



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Call to Order: Council President Stanley Anderson at 7:00p.m.
(Mayor Bradley D. Sellers Absent)

Attendance: Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood, Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr., Councilwoman Elona C. White, Councilman Walter Stewart, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell, Councilman Matthew Howard and Council President Stanley Anderson
Roll Call: 7 Present

Prayer: Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell

Minutes: February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Residents' Requests and Comments:

Robert Tift, Ward 3 stated he still has concerns about police patrolling down Marvin Rd. at night and on weekends. He stated he still has the same neighbor with the white jeep zooming down the street like she's racing someone. He reported the neighbor's friend is starting to park on the opposite side of the street and on the grass. Mr. Tift inquired about the house that caught fire on Marvin Rd. and what the status is.

Building Commissioner Brown reported the house on Marvin Rd. that caught fire in October is going to be renovated. The owner is working with an architect and is going to get the plans submitted.

Mr. Tift stated he is having issues with another property having stuff in the backyard and it is horrible.

Building Commissioner Brown explained that they can only inspect from the right of way. If there's something in the backyard, let him know and he can contact the landlord to be allowed entry into the backyard.

Mr. Tift asked when the Service Department is going to start picking up trees and *<inaudible.>*
Service Director Sims asked if he was referring to branches and things like that and explained that the chipper is shut down because there's a storm. He told him to set out the branches and call the office and they'll send a chipper out to pick them up. He shared that they'll be back out April 1st with the chipper on a regular basis.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
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Deborah Hill, Ward 2 Resident acknowledged Building Commissioner Brown and the Building Department, stating she is excited they are putting lights in front of the Dollar Store at Harvard Rd. and Warrensville Center Rd. She commented it has helped the residents feel a lot safer at night when shopping. She applauded the great work Building Commissioner Brown is doing and asked that he continue to do it. She stated she appreciated all the city leaders very much.

Donté and Jeremiah Jones, Ward 1 Residents stated they wanted to share some good news and hopefully in a couple days he'll have some even better news. He shared that he and his son are going to be presenters at this year's Accelerate competition on Thursday at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland. [Mr. Jones read press release.] He stated he is sharing this because he is Warrensville born and bred and he loves the city. So, when they step on the stage, they will not only be representing themselves but also the city. He invited everyone to come and show support. They will be presenting before 700-1000 people and it will probably be one of the biggest days in their lives. He explained his idea is providing services via a phone application that will connect students with peer supporters who have experienced challenges associated with pursuing a higher education.

Councilman Howard asked when the event is.

Mr. Jones replied that it begins at 4:00p.m. and he will be pitching in two different categories Technovation and Social Change. His first pitch will be around 4:30p.m. and his second will be around 6p.m. He stated if he makes it to the finals, there will be a third pitch.

Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood stated it is Black History Month but a month does not give us enough of a message for what we've done. She wanted to spotlight Superintendent Donald Jolly for showing appreciation for Ms. Dean throughout her career and not after God called her home. She stated they should give people their flowers while they yet live and that is her motto. She remarked don't name a street after me when you haven't even said good morning! Councilwoman Hagwood announced that Superintendent Jolly and School Board Member Ray Freeman were appointed to the Ginn Gallery along with Mayor Sellers. She shared that Mr. Freeman is chair of the National Urban Board Alliance that consist of 50,000 school board members in 24 states in the U.S. He is a part of a book written called *Seat at the Table* and his four pages discuss racism and how black children are left out of education in America. She asked Superintendent Jolly and Mr. Freeman to stand up and told them what they're doing is appreciated because they work to encourage and uphold children. She commented that they make public service look easy but working for people is hard. To be elected and accepted by the people is one of the greatest honors. They are proud to have the City of Warrenville Heights represented throughout the United States government and people putting the city on their map. Councilwoman Hagwood shared that in November she will be a 48-year resident. She commended Superintendent Jolly again, for what he's done for the School District. She wished everyone a Happy Black History Month.

