in place in the meantime.

Mr. Ianiro stated that pickleball started. There are close to 90 members this season, including Mr. Milroy.

Mr. Ianiro stated that the bids were received for the tennis court resurfacing. He will meet with the Mayor to finalize the plans for the project.

Mr. Ianiro stated the pool is full with boilers hooked up to circulate and to open the pool June 10. Dominion has inspected the hookup for the gas and found there may not be enough gas volume going into the pool. Dominion is still testing the issues. There may be a project in the fall to fix the issue.

Mr. Ianiro stated that Family nights begin June 11.

Mr. Ianiro stated that there are three water fillers placed around the park and two more to be installed at the end of the season.

Mr. Ianiro stated that Day Camp begins June 12. The staff numbers are the same as last year. All field trips are booked.

Mr. Ianiro stated that registration has begun for the Kickball Classic.

Mr. Ianiro stated that the Bike Ride is on June 25.

Mayor Brunello asked if he needs to have a whole team to enter the Kickball Classic. Mr. Ianiro responded that bringing your own team is an option, but not necessary. People will be paired up with other residents to make full teams.

Mr. DeLisio asked if increasing the volume of the boilers was a large undertaking. Mr. Ianiro responded that he had already received one bid and will be looking to get another bid. This project has been recommended by multiple sources. Mr. DeLisio asked if the current boilers could at least last the whole season. Mr. Ianiro responded yes.

Mr. DiLalla asked about the mailboxes in the parking lot at the entrance to the park. Mr. Ianiro responded they are the mailboxes for the homes on Wilson Mills. There were construction cones in front of them so people would know not to park in front of the mailboxes, but people moved the cones to park and go to the baseball games. Mayor Brunello clarified that the mailboxes are there temporarily due to the construction on Wilson Mills. Mrs. Ganser asked if there is an auxiliary officer at the park. Chief Matejic responded that they begin after Memorial Day and can patrol the issue soon. Mr. Ianiro reiterated that the parking issue should calm down once the season is further in. Mrs. Ganser added that the auxiliary officer will also help in directing the traffic.

Mr. Goff asked where the water filling stations are currently located. Mr. Ianiro responded by the pool, the bathroom by the park barn, and the upper bathrooms.

Mr. Milroy asked if there are enough lifeguards. Mr. Ianiro responded yes.

Mayor Brunello asked if all programs have good numbers. Mr. Ianiro responded yes.

Building Commissioner's Report: No Report

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated the 2022-2023 concrete program is almost complete. Once the pedestrian signal is operational at Highland and Alpha, then the project will be done.

Mr. Mader stated the Wilson Mills overlay south side was moved to May 31.

Mr. Mader stated the 2023 Road Program plans are under works.

Mr. Mader stated that Franklin Water is waiting on authorization from the Cleveland Water Department, which may not be received until July.

Mr. Mader stated that item 3 pertains to the tennis courts and he is still waiting on some material certification from the contractor. The program will be completed at the end of the summer.

Mr. Mader requested suspension on the street striping award to allow work to begin with the good weather predicted.

Mayor Brunello asked for an update on the signal at Wilson Mills and Bishop. Mr. Mader responded that he is reaching out to TMS because the issue sounds related to a component. Mayor Brunello asked if it is under warranty. Mr. Mader responded that it is close to out of warranty but hopes to meet with the engineer before the warranty is over. Mr. Mader added that it seems to work properly at times, but other times does not work properly.

Mr. DeLisio asked if the delay in flipping lanes on Wilson Mills would delay the entire project. Mr. Mader responded that it all depends on the amount of concrete repair needed, but he does not foresee a significant delay.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: Mr. DeLisio reminded Council of the Community Day Parade and asked they inform him if they plan to be involved. Mr. DeLisio stated that the first Family Fun Night will be June 11 from 5 pm to 8 pm. There will also be a craft day on June 13 from 1:30 pm to 3 pm.

Legislative and Finance: Mr. DiLalla stated that the committee met to discuss the additional amount for the Police and Fire building renovation project. The committee approved the amount to be paid as it was in the original budget. They also discussed and approved the budget of fireworks for Community Day for \$10,000.

Safety and Service: No Report

Drainage: No Report

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy stated that the commission approved a sign for La Rich Pizza. There were also two variances discussed with a public hearing set for June 12. Mr. Milroy added the commission will bring proposed verbiage and topic points for a Planned Residential Development to Council by late June.

Law Director's Report: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello thanked the Highland Heights Green Taskforce, the Garden Club and the Service Department staff for their work on the Community Clean Up day on May 13. Mayor Brunello thanked the Service Department for their work on Community Shred Day. Mayor Brunello met with Mr. Torta from the Mayfield High School Student Council about the upcoming Color Run sponsored by University Hospitals. The event will be on June 10 in the Community Park.

