

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 16, 2025

6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by 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, David Mills and Robert L. Wright II. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker and Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell.

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: March 12, 2025

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills 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 Ms. Victoria Purnell of 3600 passed away. She was a very special person, a member of the Senior Advisory Board and will be truly missed. He detailed her visitation and funeral service arrangements, noting the repast will be held at Village Hall, per her request.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Council President Cassandra Pride reported that Council will be reviewing applications for the Warrensville Heights High School scholarship. Any applications received between now and the Finance Committee meeting on May 5th will be considered. The Senior Breakfast will be held on May 20th, when she will attend on behalf of Council to make the presentation.

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REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Finance	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Properties/Buildings	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Public Works	James McManus – met and a report is on file
Rules	Geavona Greene – met and a report is on file
Safety	Robert Wright, II – 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	Geavona Greene – did not meet
Board of Control	Cassandra Pride – did not meet
Board of Zoning Appeals	Robert Wright, II – did not meet
Fair Housing Commission	Geavona Greene – did not meet
Human Resources Committee	David Mills – did not meet
Planning Commission	James McManus – did not meet
Senior Advisory Board	Cassandra Pride – had a celebration honoring Doc Brandon for his 10 years of service and Joyce Foster for her 25 years of service
Tax Incentive Review Council	Geavona Greene – did not meet

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

a. THIRD READING CONSIDERATION:

Ordinance No. 2025-04: An Ordinance Authorizing Referral of a Proposed Amendment to the Highland Hills Charter by Amending Article IX, Section 5 Finances and Taxation and Submitting Same to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for Placement on the November 4, 2025 Ballot, Directing the County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2025-04. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2025-05: An Ordinance Authorizing Referral of a Proposed Amendment to the Highland Hills Charter by Amending Article IX, Section 7 Periodic Review and Submitting Same to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for Placement on the November 4, 2025 Ballot, Directing the County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2025-05. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2025-06: An Ordinance Authorizing Referral of a Proposed Amendment to the Highland Hills Charter by Amending Article III, Section 3 Vacancy and Removal and Submitting same to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections for Placement on the November 4, 2025 Ballot, Directing the County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors.

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2025-06. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

b. **SECOND READING CONSIDERATION: None**

c. **FIRST READING CONSIDERATION:**

Ordinance No. 2025-13: An Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not to Exceed \$655,000 of Notes of the Village of Highland Hills to Pay the Cost of Acquiring, Equipping and otherwise Improving a Fire Truck, together with All other Necessary Appurtenances thereto, 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.**

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2025-13. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2025-14: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and President of Council to Enter and Execute a Contract with the City of Warrensville Heights to Grant Consent and Share the Cost of Design, Engineering and Construction for Resurfacing Harvard Road from Warrensville Center Road to Northfield Road, and Declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: Law Director Thomas O'Donnell explained that he made some revisions to the contract indicating the Village's grant is being applied, and sent it over to the Warrensville Heights Law Director. Warrensville Heights has already approved the agreement, and their Law Director understands we are not approving until the changes are made. Mr. O'Donnell recommended the ordinance be referred to the Finance Committee.

President Pride then announced that Ordinance No. 2025-14 is being **referred to the Finance Committee.**

Ordinance No. 2025-15: An Ordinance Authorizing the Harvard Road Resurfacing Project as a Public Improvement Project, Authorizing the Village Engineer to Prepare Plans and Specifications for the Harvard Road Resurfacing Project, and Authorizing the Village Engineer to Seek Competitive Bids for the 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**.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2025-15. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2025-16: An Ordinance Accepting Funds from Cuyahoga County under the 2025 Preventative Maintenance Program for County Roads in an Amount not to Exceed \$200,000.00, 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.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2025-16. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2025-17: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and President of Council to Enter and Execute a Contract with _____ for Replacement of the Roof at the Village Fire Station Property, and Declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: Mayor Booker requested the legislation be amended to add Dunrite Exteriors to the title and body of the ordinance. He said the roof replacement cost is being funded by a grant from the County and they would like to move forward as soon as possible.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to amend Ordinance No. 2025-17 to reflect the contract is being entered and executed with Dunrite Exteriors. All voted aye and the **motion carried**.

Amended Title:

Ordinance No. 2025-17: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and President of Council to Enter and Execute a Contract with Dunrite Exteriors for Replacement of the Roof at the Village Fire Station Property, 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**.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2025-17 as amended. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0 as amended.**

Ordinance No. 2025-18: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter and Execute a Contract with The JL Taylor Company, Inc. for Construction of Electrical Service at the Village Fire Station Property for the Gathering Space Project, 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.

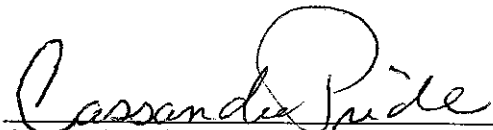
Discussion: Councilwoman Greene asked if this project is being done as part of the grant money received by the Village. Mayor Booker answered yes, that Council approved \$176,000 for the project, and the electrical is included in that approval. Since the contract is over \$25,000, Law Director O'Donnell wanted to make sure Council approved the amount. The Village has already spent \$125,000 on the project; the grant was for \$150,000, so \$25,000 is coming from Village funds.

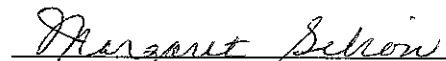
Law Director O'Donnell clarified that the total amount exceeds the Mayor's authority to spend, thus the legislation.

There being no further questions, it was moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2025-18. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Michael Booker related that the house on Alameda has sold and is under contract for \$230,000.

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 6:22 p.m.


Cassandra Pride, President of Council


Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council