
**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: MAY 14, 2019
8:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, Hargate, Lombardo, Mastrangelo, Murphy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Cook; Service Director Evans; Building Commissioner Grabfelder; Finance Director Filippo; City Engineer Mader; Law Director Paluf

EXCUSED: Council Representative DiLalla

ACTION ON MINUTES:

The reading of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 23, 2019 was dispensed with. Mrs. Murphy moved to accept the Minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Ayes: D'Amico, Hargate, Lombardo, Murphy, Stickan. Abstain: Mastrangelo. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner reported for the month of April the Fire Department responded to 140 calls for service. The fire hydrant flushing and painting program has begun. Questions concerning discolored water or issues with the hydrants should be directed to the Fire Department.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook reported for the month of April the Police Department received 1,536 calls for service of which 177 calls were general assistance and care calls to residents. There were 79 residential alarms and 107 assists to other departments and agencies. There were 10 motor vehicle accidents in which two involved personal injuries. The jail facility held 18 inmates for approximately 600 hours. There have been 75 inmates year-to-date for approximately 1500 hours.

Chief Cook informed Council that a CNN crew will be at the Police Station later this week to conduct crime investigation reporting on a murder case from five years ago.

Chief Cook requested the Communication Center Upgrade be scheduled for a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Chief Cook stated the renewal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) legislation will be required before summer recess. Draft legislation is being renewed by the Law Director.

Mayor Brunello questioned if there was an update on the Radford car situation. Chief Cook stated there was a complaint about four vehicles parked in the driveway. An Officer visited the property and all the vehicles are registered to the property owner and have current plates. At this time the cars are in compliance. Mrs. Murphy also received a complaint from a neighboring resident who was concerned that an auto body shop was operating from the residential location. Chief Cook stated if excessive noise and disturbances occur to indicate an operation of a business, the Police and Building Department will investigate.

Service Director's Report: Director Evans reported that the 2019 Sewer Improvement Program has received confirmation from the County, and they will issue Task Orders for the projects that they will be performing.

Director Evans stated ODOT held a salt bid opening and award. The cost of road salt will increase 13%.

Director Evans stated the pear trees in Highland Woods that were stricken with fire blight last year are growing new foliage and seem to have recovered. The trees will be observed throughout the spring and summer.

Director Evans requested suspension of the second and third reading on item #2, the 2019 Concrete Road Repair Program, to allow the contract to be executed and work be conducted before the school year resumes.

Mr. Mastrangelo questioned if the City's usage of salt has decreased due to milder winters. Mr. Evans explained the information is detailed in a Salt Pricing and Usage History report which will be distributed to Council.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder reported for the month of April the Building Department issued 61 residential permits and 13 commercial permits. Seventeen zoning notices were sent addressing commercial vehicles and property maintenance violations. Mr. Grabfelder anticipates there will be a number of grass cutting violations next month.

Mr. Grabfelder stated there was a hearing on the Highland Road property and the Court has set a deadline of June 15th for the owner to remove the dirt and construction materials. The Building Department will cite the property if the property owner does not comply with the deadline. The owner was advised that the house siding is to be completed by the end of August.

Mr. Grabfelder stated the property on Radford has received notice of property maintenance issues. If there is no compliance to the notice, the Prosecutor will be advised.

Mrs. Murphy received complaints on the driveway construction at the old Brown Flynn building and questioned if Planning and Zoning approved variances for the property. Mr. Grabfelder stated no variances were required and final site approval was received. The owner will be installing a concrete driveway and evergreen trees will be planted to provide screening along the east property line. Mrs. Murphy questioned if there is a time limit for the project to be completed. Mr. Grabfelder stated under law there is no time limit for construction projects. Mrs. Murphy requested that the Building Commissioner talk with the property owner to express the residents' concerns over the unsightliness of the property.

Mr. Mastrangelo was concerned that grass cutting violations are mostly due to the rainy weather. Mr. Grabfelder stated residents are reporting high grass complaints. When the Building Department sends a notice, the grass will be required to be cut in five business days. The Building Department will allow for some leniency due to weather conditions.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader reported the Community Park Resurfacing has started. The plans were modified and should not require a Change Order. Once the Park is completed, patchwork will be performed on Highland and Wilson Mills Road.

As discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting, the 2019 Concrete Program received three bids and Vandra Brothers Construction received the bid award recommendation. Mr. Mader requested suspension of the readings to allow for the road and sidewalk work to begin.

