

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 13, 2024
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 7:00 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, James McManus and Robert Wright. Also present: Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell. Absent were Councilman David Mills and Mayor Michael L. Booker.

It was then moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to excuse Councilman David Mills from the meeting, as he is attending the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. All voted aye and Councilman Mills was **excused 4 – 0**.

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: February 14, 2024

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to accept the Consent Agenda. All voted aye and the Consent Agenda was **approved 4 – 0**.

COMMUNICATIONS: A thank you card to Council Members from former Senior Director Jean Abernathy-Smith was read by the Clerk (attached).

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: President Pride advised Mayor Booker is unable to attend the meeting due to a family outing.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: None.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: President Cassandra Pride congratulated former Senior Director Jean Abernathy-Smith on her retirement. She reminded that Council's annual scholarship will be awarded in May, and urged anyone with family or friends who attend Warrensville Heights High school to apply. The scholarship is for \$2,000 over four years to assist with secondary education costs. The application is available at the school and on the Village website. The deadline is April 1st.

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 – President Pride advised the committee met and a report is on file
Safety	Geavona Greene – met and a report is on file
Committee of Whole	Cassandra Pride – did not meet

REPORT FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO REGULATORY OR OTHER BOARDS:

Audit	David Mills – President Pride advised the board met and a report is on file
Board of Control	Cassandra Pride – did not meet
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; officers were elected and it was a good meeting
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. 2024-20: An Ordinance to Approve the Annual Appropriations of Funds for Current Expenses of the Village of Highland Hills for Calendar Year 2024, 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 Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2020-20. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-21: A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Highland Hills to Participate in a Consortium to Invite Bids for Solid Waste Transfer and Disposal Services, 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 McManus to approve Resolution No. 2024-21. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-22: A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Highland Hills to Participate in a Consortium to Invite Bids for Recycling Processing Services, 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 Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Resolution No. 2024-22. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-23: An Ordinance to Approve the Revised Public Records Policy, 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 Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2024-23. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-24: A Resolution Providing for the Appointment of Kiara Pyles as Assistant to the Mayor, 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 Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Resolution No. 2024-24. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 4 – 0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: Loretta Montgomery, 3700 Northfield Road, Highland Hills, Ohio, questioned when the current contracts expire for Ordinance Nos. 2024-21 and 2024-22. Council President Pride answered that she would obtain the information and relay it onto Ms. Montgomery.

Cynthia Beard, P.O. Box 201195, Cleveland, Ohio, requested an explanation of the appropriation amount and the reason for the emergency on Ordinance Nos. 2024-20 and 2024-23. She also asked for a copy of the current Public Records Policy.

President Pride reminded both citizens that this portion of the agenda is for comments only, and not a question and answer session. All questions should be directed to the appropriate department head. Ms. Beard's questions will be referred to the Law Director.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, it was moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and the meeting concluded at 7:14 p.m.



Cassandra Pride, President of Council



Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council

Attachment:

Thank you note from Jean Abernathy-Smith

Dear Highland Hills Council Members,

There are no real words to truly
thank you for all you did to make my
retirement from the Senior Director a
success. My appreciation and thanks goes
further than the eye can see.

You made the day so special by being
here with me and sharing your kindness.

I will never forget your kindness and
love you showed me and I wish you nothing
but success. For all my issues and concerns
you listened to, I thank you. Thanks.

for your caring and sharing. May God bless
each of you; and remember always:

You are the real deal in Highland
Hills!!! Love, Jean Alernathy-Smith