

---

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS  
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD: JANUARY 14, 2020  
8:00 PM**

---

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brunello, Council Representatives D’Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Milroy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Lt. Matejcic; Service Director Evans; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; City Engineer Mader; Finance Director Filippo; Law Director Paluf.

**EXCUSED:** Council Representative Hargate

**ACTION ON MINUTES:**

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held December 10, 2019 was dispensed with. Ms. D’Amico moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Milroy.

Ayes: D’Amico, Milroy, Stickan

Abstain: DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser

Motion carried.

The reading of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held January 2, 2020 was dispensed with. Mr. DiLalla moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

**Presentation of Proclamations:**

President Stickan stated if there are no objections, the presentation of the American Heart Association “Mission Life Award” will be the next order of business.

Mayor Brunello, Fire Chief Turner, and Asst. Chief Bernhard received the American Heart Association’s Mission Life Award from University Hospitals EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute representatives Dan Ellenberger, Director, EMS Institute and Dr. Donald Spaner, EMS Medical Director.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Fire Chief's Report:** Chief Turner stated the 2019 Annual Report is anticipated to be available to Council within a couple of weeks.

Chief Turner thanked University Hospital for the Mission Life Award and commended the members of the Fire Department for providing the excellent level of care to the residents.

**Police Chief's Report:** Lt. Matejcic stated the Communications Center upgrade is progressing accordingly.

Service Director's Report: Director Evans stated leaf collection has been completed; although late leaf piles will be collected. Christmas tree collections recycle approximately 300 trees a year.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder reported for the month of December the Building Department issued 17 residential permits and 3 commercial permits. The Zoning Department issued one notice.

Mr. Grabfelder stated the property at 5388 Highland Road, will have the dirt in the right of way removed by a contractor on Thursday morning. The property owner failed to comply with notices sent by the Law Director.

Mr. Grabfelder stated the city-owned house on Wilson Mills has been demolished. The basement has been filled. The tool shed and gazebo will be razed by the end of the week. Grass restoration will occur in the spring.

In response to Mr. DiLalla's inquiry, Mr. Grabfelder stated that Panini's and Dunkin' Donuts will open in February.

Mrs. Ganser questioned if the homeowner on Highland Road will be responsible for the cost of the dirt removal. Mr. Grabfelder stated the final cost will be sent to the homeowner and if the bill is not paid, the amount will be assessed on the property taxes.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated with the approval of the 2019 Concrete Program Change Order, the reimbursement request from the County will begin.

The 2020 Concrete program is anticipated to be finalized and out for bid over the next month. The 2020 Concrete program consists of Alpha Dr. repairs; miscellaneous concrete repairs throughout the city; and, the sidewalk program. The Strumbly Watermain Improvements and Esther, Roy, Renee Resurfacing will be one program. The Crack Sealing program will address roads that were resurfaced last year. The Street Striping program will stripe the entire city.

The County's Brainard Road Resurfacing project will be out for bid in March with an anticipated starting date in June. The County Bridge Replacement on Bishop Road by Swagelok anticipates a pre-bid meeting in May.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo stated items 7-10 are one-year compensation ordinances for the City Engineer, Law Director, City Prosecutor and Recreation Director. The City Engineer legislation renews the contract with no increase in cost. The City Prosecutor, Law Director and Recreation Director will receive a 2.5% increase which is the same as non-union and union employees have received.

Director Filippo stated S.P.A.N. (Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network) is an organization of five communities: Richmond Heights, Mayfield Village, Mayfield Heights, Lyndhurst and Highland Heights. The 2020 budget was approved in December and each city will contribute \$22,800 per year. The 2019 contribution was \$25,000. The police officers involved received upgraded vests, weapons and ammo in 2019.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico reported the Commission on Aging met with new members on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 1 PM. The Commission on Aging has decided to also be known as Highland Heights Active Adults, HHAA.

Tickets are still available for the murder play at Chagrin Valley Little Theater on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held in February to discuss new activities.

Ms. D'Amico announced Birch Café, a new vegan restaurant has opened in Ward 4.

Community Day Committee: Mr. DeLisio stated the Community Day Committee met last week and announced the 2020 Community Day will be held on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a parade at noon which will kick-off the festivities at the Park. The band, Shout, will be performing from 7-10 pm. SuperGames will provide zip lining and inflatables. Food trucks have been contacted. The City's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary will be highlighted. The next meeting will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup> at City Hall at 7 PM.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mr. DiLalla stated the Planning and Zoning Commission met January 13<sup>th</sup> and approved a sign for Financial Engines, 6327 Wilson Mills Road. There were no other items on the agenda.

Mr. Milroy requested information on the Code Changes as proposed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Paluf stated he has been working with the Building Commissioner on the proposed changes and legislation may be available in two weeks or the first meeting in February.

Safety and Service Committee: Chairperson Ganser stated an organizational meeting was held this evening and requested a meeting be scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Drainage Committee: Chairperson Milroy stated an organizational meeting was held this evening and requested a meeting to be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Brunello welcomed the new Council members; Mrs. Ganser, Mr. DeLisio, Mr. Milroy, Mr. DiLalla and re-elected Council members D'Amico. Mayor Brunello looks forward to working with the new 2020 Council.

Mayor Brunello stated he attended the S.P.A.N. meeting on December 20, 2019 to discuss the ongoing operations and the 2020 budget. Mayor Brunello was elected at that meeting to serve as the vice-president of the government of councils for S.P.A.N. and Director Filippo was elected as the fiduciary for 2020.

