



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2022

Call to Order: Mayor Bradley D. Sellers at 7:05p.m.

Attendance: Councilwoman Hagwood, Councilman Williams, Councilwoman White, Councilman Stewart, Councilwoman Mitchell, Councilman Howard and Council President Anderson
Roll Call: 7 Present

Prayer: Councilwoman Walter Stewart

Minutes: July 19, 2022 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Anderson
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried

Departmental Reports: Mayor Sellers stated that if Council has any questions to please reach out to the individual Director. He stated that if they have additional questions, they can contact the Office of the Mayor as well for further discussion.

Residents' Requests and Comments:

Ruby Nelson, Ward 4 Resident shared copies of article from The Plain Dealer on August 12, 2022 entitled *Council passes 'pay to stay' eviction for renters* with Council, Mayor Sellers and Law Director Beasley. She stated that Cleveland City Council passed an ordinance providing payment protection for renters. She read from the article: *The idea gained steam in Cleveland and across the state early in the pandemic, when city leaders sought to curb displacement and housing stability brought on by COVID-19 and its impact on the economy. Ohio is one of five states that allows landlords to evict tenants just one day after missing their payment due-date...Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati and Toledo have enacted pay-to-stay protection measures over the past two years, as have Euclid, Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights, Newburgh Heights and South Euclid.* She asked that Council and Mayor Sellers read the entire article and have empathy for people who are renters. She continued reading: *About 80% of evictions in Cleveland involve Black women and mothers with children.* Ms. Nelson stated that the article said that it is the growing number of out-of-state and out-of-country landlords who are not in touch with people that are renting.

Mayor Sellers stated that during COVID there was a blocking of evictions and then that expired. He stated all that time that people weren't getting evicted, they weren't working so the landlords had to eat that. He stated that City of Cleveland are able to assist because they were awarded more than 500 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funds and the county received a lot of money as well. Warrensville Heights received 1 million and most of that has

already been encumbered. The county has rental programs that may not be as flexible as Cleveland's but that is the resource for rental assistance.

Ms. Nelson stated that the county still has 10 million dollars yet to distribute. Mayor Sellers responded that that money is for municipalities that did not get direct access to the money. As a small municipality, they do not have the same flexibility as larger places. Ms. Nelson asked if that means Council cannot pass an ordinance and Mayor Sellers responded it is not about passing an ordinance, the city does not have access to the money.

Councilman Stewart shared there is help through The Housing Network for rental assistance up to four months but people cannot apply again for another year. He stated it's a really limited program. He commented they hear the word "eviction" every day. He stated the plan in Cleveland is excellent but it would really be nice if Warrensville could get that funding.

Mayor Sellers stated Cleveland is an entitlement city and again, Warrensville has to go through the county for disbursement and The Housing Network is a county program. He reported that Cleveland got a half a billion dollars and they took a sum of that because they have 9,000 rental units in the city and it was a problem.

Ms. Nelson asked if the Mayor and Council were going to investigate and Mayor Sellers responded that there is nothing to investigate and she needs to hear him. The issue is the money to keep people in the unit. Ms. Nelson asked isn't there a way for them to apply pressure and Mayor Sellers replied this is directly tied to the federal government under Title 6. He stated it is a county decision.

Councilman Howard suggested having a meeting to come up with ideas to create a program if the city has remaining ARPA money. Mayor Sellers responded that money is sitting in Cuyahoga County so go down there and speak to Meredith Turner because they have a significant sum set aside for rental assistance. We need more than just a couple \$1000 dollars. The pot needs to be significant.

Ms. Nelson asked if they can see what Maple Heights and other small municipalities are doing. Maple Heights passed the ordinance and it is working so what are they doing. Mayor Sellers reiterated that no one is against an ordinance. He can guarantee that Maple Heights has no real money like that, it's the county. Ms. Nelson stated in the article it stated that the money is not forthcoming right away; however, the person won't be put out of their home as long as they have a note saying someone will pay. That is protection and protection is what she's asking for. Mayor Sellers responded no one is against that but the city cannot say that because there's no payment coming unless money is secured. Again, she advised that they check the other small municipalities that Warrensville is equal to and see what they're doing.

Councilman Stewart stated that the bottom line is pressure needs to be put on the county and Mayor Sellers agreed that's what they have to do. We can pass the ordinance but have to get to the money. Councilman Stewart stated at some point, those other cities put pressure on the county. Mayor Sellers responded the county partnered with Cleveland Housing Network to administer the money so the county is not running the program.

Councilwoman Mitchell requested that the matter be deferred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting under Miscellaneous for further discussion.

Carole Burns, Ward 2 Resident stated that she represents the Eastwood Homeowners Association and at their recent meeting they had a discussion about people parking on lawns on Harvard Ave. The

second issue discussed was the invasion of skunks and other miscellaneous creatures in the yards since they tore down Eastwood School. She stated she called the city about the second issue and was told to contact the Animal Warden who she subsequently found out is out of the office until the end of August. Ms. Burns stated she was then told by another resident that there was no Animal Warden and to contact the police. She stated she did not know the police can come out and shoot the skunks.