The street striping program will be out for bid by the end of the month.

The sewer improvement projects are being surveyed and upon approval this evening, the 6024 Blakley project will be added. The plans and specifications are anticipated to be ready for bid in 4-6 weeks.

Finance Director's Report: Director Filippo requested suspension of the third reading on item #3 to allow the engineer to prepare street light assessments.

Director Filippo stated item #4 will authorize the County to prepare a Tax Budget for 2020. The tax rate remains at 4 mills.

Mrs. Murphy requested clarification on the implementation of the Ohiocheckbook.com. Director Filippo stated he has been working with the Treasurer's Office to build the city's site.

Director Filippo stated Mr. Novak from Ciuni and Panichi stated the draft audit report should be available by Friday. Mr. Novak will be present at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 21st to discuss the draft audit with Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated the Commission on Aging met with Mayor Brunello and restructured the Commission to have a Vice Chair and an Activities Coordinator in addition to the Chairperson.

The May 2nd Tea Room bus trip was a sold-out successful event. Feedback was received to hold the event again and also schedule more outings.

Ms. D'Amico announced May 31st will be the Planting Session with the Garden Club for residents over 50 to make a planter. Reservations are required and only a few openings are still available.

The Summer Picnic will be held on June 5th and reservations are required. The next meeting of the Commission will be May 20 at 9 AM at City Hall.

Drainage Committee: Mrs. Murphy stated a Drainage Committee meeting was held this evening and reviewed pending investigation requests. The Committee discussed and approved the Blakley project and requested a motion be added to the Council Agenda to add the project to the 2019 Sewer Improvement Projects.

Mrs. Murphy requested adoption of the Drainage Policy legislation. The Drainage Policy's purpose is to streamline the process for drainage applications and also provide a resource for residents, city staff and public officials.

Legislative & Finance Committee: Mr. Hargate reported that the Legislative and Finance Committee met this evening and discussed and approved a request from the Service Department for a 60" riding mower from Marshall Equipment under State Contract pricing of \$11,385.00. The Committee approved the request from the Police Department for a new 5-year lease for a Cannon Color Copier from Lake Business Products in the amount of \$165.32 per month for a total of \$9,919.00.

The Committee discussed with the Finance Director item #3 on the Council Agenda, street lighting assessments. Director Filippo distributed a memo dated May 8th explaining Item #4, the Tax Budget for 2020.

The Committee recommends suspension and adoption of item #2 on the Council Agenda, the Resolution awarding the 2019 Concrete Road Repair Program to Vandra Brothers Construction.

The Committee discussed with the Fire Chief a request for increased staffing. The Chief provided information that it would cost approximately \$123,000 per employee. The Finance Director will prepare information for further discussion.

Planning and Zoning Commission: Mr. Mastrangelo stated the Planning & Zoning Commission met last evening and approved the Final Site Plan for Progressive Insurance Co., 603 Alpha Drive. This was to install additional parking.

The Commission is accumulating information on Planning and Zoning Code Change recommendations to be presented to Council for consideration.

Director Paluf has sent Chairman Adamus information on outdoor dining.

Law Director's Report: Director Paluf stated notice has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new license at 6237 Wilson Mills Road. The Police Department has no objection to this new permit for Panini's.

Director Paluf stated the Vicious Dog legislation is being prepared and will be presented to Council in June for review.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated a Presidential Proclamation has been issued proclaiming May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and this week as Police Week in appreciation of Law Enforcement officers. The flags will be at half-staff in observance of this day.

Mayor Brunello stated a Community Day meeting will be held on May 21st at 8 PM.

Mayor Brunello attended a Career Day at Mayfield Middle School and interacted with the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Mayor Brunello attended the Hillcrest Advisory Board Meeting on May 3rd at Hillcrest Hospital. Dr. Rick Parker, President of Hillcrest Hospital, provided an update on the hospital.

Mayor Brunello attended the Mayors and Managers Association in Columbus on May 8th.

Mayor Brunello announced Saturday May 18th is opening day for the Community Garden. Mayor Brunello thanked the Service Department for erecting the new shed and maintaining the Blue Star Memorial.

Mayor Brunello announced Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 27th at 10 AM.

Mayor Brunello stated an appointment to the Park & Recreation Commission will be announced at next Council meeting.