Mayor Brunello stated he has been working with the Finance Director on the 2020 budget and budget books will be available at the end of the week.

Mayor Brunello stated 2020 is the centennial year for the City of Highland Heights. Mayor Brunello requests involvement by Council to develop activities and events to highlight the event at Community Day.

Mayor Brunello stated the Community Partnership on Aging Director Wendy Sattin announced that the City of Richmond Heights will officially join the CPA for 2020.

Mayor Brunello announced that 1400 deer surveys have been received by the January 11<sup>th</sup> deadline. Chief Cook has a report prepared and in his absence Mayor Brunello shared a few details. Approximately 80% of the community stated there is a deer problem in Highland Heights and would approve of a deer reduction plan. Mayor Brunello requested a Committee of the Whole meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss Chief Cook's report. Mayor Brunello stated after the Committee of the Whole meeting, a Town Hall meeting will be held to inform and discuss plans with the community.

Mayor Brunello responded to Mr. DiLalla's question that there were approximately 600 deer surveys returned and the remaining surveys were completed online. President Stickan stated the deer survey report will be discussed at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Law Director's Report:** Mr. Paluf stated a revised version of the City Prosecutor compensation ordinance has been prepared to reflect City Prosecutor as opposed to Police Prosecutor.

Mr. Paluf requested an addition to the Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. The amended language will be added to the Executive Session motion.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Stickan stated the Legislative and Finance Committee met this evening to organize and scheduled a meeting to begin the 2020 budget discussions on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM. Mayor Brunello invited all council members to attend the budget discussions.

**ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to remove item #3, a motion to appoint members to the Board of Tax Review from the Council Agenda; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Sunny Simon, County Council District 11, congratulated the newly elected council members and mayor. Ms. Simon reported that County Council approved their two-year cycle budget. The County Supplemental Grant program will be in effect and encouraged the city to apply.

Ms. Simon requested Ms. Stickan, the County Airport Liaison, report findings from the Noise Abatement Council to ensure airport communications are relayed to the residents.

Ms. Simon stated the County received monies from opiate lawsuits and NARCAN will be distributed throughout the county safety forces.

Ms. Simon displayed a reusable bag that is made from recycled plastic bottles that will be distributed throughout the county. The County Sustainability Department will be available for reusable bag presentations to the community.

Ms. Simon is excited to announce the vegan café, Birch Café, recently opened in Highland Heights.

Ms. Cindy Friedman, 850 Cranbrook, was concerned about the deer survey results. Ms. Friedman would not like her tax dollars to be used for the killing of animals. The increase in development reduces greenspace and forces the deer into residents' yards. Ms. Friedman was concerned that the culling of deer may endanger children and pets. Ms. Friedman stated she would not allow any type of weapon to be used on her property.

Ms. Lynda Schriebman, 658 Clinton Lane, was concerned that the deer survey was biased and exaggerated. Ms. Schriebman requested verification to determine that an infrared survey of white-tailed deer count was conducted in the City of Highland Heights by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ms. Schriebman suggested installation of fencing along I-271 to reduce the number of deer related accidents. Ms. Schriebman was concerned that culling may affect her property values and be unsafe.

Mayor Brunello informed the residents that if culling is approved, no culling will occur on private property.

Ms. Sherri Ianiro, 1010 Millridge Road, did not agree with the announced deer survey percentages of residents that are in favor of culling. Ms. Ianiro stated the survey was subjective and biased and does not correctly reflect the whole city.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION TO APPOINT:** A motion was made by Mr. Milroy to appoint Economic Development Committee members:

For term ending 12/31/22: Dan Greve, Guy Totino, Bill Morton.

For term ending 12/31/21: Steve Pattison. Tom Puletti; seconded by Mrs. Ganser.

Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER:** A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla authorizing a Change Order to the 2019 Concrete Program in the amount of \$23,758.70; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION AUTHORIZING DUES:** A motion was made by Mr. Ganser authorizing payment to S.P.A.N. in the amount of \$22,800.00 for annual dues for the fiscal year 2020; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

**MOTION FOR AGREEMENT:** A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser to renew inter-agency agreement with the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to continue a Community Diversion Program for first time juvenile offenders; seconded by Mr. DeLisio.

Mr. Milroy questioned if there is a fee associated with this agreement. Ms. Stikkan stated no, the magistrates volunteer and it has been a long-standing program. Ayes all; motion carried.

**FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 1-2020:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 1-2020 which description is: “A Resolution providing for the employment of an Engineer for the City of Highland Heights and establishing the compensation of the City Engineer for 2020, repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2-2020:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 2-2020 which description is: “A Resolution establishing compensation and other terms of employment for the City Prosecutor and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 3-2020:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 3-2020 which description is: “A Resolution establishing the terms, conditions and compensation for the Law Director’s services and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 1-2020:** Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 1-2020 which description is: “An ordinance establishing compensation for the Recreation Director of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for 2020, repealing all ordinances inconsistent therewith and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Moved by Mr. DiLalla to adjourn into Executive Session by Roll Call vote pursuant to Section 121.22 (G)(4) & 121.22 (G)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code and Highland Heights Charter 4.05 to discuss personnel matters and pending litigation; seconded by Mr. DeLisio.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:50 pm and reconvened in public session at 9:50 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Said meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

---

Clerk of Council

---

President of Council