CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: MAY 26, 2020
Highland Heights Community Center
8:00 PM

PRESENT AT COMMUNITY CENTER: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives: D’Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Ganser, Hargate, Milroy, Stickan; Clerk of Council Cahill; Fire Chief Turner; Police Chief Cook; Service Director Belfiore; 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 May 12, 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 had no report. Mr. Milroy requested the delivery status of the new fire engine. Chief Turner stated delivery is anticipated June 16th and will be operational in mid-July.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Cook reported calls for service for the first quarter of this year is 4,500 compared to 4,700 last year. The jail housed 55 inmates for a total of 800 hours this first quarter.

Chief Cook stated the police station has been experiencing a water problem in the basement with leakage in the walls and back steps. Contractors were solicited and an invoice from Ohio Waterproofing in the amount of $109,000 will be forwarded to the Mayor.

Chief Cook stated the maintenance agreement for the phone system has been renewed with Frontier.

Chief Cook stated the joint box between Mayfield Village and Highland Heights was involved in an accident and the $28,000 damage will be submitted to insurance.

Service Director's Report: Director Belfiore stated brush collection will continue through the month of May. Approximately 30 yards of material has been removed from tree lawns. The staff has been sanitizing at the Municipal Complex an average of two times per week. The sprinkler system at the Municipal Complex is on and operating.

Director Belfiore stated street flooding on Hawthorne Drive has been alleviated by Service Department employees along with the assistance of Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works.
The Regional Sewer District sent notification that work orders are processed to clean the retention basin on Hawthorne.

The Bulk Waste Round-Up held May 16th was successful and utilized by many residents.

Shred Day has been rescheduled to Saturday, July 11th from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Service Department. Computer Round Up will be in August.

Building Commissioner’s Report: Mr. Grabfelder had no report and was available to answer questions.

City Engineer’s Report: Mr. Mader stated the Strumbly watermain was completed today. The grading for the sidewalk; storm sewer work and driveway aprons will be starting soon.

Mr. Mader stated the Concrete Repair program has begun on Alpha Drive. The southbound lane has been completed. Alpha Drive should be completed by next week.

Mr. Mader stated Crack Sealing will begin in approximately a week.

Mr. Mader stated the Street Striping Program bid opening is June 11th.

Mr. Mader stated Brainard Road resurfacing started today. Brainard Road is open to southbound traffic only. The County anticipates completion mid to late July.

Mr. Mader stated the Eastlawn/Colony drainage letters were sent last week. Mr. Mader has met with one resident and is in the process of contacting another homeowner.

Finance Director’s Report: Director Filippo stated the Tax Budget is required by Cuyahoga County to value the property in the city for estimated needs in 2021. The legislation is on Council Agenda as first reading this evening. Director Filippo stated one mil is approximately $425,000.

Director Filippo stated there is an ordinance on the agenda that authorizes a transfer of $1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. Two million dollars has been budgeted but only one million will be transferred at this time due to the decrease in revenues and some proposed projects may not be completed this year.

Director Filippo stated there is an ordinance on the agenda this evening to transfer $250,000 from the General Fund to the Police Pension Fund and $250,000 to the Fire Pension Fund. Three hundred thousand dollars has been budgeted but will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Director Filippo stated Zupka has filed the 2019 financial statements with the State of Ohio.

Mr. DiLalla inquired as to the amount of municipal income tax collected. Director Filippo replied that collections are $700,000 less than last year in income tax. Part of the reason may be due to the filing deadline of April 15th was extended to July 15th. A clearer indication will be known at the end of July.

Mr. DiLalla questioned when the 4 mills has been raised. Director Filippo stated 4 mills has been the original millage rate.
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commission on Aging: Ms. D'Amico stated the Community Partnership on Aging has started hosting virtual exercise classes to engage seniors. Starting June 1st, weekly nature walks in the park will resume.

Planning & Zoning: Mr. DiLalla stated Planning & Zoning Commission met May 18th to hear a request of Fitness Together, 6267 Wilson Mills Road. No action was taken on the request of a proposed southerly building wall sign and ground sign panel. The next Planning & Zoning meeting will be June 8th.

Drainage Committee: Mr. Milroy requested a Drainage Committee meeting for June 9th. Mrs. Ganser questioned if the drainage letters were sent and were responses received. Mr. Mader stated yes, the letters were sent, and two residents have responded.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Paluf had no report and was available to answer questions.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello reminded Council to submit articles for the newsletter by June 1st.

Mayor Brunello thanked Mayfield High School Audio/Video department and Mike Bokovitz, Digital Media Productions Instructor for the Memorial Day tribute video posted on the city's website and Facebook page.

Mayor Brunello stated City Hall has been re-opened to the public. The following recreational programs have been cancelled: t-ball, day camp, swimming lessons and tennis lessons. Mayor Brunello will hold a meeting with the Recreation Director, Law Director and Finance Director to determine the protocols of the baseball/softball programs and pool opening. A decision will be made by the end of the week.

Director Filippo stated fees for all programs that have been received will be refunded. New registration applications will be required for participants to accept the new rules and regulations. The programs will have a reduced rate.

Mayor Brunello met with the Community Day Committee and the event will be rescheduled to September 26th.

Mayor Brunello stated the Economic Development Committee met last week to continue discussion on the small business relief grant.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Stickan stated tonight’s meeting is being conducted at the Community Center to comply with social distancing guidelines.

ITEMS TO BE REMOVED/ADDED TO THE AGENDA: There were no items removed or added to the Agenda.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: There were no comments from the public.
NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to adjourn into Executive Session by Roll Call vote pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(8) and 121.22(G)(4) of the Ohio Revised Code and Highland Heights Charter 4.05 to discuss economic development and personnel matters; seconded by Mrs. Ganser.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:20 pm and reconvened in public session at 8:45 pm. Moved by Mr. DiLalla to reconvene in public session; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 14-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 14-2020 which description is: “An ordinance adopting a Tax Budget for the City of Highland Heights, for the year 2021 and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 15-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 15-2020 which description is: “An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency. (General Fund to Capital Improvement Fund $1,000,000)” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr., and Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING PROPOSED ORDINANCE 16-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 16-2020 which description is: “An ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency. (General Fund to Police Pension Fund $250,000; General Fund to Fire Pension Fund $250,000)” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr., and Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 17-2020: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 17-2020 which description is: “An Ordinance amending Ordinance 11-2020 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.” (Sponsored by Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr.)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Milroy moved to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Ms. D’Amico. Ayes all; motion carried.

Mr. DiLalla moved to enact; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.
ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio and seconded by Mr. DiLalla to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council