

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 15, 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 and Robert Wright. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker and Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell. Absent was Councilman James McManus, who was ill.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to excuse Councilman McManus from the meeting due to illness. All voted aye and **Councilman McManus was excused.**

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: April 10, 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: None.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Michael Booker reported that everything is going well and they are in the interview process for hiring new employees in the Administrative Department. President Pride asked how many new employees are anticipated and Mayor Booker answered two.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: None.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Council President Cassandra Pride thanked everyone for the support they planned to give for Shred It Day. The event was canceled due to the company having a fire at their facility. It will be rescheduled and we are looking forward to it.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Properties/Buildings	James McManus – President Pride advised the committee 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 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 – did not meet
Board of Control	Cassandra Pride – did not meet
Board of Zoning Appeals	James McManus – President Pride advised the board 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. 2024-28: An Ordinance Accepting a Grant in the Amount of \$36,850.00 from Cuyahoga County under the Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) Program for Government Complex Accessibility Improvements; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter and Execute a Contract with Cuyahoga County for said Grant; Authorizing the Mayor or his Designee to Obtain Estimates for said Construction Work, 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 Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2024-28. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-29: An Ordinance Approving the Plans and Specifications Prepared by the Village Engineer for the Patterson Parkway Road Rehabilitation Project, Authorizing the Project Based on the Plans and Specifications, and Authorizing the Village Engineer to Seek Bids for the Project, 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 Wright and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2024-29. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2024-30: An Ordinance Providing for a Wage Increase for the Position of Safety Director, 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. 2024-30. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-31: A Resolution Approving the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Plan as Adopted by the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Wright 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 Resolution No. 2024-31. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 4 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2024-32: A Resolution Selecting Mayor Holzheimer-Gail, as the Mayor of the City of Euclid in Cuyahoga County, to Serve as a Member of the Cuyahoga County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee, 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 Wright to approve Resolution No. 2024-32. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 4 – 0**.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: Rhonda Armstrong, 3700 Northfield Road, Apt. 375, Highland Hills, Ohio, commented that there was quite a raise in rent, and a number of interior improvements to her apartment have not been addressed in years. She has been a resident since 1999; her apartment has never been painted, and there is the same carpet on the floor. Ms. Armstrong said she has made requests, and they have fallen on deaf ears, so she is officially requesting the Property Manager be made aware. Ms. Armstrong stated she also requested the amount of the security deposit the Village has on record for her apartment, but has not received that information. She paid \$385 some 20 years ago. She went on to say that she fell victim to the last administration's Property Department, but is basically satisfied. It is a safe building in a good location, but she would appreciate the improvements to her apartment be made.

Council President Cassandra Pride thanked Ms. Armstrong for her comments, and said that she will bring the matter to the attention of the Property Director, with the request that Mr. Sullivan contact her.

Mayor Michael Booker commented that the Village has been very consistent with raising the rent every two years, and the Shaker House rent is still below market value. Rent has increased by \$25 to \$75, and is still lower than anyone else in the area. He noted that utility costs continue to increase because they run all day. There has been a lot of renovation to 3720, and the Properties Department is working on 3700. When there is a vacancy, the apartment is renovated and turned around. The Mayor remarked that Ms. Armstrong's apartment is one of the most beautiful in the building because she has kept it up. He said they will make plans to have the apartment painted, and Ms. Armstrong said that would be appreciated.

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 6:20 p.m.



Cassandra Pride, President of Council



Margaret Sikow, Clerk of Council