

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD: FEBRUARY 11, 2020
7:15 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

**AGENDA
2020 BUDGET
KIMBLE PRESENTATION
DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN
FRANKLIN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held January 28, 2020 was dispensed with. A motion was made by Mr. Milroy to accept Minutes; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

2020 BUDGET

Chairwoman Stickan stated all Council members attended the Legislative and Finance Committee Meetings to discuss the 2020 Budget.

Director Filippo submitted a memo dated February 6th outlining the 2020 budget and this year's budget meeting procedure. The ordinance to adopt the 2020 budget is on the Council Agenda for first reading this evening. Director Filippo agreed that meeting with the Legislative and Finance Committee and Council was very beneficial especially to the new council members. The operating balanced budget will be transferring \$2 million to the capital fund. In the past, a large portion of the capital fund had been funded by the Estate Tax.

The proposed 2020 Budget is only \$30,000 higher than the 2019 proposed budget. The 2020 budget includes 2.5% increase for union and non-union employees. The general fund projected balance is \$6.4 million. The aggressive capital budget will fund the Road Program, including sidewalks, engineering, street striping, crack sealing, and inspections is approximately \$2.2 million. The Park is scheduled to have \$157,000 worth of improvements made.

Mr. Milroy appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the budget discussions and meeting with the department heads.

Chairwoman Stickan stated the capital budget targets many areas that need attention. Chairwoman Stickan thanked the L/F Committee and Council for attending and proceeding on the budget discussions in an efficient manner.

KIMBLE PRESENTATION

Mr. Don Johnson of Kimble Recycling and Disposal presented Council with information on contract recycling price increases. Kimble has been the city's refuse and recycling contractor and the contract has been extended for one year beginning June 13, 2020.

Kimble, along with nationwide recycling companies, have experienced increased costs to dispose of recyclables. A bullet point sheet was distributed listing some of the reasons for the increase and the rate increase request.

The rate increase requested is .05 per week, or .60 a unit per month. A fuel tax stated was implemented in Ohio beginning July 1, 2019, which equates to .04 per week. One cent reflects a host-fee for Twinsburg Township where Kimble's facility is located. The .60 a unit per month is requested to offset the extenuating circumstances with processing recyclable materials.

In the 1990's China purchased the recyclable materials. Initiatives were implemented to clean up contaminants in the recyclable materials. Currently China's economy has grown, and they no longer require recyclable materials. Kimble does not ship materials to China. Kimble's collections go to companies in Ohio, Michigan, and Canada. Mr. Johnson stated the increase per ton to recycle cardboard, newspapers, mixed paper and plastics. Mr. Johnson would appreciate if Council would consider the rate increase.

Mayor Brunello stated he had met with Mr. Johnson and Director Evans to discuss the requested rate increase of approximately \$24,000. Mayor Brunello has received complaints from residents regarding the collection of refuse and recyclables. Kimble has been very attentive to rectify the complaints. However, there are concerns with the constant complaints of missed routes and missed residence collections. The level of high-quality service has not been consistent. Chairwoman Stickan stated the irregularities in service was a concern of many council members.

Ms. D'Amico questioned if Kimble's competitors are also requesting a financial contribution from their communities. Mr. Johnson stated yes, in the Columbus area some programs have been stopped. Ms. D'Amico questioned if other municipalities that contract with Kimble are being requested to approve an increase. Mr. Johnson stated yes, each of the municipal accounts have received letters for the processing, fuel and host fee increases.

Mr. DeLisio questioned if the rate of return is expected to diminish and is the rate increase requested going to be a yearly increase request? Mr. Johnson stated no, this is a one-time appeal. Mr. Johnson stated as an industry there are entrepreneurs that are considering building facilities to preserve natural resources.

Mr. DiLalla clarified that the rate increase would be effective for the June 13, 2020 extension. Mr. Johnson stated the contract extension contains increases and this request would be in addition to the contracted costs.

