

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING
HELD: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
Highland Heights City Hall Council Chamber
7:30 PM**

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

EXCUSED: Council Representative DiLalla

ACTION ON MINUTES: The reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting held July 25, 2023, was dispensed with. Mr. DeLisio moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Turner stated for the month of July the Fire Department responded to 158 emergency calls with 17% overlapping. Chief Turner added that for the month of August the Fire Department responded to 177 emergency calls with 25% overlapping. The department is approximately 65 calls above where they were last year at this time.

Chief Turner reported that Cleveland Water finished replacing fire hydrants that were found non-functional. They will send a sub-contractor to repair tree lawns in the next few weeks. Residents with issues are encouraged to contact the Fire Department.

Chief Turner stated that the department building restoration project is moving along well with a projected completion date of October 27.

Chief Turner stated that the Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Agency will present Highland Heights with a rate certified plaque on October 10.

Chief Turner stated that item 3 on the agenda will allow a Request for Proposals for the installment of the generator to arrive by the end of November. The funds for the generator are from the ARPA fund. Chief Turner added that items 10 and 11 pertain to a worker's compensation safety ramp and requested suspension because there is a 90-day window to give the proof of payment to worker's compensation for reimbursement.

Mr. Milroy asked for an update on the Rear Bay Door installation. Chief Turner responded that they are estimated to start the last week of September or the first week of October. Mr. Milroy also asked if the manual switch for the generator was installed. Chief Turner responded that the switch is still on order. There is a 60-day window for the project to be complete and will begin end of November or beginning of December. Mr. Milroy asked if the project should be done by Christmas. Chief Turner responded that that is the goal.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Matejcic reported for the month of July the Police Department received a total of 1,496 calls. 14 calls included property damage, there were 3 injuries, and there were 62 alarm calls and 15 mutual aid responses. The department entered 80 warrants. Officers conducted 351 prisoner safety checks and the jail housed 8 prisoners who served 257 hours of time. Chief Matejcic added for the month of August the Police Department received a total of 1,471

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calls. 8 calls included property damage, there were 3 injuries, and there were 70 alarm calls and 12 mutual aid responses. The department entered 99 warrants. Officers conducted 361 prisoner safety checks and the jail housed 17 prisoners who served 246 hours of time.

Chief Matejcic reported that the First Annual Safety Forces Night Out on July 27 was successful. Chief Matejcic thanked Mayor Brunello, Ms. D'Amico, Mrs. Ganser, and Mr. DeLisio for their help at the event.

Chief Matejcic stated that the department held their annual state jail inspection on August 1. Two inspectors spent 8 hours going through the jail procedures and policies and reported that the department is in compliance with 50 essential and 110 important jail standards. No violations or issues were found in the inspection.

Chief Matejcic reported there was a women's self-defense class on August 22. There were 20 women in attendance. Chief Matejcic thanked Mayor Brunello and retired Chief Cook for their help with the event.

Chief Matejcic stated that the watchguard cruiser and body camera project has begun installation. Training is also being conducted on how to properly use the equipment.

Chief Matejcic informed Council of an incident within the city on August 26. At the local Chipotle on Wilson Mills Rd, there were two customers who had a verbal and physical altercation with an employee. The situation began inside but was taken outside and became physical. All three men drew pistols and began to exchange gunfire with each other. No one was hit, but bullets were found at the gas station across the street. Responding officers retained two of the men in a short time after the incident and the third man was found a few days later. All three were charged with felonious assault and their case is pending at the county court.

Chief Matejcic stated that items 2 and 6 are related on the agenda. A previously budgeted purchase of two Ford Explorers approved by Council earlier in the year were found to no longer be manufactured; therefore, the resolution needed to be rescinded and a new resolution was needed to approve the purchase of two Dodge Chargers instead. The cost for this purchase is within the Capital Budget. Chief Matejcic also requested suspension on the resolution because the vehicles have already arrived at City Hall.

Chief Matejcic stated that item 4 is also within the Capital Budget. He requested suspension in order to place the order to replace the current faulty equipment.

Chief Matejcic stated that item 5 is the annual agreement with the Department of Agriculture for the culling of deer. This is year 5 of a 5-year agreement. Chief Matejcic requested suspension of the resolution in order to start working.

Mr. Milroy asked where the Dodge Chargers are. Chief Matejcic responded that they have arrived but need to be equipped. Mr. Milroy asked when these would be expected to be completed. Chief Matejcic responded late October or early November.

Service Director's Report: Mr. Belfiore stated that the department completed installation of water bottle filling stations at the park. The work included removal of old fountains, excavation, sawing underground water and sewer lines, mounting and energizing the new units, and site restoration. Mr. Belfiore stated that 20 yards of concrete have been poured.

Mr. Belfiore reported that 885 cubic yards of brush have been collected since January 1. The department is still cleaning up from the storm.

Mr. Belfiore stated the Household Hazardous Waste collection continues through Saturday.

