

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

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DeLisio, Ganser, Hargate, Milroy; Law Director Lograsso; Police Chief Matejcic; Fire Chief Turner; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader; Building Commissioner Grabfelder.

EXCUSED: Council Representatives DiLalla and Goff; Finance Director Filippo

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held June 27, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. DeLisio moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Hargate; Milroy abstain; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated that for the month of June there were 134 calls to the Fire Department. For the second quarter, the department responded to 437 calls with an average response time of 4 minutes and 3 seconds for ambulance and the average response time for fire calls was 4 minutes and 50 seconds. Overtime expenses year to date are \$21,996 and the ambulance collection is \$195, which is ahead of projections. Chief Turner added there were 1,112 hours of training for the second quarter.

Chief Turner reported that the exterior renovation project is wrapping up. The roof is essentially complete and there is gutter work being completed. Chief Turner reminded Council that the approved cost of the project was \$1,567,782 plus a \$65,000 contingency. There is currently about \$20,000 of unused contingency. Chief Turner stated that the interior renovations are underway and the project is still on time and within budget with an expected completion date of October 27.

Mr. Milroy asked if there have been any bids received for the rear bay doors. Chief Turner responded that proposals are due Friday. Two have been submitted and a third vendor stated theirs will be in by Friday.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic stated for the month of June the Police Department received a total of 1,401 calls. 8 calls included property damage accidents with 1 injury, there were 61 alarm calls, and 11 Police mutual aid calls. The department entered 56 arrest warrants. The city jail was closed for about two weeks, so the department used the Mayfield Heights jail. Between the Highland Heights and Mayfield Heights facilities, there were 5 prisoners and the officers conducted 6 prisoner safety checks.

Chief Matejcic stated that the department is prepared for Community Day.

Chief Matejcic informed Council that there will be the first annual Safety Forces Day on July 27. The event will be at the Community Center from 5pm to 7pm. Councilman DeLisio and Mayor Brunello will be providing hot dogs and cooking. There will be a DJ and giveaways along with police, fire, and service department vehicles. Personnel from those departments will be present to talk with residents. Music at the Gazebo follows.

Chief Turner stated the fire and police departments will be participating in the active shooter training at Mayfield High School on Thursday, July 13. The high school will be closed on that day.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that the department completed road repairs along Aberdeen Blvd. Next month, crews will seal the repairs that were made along with road openings on Millridge, West Mill, and Highland Rd.

Mr. Belfiore reported there have been two brush crews collecting brush due to the heavy rain and wind. Since January 1, the department has collected approximately 525 cubic yards of brush.

Mr. Belfiore stated that staff will be grinding the stumps left from when the department removed dead and diseased trees. Tree lawns will be restored with top soil and grass seed. Mr. Belfiore asks residents to water the tree lawns so the grass can grow.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the Household Hazardous Waste round up from June 19 through July 1 collected over 2,956 pounds of hazardous waste. Items were taken to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for disposal. The next round up will be held September 4 through September 16.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the Computer Round Up will take place during the month of August. Hours of drop off are 8am to 3pm.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder reported that the Building Department issued 59 residential and 3 commercial permits. The residential permits are ahead of last year while the commercial permits are lower than last year, which was expected. There was a permit issued for a new home on Lander. There were 5 zoning certificates sent out as well and 14 lawns were cut by the Service Department.

Mr. Grabfelder stated that there have been 7 foreclosure notices as of June 30. This is higher than last year, but lower than previous years.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated that the Wilson Mills Overlay project surface course is scheduled for next week. Once that is completed, final striping will be completed and the roadway will be open.

Mr. Mader stated that the plans for the Franklin Water project are being submitted to the Cleveland Water Department for review and approval.

Mr. Mader stated that the 2023 Asphalt Road Program bids were opened on June 29 and the low bidder was Ronyak Paving. Mr. Mader requested the legislation rewarding the project be suspended in order for the city to get on the company's schedule.

Mr. Mader stated that the Suburban Water Main fall applications will be submitted for Sturbridge, the balance of Franklin, and the east portion of Cambridge.