<Applause>

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Order of the Day**1. Ord. 2023-018**

COUNCILMAN MATTHEW HOWARD (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)
 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF DOMINIQUE E. WOODS, REPRESENTING THE SAME, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOME LOCATED AT 19024 SUMPTER ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPN 762-21-035.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Howard,
Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

2. Ord. 2023-019

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS
 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMBER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FOR THE SHAKERWOOD ROAD STORM AND SANITARY REHABILITATION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood,
Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

3. Ord. 2023-020

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS
 AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-098 IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE COMPENSATION FOR THE TRAINING SESSIONS OF THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood,
Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

4. Ord. 2023-021

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS
 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO SELL A 2014 DODGE RAM 1500 FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, TO KUMAR AUTO BODY FOR \$6,000, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood,
Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED

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5. Ord. 2023-022**MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF REAL ESTATE WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (THE "SCHOOL DISTRICT") TO EXCHANGE LAND OWNED BY THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS LOCATED AT 4557 NORTHFIELD ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128 PPN 761-21-011 FOR LAND OWNED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATED AT 19000 GARDEN BOULEVARD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128 PPN 762-04-010 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 3313.40, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilwoman White

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

Announcements from Directors:

Chief of Staff – Kelli Wilson announced that the Black History Month Program is scheduled for tomorrow at the Civic & Senior Center at 6:00p.m. and wished for everyone to join them.

Community Development – Manager Raymon Turner wished everyone a good evening. He shared that he, Economic Development Director Nicole Harris and Civic & Senior Center Director Jennifer Lastery have been working with Halli Martin at the Treasurer's Office. They are going to put together an information session on March 9, 2023. The first session will be 4-5p.m. and the second 6-7p.m. The session will be about taxes and tax bills because a lot of people do not understand their tax bill. Ms. Martin will be discussing what programs are available, particularly grant programs for people who have fallen behind. Also, she will explain the evaluation and upcoming sexennial in 2024 when they set an appraisal for every parcel throughout the county. Information will be posted on the city's website.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell wished everyone a good evening and thanked them for coming out. She thanked the residents for speaking out about things that they see and do at the City Council meetings. She thanked Mr. Tift for constantly being an advocate for the community. She thanked Ms. Hill for her previous and ongoing service. She commented that Ms. Hill brings attention to things that are happening and those that are not. Councilwoman Mitchell told Mr. Jones and his son Jeremiah that Accelerate is a wonderful program and it's nice to know that people from Warrensville are a part of it. She asked that they keep up the good work! She thanked Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood for what she said about Superintendent Jolly and Mr. Freeman and stated she couldn't have said it better. She gave kudos to the Fire Department because mutual aid is nothing they take lightly. She shared that Warrensville firefighters were sent over to Oakwood during the fire. She shared three Shirley Chisolm quotes for Black History Month: "We must reject not only the stereotypes that others hold of us, but also the stereotypes that we hold on ourselves."; "Be as bold as the first man or woman to eat an oyster."; and "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." She asked that everyone keep bringing their folding chairs for that seat at the table.

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Councilman Walter Stewart thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He shared that 58 years ago today was the assassination of Malcolm X. He stated there has always been a misconception that Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were not friends but they were very close. Near the end of Malcolm X's life, they were sending messages and telegrams to one another. He shared that some of this information Dr. King brought out in a press conference after Malcolm X was assassinated. They both were getting death threats at the same time. Malcolm X was constantly being threatened by the Nation of Islam, the government, police, FBI and CIA. Dr. King was getting some of the same harassment and J. Edgar Hoover was sending him letters to try and make him commit suicide. He stated that people knew these two men coming together would be a threat to the status quo of racism and oppression. Councilman Stewart stated Malcolm X lobbied for the Civil Rights Bill and he has a rare video where Dr. King is standing in a room at the State Capital and Malcolm X is sitting against the wall. He explained when the Civil Rights Bill was passed, the United States Information Agency under Carl Rowan sent a lot of misinformation such as taking copies of the bill and putting it all over Africa and other supposed third world countries and told them the problem of race had been solved in the United States. Malcolm X went to Africa with videos of demonstrations and showed people that the Civil Rights Bill was helpful but it was no immediate solution. Malcolm X had mentioned to Dr. King that he had this idea of taking the United States government to the United Nations and accuse them of genocide. He spoke to Dr. King about not using the term "civil rights" but calling it "human rights." When you get your human rights, your civil rights are automatic. Malcolm X took the struggle on an international level and Dr. King followed suite two years after Malcolm X's assassination. He stated they had planned a summit that was to take place in 1966 but they knew they had to kill Malcolm X first because he had already started offering Dr. King protection via telegrams. Dr. King would never say "No" to the protection but instead said "Not at this time." Malcolm X sent telegrams to all the racist organizations that were threatening Dr. King's life and told them he was no longer held in check by Elijah Mohammed's "do nothing philosophy" and if any harm comes to Dr. King or any of his followers for trying to peacefully gain their rights, they and their Ku Klux Klan buddies will be met with maximum retaliation. Councilman Stewart stated Dr. King never came out and said he didn't agree with that, he wasn't go to do that because they were working together. He stated he wanted to bring that up because if you leave Malcolm X out, you don't have the real history of what they've been going through and what they're going through now. Those were the last two major leaders and they had more in common than they had against each other. He remarked that Dr. King said "I've been to the mountaintop ... I've seen the Promise Land." Malcolm X said "If anything shall come to light because of what I've said or done in my lifetime, all the credit is due to God. Only the mistakes have been mine."

