

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO**  
**MINUTES OF COUNCIL'S ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
**January 8, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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The Organizational Meeting of the Council 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. 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 Councilman Robert L. Wright, II by Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell. Everyone offered congratulations and applause.

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

**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.

Law Director O'Donnell asked three more times if there were any other nominations and there were none.

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

Councilwoman Greene then moved to approve the nomination of Councilwoman Cassandra Pride as President of Council, which was seconded by Councilman Wright. All voted aye and the **motion carried 5 – 0.**

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

Councilwoman Cassandra Pride nominated Councilwoman Geavona Greene.

Law Director O'Donnell asked three more times if there were any other nominations and there were none.

Councilwoman Pride 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 the nomination of Councilwoman Geavona Greene as Council President Pro Tem, which was seconded by Councilman Mills. All voted aye and the **motion carried 5 – 0**.

President Pride and Pro Tem Greene were congratulated by all. President Pride thanked everyone and said she will do her best to serve.

**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 11, 2024

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to accept the Consent Agenda. All voted aye and the Consent Agenda was **approved 5 – 0**.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Clerk Sikon read a Resolution of Respect in Loving Memory of Barbara Ann Spearman from the Mayor and Council (attached). President Pride asked for a moment of silence in honor of Ms. Spearman, who served with distinction as a member of Council for many years (moment of silence).

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:** Mayor Michael Booker congratulated Councilwoman Pride and Councilwoman Greene on their re-elections to President and Pro Tem of Council.

Turning to committee assignments for 2025, Mayor Booker urged a change in the chairs so that Council members may learn more about the Village and each will have an understanding of all of the departments. The Mayor said that would help him and to serve the community better.

Mayor Booker related that visitation for Barbara Spearman is being held today from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Calhoun Funeral Home, with the funeral on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., and followed by the repast at Village Hall at 3:00 p.m.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:** None.

**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:** President Cassandra Pride commented that she will be taking the Mayor's suggestion into consideration when making committee appointments. She addressed Council members saying if they have a passion for a certain committee to let her know.

**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 II – 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 – 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 II – did not meet
Human Resources Committee	Geavona Greene – did not meet
Planning Commission	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Senior Advisory Board	Cassandra Pride – did not meet
Tax Incentive Review Council	Geavona Greene – did not meet

President Pride advised that Committee and Board assignments for 2025 will be made during the month of January.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-01:** An Ordinance Providing for a Revision to Ordinance 2024-11 which Provided for Increase in the Payment to Members of the Various Boards and Commissions of the Village, 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 Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2025-01. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

**Ordinance No. 2025-02:** An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Mayor to Enter and Execute an Agreement with the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce Enabling the Village of Highland Hills to Participate in the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce's Group Health Care Coverage Program, 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.**

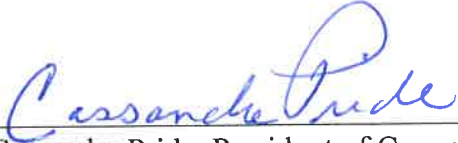
Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2025-02. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**


**Ordinance No. 2025-03:** An Ordinance Approving the Village Comprehensive Plan Update Completed by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilwoman Greene to table Ordinance No. 2025-03 and refer it to the Village Planning Commission for review and approval. All voted aye, the ordinance was **referred to the Planning Commission and moves to Second Reading.**

**MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Pride announced there are refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting in honor of Councilman Wright's swearing in.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, it was moved by Councilman Wright 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 Sikon, Clerk of Council

Attachments:

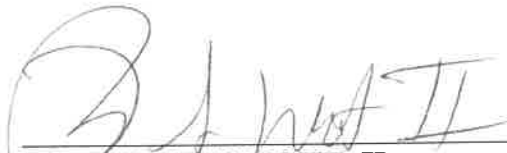
Councilman Robert L. Wright, II Oath of Office  
Resolution for Barbara Spearman

**THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO  
COUNCIL MEMBER**

**OATH OF OFFICE**


I, **ROBERT L. WRIGHT, II** do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution and Laws of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the Village of Highland Hills, obey the rules, regulations and orders of Council of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio, and will discharge the duties of the position of Councilperson to the best of my knowledge and ability, so help me God.

Date: January 8, 2025

  
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**ROBERT L. WRIGHT, II**

STATE OF OHIO            )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA )

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, and subscribed in my presence this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2025.

  
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**THOMAS P. O'DONNELL  
DIRECTOR OF LAW  
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO**

*Village of Highland Hills  
Office of the Mayor*



*Resolution of Respect in Loving Memory of  
Barbara Ann Spearman  
December 14, 1938 — December 30, 2024*

*We are today comforted by the words of Our Lord in Revelations 21:4 which says:  
"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither  
sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

*WHEREAS*, The Mayor of the Village of Highland Hills and on behalf of the members of the Village Council, Administration, and the entire community, we extend our deepest sympathy on the passing of Barbara A. Spearman; and

*WHEREAS*, In God's holy wisdom. He called Barbara home on December 30, 2024, to dwell with Him in the glories of Paradise, the Village of Highland Hills offer their condolences to the family. Your sorrow is our sorrow; and

*WHEREAS*, Barbara was an amazing educator, administrator, role model, community leader and friend to all she interacted with. She was a resident of Highland Hills for over 30 years and served on the Village Council for over 20 of those years. She was a long-time member of the Tri-City Democratic Club. Even serving as club President for many years. Another testament to her ability to guide people as she served in every role with immense pride and dedication; and

*WHEREAS*, it has pleased our Almighty God to take unto Himself our sister Barbara, too soon by our measure but in the providence of the All-knowing Divine, and

*WHEREAS*, Barbara performed her work on this earth and offered her service for the greater honor and glory of God unreservedly and in a spirit of humility. She will be mostly remembered for her strong will, infectious smile, and her impeccable style. However, her dedication to her community and her students in the Cleveland Public School District for 30 years is where she left us better because she was there; and

*WHEREAS*, we embrace this bereaved family and our community, in our common bond of grief and remembrance of a beloved soul.

*Be It Proclaimed*, with great sorrow I, as the Mayor of the Village along with, the Council, and the entire Village family applaud the life of Barbara Ann "Tochie" Spearman.

Now, therefore be it resolved that one copy of this be given to the family, and one kept on file at the Village Hall.

*In witness whereof, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Village of Highland Hills to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.*

*Michael L. Booker, Mayor*