Mayor Sellers responded there is an Animal Warden who is out on medical leave. They have an outside agency but they will only do certain things.

Police Chief Haynes stated they are not shooting skunks. They have an agency that will come out for large removal like deer. The Service Department will assist if there is a possum, skunk, raccoon etc. that needs to be removed off the roadway.

Ms. Burns inquired if the late garbage pick-ups will be remedied sometime in the future. Mayor Sellers responded that Kimble has had a manpower issue. ... *[Inaudible]*...go out for bid for trash removal because their contract with Kimble expires March 2023.

Police Chief Haynes stated we do have an ordinance preventing individuals from parking on the grass. He stated if his officers come across a vehicle, they will cite it and ask that individual to remove the vehicle off the grass.

Ray Freeman, School Board Member shared tomorrow the 2022-2023 School Year will open on a staggered program. He stated this is the last year they will be in the Westwood and the high school buildings. The high school building will be demoed at the end of June and the new high school is almost 50% built. He asked that everyone say a little prayer for the scholars for the upcoming school year.

Robert Tift, Ward 3 Resident shared that everything is getting better on Marvin Rd. but they need more police presence due to speeding and cars with loud pipes. He stated the same issues are going on with his neighbor not cutting the grass, having junk in the backyard and speeding up the street.

Police Chief Haynes responded that he will have officers over there but people are speeding throughout the city. He stated there is an ordinance to cite for faulty mufflers but not for the souped-up exhaust system that people are putting on their cars.

Building Commissioner Brown responded that he has been by the property at least six times since the last time Mr. Tift was here and the home he is referring to is not in violation for the lawn and not for the grass. He stated he got permission from the landlord last month to look in the backyard and there was no rubbish. The side of the house did have a garbage can. They need permission to go on some's property and if they don't get it, a summons or warrant is required. He stated he will give Mr. Tift his cell phone number to contact him.

Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood thanked Mr. Tift for his condolences on the passing of her nephew and she will share funeral arrangements with him.

Janice Rox, Ward 2 Resident emailed a comment that was read onto the record by Clerk of Council *I would like to address Council regarding the recent Memorial Day Parade. Where were the Honor Guards, the Color Guards and the military vehicles? Why didn't we have the lowering and raising of the flag while rifles were fired, and the bugler played taps while military laid the wreath? I come from a proud military family and this parade missed the mark and was an embarrassing moment. Shame on us. Not one councilmember waved a flag as they drove by.*

Shame on all of us. We as a city need to do better. Very disappointed. P.S. I am too emotional to address this issue in person!

Mayor Sellers stated the city did not have the parade for two years.

Police Chief Haynes stated they have not had an Honor Guard for four or five years because it has been very difficult to find one.

Mayor Sellers [*Inaudible*]...

Council President Anderson stated he called Ms. Rox and she stated there was no raising and lowering of the flag but that was done. [*Inaudible*]...

Mayor Sellers [*Inaudible*]...

Councilwoman Mitchell asked do they post it on their website... [*Inaudible*]...

Mayor Sellers [*Inaudible*]...

Curtis Barnette, Ward 2 Resident stated at the June meeting one of the councilmembers stressed the important of voting. He stated he came up with an idea of downloading the QR code that will take you directly to the voter registration page. He is trying to figure out a way to get the QR Code on a button.

Communications Director Gates replied that he can speak with him after the meeting.

Order of the Day

1. Ord. 2022-094

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

APPOINTING NICOLE HARRIS AS THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Hagwood, Seconded by Council President Anderson

Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Sellers stated the Administration had a vacancy for a long time and they were adamant on finding the right person. He stated Ms. Harris is familiar with the community and has a background in community development and community reinvestment development. She worked in Wilmington, Delaware and helped them develop their waterfront. He recognized Judge Wanda Jones in attendance to support Ms. Harris.

Ms. Harris thanked Mayor Sellers and Council for the opportunity. She stated she is thoroughly excited to serve the City of Warrensville Heights. She stated she is excited to work with the Directors. She introduced her son Devon, daughter Bella, friend Karen, friend Tameka, Bella's best friend Carly and Carly's mother Judge Wanda Jones. She commented she does not have any relatives in Ohio so this is her family.

<Applause>

Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood stated it is awesome to meet her and she is getting a vibe that Ms. Harris is in the right place.

Councilwoman White welcomed her to *The Friendly City*.

