

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
HELD: MARCH 14, 2023
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
7:15 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Goff, Hargate, Milroy; Clerk of Council Donatelli; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Matejic; Finance Director Filippo; City Engineer Mader; Law Director Lograsso; Building Commissioner Grabfelder.

AGENDA

Lake Business Grants
High School Driveway Agreement

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 14, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

Lake Business Grants: Mr. Filippo stated that there is a grant agreement with Lake Business Products. The payment of \$75,000 is due April 1; however, the amount withheld in Highland Heights City Taxes was less than agreed upon to make the company eligible for the grant money. Mr. Filippo explained there are a few options to consider: Highland Heights can reduce the grant money by \$10,000 based on the taxes received; Highland Heights can reduce the grant by \$15,000, which was their shortfall in taxes; Highland Heights can pay the full amount; or this year can be foregone and push the grant out an extra year. Mr. Filippo opened the floor for discussion from Council on their opinions on the plan of action.

Mayor Brunello added that there needs to be a solution decided upon at this meeting. Mr. Filippo agreed because a motion would be needed for the next meeting if Council decides to pay Lake Business. Mayor Brunello stated that this situation should be treated as the situation with Progressive and they should not pay the grant money in full or in a reduced amount. Mayor Brunello added that this is a new business that is working a lot on City Hall, so his preference would be to extend the grant by one year.

Mr. DeLisio asked if there are any projections for 2023 for payroll/revenue. Mayor Brunello responded they have not. He added that they may be unaware they were short on the agreement.

Mrs. Ganser stated that she believes extending the grant by one year is very fair. Mr. Milroy agreed. Mayor Brunello added there may be a misunderstanding on the grant and he will need to talk with them.

Mr. DiLalla stated he believes that there should be no payment made and there should not even be an extension. He explained that a 10 year agreement is very fair and the fact that this year's numbers were not met means they should not be paid; however, they have the opportunity to meet it in 2023 and be paid the full grant amount next year. Mayor Brunello stated that once it is extended once, it would be too easy to continue extending. Mr. DeLisio added that if extending, be clear to Lake Business that it is only for one year. Mr. DiLalla stated that if this was the first year of the agreement, he could see a misunderstanding; however, Lake Business has met their numbers previously. He added that he does not want to set the precedent for Lake Business and then not give that option to other new businesses in the City. Mr. Goff agreed with Mr. DiLalla and reiterated that City Hall uses Lake Business for a lot of work as well. Mrs. Ganser stated that she understands Mr. DiLalla's point of view now that he has explained it and agrees. Ms. D'Amico stated that she agrees with Mr. DiLalla.

Mayor Brunello stated that the consensus is no payment to Lake Business Products for the grant for fiscal year 2022.

High School Driveway Agreement: Mayor Brunello stated that he will discuss this item in his report during the regular council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. DiLalla to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Ayes all; motion carried.