Mr. Belfiore stated that the Computer Round Up took place during the month of August. The department collected 16,144 pounds of waste from residents.

Mr. Belfiore requested suspension on item 7 in order to lock in the cost. Funding is from the 2023 Capital Fund.

Mr. Milroy asked what year the truck being bought will be. Mr. Belfiore responded that it will be a 2024 truck.

Building Commissioner's Report: Mr. Grabfelder stated that for the month of July there were 70 residential permits and 9 commercial permits granted. Mr. Grabfelder stated two new homes were approved. There are 7 lots left on the Grappa Farms property. Mr. Grabfelder reported that 10 letters were sent to residents pertaining to their yards and the service department cut 5 residents' lawns. Mr. Grabfelder stated there was an application submitted by B Rox for signage at the old Harry Buffalo location.

City Engineer's Report: Mr. Mader stated that the Wilson Mills Overlay is complete. There will be a walkthrough with the county and contractor conducted. Mr. Mader stated that the rankings for the Suburban Water applications were released and Highland Heights did not receive funding for the submitted projects. Only 10 projects were chosen to be funded. Mr. Mader stated that he is waiting to hear on the Franklin Water Project from the Water Department with review comments. Mr. Mader added that he hopes to have this completed by end of year, but it may need to be delayed. Mr. Mader stated that the Detention Basin reports were completed and distributed to all owners of the basins. Mr. Mader stated that the tennis courts are almost complete. A walkthrough will be conducted soon. Mr. Mader stated that the Highland Road Gas Main is finishing up. Final restoration is being completed and a walkthrough will be conducted soon. Mr. Mader stated that Ridgebury Gas Main has started in Maple Heights and will begin in Highland Heights in the next few weeks. Mr. Mader stated that the 2023 Asphalt Road Program contractor is behind and the project will be delayed by two weeks. Mr. Mader stated that the road ranking is complete and he will meet with service department to go over the rankings.

Finance Director's Report: Mr. Filippo described the memo distributed to Council. He stated that payment is due for the Lyndhurst Municipal Court and is on the agenda for a motion. There is also a resolution for tax levies that can go on to the second reading.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parks and Recreation: Mr. DeLisio stated that the Halloween Party is October 14 from 6pm to 8pm. He informed Council to let Mr. Ianiro know if they will participate in the event.

Legislative and Finance: No Report

Safety and Service: Mrs. Ganser stated that the committee met to discuss the purchase of the power stair chairs and the grant from workers compensation to cover most of the project. They also discussed the bid for the generator work to be done.

Mr. Milroy asked where the rest of the cost for the power stair chairs is coming from. Mrs. Ganser responded that it is covered in the Fire Department budget.

Drainage: Mr. Goff stated the committee met to discuss four different houses with water issues. Kenbridge will be visited in about a week by the county. The house on Wilson Mills contacted the sewer district and the district visited the home. The house on Brainard was informed to fill out a drainage request form. On Ford, there are some water issues that were extensively discussed as well.

Planning and Zoning: Mr. Milroy asked Council if there were issues with hearing the public at the previous meeting from in the Chambers. Members of Council informed Mr. Milroy that they heard the residents that spoke.

Mr. Milroy stated that three fence variances were requested and passed. The committee also discussed the Planned Residential Development project.

Law Director's Report: No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Brunello stated the Safety Night went very well and thanked all first responders involved. Mayor Brunello stated that the Music at the Gazebo in July went well. He thanked Sunni D'Angelo for planning the event. The Music at the Gazebo event for August was postponed due to weather twice and will not be rescheduled. The band was rescheduled for the first Music at the Gazebo event of 2024.

Mayor Brunello stated that the 2023 Suburban Water Championships was successful at the city pool. Hundreds of swimmers and thousands of visitors were hosted over the course of the weekend. Mayor Brunello thanked Mr. Ianiro and the service department for their work and preparation at the park.

Mayor Brunello thanked those in attendance at the State of the City Address. The address was video recorded and has been posted to the city YouTube channel for residents to view.

Mayor Brunello stated that October 19 is the 2023 State of the Cities event hosted at the Highland Heights Community Center and he will be presenting. Mayor Brunello encouraged all able to attend the event.

Mayor Brunello stated that the quarterly Heritage Home program update stated 18 homeowner contracts and 6 site visits with a total project value of \$372,000. Letters have been sent to residents' homes who qualify for the Heritage Home program.

Mayor Brunello stated that the Cuyahoga County Board of Health agreement is on the agenda and does not need to be suspended.

Mayor Brunello commended the service, fire, and police departments for their outstanding work with the major storms in weeks past.

Mayor Brunello stated that the Veteran Peace Memorial landscaping will begin by the end of the month. Material and work was donated in order to complete the project.

Mayor Brunello requested a motion be added to the agenda to advertise the Park Access Trail Project for bid.

Mr. Milroy asked if plans were received for the Trail Project. Mr. Mader responded that it will be advertised September 14 and 21 with the bid opening on September 28. Mr. DeLisio asked if they are able to review the plans. Mayor Brunello responded that the plans have not changed from the last time Council reviewed them.

