
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: July 27, 2021
Highland Heights Community Center
8:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives: D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Hargate, Milroy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Cook; Service Director Belfiore; Finance Director Filippo; Law Director Paluf.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 13, 2021 was dispensed with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated that the chase vehicle that was authorized for purchase earlier this year will be in-service by the end of August. The ambulance has been ordered and will be delivered in 10-11 months. The new bay doors have been installed. Chief Turner thanked the Mayor and Council for their support on these capital expenditures.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook reported that the Police Department again experienced a sanitary sewer blockage, and a plumbing company will be providing a quote to replace the sewer line. Chief Cook requested a motion be added to tonight's agenda authorizing a service agreement with AT&T Centrex.

Chief Cook stated that the National Law Enforcement Accreditation Assessment has been completed and he thanked the community participants and Mayor Brunello, Councilwoman Ganser, Councilman Milroy and Councilman DiLalla.

Chief Cook reported that the S.P.A.N. (Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network) agreement has been updated amongst all the participating municipalities.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore reported that the Service Department installed approximately 400 feet of split rail fence located on the west-side of the Park exit. The in-house concrete repairs program has made repairs at 8 locations throughout the city. Since last reported, the brush collection program has collected approximately 40 yards of brush from residents' tree lawns.

Director Belfiore announced that the second Computer Round-Up will be held during the month of August, Monday through Friday, 8 AM - 3:30 PM at the Service Garage.

Mayor Brunello complimented the Service Department's Park staff for maintaining the ball diamonds during the rainy summer season. Their efforts allowed for tournaments and games to be played on schedule.

Building Commissioner's Report: No report.

City Engineer's Report: Mayor Brunello provided the City Engineer's update on projects. The Bishop Road/Wilson Mills intersection project had a pre-construction meeting on July 14. The contractor is anticipating work to begin in August when all structures are to be received.

The 2021 Road Program contractor is performing cement repairs in the Canterbury subdivision. The cement work should be completed in two weeks.

The Bishop Road bridge construction is slightly ahead of schedule; however, one-way north bound only traffic remains in effect.

The City Park has been surveyed for entrance widening.

Area J in Aberdeen has been surveyed for sidewalk leveling and replacement.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo reported that a blanket motion was made by the TIRC Chairperson, Ms. Rocco, that "due to the Covid-19 pandemic and state mandates established by the Governor of Ohio, all agreements not expiring were compliant and allowed to continue." There is a motion on tonight's agenda for Council to accept the recommendation of the TIRC committee to allow to continue Avion Parkway/Eighth Day Sound CRA; to continue Brainard Crossings CRA; and to continue the Aberdeen Municipal Public Improvement TIF program. Director Filippo recommended Council approve the Tax Incentive Review Council's recommendation even though the requirements were not met. There will be no payment due to the Mayfield School District. Mayfield School Treasurer, Mr. Snyder, concurred.

Director Filippo submitted a memo dated July 22, explaining the motion by the Lyndhurst Municipal Court. Due to COVID there has been a decline in traffic citations and the Court revenue has decreased. The Court is operating at a deficit of \$137,842 for the first six months of 2021. Per O.R.C., the cities are required to cover the deficit per their proportionate share based on case load. Highland Heights' share is 21.14% which equates to \$29,138.65. The Court's statements have been distributed to Council. Director Filippo recommends Council's approval of the motion.

Director Filippo stated there is an ordinance to assess the cost of abating unpaid weed/grass cutting bills. This is a one-year assessment. Director Filippo requested suspension of the second and third readings of the ordinance as the legislation is required to be submitted to the County by September 13th. The next regular Council meeting after summer recess is September 14th. If payment is received prior to submission, their assessment will be removed.

Director Filippo stated that the anticipated amount to be received from the American Rescue Act was approximately \$800,000. The figure was adjusted to incorporate townships in the disbursement of funds; therefore, approximately \$438,000 is anticipated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico reported that the Highland Heights Seniors met on July 26th. The Captain's Game event on August 12th has tickets available. The Committee will be planning a Thanksgiving meal pick-up and either a Holiday party or a Holiday meal pick up in December.

A Senior Tea and Fashion Show is being planned for February 6, 2022 at the Community Center.

Community Day: Mr. DeLisio reported a meeting will be held on August 9th at 6:30 PM at the Lower Pavilion at the Park.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla stated the Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 26th and granted variances to 318 Miner Road for minimum lot width and side yard setback for two reconfigured lots that would result from a proposed lot split.

Safety and Service Committee: No report.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: No report.

Drainage Committee: Mr. Milroy requested an update from the City Engineer on the Roy/Renee/Esther survey. Mayor Brunello stated the survey is completed and recommended discussion at a Drainage Committee meeting in September. Mr. Milroy concurred and stated the Committee will also review the memo dated April 11, 2019 re: 957 Millridge Road.

Law Director's Report: No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated he received the mid-year report from the Heritage Home Program and to-date six site visits have been made and two projects completed in the amount of \$125,000. Highland Heights' residents are utilizing the Heritage Home Program.

Mayor Brunello announced the State of the City Address/Meet the Mayor event on August 26th at 6:30 PM at the Community Center. The city administration and Council will be available to meet with the public.

Mayor Brunello stated the Building Evaluation Report has been received. The report will be reviewed with the Building Commissioner and distributed to Council in August.

Mayor Brunello stated the Community Park Connectivity project is moving forward and preliminary discussions will be scheduled. Mayor Brunello will keep Council apprised of the project's progression.

Mayor Brunello on July 31st will be attending an event to present a joint Proclamation to Dr. Keith Kelly upon his retirement as Superintendent of the Mayfield City Schools.

Mayor Brunello reported the LED Park Lighting Conversion Project has been completed at the Park. The conversion was funded through the NOPEC grant fund.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. Stickan reported that the Legislative and Finance Committee met this evening to discuss compensation for Council. It was determined the period to implement any changes for the upcoming term has passed. The topic may be discussed at a Committee of the Whole meeting in September and include compensation for unpaid committees and create equity amongst compensated committees and commissions. The Building Evaluation Report will be distributed in August to allow Council time to review before a meeting in September.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA:

MOTION TO ADD: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to add the following motion to the Council agenda: "Motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the AT&T Centrex Service Agreement to renew the City's service for 36 months at \$586.00/month." Mrs. Ganser seconded. 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla authorizing the Mayor to sign the AT&T Centrex Service Agreement to renew the City's service for 36 months at \$586.00/month; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION APPROVING RECESS: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla approving Council Recess for the month of August; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy accepting the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Committee (TIRC) at their meeting held May 27, 2021 to allow to continue Avion Parkway/Eighth Day Sound CRA; to continue Brainard Crossings CRA; and to continue the Aberdeen Municipal Public Improvement TIF program; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION FOR PAYMENT: A motion was made by Ms. D'Amico authorizing payment to the City of Lyndhurst for proportionate share of the Lyndhurst Municipal Court operating deficit as of June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$29,138.65; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE: A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio authorizing the Mayor to purchase Council Chamber Seating in an amount not to exceed \$30,000; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes all; motion carried.

READING OF PROCEDURE: Per Resolution 22-1977, the following statement was read to remind Council of the opening of the time capsule in the year 2076: "Know all men by these presents that the time capsule buried in Highland Heights Community Park by the citizens of Highland Heights, Ohio, to celebrate the United States of America's Bicentennial in 1976 shall be opened on the date of July 4, 2076."

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 26-2021: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 26-2021 which description is: "An Ordinance assessing the cost of abating a certain nuisance and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr., and Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to meet the County's deadline. Mr. DiLalla moved to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mrs. Ganser to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

President of Council