

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

March 12, 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, Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell and Police Chief Charles Golston.

MOTION TO ADD RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 TO THE AGENDA:

Resolution No. 2025-12: A Resolution Declaring that the Wild Turkey be Designated as the Official Bird of the Village of Highland Hills.

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills to add Resolution No. 2025-12 to the Council Agenda. All voted aye and the **resolution 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: February 12, 2025
- b. *Approval of 2025 Council Budget

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

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COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor Michael Booker introduced Police Officer Eric Kimball and praised him for his work in the department. The Mayor then administered the Oath of Office to promote Officer Kimball to Sergeant. All offered congratulations and applause.

Mayor Booker stated that the Police Department never ceases to amaze. He said we all feel safe and have each other's backs. He then read a text message from Training Officer Jim Owens, who is 70 years old, recently injured and on the mend. The Mayor reminded that everyone should be carrying their Challenge Coin, and have it ready to give for exceptional actions or to recognize someone who has gone above and beyond expectations. He noted the coin holds a deep significance, especially in the military.

The Mayor related that the Village lost another long-time resident, Alan Pittman, who was a resident on Randolph Parkway for 45 years. Mr. Pittman and his family have been actively involved in the community for many years. Councilman Robert Wright added that he met Mr. Pittman 10 years ago and he was a very nice person.

Superintendent Donald Jolly called yesterday and informed that the Achievement Center will be closing. The superintendent would like the school system to purchase the building and the Mayor will be getting more information. He noted that since Covid, there have been a lot of kids diagnosed with autism. Warrensville is trying to collaborate with other school districts for a school to assist those children.

Mayor Booker continued that he, Law Director Tom O'Donnell and Economic Development Director Larry Finch met with a developer who would like to turn the workhouse property into mixed use zoning. Although the Comprehensive Plan calls for mixed use areas, they do not believe it is the best use of the land. The Mayor noted that Pinecrest and property in Shaker Heights are mixed use and they have not fared well. The three of them have been talking daily and are trying to leverage a meeting with the developer and the City of Cleveland to discuss a number of topics, including obtaining the land adjacent to the golf course for residential homes.

Lastly, Mayor Booker acknowledged the WHHS Boys and Girls Basketball teams, who did amazing again this year. They both went to the Final 16 in the State and we are very proud of them.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: None.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: Council President Cassandra Pride thanked Mayor Booker for all that he does for the community. She said we are moving forward and she is looking forward to what the future brings.

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 – met and a report is on file
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 – met and a report is on file
Senior Advisory Board	Cassandra Pride – met yesterday and a report is on file
Tax Incentive Review Council	Geavona Greene – did not meet

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

a. THIRD READING CONSIDERATION:

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

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2025-03. All voted aye and Ordinance No. 2025-03 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

b. SECOND 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. **3/12/25 Moves to Third Reading**

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. **3/12/25 Moves to Third Reading**

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. **3/12/25 Moves to Third Reading**

President Pride announced Ordinance Nos. 2025-04, 2025-05 and 2025-06 will **move to Third Reading.**

c. FIRST READING CONSIDERATION:

Ordinance No. 2025-08: An Ordinance to Approve the Annual Appropriations of Funds for Current Expenses of the Village of Highland Hills for Calendar Year 2025, 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 Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2025-08. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2025-09: An Ordinance Amending Section 105.01 Entitled Fees for Public Documents, 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 Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2025-09. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2025-10: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase and/or Finance the Purchase of a New Fire Truck for the Highland Hills Fire Department, 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 Ordinance No. 2025-10. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2025-11: A Resolution Declaring Necessity for Providing for the Payment of Street Lighting and Improvement or Installation of Additional Lighting by Special Assessment of all Parcels Benefitted, 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 Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Resolution No. 2025-11. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2025-12: A Resolution Declaring that the Wild Turkey be Designated as the Official Bird of the Village of Highland Hills.

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. 2025-12.

Discussion: Mayor Michael Booker related that the Fire Department designed a t-shirt which features the wild turkeys who roam throughout our community (attached), and they will be wearing them in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Therefore, he has proposed that the Wild Turkey be known as the Official Bird of the Village of Highland Hills.

Councilman Robert Wright said there are also plans to sell the t-shirts as a fundraiser. President Pride requested any further information be sent to Council.

Councilwoman Geavona Greene asked whether the turkey will be added to the official Seal of the Village and Mayor Booker said he would look into it.

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There being no further discussion, all voted aye and Resolution No. 2025-12 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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 6:30 p.m.


Cassandra Pride, Council President


Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council

Attachments:

2025 Council Budget
Wild Turkey Logo

2025 COUNCIL BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	2024 ACTUAL AS OF 12/31/24	2025 BUDGETED
Travel and Conferences Each Council Member x \$5,000 (includes Housing and Meals)	\$4,288.43	\$25,000.00
Contractual Services (Walter Drane)	\$7,798.56	\$14,000.00
Copier Maintenance	\$342.92	\$2,500.00
Printing and Reproduction	\$721.22	\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$1,332.79	\$2,000.00
Rents and Leases	\$0	\$3,000.00
Scholarship	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Professional and Technical Services	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Training Services	\$550.00	\$1,000.00
Membership Dues and Fees	\$1,560.00	\$4,000.00
Office Supplies and Materials	\$310.83	\$1,500.00
Operating Supplies and Materials	\$27.00	\$1,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$750.00
Equipment	\$0	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,436.40	\$3,000.00
Meeting Costs	\$90.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$20,558.15	\$63,750.00

