

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: JUNE 13, 2023
Highland Heights City Hall Council Chamber
7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Brunello; Council Representatives D'Amico, DeLisio, DiLalla, Goff, Hargate, Milroy; Clerk of Council Donatelli; Law Director Lograsso; Police Chief Matejcic; Assistant Fire Chief Bernhard; Service Director Belfiore; City Engineer Mader.

EXCUSED: Council Representatives Ganser; Building Commissioner Grabfelder

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held May 23, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. Milroy moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Assistant Chief Bernhard requested suspension on item 4 on the agenda because the project is already underway and delaying the approval of the extra payment would delay the entire project.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic stated for the month of May the Police Department received a total of 1,591 calls. 12 calls included property damage, there were 3 injuries, there were 59 alarm calls, and 19 Police mutual aid calls. The department entered 111 warrants. Officers conducted 391 prisoner safety checks and the jail housed 14 prisoners who served 400 hours of time.

Chief Matejcic stated that the Service Department is helping to install a new radar sign on Miner Rd between Highland and Aberdeen. This sign is solar powered and will warn motorists of speed. The sign is similar to the other signs in the municipality and can be moved to other areas if needed. Chief Matejcic requested suspension of item 2 on the agenda to allow the School Board to sign the contract before their Summer Break.

Mr. DiLalla asked if there are updates on the car thefts. Chief Matejcic responded there have not been any additional stolen cars and all previously stolen cars have been recovered and processed. The department's detectives met with another department nearby and discussed the case. There is a prosecutor downtown helping to look at the organized crime activity. Mr. DeLisio asked if there has been discussion of using a decoy car. Chief Matejcic responded that there has not. Mr. DeLisio stated that it was suggested to him. Chief Matejcic responded that the decoy car may work in a commercial setting, but he is unsure if it would work in a residential area, which is where the thefts are occurring. Chief Matejcic stated that he will look more into the decoy car option.

Mr. Milroy asked how often the speed radars are moved. Chief Matejcic responded that the two current signs are permanent. The department used to have a speed trailer, but it was rundown and too costly to upkeep.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that staff completed the installation of foul poles on each of the baseball fields in the community park .There was a total of 14 poles and were encased in concrete. Mr. Belfiore added that the department finished the grading and restoration of the front entrance to the community park.

Mr. Belfiore reported the department has collected 370 cubic yards of brush from residents.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the Memorial Day Observance in front of Veteran's Peace Memorial was successful. He received many positive feedbacks from those in attendance.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the department will receive Household Hazardous Waste June 19 through June 30. The hours of drop off at the service department are 7am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday, July 1.

Mr. DeLisio asked if the department will be doing the curb repair program this summer. Mr. Belfiore responded that it depends on manpower and other summer projects. Some curb repairs have been completed and other reported issues from residents are being recorded.

Building Commissioner's Report: No Report

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated the concrete program is complete. The pedestrian signal on Alpha is the only outstanding issue, but the subcontractor will be out to resolve the issue.

Mr. Mader stated the street striping project is almost complete. There is only a small section on Wilson Mills left and is waiting on the County to finish the Wilson Mills project.

Mr. Mader stated the 2023 Asphalt Road Program is out to bid and the bid opening will be June 29.

Mr. Mader stated the Franklin Water Project plans are to be completed by the end of the month. The project would be out to bid in early July.

Mr. Mader stated the contractor for the Wilson Mills overlay is completing the intermediate course of asphalt this week. The County reached out to the city engineers and asked if the city would waive the noise ordinance for Saturday so they can begin work at 7am. This project is scheduled for August completion. Mr. Mader stated he attended a meeting last week and the contractor feels the project may be done earlier, pending the weather. All lanes should be open at that time with some miscellaneous lane closure work on sidewalks and signals.

Mr. Mader asked Council if he can inform the County that the noise ordinance will be waived for Saturday. Council approved. Mayor Brunello asked if Mayfield Village allowed it. Mr. Mader responded that he has not heard yet. Mayor Brunello asked if letters should be sent to residents. Mr. Mader responded that we can ask the County to distribute letters.