<Applause>

Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated she'll see them tomorrow night at the Black History Program.

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Councilwoman Elona C. White thanked everyone for coming out. She congratulated Superintendent Jolly and Mr. Freeman on their appointment. She stated it was well-deserved.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr. congratulated Superintendent Jolly and Mr. Freeman on their appointment stating that he was proud of them and happy to know them. He commented that his favorite part of council meetings is when community members come up to voice their concerns and present their accolades. It is the part that is unbeknownst to him and he gets to hear from engaged and committed community members like Mr. Tift and Mr. Jones. He saluted them for their efforts and wished there were more of them in attendance. He shared he has hit his one-year point as a councilmember and has zero regrets as it has been an honor, rewarding and enlightening. Councilman Williams stated he will remain committed and solution oriented because “Johnny Williams picks no teams.” He stated he has one goal in mind and that’s what’s best for the City of Warrensville. He saluted each of the directors stating he is privileged to know them and looks forward to working with them more to make the city better.

Councilman Matthew Howard wished everyone a good evening. He commended former councilwoman Deborah Hill on her beautiful words that she expressed to them. He stated she is someone he can always call on. He commended Council President Anderson for working with Ms. Jowan Smith at the 1000 Ties event last Saturday. He read *1000 Ties welcomes you, connecting our youth and this community one tie at a time*. Their mission statement is:

1000 Ties will enhance the quality of life for youth by teaching them skills they can use for a lifetime with the help of men from the community. Young men ages 10-19 in high poverty rate cities will earn these skills. They will develop their confidence so they can interview, network and break the cycle of generational poverty starting with something as simple as a tie.

He stated this has been one of his opportunities to reach out to youth and get in their ears about what it takes to be a man. He is not a perfect man but a good man and wants them to be good men as well. He stated that the city does a lot for youth and he looks forward to doing even more things throughout the community. He commented that he likes to stay engaged in what’s going on in the community with youth because these are their future leaders. Councilman Howard stated if they don’t show youth what’s right they are going to pick up their bad habits because they’ll think it’s normal. Adult men need to normalize wearing suits, dressing appropriately, keeping their pants up and listening to the right music in front of youth. They can create good memories that youth can walk away with. Lastly, he stated that he is looking forward to the Black History Program.

Law Department

Assistant Law Director Keisha Hughes had nothing to report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

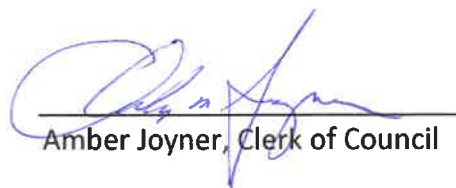
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Council President's Comments

Council President Stanley Anderson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He recognized the two residents from Ward 6 present, Ms. Ingram and Ms. Robinson. He asked that they talk to their neighbors and get some more Ward 6 people at the meetings. He congratulated Superintendent Jolly and Mr. Freeman for the work they have done in the community. He thanked Police Chief Haynes for responding to several calls from him last weekend. He commented that every time he reaches out to the department heads, he always gets a response. He stated he makes it a point to get along with all of the department heads despite not always agreeing with them on everything. He remarked that's life, you don't always agree on everything, it's all about business. He thanked everyone again for coming out.

Adjournment**Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman White****Adjournment at 7:48p.m.***03-02-2023*

APPROVED


Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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