
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: JANUARY 28, 2020
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 Evans; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; City Engineer Mader; Finance Director Filippo; Law Director Paluf.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 14, 2020 was dispensed with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated item #2 is the annual payment to the City of Cleveland Water Department for hydrant water. Mr. Milroy questioned under which budget would the expenditure be placed, 2019 or 2020? Chief Turner responded that the \$23,200.04 amount would be reflected in the 2020 budget.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook apologized for not being present at the last meeting and provided the December 2019 monthly report. For the month of December, the Police Department responded to 1,078 calls for service. For the year 2019 there were: 17,740 calls for service; 250 prisoners were held in the jail facility; and, 174 motor vehicle accidents with 37 involving injuries. Chief Cook was pleased to announce that only two burglaries were reported in 2019 which is a significant decrease. The Police Department's Annual report will be available in a couple of weeks.

Chief Cook stated the Deer Survey results were reported at the prior Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Service Director's Report: Director Evans stated in April 2019 Council approved the purchase of a cab and chassis for a dump truck and snowplow vehicle. The cab and chassis was delivered in five months and will be sent to the body builder to have the dump body, snow plow and lighting equipment installed. The truck is anticipated to be available for leaf season.

Director Evans stated the 2020 Road Program is divided into four separate contracts. A memo was sent January 17th outlining a proposed bidding timeline. An update will be provided for those projects that are delayed.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder stated item #4, the new Rental Property ordinance has been corrected by the Law Director and it reflects the concerns of Council that were stated at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated the 2020 Asphalt Program and Strumbly Water Main will be advertised for bid on January 30th with a bid opening on February 13th. The Crack Sealing and Concrete Program will be bid in a couple of weeks. The Crack Sealing program will crack seal the concrete roads in last year's concrete program. The Concrete Program is the Alpha Drive repair and sidewalk, along with the southwest sidewalk program and miscellaneous repairs throughout the city. Contractor bid award legislation is anticipated to be approved by the first meeting in April.

Mr. Mader stated the Cleveland Suburban Water Program applications are due on February 19th. The Franklin Blvd. project will require authorization by Council to submit application for an anticipated construction date of 2021.

Mr. Mader stated the County's 50/50 applications are due by February 21st. The applications are for projects that will be awarded in the 2021 and 2022 year. Mr. Mader will meet with the Service Director to submit potential projects.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo stated item #5 is an amendment to the salary ordinance to correct some inconsistencies in certain positions and new positions that were discussed in the budget process. Item #6 is the salary ordinance for the pools and park employees of the Recreation Department. The increases are due to the federal minimum wage increase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico reported that the Chagrin Valley Little Theater bus trip was very successful. The next Commission meeting will be held on February 17th at 1 PM at City Hall.

Ms. D'Amico stated the family of deceased Committee member Delores Hrvatin in conjunction with CPA, has created a special fund for qualified Highland Heights senior citizens that require resources to assist with fall prevention in their homes.

Park & Recreation: Mr. DeLisio stated a meeting was held January 16th and the next meeting will be February 20th. Donuts with the Easter Bunny will be held on April 4th and volunteers are welcomed. The restroom updates have continued with the installation of eight new hand dryers; new bleachers on Field 1; a Softball Commissioner and Baseball Commissioner have been hired. The Swim Team Coach position has not been filled.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mr. DiLalla stated there were no matters before the Planning & Zoning Commission and the January 27th meeting was canceled. The next meeting will be held February 10th.

Safety and Service Committee: Chairperson Ganser stated the Safety and Service Committee met this evening and discussed the new dispatch center completion date of mid-February.

Hillcrest Council of Councils: Mr. Hargate announced the next meeting will be held on February 1st at 9 AM at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mayfield Village. The Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections will be the guest speaker to discuss the March 17th primary.

Drainage Committee: Chairperson Milroy stated the Committee met on January 21st and reviewed the Drainage Policy as well as the memo of open requests that was prepared by Mr. Grabfelder. The Eastlawn/Colony area survey was reviewed, and Mr. Mader will provide more information in the near future.