Finance Director's Report: Mr. Filippo explained the memo distributed to Council. He also explained the transfer ordinance and requested suspension because the fire pension fund is currently in the negative so money needs to be transferred in until the rest of the income taxes are collected. Mr. Filippo requested suspension on the resolution for the Commission of Aging to allow the payment to be made in order to not impede their operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: Mr. DeLisio stated that the Kickball Classic is June 24 at the community park. Check in begins at 9:45am at Field Number 4. The event will last approximately 90 minutes. Mr. DeLisio stated that the annual bike ride in the park is on June 25. Participants will meet at the pavilion at 11am followed by refreshments and prizes after the ride. Later that evening is the Family Fun Night at the pool from 5pm to 8pm.

Legislative and Finance: Mr. DiLalla stated that the committee met to discuss the moratorium on group homes. Ms. D'Amico sent the committee the language from Bay Village for the committee to review. Mr. DiLalla informed Mr. Lograsso that the committee would like a draft for the next committee meeting. Mr. Lograsso stated that he is working on a draft ordinance currently. Mr. DiLalla stated the committee supports the change order for the Police and Fire Renovation and all items on the agenda pertaining to the Finance Department.

Drainage: Mr. Goff stated the committee met to discuss a drainage investigation request. The resident was concerned that the property retains a large amount of water in the backyard after rainfall and remains there for several weeks. Photographs were provided by the resident; however, the committee needs to follow up and confirm which property is having the issue because the resident owns two properties in the municipality. Once this issue is resolved, the committee will work with the Service Department to assess the drainage complaint.

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy stated Planning and Zoning met for two public hearings, both for a shed placement variance. Both were approved. Other applicants were at the meeting. One was for a shed placement variance, one was a variance for a driveway turnaround size, and one was a variance for a four-car garage relocation. All will be scheduled for a public hearing. Mr. Milroy stated the Commission discussed the Planned Residential Development issue. Additional points to present to Council were discussed and will be brought to Council soon.

Mr. Goff asked about an email he received about a shed. Mr. Milroy responded that he contacted Mr. Grabfelder to see if he contacted the homeowner. The response was that Brian reached out to the homeowner. Mayor Brunello asked what the email pertains to. Mr. Milroy responded that a resident asked about how sheds are put up and located within the city and how to find if a shed was located properly on a neighbor's lot. Mr. Milroy asked Mr. Grabfelder to respond to the resident. Ms. D'Amico added that there was a response to the resident from Mr. Grabfelder with the city's requirements. Mr. Milroy recommended a follow-up with Mr. Grabfelder when he returns from vacation to see if the resident was responded to properly. Mr. Goff added that he believes the email Ms. D'Amico is discussing and the email Mr. Milroy is discussing were on different subjects from the same resident.

Law Director's Report: Mr. Lograsso informed Council that the Fire Department suffered water damage in the interior of the kitchen area. He added that he believes that there may be responsibility that falls on one of the contractors involved in the renovation because there was a big gap left open on the building and a lot of rain came in. This damaged the cabinets in the kitchen. Mr. Lograsso stated they are receiving estimates for the repair. Assistant Chief Bernhard added there were panels removed for easier access for the interior construction project. There was a temporary door placed there, but the bottom was not weather stripped or thresholded. Due to the roof being replaced, gutters were also removed in that area. Water infiltration in the kitchen inundated the room and all the base cabinets. Initially, the outdoor contractor was contacted because they believe this was caused by a roof leak. After further investigation, it appears that the water went off the roof as intended, but there was no gutter and the water went underneath the temporary door. The department is working to receive estimates for the repair. Mr. Lograsso stated he is pursuing potential insurance claims against either contractor if there is proof that either is at fault for the damage of the cabinets. Mr. Lograsso will keep Council informed as the issue continues.

Mr. Milroy asked if there are any updates on any of the residents unsatisfied with the decisions of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Lograsso responded the only situation he is aware of is the resident on Diana Ct who filed their appeal with the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Nothing has started with the case yet. Mr. Milroy added that some may be waiting for the approval of minutes before taking their case to court.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello commended Sunni D'Angelo for the Memorial Day Observance Ceremony. He also thanked the committee, the guest speakers, the musicians, and the Service Department.

