

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
September 16, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 6:02 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, incoming Finance Director Jahi Swanson and Senior Department Coordinator Adrienne Goodson.

MOTION TO ADD THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION TO THE AGENDA:

Ordinance No. 2026-43: An Ordinance Repealing Village Codified Ordinance, Section 549.05, "Failure to Secure Dangerous Ordinance," and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to add Ordinance No. 2026-43 to the Council Agenda. All voted aye and the **ordinance was added.**

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 July 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of pre-travel expense to OML Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio September 30 - October 2, 2026: \$1,408.64 for Councilman David Mills and \$952.64 for Council President Cassandra Pride

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to accept the Consent Agenda. All voted aye to approving the minutes, with Councilpersons Wright, Greene and McManus also approving the OML conference expense.

DISCUSSION BY PUBLIC: Nathan Biviano, Branch Services Librarian, Warrensville Heights Branch Library, addressed Council and related there are upcoming events to be aware of, including the Library Innovation program and Youth Services on Saturday. The community garden will also be hosting a Harvest Fest this Saturday. AI basics for seniors will be featured in the fall, and there are winter programs weekly, including senior arts beginning in January. Mr. Biviano left some handouts with additional information and welcomed everyone to visit soon.

REPORT AND COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR: None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Senior Department Coordinator Adrienne Goodson reported that they have begun collecting donations for Hitchcock Home, and are asking everyone to join in with donations of socks and hygiene items. Donations may be left at the Senior Department. Hitchcock has a new home, and the board will be taking a tour in the near future.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL: President Cassandra Pride thanked Ms. Goodson and the Senior Advisory Board for all that they do throughout the year.

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 – did not meet
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 – met and a report is on file
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 – 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. 2026-34: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and President of Council to Enter and Execute a Contract with the City of Beachwood to Share the Cost of Design Engineering and Construction for the Harvard Road at Robert Bishop/Eaton Concrete Repair 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 Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to approve Ordinance No. 2026-34. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2026-35: An Ordinance Enacted by the Village of Highland Hills, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, hereinafter Referred to as the Local Public Agency (LPA), in the matter of the Village of Highland Hills Opting to Participate or Opt In to Resurface Chagrin Blvd. (US-422) from the City of Beachwood West Corporation Line to Richmond Road in the City of Beachwood and the Village of Highland Hills in Cuyahoga County and to Authorize Consent for said Program, 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. 2026-35. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2026-36: An Ordinance Amending the Original Appropriation Ordinance 2026-11 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026 by Making Additional Appropriations and Transferring Appropriations between Departments, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills 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 McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2026-36. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0**.

Ordinance No. 2026-37: An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 2025-13 and Authorizing the Purchase of and to Provide for the Payment of Not to Exceed \$655,000.00 to Pay for the Cost of Acquiring, Equipping and otherwise Improving a New Fire Truck, together with all other Necessary Appurtenances thereto, 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 Mills to approve Ordinance No. 2026-37. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-38: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept a Grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation in the Amount of \$22,919.60 to Fund the Purchase of Various Needed Fire Fighting Equipment, 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. 2026-38. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-39: An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement with Cuyahoga County to Cooperate and Accept Funding for the Harvard Road Resurfacing Project, 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. 2026-39. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-40: An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and President of Council to Enter and Execute a Contract with Kone Inc. for the Repair of the Elevator at the Shaker House, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills 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 McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2026-40. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Resolution No. 2026-41: A Resolution Confirming the Mayor's Appointment of Jahi Swanson to Serve as Finance Director for the Village of Highland Hills, 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 Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Resolution No. 2026-41. All voted aye and the resolution was **adopted 5 – 0.**

All Council congratulated Mr. Swanson on his appointment. Mr. Swanson thanked everyone for the opportunity and said he is motivated to learn the role. He appreciates their patience and is always available for questions.

Ordinance No. 2026-42: An Ordinance to Approve Current Replacement Pages to the Codified Ordinances, 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 Councilwoman Greene to approve Ordinance No. 2026-42. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

Ordinance No. 2026-43: An Ordinance Repealing Village Codified Ordinance, Section 549.05, "Failure to Secure Dangerous Ordnance," 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. 2026-43.

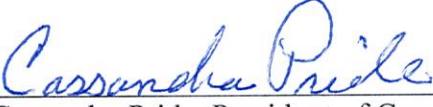
Discussion: Law Director Thomas O'Donnell explained that we currently have in the Village Code Section 549.05, which most cities do as well. The State law changed and granted people who own guns the right to sue municipalities for just having the section on the books, because it is an infringement on their rights. The Municipal Prosecutors Association recently sent out a memo in this regard to advise municipalities. Mr. O'Donnell said he wanted to get this legislation in front of Council as soon as possible to protect the Village and have

Section 549.05 repealed, so that the Village does not get sued. If it changes again, Council may repeal it.

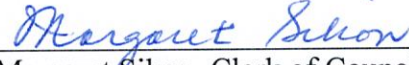
There being no further discussion, all voted aye and Ordinance No. 2026-43 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT: Ametta Reaves, 20414 Harvard Road, Highland Hills, Ohio, addressed Council and said she is speaking in the spirit of gratitude. She appreciates the Mayor and Council addressing issues that are brought before them, including high hedges and a trampoline in the townhomes. Her church will be hosting a political event next month for the upcoming elections, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

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 6:33 p.m.



Cassandra Pride, President of Council



Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council