

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
Highland Heights City Hall Council Chamber
7:30 PM**

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

EXCUSED: Council Representatives DeLisio and Milroy

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held September 12, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Goff moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes D'Amico, Ganser, Goff, Hargate; DeLisio abstains; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated that the station renovation project is still set for completion by October 27 and the project is still within budget.

Chief Turner stated that a Request for Proposals will be sent to numerous vendors later in the week for the new generator project and will also be on the city's website.

Chief Turner stated that the Insurance Service Office informed the department that they received a 2 out of 10 rating for the Public Classification Rating. Only 2,000 departments in the country have a 2 and only 498 have a rating of 1, which is the best rating. The department is evaluated through a uniform set of 150 criteria. Chief Turner commended the workers in the department and thanked the Mayor and members of Council for their support.

Chief Turner commended Mr. Ianiro and the members of the Parks and Recreation committee for their work in installing AEDs at the city park. Two AEDs were recently installed in lockboxes at the park and requires the user to call 911 to receive an access code. Chief Turner stated that not many communities have this in their parks and he showed appreciation for the committee taking the initiative to add lifesaving equipment to the park. The service department added signs within the park to indicate where the AEDs are located.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic reported that September 29 through October 7 will be when the department will go through year 2 of its 4-year cycle CALEA online assessment. The online assessors will be looking at 56 specific standards that are preselected from 190 standards. There will also be 4 specific areas of interest that will have staff interviews including communications, use of force, traffic operations, and critical incident active threat responses.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that the department completed the replacement of hazardous sidewalk blocks on Charles Place, Sebastian Court, and Sterling. The staff poured a total of 12 yards of concrete. Beginning later in the week, staff will begin remodeling the Veteran's Peace Memorial in front of City Hall. A local Highland Heights business will be donating their labor and materials as part of the project. Mr. Belfiore stated that the Household Hazardous Waste collection collected over 1,200 pounds of waste from city residents. This was the final Hazardous Waste collection of the year. The quantity for 2023 totaled a little over 6,400 pounds collected.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2

Mr. Belfiore stated that leaf collection will begin the second week of October and run through the first or second week of December.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder stated that the month of August had 68 residential permits and 7 commercial permits issued. There were also 7 notices sent out for zoning and the service department cut 5 lawns. Mr. Grabfelder stated that Architectural Review Board met and so did Planning and Zoning. ARB approved two signs, one for Tijuana Tacos and another for B Rox, looking to get into the building by end of October but there are issues with the liquor license.

Mayor Brunello asked what the process of obtaining a liquor permit is. Mr. Grabfelder responded that the clerk will receive notice that a company is looking to obtain a permit and then the company needs to go to Columbus and purchase the license. Mayor Brunello asked if there is a limit to how many bars have a permit within the city. Mr. Grabfelder responded that the law has changed on that aspect and he will check with the Liquor Board. Mr. Lograsso stated that the Hibachi Restaurant would be transferring their liquor license to B Rox. Mr. DiLalla asked what is being put into Harry Buffalo. Mr. Grabfelder responded with B Rox, which also has a restaurant on Mentor Avenue. Mr. Goff asked if this a different owner than on Mentor Avenue. Mr. Grabfelder responded yes.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated that the Franklin Water review comments should be received in about two weeks. He added that mid to late October would be the advertisement of the bid and then awarding the bid would be in November. The project would most likely be pushed into the spring.

Mr. Mader stated that the Ridgebury Gas Main workers will be in Highland Heights this week. Mr. Mader stated that the Asphalt Road Program contractor is looking to begin work next week, around October 5, weather permitting. The work will start no later than October 9. This includes Ransome and Kenbridge, and letters are ready to be sent to residents on the two roads. The project will take about 4 to 5 weeks.

Mr. Mader stated that the road ranking is complete and he will meet with the service director to discuss.

Mr. Mader stated that ATT is looking to complete the second half of their major project in Aberdeen and Maypine. Pre-construction meeting is scheduled for October 3 and work should begin within a few weeks.

Mr. Mader stated that the Park Access Trail bid opening is Thursday and currently there are 9 plan holders.

