



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 19, 2019

Call to Order: Council President Mitchell at 7:00p.m.

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

Prayer: Councilman Matthew Howard

Minutes: March 5, 2019 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilwoman Edwards
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs

Departmental Reports: Council President Mitchell stated that everyone should have a copy of the Departmental Reports in their possession. She stated that if you have any questions to please reach out to the respective Directors.

Residents' Requests and Comments:

Carol Gregory stated she is in attendance to express her feelings and concerns of the Warrensville Heights Police Department. On January 21, 2019, she reported calling 911 for police assistance at her daughter's residence at 4335 Northfield, Apt. 102F due to an argument she was having with her daughter. Ms. Gregory stated that the argument led to her daughter hitting her, throwing objects at her and putting her belongings in the hallway of the apartment building. Ms. Gregory stated she left her own apartment over 5 months ago to babysit her granddaughter while her daughter worked. She stated she made the 911 call at 5:58p.m. and Warrensville Police arrived at approximately 6:05p.m. She stated upon walking into the building, the officers should have seen the rage of violence in her daughter. She remarked that she had just been discharged from the ICU at South Pointe Hospital days before the incident. Ms. Gregory stated when officers came into her daughter's apartment she was trying to catch her breath to leave as she suffers from COPD, Congestive Heart Failure, Hypertension and

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Diabetes. She added that in the past she has been in hospice after suffering 2 strokes. She stated she is currently preparing for surgery to have a stent put in her lung.

She reported that she filed a complaint with the Warrensville Heights Police Department on Officer Williams, Badge #22. She remarked that when Officer Williams and his partner entered the apartment, neither asked her if she needed medical attention. She recalled as she collected her breathing machine and other items found in the apartment, Officer Williams continually threatened to arrest her for no reason and speaking "very mean" toward her making her more emotional. She stated as she opened the refrigerator to get her insulin and water, she was told there was no time for her to separate any food. She responded to the officers that she needed her medications and anything else there since she had been away from her home for months. She commented that she observed her daughter taking her belongings as she existed the building but no longer wanted to argue with her because she was feeling weak. She stated as she proceeded out of the building, she held on to both sides of the doorway to maintain her balance while stepping on to the ice and snow. She recalled Office Williams shoving her in the back, forcing her out the door. She stated she asked him why he was pushing her as she was trying to maintain her balance and he threatened to arrest her again. She stated Officer Williams followed her to the parking lot as she walked to the vehicle of another daughter, Tiana. She recounted as she got into the truck and proceeded to close the door, Officer Williams slammed the door against her. She recalled opening the door to ask him what was his problem and he slammed the door again. She reported that she got on the phone and cried to a family member using the "b-word" and Officer Williams opened the door and yelled at her "Are you calling me the b-word?!" She stated he told her he was tired of her and if she did not hurry up and leave he was going to arrest her.

She stated the Police Department received her notarized complaint on February 7, 2019. She added that she filed documents with the department to press charges on her daughter as well. She commented that when she turned the paperwork in a Sergeant came out of the office, told her they will review her complaint and also review Officer Williams's body cam. Ms. Gregory stated they also took copies of her hospital papers, list of medications and read a text in her phone from her daughter apologizing to her that they instructed her to save. She stated she was told a detective would be getting in contact with her. She reported since filing her complaint on Officer Williams, she has called the Police Department to inquire about the status of her complaint. She stated she spoke with Sergeant Shearer and he told her she needs to speak with Sergeant Ledger, Officer Williams's Sergeant. Ms. Gregory remembered calling 2-3 weeks ago and she asked to speak with Sergeant Ledger and was asked her name which she provided. She stated she was transferred and a male answered the phone "Officer Williams. Who is this?" She recognized the voice as Officer Williams and heard him state "Sarge, telephone." She remarked after being on hold for several minutes, Sergeant Johnson took her call and told her she needs to speak with Chief Wesley Haynes. She reported she has called the Chief and left messages for him to contact her on his voicemail with no response. She stated

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she contacted the Clerk of Council, Ms. Amber expressing her complaint and the Clerk stated she will send an email to Chief Haynes to contact her; there was still no response. She recalled also leaving messages with Allison Moore of the Mayor's Office to contact her and there has been no response. She remarked the only person that has contacted her and shown concern is Councilman Walter Stewart. She remarked since this incident has occurred her health has been changing and her blood pressure continues to remain high from emotional stress for no one contacting her and having any concern of her complaint.

