

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: OCTOBER 10, 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; Police Chief Matejcic; Fire Chief Turner; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader; Building Commissioner Grabfelder.

EXCUSED: Law Director Lograsso; Finance Director Filippo

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held September 26, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Goff moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes D'Amico, DiLalla, Ganser, Goff, Hargate; Milroy and DeLisio abstain; motion carried.

Presentation of Ready Certify Plaque: Mark Christy from Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management approached Council to present Chief Turner with a Ready Certify Plaque. This program was implemented 10 years ago and is awarded to the most effective emergency departments. This is not a mandatory program but increases the safety of the residents within a city. It is a difficult process and cities can be certified every 5 years. Chief Turner stated that the fire department started the process to become Ready Certified in 2019 but COVID slowed the process down.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner thanked Council for their support during the process of receiving Ready Certify Status. He also stated for the month of September the Fire Department responded 152 emergency calls with 21% overlapping. The department has responded to 487 emergency response calls for the third quarter with 22% overlapping and personnel conducted 634 hours of fire and EMS training and 138 life safety inspections and alarm tests were completed. Through October 1, \$299,590 were collected from Ambulance calls. Chief Turner reported that overtime costs are at \$39,179 as of October 1, leaving near \$11,000 left in the budget.

Mr. Milroy asked for an update on the Fire and Police Building renovation. Chief Turner responded that substantial completion coming and police personnel are schedule to begin moving equipment back into the building in the week of October 23. Fire will then begin move in and the goal is to occupy the building beginning October 27. Some items may be delayed, but will not delay the move in. The project is still well within budget.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic reported for the month of September the Police Department received a total of 1,319 calls. 8 calls included property damage, there were 2 injuries, and there were 54 alarm calls and 10 mutual aid responses. The department entered 83 warrants. Officers conducted 317 prisoner safety checks and the jail housed 7 prisoners who served 170 hours of time. Chief Matejcic requested suspension of item 5 on the agenda because the current unit is old and needs replacement.

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Mr. Milroy asked if this is one of the intersections in the city with emergency override. Chief Matejcic responded no. Mr. Milroy asked if it will receive emergency override. Chief Matejcic responded no.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that his department is preparing for the Halloween event in the community park on October 14.

Mr. Belfiore reported that there have been 930 cubic yards of brush collected since January 1.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the new Veteran's Peace Memorial project is proceeding well.

Mr. Belfiore informed Council that leaf pick up will begin October 9 and run through the second week of December.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the next shred day will be October 28 from 9am to 1pm.

Mr. Belfiore requested suspension of item 3 because the purchase has been budgeted for and he would like to ensure the current price.

Mr. Milroy asked when landscaping will begin. Mr. Belfiore responded that it will begin soon to establish proper landscaping.

Building Commissioner's Report: No Report

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated that he is waiting for the comments on the Franklin Water Project from Cleveland Water. He added that this will be advertised as a Spring project.

Mr. Mader stated that the Ridgebury Gas Main replacement is now working on Ridgebury in Highland Heights. The contractor will be going between Mayfield Heights and Highland Heights to make the proper connections for the project.

Mr. Mader stated that the 2023 Asphalt Road Project work has started. When beginning on Kenbridge, the pavement was in such poor condition that Mr. Mader stated it will need to be fully replaced next time it is worked on.

Mr. Mader stated that there was an ATT pre-construction meeting for Aberdeen and Maypine. The schedule will be sent soon by the contractor. The work will be limited and ATT will be restoring as they go and will be updating Mr. Mader weekly.

Mr. Mader reported that there were 8 contractors who bid on the Park Access Trail Project. The lowest bidder was Siteworx. Mr. Mader stated that he has not worked with Siteworx before, but did receive references. The company has been a subcontractor on some public projects and was the main contractor for one public project. When Siteworx was the main contractor, the work was good but the company needed more man power for the large project. Mr. Mader added that he was not concerned with the criticism because the Park Access Trail is a much smaller project. Mr. Mader suggested awarding the project to Siteworx with Bid Alternate 1 included to make the fence higher. Mr. Mader requested suspension of the resolution entering into the contract with Siteworx in order for work to begin.

Mr. DiLalla asked if the ATT work will be in every yard. Mr. Mader responded that the project will be on all properties on every road of Aberdeen and Maypine. Mr. DiLalla asked if the work runs from the main box to the house. Mr. Mader responded that ATT is extending fiber on every property.

Mr. DeLisio asked how long the repair work on Kenbridge will last. Mr. Mader responded that the work will take about 2 and a half to 3 weeks. Mr. DeLisio clarified that he was asking how long the work done will last. Mr. Mader responded that it should last 10 years.

Mayor Brunello stated his support of including Bid Alternate 1 within the City Park Access Trail Project. He also thanked Mr. Mader for his work on preparing the project.

Mr. Milroy asked how many contractors bid on the Park Access Trail Project. Mr. Mader responded that there were 8 bidders. Mr. Milroy asked if the project will be complete in 2023. Mr. Mader responded that it is scheduled to be complete no later than December 15.

