

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 15, 2026
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 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 Robert L. Wright II, Geavona Greene, James McManus and David Mills. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker, Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell and Senior Department Coordinator Adrienne Goodson.

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 March 11, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Scholarship expenditure of \$2,000.00 (\$500.00 for four years) awarded to Nicholas Parker of Warrensville Heights High School

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Council President Pride introduced Ellyse Popa, a senior at Aurora High School, who is interning with the Village for the next couple of weeks. Ms. Popa gave a short synopsis of her background, stating she plans to attend Kent State University in the fall. She thanked Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to learn how municipal government works, and said she is very excited to be here.

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR: Mayor Michael Booker related that he received a call from a resident, personally thanking him for attending her mother's homegoing, and that she was very appreciative. The Mayor reminded that our community has many people who are going through a lot and it means a lot to them to know we care. He reminded it is our duty as public officials to care for our residents.

Mayor Booker continued that things are going great with the Village. The new fitness classes have begun and the instructor is experienced and working with us to schedule classes so that seniors may exercise during the day. The staff has been working on a welcome package for quite some time, which includes pertinent information about the community and voter information. The first packages have gone out to new residents.

Mayor Booker congratulated Councilman James McManus, who received a pin and special recognition for his service in Vietnam at a ceremony hosted by Congresswoman Shontel Brown. Timothy Childs also received a pin. Mayor Booker accepted the pin on behalf of Sam Smith, and presented it to his wife, Jean. The event had been rescheduled, so there were not as many people from the public who attended, but it was a very nice event.

The Mayor continued that he hired a new HR Director and Administrative Assistant, and legislation will be coming at the next Council meeting. Both have extensive experience and he is hopeful they will be with us for a long time.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: President Cassandra Pride related that she met both of the new hires this past week and she looks forward to working with them.

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 L. 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 L. 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 – did not meet
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. 2026-17: An Ordinance Accepting a Grant in the Amount of \$50,000.00 from Cuyahoga County under the Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) Program for HVAC Replacement in the Village Shaker House Administration; Authorizing the Mayor to Enter and Execute a Contract with Cuyahoga County for said Grant, 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 Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2026-17. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-18: An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing the Mayor to Dispose of the Surplus Property, 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. 2026-18. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2026-19: A Resolution to Proclaim the Month of April, 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout the Village of Highland Hills.

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 Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Resolution No. 2026-19. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-20: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 113 Procedure for Purchases, Contracts and Sales, and Repealing Several Sections of said Chapter, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene 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. 2026-20.

Discussion: Law Director Thomas O'Donnell explained that there are two projects the Mayor has been working on; one is the turning lane on Harvard and Robert Bishop Drive, and the other is the ADA accessible government facilities and parking lot. Ordinance No. 2026-20 modifies Chapter 113 for procedures in purchasing and contracting. He explained the time-consuming procedures prior to preparing an ordinance which have been done in the past. With the new amendments to Chapter 113, Council may approve by motion. Ordinance No. 2026-20 is a procedural approval for the Mayor to be able to get started on these two important projects. Once the bids and specifications are in, an ordinance will come back to Council for awarding the contract.

Mayor Booker added that this project is a 50/50 match with the County and they will be working with Warrensville and Beachwood, to use their dollars as well, for the Harvard and Richmond intersection.

President Pride asked whether the project will be done this year, and Mayor Booker answered in 2027.

There being no further discussion, all voted aye and Ordinance No. 2026-20 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2026-21: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for the Cuyahoga County 2026 Special Municipal Grant, 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 Resolution No. 2026-21. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 5 – 0.**

COUNCIL MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Motion and approval to prepare the design and specifications and bidding for a project to reconstruct the turn lane on Harvard Road at Robert Bishop Road and Eaton Boulevard.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the motion to prepare the design and specifications and bidding for a project to reconstruct the turn lane on Harvard Road at Robert Bishop Road and Eaton Boulevard. All voted aye and the **motion carried 5 – 0.**

- b. Motion to proceed to investigate specifications, design and bidding for reconstruction of ADA accessibility and government facilities parking lots.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve the motion to proceed to investigate specifications, design and bidding for reconstruction of ADA accessibility and government facilities parking lots. All voted aye and the **motion carried 5 – 0.**

ADJURNMENT: Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and the meeting concluded at 6:33 p.m.

Cassandra Pride, President of Council

Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council