- 2. Ord. 2022-095** **COUNCILMAN MATTHEW HOWARD (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)**
ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF ISHMAEL MARTIN, REPRESENTING THE SAME, FOR REVISIONS TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SITE AND LANDSCAPE PLANS OF A NEW HOME LOCATED AT 22701 VERA DRIVE, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPN 763-10-041.
Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Council President Anderson, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 3. Ord. 2022-096** **COUNCILMAN MATTHEW HOWARD (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)**
ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF MYLES HOUSKA OF BRILLIANT ELECTRIC SIGN CO., REPRESENTING MILES NORTH RANDALL, LLC, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A MONUMENT SIGN LOCATED AT 21201 MILES ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPN 762-25-018.
Motioned Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Howard, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 4. Ord. 2022-097** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ACCOUNT NUMBERED 284 AND TITLED “ONEOHIO-OPIOID FUND” IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.09(F) AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECORDING THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS’ SHARE OF THE ONEOHIO-OPIOID FUNDING FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 5. Res. 2022-030** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL CENTER AND SERVICE DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Howard, Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

- 6. Res. 2022-031** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilman Stewart, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 7. Res. 2022-032** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO DONATE \$2,500.00 TO THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 8. Ord. 2022-098** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-025 IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – MOTION CARRIED
- 9. Ord. 2022-099** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF NUISANCE ABATEMENT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 945 OF THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, UPON THE REAL ESTATE FROM WHICH THE NUISANCE ORIGINATED WHERE SUCH COSTS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID BY THE OWNER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

Announcements from Directors:

Communications Department – Director Gates wished everyone a good evening. He announced that the Summer Festival will be at Green Road Park this weekend. He stated it will start Saturday at 12:00pm with events for children such as face painting, petting zoo, bouncy houses, bumper cars, a 360 photo booth and carnival games. There will be great food vendors and there will be three great bands playing. On Sunday, there will be roller skating, a corn hole tournament and four more bands.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell gave kudos to the YMCA's summer of service and it's good to know that they have youth ages 13-15 invested in the city. She thanked all the community members who provided public comment because it is necessary to know what is going on and how everyone sees things. She gave kudos to Chief Haynes and the Police Department for rising to the occasion regarding a hornet's nest situation. She thanked Building Commissioner Brown for addressing the lights in the retail windows so the city doesn't look like Reno, Nevada. She thanked Mr. Barrette for mentioning the different ways of voting.

Councilman Walter Stewart thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She congratulated the new Economic Development Director Nicole Harris and welcomed her to *The Friendly City*.

Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood thanked everyone for attending and supporting Council.

Councilwoman Elona C. White stated it is always a pleasure to see everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. She gave her condolences to Councilwoman Hagwood on the passing of her nephew.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr. stated his heart was bursting with joy when he heard about the YMCA's programs during Caucus and gave them kudos. He welcomed Nicole Harris to the city and stated he thinks they have a good one. He commented he had to wipe away a couple tears after hearing from Mr. Barnette because of his commitment and engagement to voting. He stated he was wrong thinking the 2000 Election was going to be the most consequential election of his lifetime because two years hence has shown him how more fearful they should be. They need to engage young people because they are not voting. He shared only 10% of registered voters voted at the primary election and it hurt him. They have to get people aware, registered and to vote.

Councilman Matthew Howard wished everyone a good evening. He acknowledged YMCA Executive Director Michael Carter and his staff for the presentation provided during Caucus. He stated these program will season our youth to become productive members in our community. He commented that the Y leadership program prepares youth to one day sit in their seats and in other positions of authority to serve the people well. He stated he loves being on the YMCA board. He commented that he and Kenneth White have been practicing for the cornhole tournament and Robert Moore and School Board Member Millicent Gaiter have joined the team. He thanked Service Director Ted Sims for his assistance in developing a plan on how to address sidewalk repair and trees at the recent Service Committee meeting.

Council President's Comments

Council President Stanley Anderson wished everyone a good evening. He congratulated the new Economic Development Director Nicole Harris and welcomed her to *The Friendly City*. He recognized Ward 6 residents in attendance, Juanita Ingram and Patricia Robertson.

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley had nothing to report.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers congratulated Nicole Harris and welcomed her to the team. He stated she has been around and they will be getting her up to speed. He recognized Finance Director Karen Howse for working behind the scenes as she knows Ms. Harris in other capacities. He gave his condolences to Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood for the passing of her nephew. He thanked Mr. Barnette for thinking outside of the box with an alternative way of registering to vote. He encouraged him to connect with Director Gates for assistance. Mayor Sellers shared that usually for the Summer Festival they have a lot of rides but due to limited staff, the company cannot provide the service this year. He stated there will be alternatives such as bumper cars and roller skating. He stated there will be good food, good people and good music.

**Motion for an Executive Session pursuant to ORC.121.22 (G)(1) Article IV. Section 8 (f)(1)
to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or
compensation of a public employee or official to consider the investigation of charges or complaints
against a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual
Moted by Councilman Howard, Seconded by Councilman Stewart
Roll Call: 3 Ayes; 4 Nays; 0 Abs - Motion Denied**

Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:10p.m.

09-06-2022

APPROVED


Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council