Finance Director's Report: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: Mr. DeLisio reminded Council that the Halloween Party is October 14, and it is a rain or shine event.

Legislative and Finance: No Report

Safety and Service: No Report

Drainage: No Report

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy stated that the commission met and approved past minutes.

Law Director's Report: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello thanked St. Paschal Baylon for the celebration of their Blue Mass. He also informed council that there is a noise abatement meeting on October 12. The Wellness Fair will be October 17. Mayor Brunello informed council that the Lions Club will have their annual Rose Sale on October 20 and October 21 for Sweetest Day. Mayor Brunello reminded council of the Flu Shot Clinic open to the public on October 24 in the community center. Mayor Brunello thanked the senior committee for their work and success with the Wine and Chocolate event through Fantasy Candies. Mayor Brunello informed council that there will be an Economic Development meeting in City Hall on October 18.

Mayor Brunello requested a Drainage Committee meeting before the next council meeting to discuss issues on Ford Road and the Backflow Reimbursement Policy.

Mayor Brunello stated that he met with a developer who wanted to build apartments on Bishop Road north of Vitalia. Mayor Brunello added that he did not feel the proposed area was an appropriate spot for these apartments to be built. Mayor Brunello stated his disinterest in allowing the apartments in the PCM district and added that he will only tell the developers otherwise if Council feels differently about the subject because the apartments will not add income tax to the city in the district designed to do so.

Mayor Brunello requested suspension of items 6 and 7. Item 6 pertains to extending the Lake Business Economic Development Grant by one year and not paying the company for 2023.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico thanked Council for their help with the Senior's Wine and Chocolate event. There was a good turnout for the event and the committee plans to repeat the event in two years because next year will be the tea event that was done in 2022.

Ms. D'Amico reminded council of the Holiday Meal on November 16 and the Christmas Party on December 8. She requested members of council to help with both events.

Ms. D'Amico informed council that the CPA Chili Cook-Off will be hosted at Highland Heights Community Center. She encouraged members of council to sign up for the event soon as it may sell out. Mayor Brunello and Chief Turner even made a video promoting the cook-off that is accessible on YouTube.

Mr. Milroy asked for an update on the current moratoriums. Ms. D'Amico responded that Mr. Lograsso is looking into the Pay to Stay Policy. She also stated that there is an open house at a group home within Highland Heights on Colony Drive October 21. Ms. D'Amico stated that she will attend to see how the group home is set up and encouraged other members of council to join. Mr. DiLalla stated that Legislative and Finance will discuss group homes at their next meeting. Ms. D'Amico asked if he would like a committee meeting before the council meeting on October 24. Mr. DiLalla responded yes.

Mrs. Ganser commended Ms. D'Amico and the senior committee on the success of the wine and chocolate event.

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

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: Ms. Drobnick at 392 Muirfield Drive approached Council. She gave council and Chief Matejic the past police report mentioned at the previous council meeting. Ms. Drobnick stated her issues with the golf course behind her house including the lack of landscaping maintenance and the clear view of a bathroom from her backyard. She added that the golf course requires residents to maintain their yards and asked if that requirement goes for the golf course as well. Ms. Drobnick also stated that she is having an issue with drainage at her residence.

Mayor Brunello asked Mr. Grabfelder if there is anything the city can do. Mr. Grabfelder responded that he has been to the house and there does not seem to be a major drainage issue. Mayor Brunello informed Ms. Drobnick that he will work with Mr. Grabfelder to see how her issues may be able to reach a solution.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 47-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 47-2023 which description is: "A Resolution declaring Siteworx Unlimited to be the lowest and best bidder for the 2023 City Park Access Trail Project, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said bidder not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$133,900.62), 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 in order to complete the project before the end of the year.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 48-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 48-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Best Truck Equipment, Inc., for the purchase and installation of a dump body and equipment and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Best Truck Equipment, Inc. In an amount not to exceed Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00), and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to ensure the current price.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 49-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 49-2023 which description is: "A authorizing payment not to exceed the amount of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$119,468.80) to the Northern Ohio Risk Management Agency Self-Insurance Pool, Inc. (N.O.R.M.A.) and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to allow payment.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 50-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 50-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the expenditure of an amount not to exceed Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars (\$19,822.00) to Signal Service Company for the temporary repair to the traffic signal control cabinet and the replacement of the traffic signal control cabinet at Wilson Mills Road and Franklin/Colony Road in, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to begin work.

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

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

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 17-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 17-2023 which description is: "An Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an economic development grant agreement with lake business products, inc. and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to continue the revised agreement.

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

Mr. Milroy asked if this Ordinance extends the agreement by one year. Mayor Brunello responded yes.

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 46-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 46-2023 which description is: "A Resolution providing for the observance of

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Halloween on October 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 holiday date to be set.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser and seconded by Mr. Goff to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council