Mr. Mader stated that the pre-construction meeting for the tennis courts is July 12. The project will begin in August.

Mr. Mader stated that Dominion East Ohio will be replacing Highland Rd gas main replacement on the south side of Highland.

Mr. Mader stated that detention basin inspections will be completed this week and road evaluations are ongoing.

Mrs. Ganser asked where the drilling on Highland Rd will take place. Mr. Mader responded from Ransom to Park Dr in Richmond Heights.

Finance Director's Report: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: Mr. DeLisio requested item 1 on the agenda to be suspended in order to expedite the project and ensure its completion in a timely matter.

Mr. DeLisio reminded Council of Community Day on July 22. Those in the parade should meet at St. Paschal Baylon at 12:30pm for the parade to start at 1pm. He also stated that those in the parade must bring their own candy to throw.

Legislative and Finance: No Report

Safety and Service: No Report

Drainage: No Report

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy stated Planning and Zoning approved a variance for a fence. The people from Sanctuary came back in for an update. There was not much to report to them. Mr. Milroy stated the Commission prepared the language desired for the Planned Residential Development and Council will be receiving an executive summary. Mr. Milroy, Mr. Grabfelder, and Law Director Lograsso will draft an Ordinance to present to Council.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Lograsso stated that the Ordinance to place a moratorium on storage units is important because there was a past lawsuit which led to a new Ordinance regulating storage units; however, this Ordinance contains deficiencies regarding exact placements and zoning districts. The city is receiving multiple calls about storage units and to avoid any further conflicts until there is a new Ordinance written, Mr. Lograsso recommended that Council pass the Moratorium immediately.

Mr. Lograsso stated that he saw an increase in the threshold for competitive bidding from \$50,000 to \$75,000 within the State's budget.

Mr. Lograsso stated that the Planned Residential Development Ordinance will be drafted then presented to Council. Once Council approves after any necessary changes, then the issue will be placed on the ballot because it is a change in the zoning map. Therefore, this issue will not be on the fall ballot, but potentially on the spring ballot.

Mayor Brunello asked if the Planned Residential Development Ordinance will affect the Sanctuary plans. Mr. Lograsso responded that it will not because they are already going through the process through the subdivision ordinance of the city going through the regulations.

Mr. DeLisio asked if a new development needs to be placed on the ballot. Mr. Lograsso responded no and that the new Ordinance is what would need to be on the ballot for the vote of the people because it is a change in the zoning map.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated he does not need an executive session and requested it be removed from the agenda.

Mayor Brunello stated that he will be in the dunk tank at Community Day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico stated that the seniors meet July 17 to plan current activities.

Ms. D'Amico stated that Legislative and Finance met to discuss both moratoriums. The committee is working on definitions for the Group Home Moratorium. Ms. D'Amico clarified the request for suspension on the moratorium on storage units is due to the amount of requests to put storage facilities in the empty buildings in the city.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: Motion to remove the motion 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.

Mrs. Ganser made the motion to remove; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: No Public

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 33-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 33-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Industrial Tennis for the resurfacing of the Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to expedite the project.

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

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

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 34-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 34-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the expenditure of Twenty Thousand One Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars and Zero Cents to Mars Electric for new lighting for the Community Center, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 35-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 27-2023 which description is: "A Resolution declaring Ronyak Paving Inc. to be the lowest and best bidder for the 2023 Asphalt Road Program and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said bidder in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents (\$422,588.25), rejecting all other bids received 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 be scheduled.

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

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 12-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 12-2023 which description is: "An Ordinance issuing a moratorium on the granting of building permits or certificates of occupancy for any new Storage Unit Facility, for a period not to exceed six months from the effective date of this resolution, 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)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings due to the increase of requests for new storage facilities.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 30-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 30-2023 which description is: “A Resolution approving a payment to the Mayfield City School District pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.82 and in connection with the City's Community Reinvestment Area and Urban Jobs and Enterprise Zone Programs, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council