Finance Director's Report: Mr. Filippo described the memo distributed to council explaining the two items on the agenda pertaining to the Finance Department. Mr. Filippo requested suspension on both items in order to complete the appropriations and meet the tax levy submission deadline to the county by September 30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: No Report

Legislative and Finance: Mr. DiLalla stated that the committee met to discuss the 2024 budget, current moratoriums, the Planned Residential District, and the Pay to Stay Policy. The committee chose to finalize details on the moratoriums at the next meeting, make a decision on the Planned Residential District at the next meeting, and go into further detail on the Pay to Stay Policy at the next meeting.

Safety and Service: No Report

Drainage: Mr. Goff stated that there were a few homes with water issues. He thanked Mr. Grabfelder, Mr. Belfiore, and Mr. Mader for helping to handle many of the complaints. Mr. Goff stated that Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works will issue all permits regarding backflow issues within the city. Due to this, the committee found it necessary to review and amend Codified Ordinance 1336.11 in its entirety.

Planning and Zoning: No Report

Law Director's Report: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated that he attended the Tree City USA ceremony where Highland Heights received its second year of recognition as a Tree City USA. He thanked the service department for preserving the trees within the community.

Mayor Brunello stated that the annual Blue Mass at St. Paschal Baylon is October 2 at 9am. This event recognizes the city's safety forces.

Mayor Brunello stated the annual Halloween Children's Carnival and Candy Maze is October 14 from 6pm to 8pm at the community park. He added to let Mr. Ianiro know if members of council can volunteer and costumes are welcomed.

Mayor Brunello stated that the Flu Shot Clinic will be October 24 from 10am to 1pm at the Community Center. This is open to the public for anyone to receive their flu shot.

Mayor Brunello stated that the city of Highland Heights is offering the Senior Snowplow Reimbursement program in partnership with the Community Partnership on Aging. There will be 10 eligible Highland Heights seniors chosen for the season. Information is available through the Community Partnership on Aging. The application window is mid-October through November 10. Mayor Brunello stated that the newsletters were sent to the printer and residents should receive them by the second week of October.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico requested members of Council to consider volunteering to pour wine at the seniors wine and chocolate tasting event on October 8. She also requested help passing out the Thanksgiving Meal on November 16. Ms. D'Amico stated that the Seniors Holiday Party will be December 7.

Mr. Goff said he would help with the Thanksgiving Meal and asked what time to arrive. Ms. D'Amico responded 11:30 am. Mayor Brunello asked if the committee wanted the same band as last year to perform. Ms. D'Amico responded that they would like music, but a performance that is not as loud as last year.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: No Items to Be Added

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: Ms. Drobnick at 392 Muirfield Drive approached the podium. She discussed the topic of the outhouse owned by the golf course previously discussed and added that people not using the golf facility will also stop and use the outhouse while out for a walk around the city. She also stated that the maintenance of the golf course in general is getting progressively worse. Ms. Drobnick added that she has the original plans for Aberdeen while they seem to be missing at the association.

Mr. Grabfelder responded that he will take a copy of the plans, but it is up to local associations to handle situations with maintenance because he has no jurisdiction once the developments are built. Ms. D'Amico added that Council will look at part of Ms. Drobnick's issues, but the

Homeowners Association must be contacted because a lot of the issues are out of the control of Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 46-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 46-2023 which description is: "A Resolution providing for the observance of Halloween on October 31, 2023 and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 15-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 15-2023 which description is: "An Ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain Ordinances as parts of the various component Codes of the Codified Ordinances of Highland Heights, Ohio and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings because the new inserts have already been received.

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

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 16-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 16-2023 which description is: "An Ordinance appropriating for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for the period commencing January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, 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 monies to be appropriated.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 42-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 42-2023 which description is: "A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies to be placed on the 2023 Tax Duplicate of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, and certifying the same to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Third reading because the tax levies are due to the county by September 30.

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 5

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 43-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 43-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a public health services agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Third reading to allow the contract to go into effect.

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

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser 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 and personnel; seconded by Mr. Goff.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 8:43p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser and seconded by Mr. Hargate to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council