



# CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

## Office of the Council

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 7, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bradley D. Sellers at 7:00p.m.

**Attendance:** 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: 6 Present**

**Motion to Excuse Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood by Councilwoman White and Seconded by Council President Anderson**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried**

**Prayer:** Councilman Walter Stewart

**Minutes:** February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting  
**Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Anderson**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 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:**

There were none.

---

**Order of the Day**

**1. Ord. 2023-023**

**MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

TO ACCEPT THE ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE NEW NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT APPLICABLE TO TEVA, ALLERGAN, CVS, WALGREENS AND WALMART, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilman Howard**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

**2. Ord. 2023-024****MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEMOLITION AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION (THE "LAND BANK") TO ALLOW THE LAND BANK TO PROCURE AND OVERSEE THE DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 23700 EMERY ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128 PPN 763-16-002, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Williams,  
Seconded by Councilman Howard**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**3. Ord. 2023-025****MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR CONVEYANCE WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION FOR THE SALE OF LAND LOCATED AT 19818 WICKFIELD AVENUE (PPN 761-02-035), 4385 INGLESIDE ROAD (PPN 762-01-051), 4393 GLENVIEW ROAD (PPN 762-01-125), 4512 PARKTON DRIVE (PPN 762-03-009) AND 24619 EMERY ROAD (PPN 763-03-018) IN WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Council President Anderson,  
Seconded by Councilman Williams**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Ord. 2023-026****MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THE 2022 ROLLOVER ENCUMBRANCES OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White,  
Seconded by Councilman Williams**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Res. 2023-008****MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE A SPONSORSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00 TO THE CUYAHOGA EAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HELP FOSTER AND PROMOTE BUSINESS GROWTH AND TO PROVIDE TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO CHAMBER MEMBERS IN THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS.

**Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams,  
Seconded by Councilman Howard**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

- 6. Res. 2023-009**      **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
 AMENDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-052 TO REFLECT THE CORRECT PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER OF 763-08-015 FOR THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION OF CLIFFORD AND KELLIE BROWN.  
**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilman Howard**  
**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

**Add-on:**

- 7. Res. 2023-010**      **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
 THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS IS STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS.  
**Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilman Howard**  
**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

---

**Announcements from Directors:**

**Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery** wished everyone a good evening. She reminded everyone there is a Spades Club at the Civic Center now for Warrensville Heights residents. She stated the brochure reads that it is on Tuesday evenings but it is actually Wednesday evenings. She would love for everyone to come. The club will meet from 4:30-7:30pm. with a fee of \$25 for the year. Director Lastery shared that on Thursday, March 16, 2023, they will be showing a film about Rosa Parks at 6:00p.m. All are welcome and this is in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Film Festival. Rosa did more than just refuse to give up her seat. Come find out what else Rosa did!

**Community Development – Manager Raymon Turner** wished everyone a good evening. He reminded everyone that this Thursday, March 9, 2023 there will be a Property Tax Seminar at the Civic Center with Director Lastery and the Halli Martin with the County Treasurer’s Office. They will explain your tax bill in detail and discussing evaluations of your property. He stated that it is concern for a lot of individuals. He shared other topics include available grants, paying on delinquent taxes and easy pay programs. There will be two sessions, one from 4-5p.m. and another from 6-7p.m.

**Mayor Sellers** added that the county is promoting this because there are questions from across the county about the evaluations. If you want to challenge the evaluation of your property, you have to file with the Board of Revisions by the end of the month. If not, you cannot challenge the evaluation of your house.

**Manager Turner** reported that they have done evaluations and once they have assessed your home, your property taxes can go up. Homeowners do have the right to appeal that as long as the reasoning for appealing is not because the property taxes went up. Halli Martin will be

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

discussing that issue as well so this is an opportunity if you believe your property was evaluated incorrectly.

**Police Department – Lieutenant Parris Johnson** reported that at 4:30p.m. this afternoon, an officer was on patrol and the ShotSpotter alerted him there was a stolen motor vehicle. The officer looked for the vehicle, located it and there was a small police pursuit. He shared that the vehicle tried to elude the officer and ended up running into a barber shop and through the barber shop onto Lee Rd. He reported that no one was seriously injured but there were one or two people that had minor injuries. Unfortunately, the driver of the vehicle <...inaudible.> He explained the witnesses inside the barbershop stated they did see the driver with a gun <...inaudible> hidden with an extended magazine he was carrying over his person as he exited the wrecked car.

**Mayor Sellers** stated the cameras that residents see on the streets are all part of the larger linked system across this county. Some cities opted to have them put in. He gave an example of if a vehicle is entered into the system, the camera will read the model and license plate number of the car if it passes by and that will alert the system. He stated the city gets a notification that the car is in the community and officers start looking for it. He reported that the driver that Lieutenant Johnson talked about was in a stolen car with stolen plates. Mayor Sellers stated that is just an example of what the cameras do. He thanked the officers for their diligence of chasing the driver down and it's fortunate that no one got hurt. He stated the investments they have made here are bearing some fruit.