Mr. Milroy asked about the glass recycle program. Mayor Brunello responded that it is ongoing and he would like a report of how the program is going to see if it is worth continuing.

Mr. Milroy asked if the cost of the Kimble regeneration fee was received. Mayor Brunello responded that he received it and it is nominal. Mr. Belfiore added that all municipalities were asked to pay this fee.

Mr. Milroy asked if the deer culling program plan needs to be revisited and when it needs to be revisited. Mayor Brunello responded that the plan will be revisited prior to the 2024 budget and added that he would like to continue to have a program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ms. D'Amico stated that the seniors had a sold-out luncheon on the Goodtime II in August. Next year, the group will most likely ride the new Lady Caroline.

Ms. D'Amico informed Council that the Thanksgiving Carry Out meal will be November 16 catered by La Vera. The cost for residents is \$9 and non-residents are \$12. Ms. D'Amico added that the Seniors' Holiday Party will be December 7 catered by La Vera. The cost will be \$15 per person. Ms. D'Amico reminded Council of the Wine and Chocolate tasting on October 8. The cost is \$20 per person and someone will be presenting on Princess Diana.

Ms. D'Amico requested that all items being requested to add to the agenda also be sent to her, not just to Clerk Donatelli.

Mr. Milroy asked about the Pay to Stay Policy and the two moratoriums. Ms. D'Amico responded that these topics will be discussed at the next Legislative and Finance committee meeting. She added that the four topics discussed were reported on by their respective department heads.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED AS NEW BUSINESS: A Motion authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and advertise for bids for the Park Access Trail Project. Mr. DeLisio made the motion to remove; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC: Ms. Drobnick at 392 Muirfield Drive approached the podium. She provided the Mayor a packet with information pertaining to a past issue she spoke about at the previous Council meeting. Ms. Drobnick described some issues she had with water and drainage at her residence that have been ongoing. Ms. D'Amico informed Ms. Drobnick to contact Mr. Goff and Mr. Mader so they can visit the home and look into the situation.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO GO OUT TO BID: Mr. DeLisio made a motion authorizing the City Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and advertise for bids for the Park Access Trail Project; seconded by Mr. Milroy. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION FOR PAYMENT: Mrs. Ganser made a motion authorizing payment to the City of Lyndhurst for the City's proportionate share of Lyndhurst Municipal Court operating deficit for the total of \$10,909.65; seconded by Mr. DeLisio. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION TO RESCIND: Mrs. Ganser made a motion rescinding Resolution 8-2023 authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Montrose Ford for the purchase of two 2023 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors; seconded by Mr. Goff. Ayes all; motion carried.

MOTION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Mr. Goff made a motion authorizing the Mayor to seek proposals for installation of a generator and all associated equipment for the Police and Fire Building Renovation; seconded by Mrs. Ganser. Ayes all; motion carried.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 38-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 38-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the purchase of Eight (8) GETAC s410 Rugged Laptops and Eight (8) CLA Power Adapter Units from TAC Computer for use by the Police Department in an amount not to exceed Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-One Dollars (\$18,421.00) and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to place the order and ensure the current price.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 39-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 39-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to provide Wildlife Services, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to allow work to begin.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 40-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 40-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Montrose Ford for the purchase of two (2) 2023 Dodge Chargers, pursuant to the Ohio cooperative purchasing act in an amount not to exceed Seventy-Four Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Dollars (\$74,130.00), and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings because the vehicles have already arrived.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 41-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 41-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Classic Ford for the purchase of a Ford F-550 4x4 SD Regular Cab and Chassis in an amount not to exceed Sixty-Five Thousand dollars (\$65,000.00) pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to make the purchase and ensure the current price.

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

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

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 42-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 42-2023 which description is: "A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies to be placed on the 2023 Tax Duplicate of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, and certifying the same to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTION 43-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 39-2023 which description is: "A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a public health services agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and declaring an emergency." (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 44-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 44-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Stryker EMS Equipment, Inc. in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Two Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$32,502.14) for the purchase of two (2) power stair chairs for use by the Fire Department and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to submit the bill to worker’s comp in an orderly time.

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

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

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 45-2023: Council listened to the First Reading in title only of Proposed Resolution 45-2023 which description is: “A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Heritage Fire Equipment, Inc. in an amount not to exceed Seventeen Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixteen Dollars(\$17,216.00) for the purchase of one (1) Holmatro PCT50 Combination Hydraulic Rescue Tool and associated equipment for use by the Fire Department and declaring an emergency.” (Mayor Chuck Brunello, Jr. & Council as a Whole)

Council was asked to suspend the Second and Third readings to submit the bill to worker’s comp in an orderly time.

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

Mrs. Ganser 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 and personnel; seconded by Ms. Ganser.

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

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 9:15p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser and seconded by Mr. DeLisio to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

President of Council