Law Director's Report: No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello attended a Regional Leadership Round Table at Ahuja Medical Center and learned the details of the Phase II expansion which will include a Sports Medicine Center, new Emergency Department; and other significant additions.

Mayor Brunello stated the city received notification that approximately \$32,000 will be received from NOPEC for its 2020 Energize Community Grant. NOPEC has donated \$1500 to this year's Community Day.

Last week Mayor Brunello and Service Director Evans met with a representative from Kimble to discuss offsetting the increase in recycling costs. Mayor Brunello requested Kimble provide a presentation to Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss arrangements.

Mayor Brunello attended a County Department of Regional Collaboration Core Development presentation on their plans for 2020.

Mayor Brunello announced a Town Hall meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 5th at 7 PM at the Community Center to discuss the deer survey.

Mayor Brunello announced on January 31st, St. Paschal's will be honoring Fr. Lane with a distinguished graduate award during the 9 AM Mass. All are welcome to attend.

Mayor Brunello informed those that may have had the pleasure of knowing her, former employee Eleanor Aquilino passed away earlier this week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Stickan stated the Legislative and Finance Committee met this evening and held a 2020 Budget review. The L/F Committee held a 2020 budget review on January 21st. Chairwoman Stickan reported that all members of Council have been present at the budget meetings which are open to the public. The L/F Committee met with the Mayor, Finance Director, and Department Heads to discuss the budget for this year. There will be a meeting on February 3rd at 7 PM to discuss the Capital Budget. It is anticipated to have the 2020 budget appropriation legislation on the Council agenda in early February.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA:

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Cindy Friedman, 850 Cranbrook, has spoken on the deer issue at a number of council meetings; however, she does not feel council supports her opinion. Ms. Friedman stated the deer issue is not a safety issue but a landscaping issue and does not warrant culling.

Ms. Lynda Schriebman, 658 Clinton Lane, thanked Ms. Friedman and Ms. Ianiro for their commitment to provide research on the deer issue. Many suggestions that they have brought forward have not been discussed by Council. Ms. Schriebman worried that culling would create a deer population rebound effect and suggested Council provide more time to find a viable solution.

Ms. Heckaman, 503 Stirling Drive, thanked Council and the Administration for placing a curb cut at Stirling and Aberdeen Blvd.

Ms. Sherri Ianiro, 1010 Millridge Road, stated there are a lot of residents that oppose having sharpshooters cull deer in the city as it is a safety risk to residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

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) of the Ohio Revised Code and Highland Heights Charter 4.05 to discuss personnel matters; seconded by Mr. DeLisio.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:30 pm and reconvened in public session at 8:35 pm.

Moved by Mr. DiLalla to reconvene in public session; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Milroy authorizing payment to the City of Cleveland, Division of Water, in an amount not to exceed \$23,200.04, for the annual charge for water based on the number of hydrants, per Codified Ordinance No. 535.28; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION TO APPOINT: A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio to appoint Board of Tax Review members Mark Ursu and Nick Delguyd for term ending 12/31/21; seconded by Ms. D'Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 2-2020 which description is: “An ordinance enacting new Chapter 1341 to part Thirteen of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, pertaining to Rental Properties. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 3-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 3-2020 which description is: “An ordinance amending Ordinance 31-2019 establishing compensation for certain employees of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, commencing January 1, 2020, repealing all ordinances inconsistent therewith and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 4-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 4-2020 which description is: “An Ordinance establishing compensation for employees of the Recreation Department of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio for 2020, repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith and declaring an emergency. (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 1-2020: Council listened to the Second 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)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2-2020: Council listened to the Second 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)

SECOND READING PROPOSED RESOLUTION 3-2020: Council listened to the Second 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)

SECOND READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 1-2020: Council listened to the Second 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)

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

Clerk of Council

President of Council