She stated she called 911 for help on January 21, 2019 and instead of help, she received emotional and verbal abuse from Officer Williams. She shared that she is now dealing with emotional abuse and stress because no one with an authoritative position in the City of Warrensville Heights has bothered to speak with her. She stated she feels they have swept her complaint under the rug and do not want it exposed. She stated she is at the meeting to let the City know she is pursuing this for justice and to stand up for residents and non-residents who encounter any abuse from Warrensville Police Department. She stated no one should be degraded by these men and women hired to protect the City. She disclosed that she has spoken to an attorney and the media regarding her complaint. She thanked Council for giving her the time to express herself.

Council President Mitchell thanked Ms. Gregory and asked if there was anyone with her at the meeting. Ms. Gregory replied that her cousin drove her to the meeting. Council President Mitchell asked if Ms. Gregory could stay to speak with Sergeant Turner after the meeting.

Councilman Stewart asked if he could speak. He stated that he would like to point out that Ms. Gregory called here twice on the day of our last Council meeting, March 5th looking for Chief Haynes and someone told her Chief Haynes was not here and that was a lie because he was here. He remarked that Ms. Gregory called our Council Clerk who sent an email to Chief Haynes and copied him because the incident took place in his Ward. He remarked that Chief Haynes did not have the decency to respond to Ms. Gregory's attempts to contact him. He stated that Ms. Gregory called crying to Allison Moore and did not get a return call from the Mayor's Office. Councilman Stewart stated that her family is very upset and he spent an hour with her pastor, a very prominent person and this is a problem that has to be addressed. He stated it has to be a transparent investigation and told Councilman Howard, Chairperson of the Safety Committee that we need a meeting to stay on top of this. He stated that Ms. Gregory has his support and he is sure she will get even more support.

Council President Mitchell thanked Ms. Gregory again and asked her to stay until the end of the meeting. She asked Ms. Gregory to breath and that we have this on record and are going to make sure that she has a meeting with Sergeant Turner.

Betty J. Williams Alexander remarked that she worked at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correction facility for 27 years. She reported working in corporate America and private industry for 24

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years, a total of 51 years. Ms. Alexander stated she and her husband saved their money for what they considered to be their dream house. She reported that 2 months before the house was completed, her husband died. She stated her house note was based on their retirement but Ryan Homes changed the figure. She stated she was not going to get the house because her husband passed away but they encouraged her to go ahead and told her she had enough income to pay the house note on her own. She reported that they promised her a tax abatement and that it would offset the assessment and that is not true. She reported that all of the money she had in her escrow is in a minus balance now and she is living from month to month trying to pay the tax increase on this tax assessment; it needs to be rescinded. She commented that Ryan Homes informed her that she did meet the requirements to make the monthly payments but did not include the increase with the assessment in the price of the house and that is what she is dealing with right now. She remarked that she lives on a fixed income and she will not get anymore money. She stated she does not see a future for her in Cinema Park in 15 years when the tax abatement expires and she is also paying the tax assessment and the house insurance; that leaves her with nothing. She stated she will be 75 years old on her next birthday and she purchased this home to be happy and she has not been happy in it. She remarked she will stay in the home until the sheriff comes and puts her out.

Council President Mitchell thanked Ms. Alexander. She asked for a show of hands of how many people are in attendance for similar concerns. She asked if there was a spokesperson who wants to add any more than what Ms. Alexander expressed.