Mayor Brunello stated he attended the Older American's Month pasta dinner at the Lyndhurst Community Center sponsored by the Community Partnership on Aging. Ms. D'Amico also attended.

Mayor Brunello stated that he, Mr. Milroy and Ms. D'Amico met with several residents relating to the proposed trail in the park. There were questions and concerns based off the article in the newspaper. Mayor Brunello stated that the 8-foot paved path was just a proposal to understand how much was needed for funding. The plan to make the connectivity trail is in place but may be changed slightly.

Mayor Brunello stated that he attended the Northeast Ohio Mayors and Managers Association meeting on May 10 in Columbus. This included many informational meetings.

Mayor Brunello stated he administered the oath to 14 new CERT members on May 16. They then participated in a CPR class with Chief Turner.

Mayor Brunello stated that Highland Heights now has a YouTube channel to post the Memorial Day Service and all other recorded meetings and events. The channel may be found on the city website.

Mayor Brunello stated that the annual Veteran's Peace Memorial service will be May 29. City Hall will be closed that day and garbage is also delayed by one day.

Mayor Brunello stated that newsletter articles are due to Jolene Greve by email May 26.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico stated the seniors are planning a boat trip on August 22. This will include transportation to and from the boat, lunch on the boat, and a boat ride for \$75. Another event is October 8 sponsored by the seniors. This will be a wine and chocolate tasting event in the Community Center from Fantasy Candies, whose owner is a resident of Highland Heights. The event is not only for seniors and is \$20 per person. There will also be a speaker present.

Ms. D'Amico reminded Council of Senior Planting Day on May 26 from 1 pm to 3 pm and asked those able to help set up, give people their plant, and help tear down. There are 97 people signed up for the event.

Mayor Brunello asked what the age is for the senior committee. Ms. D'Amico responded that it depends, but as low as 50.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: A Resolution authorizing a payment in an amount not to exceed \$456,562.00 to PCS & Build for additional interior renovation work for the Police and Fire Buildings and declaring an emergency.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio to add the resolution to the agenda; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Second Reading of Resolution 23-2023 issuing a six-month extension of the Moratorium on the granting of building permits or certificates of occupancy for any group home for a period not to exceed six months from the effective end date of the resolution previously passed, in order to allow City Council and the Planning Commission to review the Highland Heights Zoning Code and other Codified Ordinances relative to such use; and declaring an emergency.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff to add the resolution to the agenda; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes all; motion carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: No Public

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 25-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 25-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the payment of an amount not to exceed Sixty-Seven Thousand and Fifty-Four Dollars (\$67,054) to the Community Partnership on Aging for its annual budget; and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 26-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 26-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of a Watchguard Video Camera Recording System to include Eight (8) In-Car Cameras, Eight (8) Body Worn Cameras, Eight (8) Bay Transfer Stations, Cloud Based Storage and accessories and a Five (5) Year Warranty in an amount not exceed One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$117,000.00) and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 27-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 27-2023 which description is: "A Resolution declaring Geauga Highway to be the lowest and best bidder for the Community Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said bidder in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$250,325), rejecting all other bids received and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 28-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 28-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing a payment in an amount not to exceed \$456,562.00 to PCS & Build for additional interior renovation work for the Police and Fire Buildings 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 project to continue.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff to suspend the Third reading; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes All, motion carried.

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

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 10-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 28-2023 which description is: “A Resolution adopting a tax budget for the City of Highland Heights, for the year 2024 and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING OF RESOLUTION 22-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 22-2023 which description is: “A Resolution declaring Pat Flowers, Inc. to be the lowest and best bidder for the striping of certain streets within the municipality, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said bidder not to exceed the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred Forty-Five Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$22,445.13), rejecting all other bids received and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Third reading to begin working on the project.

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

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

SECOND READING OF RESOLUTION 23-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 23-2023 which description is: “A Resolution issuing a six-month extension of the Moratorium on the granting of building permits or certificates of occupancy for any group home for a period not to exceed six months from the effective end date of the resolution previously passed, in order to allow City Council and the Planning Commission to review the Highland Heights Zoning Code and other Codified Ordinances relative to such use; and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 9-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 9-2023 which description is: “An Ordinance fixing the salaries of the Members of Council and fixing the salary and bond of the Council Member selected under the provisions of the city charter to serve as President of Council and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Mr. DeLisio moved to enact; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes D’Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Goff, Milroy; Nay Hargate, motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Mr. Goff 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 economic development; seconded by Mr. DeLisio.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 8:33p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy and seconded by Mrs. Ganser to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

MAY 23, 2023 MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 7

Clerk of Council

President of Council