Mayor Brunello questioned how many cities have agreed to the request for an increase. Mr. Johnson stated approximately 20% of the municipalities have responded favorably.

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Mayor Brunello thanked Mr. Johnson for the presentation and will respond after council considers on the request.

FRANKLIN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Director Evans submitted a memo dated February 6th providing background on the Franklin Boulevard Water Main Replacement request through the City of Cleveland's Suburban Water Main Renewal Program.

Mr. Mader stated the city joined the City of Cleveland's water main renewal program last year. The program will pay full cost for watermain replacement. In the Fall, funding was awarded for Strumbly Drive. Franklin Blvd. was also submitted in the fall and scored just below the cut off. Spring applications are due by February 19th and Franklin Blvd. will be re-submitted. Construction would take place in 2021 if the award is received. The grant, if awarded, would pay for approximately 50% of the project. The project cost is estimated at \$765,000.

Mr. Milroy stated the application to submit Franklin Blvd. is a great way to capitalize on funds from the City of Cleveland's Water Main Renewal Program. Mr. Mader stated these areas submitted have been identified for frequent water main breaks. Mayor Brunello stated Franklin Blvd. project will continue the Strumbly water main replacement to Wilson Mills Road.

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chief Cook submitted a memo to Council that has as attachments the 2019 Deer Control Survey results and the Deer Management Plan that was requested by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Chairwoman Stickan thanked Chief Cook for all his efforts in preparing the Deer Management Plan and communicating the Deer Survey results and deer related safety data to Council.

Chief Cook commented that when the Mayor took office last year, he was approached by many residents with concerns over deer. The community solicited a request to control the deer population. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife's representative Geoffrey Westerfield made a presentation to council on September 3, 2019. Mr. Westerfield provided recommendations to involve community participation and deer complaint data when creating a deer management plan for the city. Mr. Westerfield recommended the deer management plan be adopted by Council through an ordinance. Chief Cook stated cities with a deer management plan have adopted the plan through ordinance.

Chief Cook requested a suspension of the three readings on item #5 on the Council Agenda. Item #5 is the proposed ordinance to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to provide Wildlife Services. The contract date is from February 17th until March 31st and requires a suspension to become effective immediately. When Council approves the legislation, the contract must be sent to Columbus; the Department of Agriculture will need to determine sites; and, the local charities have to be contacted for the distribution of the meat. There are multiple steps that still must be conducted once the legislation is approved.

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The deer count performed identified 286 deer in Highland Heights which is approximately 55 deer per square mile. Mr. Westerfield had stated in his presentation that 15 deer per square mile is considered a high amount of deer.

Chief Cook requested moving forward with the proposed ordinance on the Council agenda. A Town Hall meeting was held last week with approximately 150 residents attending to voice their opinions.

Chairwoman Stickan stated Chief Cook is concerned with the safety of the residents and this plan will assist to reduce the deer population. Chief Cook concurred that it has been the Mayor's and his intention that safety is the main concern that needs to be addressed. Chief Cook stated a private company and a municipal police department presented their plans to Council. Chief Cook requests to contract with a federal agency. The Department of Agriculture will not cull deer unless it can be performed safely and efficiently.

Mr. DiLalla thanked Chief Cook for taking on the work over the last several months to provide information to assist council in making an informed decision. Mr. DiLalla stated the Town Hall meeting was very beneficial to hear the polarized opinions. Mr. DiLalla stated many more pros/cons conversations were held with residents that were not comfortable speaking at the Town Hall meeting. Chief Cook commented that it has been a learning experience as deer control management is not the Police Department's expertise. The deer statistics were shocking in that there were so many deer per square mile. The community survey also expressed a strong residential deer concern.

Chairwoman Stickan announced this Committee of the Whole meeting was a working session for Council. The Council Meeting at 8 PM will entertain public comments on the proposed ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Ayes all; motion carried.