**Announcements from Council:**

**Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell** wished everyone a good evening and thanked them for coming out. She shared that voting has dropped across the county and wanted to put a historical perspective on why it's important. She stated 110 years ago, the Women's Suffrage Movement took place for women to get the right to vote. There was only one group of African-American women who marched and they were probably put in the back with a chaperone. It took seven years after the march for the amendment to pass for women to get the right to vote in 1920. When we think about our history and <...inaudible> and encourage others to do the same. She shared 55 years ago, on what's called *Bloody Sunday*, 600 people tried to cross the Edmund Pettis Bridge from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights. Let's not let this happen again but take a note from history and move forward. She remarked that we know the state is trying to come up with very harsh ways for people to vote so they need to exercise their right.

**Councilman Walter Stewart** thanked everyone for coming out. He stated have a good night and stay safe.

**Councilwoman Elona C. White** stated it is always a pleasure to see everyone. She welcomed her grandson Brice to his first Council Meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

**Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr.** stated that his heart goes pitter-patter when seeing three elementary school-age children in attendance. He told them to tell their teachers that they need extra credit for doing their civic duty in attending a Council Meeting and have bragging rights among their classmates. He stated maybe some of their classmates may want to come out sometime. He stated he hoped to see them again soon.

**Councilman Matthew Howard** wished everyone a good evening. He stated that if they've checked their email recently, they've probably got something from the Census Bureau and today something else came. He encouraged residents to respond because it is mandatory. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that they be safe.

### Law Department

**Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley** had nothing to report.

### Council President's Comments

**Council President Stanley Anderson** corrected the time he stated during Caucus for the Wednesday, March 15, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting will be held at 11:00a.m. not 10:00a.m. He shared that in 2010 or 2011, he was going through the Board of Elections records just checking vote totals in the different communities. He reported in Ward 6B, there were only 36 people who voted. He stated it has gotten a little better. Council President Anderson remarked that this country is going in the wrong direction such as what's happening in Georgia with the State Legislature. He reported both the House and Senate okayed a bill and they're just waiting on the governor to sign. The bill allows the governor to remove any prosecutor or State Attorney General at his or her will. He commented that is too much power and he thinks it is directed at the prosecutor in Atlanta that is about to file charges against the former President. He stated voting is very important. He shared when he was in school in Mississippi, he had what is called Citizenship similar to Social Studies. It dealt with primarily the duties of a citizen even at that time it didn't apply to black people because they were totally segregated. He stated he has served on jury duty twice but he encounters so many people that run from it. It is jury *duty*; there duty as a citizen. He asked that they please register and vote.

### Mayor's Comments

**Mayor Bradley D. Sellers** thanked everyone for coming out. He recognized Janice Rox and Renee Strong from Planning Commission; Kenneth White and Edward Hicks from Civil Service Commission; and Ray Freeman from the School Board. He asked that Mr. Freeman provide an update on the schools.

**Mr. Freeman** reported that as of last week the athletic complex that will sit next to the old City Hall on Warrensville Ctr. Rd begin moving ground last Tuesday. They are making space for the baseball field right on the border by Highland Hills. He stated there will be two female softball fields right in front of the old police station driveway. All of that should be in by August 1, 2023.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

He stated the actual high school is done including all the exterior. They are currently doing some drywall and installing ceilings. He explained there are three levels of the high school and each grade level will have up to five or six classrooms. He reported the third level is done and Superintendent Jolly is probably going to put the seniors on that level. They are hoping to have the drywall of the levels completed by July 2023. He reported they will be demoing the old high school building and rec center by the end of June 2023. He stated that school will begin September 5, 2023. He stated if you drive down Warrensville Ctr. Rd., landscaping is being done for the new stadium with an artificial turf football stadium that will hold close to 1800 fans. The process is going well.

**Mayor Sellers** stated the School District purchased the Mount Zion Church building and are in the process of renovating for pre-k to grade 1 because they were overwhelmed by the amount of children that returned to the district. He reported that elementary school on Clarkwood Pkwy. will then go from grades 2-5; the middle school 6-8; and the high school 9-12. He reported the District is almost at 2000 students. He explained that when you get a property tax bill, don't assume that the bill is correct. He stated the county hired independent assessors for the properties. He stated what they handed to the county may not be correct. He stated it is incumbent upon the homeowner to check the county's work because they may have hired the wrong people to do the wrong job. He stated they have to say something by challenging it to the Board of Revisions in-person or online by the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month. He explained a person has to have a rationale for why a bill is not right and that can be done by establishing a comparable sale. He stated they can go online and check the value of their neighbor's house. They can see if the neighbor has a different evaluation and that can be the impetus for the discrepancy. He stated if a person says nothing, they lose the right after the 31<sup>st</sup> to claim that there's an error. He stated they all assume that the bill is correct and that's the wrong assumption. He stated if you have any neighbors that have any concerns, attend the seminar on March 9, 2023 at the Civic Center from 4-5p.m. or 6-7p.m. Please pass the word on.

---

### **Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman White**

**Adjournment at 7:34p.m.**

*03/31/2023*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPROVED

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart  
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.  
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**