Mayor Brunello stated that he will meet with West Creek on June 22 in the park to confirm details on the walking trail.

Mayor Brunello stated he attended the ribbon cutting at Tijuana Tacos. He wished the company success.

Mayor Brunello stated there was a 100th birthday parade for Christine Paternite who is a 62 year resident of Highland Heights.

Mayor Brunello stated he attended the HOA meeting for Aberdeen at the Community Center. There was a decent crowd in attendance and minimal questions.

Mayor Brunello reported that the first concert of the summer season is June 21 at 7pm with Nick Costa as the featured musician.

Mayor Brunello wished a happy Father's Day to all fathers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico stated that the seniors will have a boat trip on the Goodtime III on August 22. The cost is \$75 per person including lunch and transportation. There are only 56 seats available.

Ms. D'Amico stated that the owner of Fantasy Candies will be at the Community Center on October 8. There will be a charcuterie and wine and chocolate pairing tasting. There will also be a guest storyteller. The cost is \$20 per person. All in attendance must be 21 or older. There will be different wines and chocolates paired together.

Ms. D'Amico stated that the senior planting event was successful. She thanked all councilmen who helped and thanked the Service Department for helping. Ms. D'Amico added that this is the most popular event the senior committee offers. There were 97 people in attendance.

Mayor Brunello asked how many were in attendance the first year of the planting day. Ms. D'Amico responded 22.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: No Items to Be Added

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: No Public

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO SEEK PROPOSALS: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla authorizing the Mayor to seek proposals for Overhead Bay Doors for the Police and Fire Building Renovation, seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 29-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 29-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Mayfield City Schools for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to allow the School Board to sign the contract before dismissing for Summer Break.

A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes All, motion carried.

Mr. DeLisio moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes All, motion carried.

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 30-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 30-2023 which description is: “A Resolution approving a payment to the Mayfield City School District pursuant to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.82 and in connection with the City's Community Reinvestment Area and Urban Jobs and Enterprise Zone Programs, and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 31-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 31-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing a payment in an amount not to exceed \$131,048 to PCS & Build for additional interior renovation (MEP) work for the Police and Fire Buildings and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to not further delay the project.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLisio to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes All, motion carried.

Mr. Milroy moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes All, motion carried.

ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 11-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 11-2023 which description is: “An Ordinance authorizing transfers and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings because the fire pension is currently in the negative until more income taxes are collected.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff to suspend the Second and Third readings; seconded by Mr. DiLalla. Ayes All, motion carried.

Mr. Goff moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Hargate. Ayes All, motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 25-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 25-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the payment of an amount not to exceed Sixty-Seven Thousand and Fifty-Four Dollars (\$67,054) to the Community Partnership on Aging for its annual budget; and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Third reading to not impede the operations of the Community Partnership on Aging.

A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla to suspend the Third reading; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes All, motion carried.

Mr. Goff moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes All, motion carried.

SECOND READING OF RESOLUTION 26-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 26-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of a Watchguard Video Camera Recording System to include Eight (8) In-Car Cameras, Eight (8) Body Worn Cameras, Eight (8) Bay Transfer Stations, Cloud Based Storage and accessories and a Five (5) Year Warranty in an amount not exceed One Hundred Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$117,000.00) and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 10-2023: Council listened to the Second Reading in title only of Proposed Ordinance 10-2023 which description is: “An Ordinance adopting a tax budget for the City of Highland Heights, for the year 2024 and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION 23-2023: Council listened to the Third Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 23-2023 which description is: “A Resolution issuing a six-month extension of the Moratorium on the granting of building permits or certificates of occupancy for any group home for a period not to exceed six months from the effective end date of the resolution previously passed, in order to allow City Council and the Planning Commission to review the Highland Heights Zoning Code and other Codified Ordinances relative to such use; and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Mr. Goff moved to adopt; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes All, motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Mr. Goff 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 economic development; seconded by Mr. Milroy.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 8:47p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. DiLalla and seconded by Mr. Goff to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council