Council President's Report: Ms. Stickan stated she attended the 2020 Census meeting as a representative for Highland Heights. The County Executive introduced the Co-Chair, established committees and stated a website will be created. Additional meetings will be held, and information will be distributed to Council.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA: Moved by Mrs. Murphy to add a motion for the Blakley drainage project; seconded by Mr. Mastrangelo. Ayes all; motion carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Vince Adamus, 635 Gloucester, addressed Council requesting that the city conduct a traffic study and schedule improvements to the traffic signals to achieve an efficient traffic flow.

Mr. Ken Fox, 1035 Ford Road, addressed Council to request cleaning of a retention basin that is south of his property. Mr. Grabfelder stated that Mr. Zibbel will be notified to inspect the retention basin.

Mr. Sean Milroy, 596 Highland Road, thanked Mr. Grabfelder for attending to issues at his neighbor's property. Mr. Milroy questioned if the forensic audit would be available to the public. President Stickan stated Council will hold a meeting to discuss the audit and requests for a copy of the audit can be made through the Law Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO ADD PROJECT: A motion was made by Mrs. Murphy adding a drainage improvement project on Blakley Drive to the 2019 Sewer Improvement Program at an estimated cost of \$25,000 pending approval of a reimbursement request from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Community Cost Share Program; seconded by Mr. Mastrangelo. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Murphy authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with CT Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$18,200.00 for consulting services related to the evaluation of municipal complex roofing and building systems per their proposal dated May 7, 2019; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-2019: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of proposed Resolution 20-2019 which description is: "A Resolution declaring Vandra Brothers Construction as the lowest and best bidder for the 2019 Concrete Road Repair Program, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with said bidder in an amount not to exceed Nine Hundred and Five Thousand Five Hundred and Four Dollars (\$905,504.00) for the 2019 Concrete Road Repair Program, rejecting all other bids received, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third Readings by the Service Director to enter into the agreement and begin construction in a timely fashion. Mrs. Murphy moved to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mr. Hargate moved to adopt; seconded by Mrs. Murphy. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 21-2019: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of proposed Resolution 21-2019 which description is: “A Resolution declaring the necessity of providing for the payment of street lighting and the improvement or installation of additional lighting by special assessment of all parcels benefitted, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 13-2019: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 13-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance adopting a Tax Budget for the City of Highland Heights, for the year 2020 and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 19-2019: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 19-2019 which description is “ A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Statewide Ford Lincoln Mercury, Inc., for the purchase of one (1) 2019 Ford Fusion vehicle, in an amount not to exceed Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$19,919.00), pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 12-2019: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 12-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance for the resurfacing of Wilson Mills Road from I-271 Off Ramp to Alpha Drive in cooperation with the County of Cuyahoga and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 13-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Resolution 13-2019 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Council to participate in the Ohio Treasurer’s Office OhioCheckbook.com and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mrs. Murphy moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 14-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Resolution 14-2019 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the adoption of a Drainage Problem Correction Policy in the City of Highland Heights and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mrs. Murphy moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Mastrangelo. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 17-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Resolution 17-2019 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Middletown Ford Inc., for the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck in an amount not to exceed Twenty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000.00) pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mr. Hargate moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 7-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 7-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance for the Resurfacing of Brainard Road from Cedar Road to Wilson Mills Road in cooperation with the County of Cuyahoga and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mr. Hargate moved to enact; seconded by Mrs. Murphy. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 8-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 8-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency. (General Fund to Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000)” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

Mrs. Murphy moved to enact; seconded by Ms. D’Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 9-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 9-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency. (General Fund to #502 Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$305,000; and General Fund to #503 Fire Pension Fund in the amount of \$310,000)” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

Mrs. Murphy moved to enact; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 10-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 10-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of \$2,350,000 of notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, for the purpose of widening and reconstructing Miner Road, resurfacing and otherwise improving Ford Road and other city streets, improving culvert No. 15 in Highland Road, replacing segments of concrete in city streets, and all drainage and other related improvements thereto, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

Mr. Hargate moved to enact; seconded by Mrs. Murphy. Ayes all; motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 11-2019: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of proposed Ordinance 11-2019 which description is: “An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to proclaim a water use emergency throughout the City of Highland Heights, Ohio upon notice by the City of Cleveland, Ohio that a water supply shortage exists, and declaring this to be an urgent measure.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

Mrs. Murphy moved to enact; seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: Moved by Mrs. Murphy 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 labor negotiations; seconded by Mr. Mastrangelo. Roll Call: Ayes: unanimous.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Ms. D'Amico and seconded by Mr. Mastrangelo to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Said meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council