

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF COUNCIL'S ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
January 3, 2024
6:00 p.m.

The Organizaional Council Meeting of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Clerk Margaret Sikon in Room No. 14 of Village Hall, and it was also broadcast via Zoom Video Communications.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was recited by all.

FORMAL SWEARING IN: The Oath of Office was administered to Councilwoman Geavona Greene and Councilman David Mills by Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman James McManus by Mayor Michael L. Booker. All received congratulations from those in attendance.

ROLL CALL: Present were Councilpersons Cassandra Pride, Geavona Greene, David Mills and James McManus. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker, Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell, Senior Director Jean Smith and Mayor's Assistant Erich Stubs.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: Election of Officers

Law Director Thomas O'Donnell opened nominations for the selection of Council President:

Councilwoman Geavona Greene nominated Councilwoman Cassandra Pride.

He asked twice more if there were any other nominations and there were none.

Councilman Mills then moved to close the nominations, which was seconded by Councilman McManus. All voted aye and the **nominations were closed.**

Councilwoman Greene then moved to approve Councilwoman Cassandra Pride as President by unanimous consent, which was seconded by Councilman Mills. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Law Director Thomas O'Donnell then called for nominations for the selection of Council President Pro Tem:

Councilwoman Cassandra Pride nominated Councilwoman Geavona Greene.

He asked twice more if there were any other nominations and there were none.

Councilman Mills then moved to close the nominations, which was seconded by Councilman McManus. All voted aye and the **nominations were closed.**

Councilwoman Pride then moved to approve Councilwoman Geavona Greene as Council President Pro Tem by unanimous consent, which was seconded by Councilman Mills. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Councilwoman Pride and Councilwoman Greene were then congratulated by all in attendance.

FORMALLY ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMAN MICHAEL L. GOODWIN:

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to accept the resignation of Councilman Michael Goodwin as of December 31, 2023. All voted aye and the resignation was **formally accepted.**

DISCUSSION BY PUBLIC: None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine. Each item will be read individually into the record and the Consent Agenda will then be enacted as a whole by one motion and one roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion by Council is desired on any item on the Consent Agenda, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council motion and considered in its normal sequence under the Regular Order of Business.

- a. *Approval of minutes: December 12, 2023
- b. *Legislation: Introduce, suspend rules requiring three readings and referral to committee, and adopt those legislative items indicated with an asterisk (*):

***Resolution No. 2024-01:** A Resolution Providing for the Re-Appointment of Miajeunene Johnson as Director of the Department of Human Resource and Clerk of Mayor's Court, and Declaring an Emergency.

***Resolution No. 2024-02:** A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Re-Appointment of Tyrone Conard to Serve as Public Works Director for the Village of Highland Hills, and Declaring an Emergency.

***Resolution No. 2024-03:** A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Re-appointment of Robert Rodic to Serve as Chief Building Commissioner of the Building Department for the Village of Highland Hills, and Declaring an Emergency.

***Resolution No. 2024-04:** A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Re-Appointment of Larry Finch to Serve as Director of Economic Development for the Village of Highland Hills, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried**.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the Consent Agenda. All voted aye and the Consent Agenda was **adopted 4 – 0**.

COMMUNICATIONS: A thank you letter addressed to Senior Director Jean Smith from Hitchcock Center for Women, Inc. for the generous donation of clothing, accessories, toiletries and diapers from the Senior Advisory Board was read by the Clerk (attached).

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Michael Booker welcomed Councilman McManus to Council and congratulated Councilwoman Greene and Councilman Mills on their re-election. The Mayor said he looks forward to great things in 2024 and beyond in working with Council. He thanked the Senior Advisory Board for their efforts in putting together the donations for the underprivileged and for their outreach in our community. He also thanked Councilwoman Geavona Greene for her assistance with the board's efforts.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Senior Director Jean Smith offered congratulations to the new Council and thanked everyone for their help with the Senior Advisory Board's donation drive.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: President Cassandra Pride thanked Council members for their support and for their support of the community. She said as we look to the future, we look forward to doing better things in 2024 as a Council. President Pride advised she will be reaching out to everyone regarding the Council committees.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES: President Pride announced that appointments for 2024 will be assigned for the following committees:

Finance	Public Works
Properties/Buildings	Rules
Safety	

REPORT FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO REGULATORY OR OTHER BOARDS: President Pride announced that appointments for 2024 will be assigned for the following boards:

Audit	Human Resources Committee
Board of Control	Planning Commission
Board of Zoning Appeals	Senior Advisory Board
Fair Housing Commission	Tax Incentive Review Council

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **THIRD READING CONSIDERATION: None**
- b. **SECOND READING CONSIDERATION: None**
- c. **FIRST READING CONSIDERATION:**

Ordinance No. 2024-05: An Ordinance Providing Authority for the Purchase of Comprehensive Liability, Property and Auto Coverage through the Public Entities Pool of Ohio for the Village of Highland Hills, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2024-05. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-06: An Ordinance Accepting a Grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation in the amount of \$31,623.75 to Provide for Much Needed Equipment for the Highland Hills Fire Department, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2024-06. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-07: An Ordinance Approving a Customer Agreement with Allstate Benefits to Provide Various Group Insurance Products to the Village Employees, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried**.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2024-07. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2024-08: An Ordinance to Create Title Fifteen, Chapter 191 Tax Incentive Review Council of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Highland Hills, and Declaring an Emergency.


Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried**.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2024-08. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0**.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and the meeting concluded at 6:18 p.m.


Cassandra Pride, President


Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council

Attachment:

Resignation Letter from Councilman Michael L. Goodwin
Letter from Hitchcock Center for Women, Inc.



Village of Highland Hills

Village Council

December 4, 2023

Cassandra Pride
President of Council
Village of Highland Hills
3700 Northfield Road
Highland Hills, Ohio 44122

Dear President Pride,

Please be advised that I am submitting my resignation, effective December 31, 2023, as Councilman for the Village of Highland Hills.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the residents and work with Council and the Administration in my capacity as Councilman. It is my intention to remain active in the community and help in any way I can for the advancement of Highland Hills.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Goodwin
Councilman

cc: Council President Pro Tem Derrick A. Williams
Councilwoman Geavona Greene
Councilman David Mills
Mayor Michael L. Booker
Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell



December 14, 2023

1227 Ansel Road
Cleveland, OH 44108
216.421.0622

City of Highland Hills Senior Dept.

ATTN: Jean Smith

3700 Northfield Rd.

Highland Hills, OH 44122

Dear Jean,

On behalf of Hitchcock Center for Women, allow me to express our sincere gratitude for your donation of clothing, accessories, toiletries and diapers. As you know, our mission is empowering women to live substance free, productive lives, and with your help we can bring this mission to life.

Hitchcock Center for Women is committed to supporting women and their children to overcome the ravages of substance use. In our nearly 44 years of operation, we have assisted women in their efforts to overcome substance use in addition to homelessness, addressing the negative impact of trauma(s) and in establishing a pathway to recovery.

Every donation made to our agency makes a difference for addicted women by helping to maintain their journey to a sustained sober and safe lifestyle.

Thank you for thinking of the Hitchcock Center for Women. Only through the kindness and generosity of people like you are we able to continue our mission.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Joyce", is written over the typed name.

Jason Joyce, LPCC-S LICDC CS
President CEO



Hitchcock Center for Women is a contract agency of the ADAMHS BOARD of Cuyahoga County.