

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
7:15 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DeLisio, Ganser, Goff, Hargate, Milroy; Clerk of Council Donatelli; Assistant Fire Chief Bernhard; Police Chief Matejic; Finance Director Filippo; Law Director Lograsso.

EXCUSED: Council Representative DiLalla

AGENDA

Planned Residential Development
Reimbursement Policy for Backflows
Sidewalk Program
2024 Budget

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held May 9, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

Reimbursement Policy for Backflows: Mayor Brunello stated his desire to lower the allotted cost for reimbursement for backflows from \$1,500 to \$500. Mrs. Ganser asked what the average cost of the backflows are. Mr. Milroy responded with around \$1,200. Mayor Brunello stated his concern that a high number of residents will utilize this policy and cost the city a very high amount of money. Mr. Milroy asked if there is a cap on how much money can be given in that situation; in this, he asked if there is a point where there is no more money to give for backflow installations. Mayor Brunello responded that this was not discussed, and he believes the city is obligated to fulfill the application even once the cap for drainage is reached. Mr. Lograsso confirmed what Mayor Brunello stated and added that funds would need to be appropriated. Mr. Milroy stated that it may behoove the city to add into the policy that the city can only fulfill applications until the cap is reached. Mayor Brunello stated that this can be discussed, and he still wants to help residents, but does not want to hurt the city financials in the process. Ms. D'Amico referred the issue to the Drainage Committee and asked those on the committee to research the best options for the city. Mrs. Ganser asked how many have been given out within a year in the past. Mr. Grabfelder responded with 12 in 2011. He added that, at that time, all of the reimbursements were less than the \$1,500 allotted.

Planned Residential Development: Mr. Milroy stated that Planning and Zoning put together a proposed Ordinance with the building commissioner and law director. The commission voted on the wording to bring before Council at the meeting prior. Mr. Milroy added that the commission would like to have this in place before issues with residential developments occur. He added that the major change from the prior draft distributed to council is that the acreage now must be 6 acres for the district rather than 4 acres. The density was kept at 3.5 because the commission would like more density in the district. Mr. Milroy stated that Council has the language from the commission and is a result of multiple months of discussion at Planning and Zoning. Mr. Milroy added that whatever is approved by Council would need to be on the ballot for residents to vote on, whether it be in March or next November.

Ms. D'Amico asked what effect this would have had on the potential sanctuary on Highland Road. Mr. Milroy responded that they would have been able to build about 20 homes in the development. Ms. D'Amico asked how much this would change lot sizes. Mr. Milroy responded that 0.57 is the current minimum lot size and this would make the homes have a smaller backyard or front yard. Ms. D'Amico asked what this would bring the minimum to. Mr. Milroy responded with 0.286. Ms. D'Amico stated that this would cut the minimum lot size in half. Mr. Milroy stated that only 2 areas within the city could have a planned residential district and meet the proposed requirements. Mr. Mader stated that there are substantial numbers of areas in the city where the 6 acres can be pieced together to meet the requirements. Mr. Milroy added that the 6 acre minimum would require buying 4 huge lots to meet the minimum.

Mrs. Ganser asked if the storm sewers could handle an influx of 20 new homes on Highland Road, considering the current issues others are currently having. Mr. Milroy responded that the building commissioner would ensure that the development has a proper storm sewer detention basin, and these are designed to hold the water until the event is finished and slowly releases the water out.

Ms. D'Amico asked Mr. Grabfelder where she could currently find a 0.286 lot. Mr. Grabfelder responded with some of the single-family homes in Aberdeen.

Mr. Goff asked if the developments will need approval from planning and zoning or council to build once this Ordinance is placed into effect and the developers meet all of the requirements. Mr. Milroy responded that they would not need approval if all requirements are met.

Sidewalk Program: Mayor Brunello stated that he received multiple complaints regarding sidewalks in Highland Heights. He added that he would like to have a sidewalk program in 2024. This has been a concern for the past few months.

2024 Budget: Mr. Filippo stated that his department is getting the budget together and will meet with Fideli this coming week for quotes. Budget books will be distributed to departments soon.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser and seconded by Mr. Milroy to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Ayes all; motion carried.