



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 2, 2023

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

Attendance: Councilwoman Dorise Thomson-Hagwood, Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr., Councilwoman Elona C. White, Councilman Walter Stewart, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell and Councilman Matthew Howard
Roll Call: 6 Present

Motion to Excuse Council President Stanley Anderson by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Prayer: Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell

Minutes: April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 2 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:

Janice Rox, Ward 2 Resident thanked the Mayor, Civic & Senior Center Director Jennifer Lastery and their staffs for the wonderful Senior Luncheon held yesterday. She was happy that she attended and it was great seeing all her old neighbors again. She commented that she is on a social media app, Nextdoor and posted about the horrific accident involving the two Warrensville Heights police officers on the freeway after hearing the news from her daughter. Ms. Rox stated about an hour later she had 4.1k prayers for the officers from various communities. She stated she wanted to let Police Chief Haynes and everyone else know how touching that was.

Order of the Day

1. Ord. 2023-053

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO EXTEND THE MORATORIUM FOR THREE (3) ADDITIONAL MONTHS ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ZONING, OCCUPANCY AND/OR BUILDING

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PERMIT APPROVALS FOR SMALL BOX DISCOUNT STORES AND THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH APPROVALS IN THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Howard

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

2. Res. 2023-014

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE RICHMOND AND HARVARD ROAD STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR THE 2023 CUYAHOGA COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Williams

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

3. Res. 2023-015

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE GRANADA BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR THE 2022 CUYAHOGA COUNTY MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood

Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried

Announcements from Directors:

Police Department – Chief Wesley Haynes provided an update on the two officers that Ms. Rox spoke about. Officer Kalin Berry was inside the vehicle at the time of the accident and was released from the hospital the same day. He reported Sergeant Thomas Schanz was standing outside and was struck by the vehicle. Chief Haynes stated he and Mayor Sellers visited him at the hospital and he's doing well after having two surgeries. He reported as of Sunday, he is at a facility to try to get his strength back up. Chief Haynes commented on all the prayers and support the family received from the community. He shared that last Thursday, he and Mayor Sellers has a meeting with ODOT to discuss the concerns with I-480 West under the Warrensville Ctr. Road bridge because after it rains there is standing water. The standing water causes a lot of vehicles to hydroplane so they brought that to their attention for the second time. He reported the next day they had a crew out there surveying the drainage and pulling out stuff from the drain that was causing the water to stand. He stated ODOT may have to do more work but at least they got the ball rolling and hopefully the matter will be resolved soon. Chief

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Haynes commended the Fire Department as they were present when the incident occurred and it took them less than two minutes to get him on a gurney, in the truck and on the way to Metro Hospital.

<Applause>

Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood asked if drivers run into the standing water before they know it's there.

Mayor Sellers responded yes and at the meeting they determined they have a problem and cannot just send out the servicemen. They have to look at the way it's designed because things have changed. He stated they have to do routine maintenance there because there's nothing but debris, litter and sometimes they find tires that plug up the water and it has nowhere to run. If there's no routine schedule to keep it cleaned out, it's like a river. He asked Chief Haynes if he knows the amount of cars that have been wrecked out there.

Chief Haynes joked that he's sure Finance Director Howse knows the dollar amount since last year. He commented there have been six or seven cruisers struck in that area, even one of their new 2022 cruisers was totaled after being struck on the freeway.

Economic Development & Community Management – Director Nicole Harris wished everyone a good evening. She asked that everyone take a flyer on the lectern for a link to a survey concerning the Park & Greenspace Plan in the City of Warrensville. There have been discussions about what may come next when the John Dewey Elementary School building comes down this year. She stated there are hard copies of a survey for community input in the lobby and at the Civic & Senior Center if they don't have access to a computer or a phone to download it. The flyer with QR Code will also be posted on the city's website and Facebook page. She stated this is designed to be very engaging with the community and inclusive for everyone to get involved with the plans for the site. Surveys can be left with them and they will get them to the county.

Mayor Sellers added that the John Dewey Elementary School Building is closing at the end of the school year. He stated the city asked the School District if they'd like to participate together in a planning exercise with grant money from the county and they agreed. It is about planning for what potentially would happen after John Dewey is torn down in November. The city is looking at an opportunity to expand Green Road Park because they only have one gazebo and people arguing over the space and that they need more things to do. Mayor Sellers stated they wanted the community participate in the conversation and the first phase is online survey questions about what the residents' wants and likes are. He asked that attendees grab one of the flyers and complete the survey which Director Harris stated should take 3-5 minutes. He gave Director Harris a shout-out for leading the charge on this matter.

Building Department – Building Commissioner Ben Brown reported there is a new affidavit policy for rental registration. The new policy is that any time a person applies for a Point of Sale registration or any other general application the Building Department receives, s/he has to have an affidavit attached to it with a copy of a license, state ID or passport so they can identify the owner of the property. The affidavit must be notarized and fill out completely. It also applies if a person is applying for an

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extension of their violations an affidavit has to be included with the application. If they can identify someone, they can take them to court because there are a lot of really bad actors in the city.

Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery shared that the Senior Luncheon was wonderful and she is glad everyone was there. It was a great affair.

<Applause>

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Mitchell wished everyone a good evening. She commented that the Senior Luncheon was lovely and she especially liked the flowers for the residents; that was wonderful. She commented she was a little scared to surprise her Ward 2 honoree. Ms. Maggie stated she was 95 years old but that didn't stop her from coming to the front of the room. She stated it brought her joy to see Ms. Maggie acknowledged. She asked that everyone keep Council President Anderson and the family of Sam Stovall who has two children that graduated from Warrensville and was active with the Senior Club. He passed away on Friday and his sister-in-law told her that his son was trying to move back to *The Friendly City* but his new job didn't start until next month so he wasn't able to be here to see Mr. Stovall. She asked that they keep Sergeant Schanz in their thoughts and prayers. She commented that it is amazing that the Maker's Space at the Library is going to have a quilter. It is breathtaking what they will have an opportunity to do in their very own city library and the programs that will wrap around that. She commented that on June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into legislation another federal holiday, Juneteenth. She stated that as mentioned in the last work session, the city should raise a flag by the Municipal Center showing who they are. This is the most densely populated African-American city in the State of Ohio. She commented it took two years for people in the State of Texas to find out they were actually free. Celebrations began in 1865 but in 2021 people just started to become aware of this so at bare minimum they can raise a flag from the end of May to July. She stated many people don't believe the July 4th holiday is for a lot of people that look like us. She stated having the flag is a symbol that says that they stand and celebrate everyone.

Councilman Walter Stewart thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He sent thoughts and prayers for Council President Anderson and his family. He thanked God that they did not lose an officer during the highway accident. He asked that everyone please be safe and have a good evening.

Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood wished everyone a good evening and thanked them for coming out.

Councilwoman Elona C. White thanked everyone for coming out as it's always a pleasure to see them. She congratulated all seniors that were honored at the luncheon.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr. shared that he participated in a spring community meeting with Councilwoman White and Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood at the Civic & Senior Center and it was a

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wonderful event. He shared that Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood invited a couple from Streetsboro that lost their son due to sextortion. He took his own life. Councilman Williams shared that during the presentation you could hear a pen drop and feel the pain from the family. He shared the takeaway for him was as close as they were to their child, they did not pick up once over an extended amount of time what was going on because of the sextortion that was taking place. He asked that everyone check in with those that they love including friends and neighbors. He commented that the good that has come of it is they are making “their mess, their message” in educating others. He saluted Director Lastery and her crew as well as the other directors for the Senior Luncheon. He sent prayers to Council President Anderson.

Councilman Matthew Howard wished everyone a good evening. He hoped that everyone voted today for the operational levy for Police and Fire and the election for Judge. He shared the Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA) got together for their annual forum at Top Golf. It was a good time and they had members from several communities represented at the event. He encouraged all of his Council colleagues to continue to come to the NOCCA meetings and events. He thanked Mr. Edward Hicks for photographing the event and for his help to the organization. He stated the expansion of Green Road would not only benefit Ward 5 and the whole city but also the surrounding areas. He stated he can see a multitude of people coming to utilize the park. He encourage everyone to look at the survey because community input is important.

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley had nothing to report.

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He sent prayers and thoughts to Council President Stanley Anderson and his family at this time. He acknowledged Mr. White, Ms. Tullos and Mr. Hicks from the Civil Service Commission in attendance. He recognized Ray Freeman from the School Board and Ms. Rox and Ms. Strong from Planning Commission in attendance. He thanked Director Lastery and staff for a well put on event with an approximately 400 person turn out. Mayor Sellers asked Chief Haynes to provide an update on two nuisance properties in the city.

Chief Haynes reported there were multiple drive-by shootings and a homicide associated with one residence on Sunset Dr. The suspect for the homicide is in custody with the county and is awaiting court proceedings. The family that lives there has been a nuisance for over three years. Nuisance letters were issued to the property manager and property owner and the Department received responses. There are new property owners in California and he reported speaking to her numerous times last week. A notice to vacate was issued and if the tenants don’t vacate in 30 days, she is going to start the eviction process. He asked for Building Commissioner Brown to discuss the Donover Rd. residences.

Building Commissioner Brown stated there was a residence with a daycare and he has been in contact with the landlord/owner and they planned to go through the eviction process with the

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tenant. He stated he proceeded with a court summons because the property looked so bad and the hearing with Bedford Municipal Court is June 8, 2023. The Carlozzi property on Donover Rd. with the broken window has also been issued a summons with a court date of June 8, 2023 as well. The Department has all the documents in place and both parties have been properly served.

<Applause>

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman White

Adjournment at 7:37p.m.

05-16-2023

APPROVED



Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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