

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 12, 2024
6:00 P.M.

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Cassandra Pride in Room No. 14 of Village Hall. It was also broadcast via Zoom Video Communications.

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

ROLL CALL: Present were Council President Cassandra Pride and Councilpersons Geavona Greene, David Mills, James McManus and Robert Wright II. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker and Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell.

MOTION TO ADD ORDINANCE TO AGENDA:

Ordinance No. 2024-41: An Ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract with Apex Construction Company for the Shaker House Elevator Replacement Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to add Ordinance No. 2024-41 to the Agenda. All voted aye and the **ordinance was added.**

DISCUSSION BY PUBLIC: Five-minute maximum, only on current agenda legislation: **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: May 15, 2024

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to accept the Consent Agenda. All voted aye and the Consent Agenda was **approved.**

COMMUNICATIONS: Dr. Michael A. Rock, CPA, CFO Treasurer, Warrensville Heights City School District

President Pride introduced Dr. Rock, who passed out a Financial Update for the Warrensville Heights City School District (attached). Council members thanked him for the presentation, asked questions and congratulated the district on the great job they are doing.

Mayor Michael Booker requested Dr. Rock check whether income taxes for the employees at the Early Childhood Center are coming to the Village of Highland Hills as opposed to Warrensville Heights. Dr. Rock said he would look into it.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Michael Booker stated that great things are happening in the Village, and items on this evening's agenda are to move the Village forward. He is excited about what is happening and with input from our residents, issues are being solved. Council members are also more visible.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: None.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Council President Cassandr Pride reported that the Shred-It Day will be rescheduled.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Properties/Buildings	James McManus – met and a report is on file
Public Works	Robert Wright – met and a report is on file
Rules	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Safety	Geavona Greene – met and report is on file
Committee of Whole	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file

REPORT FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO REGULATORY OR OTHER BOARDS:

Audit	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Board of Control	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Board of Zoning Appeals	James McManus – did not meet
Fair Housing Commission	Robert Wright – did not meet
Human Resources Committee	Geavona Greene – did not meet
Planning Commission	David Mills – did not meet
Senior Advisory Board	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Tax Incentive Review Council	Geavona Greene – did not meet

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

a. **THIRD READING CONSIDERATION:** None.

b. **SECOND READING CONSIDERATION:** None.

c. **FIRST READING CONSIDERATION:**

Ordinance No. 2024-33: An Ordinance Accepting a Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 from Cuyahoga County under the Community Development Block Grant Program for Constructing a New Gazebo on the Highland Hills Fire Station Property, 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. 2024-33. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2024-34: An Ordinance Accepting a Grant in the Amount of \$8583.33 from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation under the Firefighter Exposure to Environment Elements Grants (FEEEG) for Specific Safety Equipment, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus 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 Ordinance No. 2024-34. All voted are and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2024-35: An Ordinance Amending Section 105.06(j) Entitled Fees in the Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code, and Declaring an Emergency.

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

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2024-35. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2024-36: An Ordinance Amending the Original Appropriation Ordinance 2024-20 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024 by Making Additional Appropriations and Transferring Appropriations between Departments, and Declaring an Emergency.

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

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2024-36. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-37: An Ordinance Approving and Adopting an Alternative Tax Budget for the Village of Highland Hills for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025 and Submitting it to the County Auditor of Cuyahoga County, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright 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 Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2024-37. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-38: A Resolution Providing for the Appointment of William D. Simpson as Director of the Department of Human Resource/Clerk of Mayor's Court, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Wright 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 Councilman Wright to approve Resolution No. 2024-38. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-39: An Ordinance Authorizing All Actions Necessary to Accept the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2024 Energized Community Grant, and Declaring an Emergency.

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

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2024-39. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-40: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter and Execute an Agreement with Specialized Construction, Inc. for the Patterson Parkway Road Rehabilitation Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

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

Discussion: President Pride recalled that Specialized Construction has done projects with the Village in the past. Our Engineer has worked with them on over 40 to 50 projects in the community. The company is a good choice and was the lowest bidder.

Councilwoman Greene asked whether the company would be open to doing some driveways. Mayor Booker answered the homeowner would have to contact them directly.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2024-40. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-41: An Ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract with Apex Construction Company for the Shaker House Elevator Replacement Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman McManus 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. 2024-41.

Discussion: President Pride noted the amount has changed. Mayor Booker advised the change order is because the Village will have to get a monitoring company to monitor for the first year, per State code. It is only for one year.

There being no further discussion, all voted aye and Ordinance No. 2024-41 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilwoman Geavona Greene advised there are grants available through the County for the upkeep of houses and perhaps the information could be given to our seniors. Mayor Booker recommended President Pride bring it to the attention of the Senior Advisory Board at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, it was moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and the meeting concluded at 6:32 p.m.



Cassandra Pride, President of Council



Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council

Attachment:

WHCSD Financial Update

Warrensville Heights City Schools
4743 Richmond Road
Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128
Phone: 216-364-1001 Fax: 216-364-1022



Dr. Michael A. Rock, Treasurer

WHCSD Financial Update

1. The District has spent within current resources for 14 years
2. All five years of the Five Year Forecast are funded:
 - a. No New Taxes or Levies
 - b. The Five Year Emergency Levy will be up for renewal November 2024 or 2025
 - i. No increase in taxes
 - ii. Thankful for renewal every five years since 1990
3. New facilities for all grades PreK to 12
 - a. \$120,000,000
 - b. 2018 Bond Levy and Strategic Finance
4. Taxpayers in the District
 - a. Residential 27%
 - b. Businesses 67%
 - c. State 6%
5. Financial Impacts of One Team, One Vision, One Goal and Effective Board Governance (Leadership Teamwork)
 - a. Maximize funding opportunities for the Master Facilities Plan
 - i. Phase One finance without a taxpayer vote/levy
 - ii. Phase Two 2018 Bond Levy passed with great support
 - b. Refinance savings \$18M and 5 year reduction on payback term
 - c. Strategic use of Federal ESSER Funding \$14M
 - i. Early Childhood Center
 - ii. Additional funding MS/HS