William Page remarked when they moved into the community, they were told they would have a 75% tax abatement for 15 years so when he pulled the information on his property, he discovered it is "funny business with the math." Mr. Page began to provide his interpretation of the paperwork. He explained what Cinema Park residents got was a market value abatement and that is the value of the land and the property with a 65% discount to that which is a discount on the amount you have to tax and not the actual tax. He stated when everyone signed the paperwork, we understood that this assessment would be a tax. He reported looking up the definition of *special assessment* that is on the document and *special* means distinguished by some unusual quantity. He explained it is an *assessment* which is an action or an instance for making a judgment. He remarked so assessment means to assess something as part of a process so he does not understand how this assessment they have for the next 10 years is not a tax rather than an assessment. He commented that with an assessment, it would seem like it would only happen one time and be over. He asked how Cinema Park residents have a special assessment for the next 10 years which is \$35,000 per household and 82 households who have gotten this notice. He stated that if it has to do with city services and infrastructure, then the entire city should take care of this cost because everyone would benefit. Mr. Page stated if the infrastructure would not have existed before the community was built then why are we paying for something that is not special but a requirement. He stated the infrastructure was not right for half of us when we put in our lawn and it flooded so we had to incur the cost of redoing it. He stated that it is almost like Cinema Park residents are being

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taxed 3 times: the first is the 10% variance in this taxable value; the second is it is not assessing the abatement for taxes but playing funny business with the numbers; and the third is all Cinema Park residents are now in a position that has increased our mortgage by almost \$550 for some families. He stated he does not know about some peoples' finances, but most people in the community cannot afford-

Male Resident 1 interjected \$3000 every year!

Mr. Page chimed "Exactly!" He stated that is the concern of the Cinema Park residents and they are here for assistance since the tax and the assessment are coming from the City of Warrensville. He stated he expects some results in a relatively quick fashion because everyone who can help us with this problem except for the Mayor is in the room right now.

Council President Mitchell thanked Mr. Page, Ms. Williams Alexander and the rest of the residents of Cinema Park. She stated what there are items on the agenda to address but we want to ensure all concerns are thoroughly heard. She explained that Mr. Raymon Turner will meet with residents immediately following the meeting and we will document all of your concerns as he has more expertise in this area than we do as Council members. She added that based on the meeting with Mr. Turner if anything should come back then it will definitely be addressed.

Mr. Page thanked Council President Mitchell

Stan Appleton retorted that they "already talked to him!"

Female Resident 1 retorted "yeah, we talked to him!"

Mr. Appleton walked to the microphone as instructed by Council President Mitchell, identified himself and stated they already spoke to Mr. Turner 2 or 3 weeks ago. He stated that as far as Mr. Turner is concerned, the City has done all they can do for the residents. He shared that his house note is going up \$589 the first of next month. He remarked if everyone's house note is going up \$500.00 "ya'll are going to have a whole bunch of empty houses!" He stated residents are already dealing with the Home Owners Association and they went up another \$100 so they bit that because some people moved out. He commented that the Mayor has two houses in Cinema Park and inquired if he was paying the increase. He stated if he is having to incur \$500 more a month for the next 11 years he will "have to get 2 or 3 jobs and that ain't happening!" He shared that he has spoken to his neighbors and a lot of them are on a fixed income and others are retirees so they do not have more money. He explained they all moved up there and get along and are all attending this meeting so they can live together. He stated they all look out for each other and cannot afford another \$500 a month.

Councilman Hagwood asked if he means an additional \$500.

Several Residents answered in unison "yes, an additional \$500!" **Mr. Appleton** responded that his house note was \$1500 and next month it will be \$2000.

Councilman Hagwood asked if the residents were assessed an additional flat of \$500 or is there a-

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Several Residents interjected "\$3,000!" and shouted out other responses at the same time so they were inaudible.

Mr. Appleton answered \$3030 extra per year for the next 11 years and then in 2021 another \$180-something dollars then it goes up again and again. He stated that the abatement they get is in the last 3 years of our loan so some of us are not going to make it.

Female Resident 1 retorted "I won't!"

Council President Mitchell stated this is a lot of information to take in at this time and I know Mr. Turner probably has more knowledge about this than any of us.

Female Resident 2 interjected "He don't know!"

Male Resident 2 retorted "He ain't doing nothing!"

Council President Mitchell stated that what we can do at this time-

Mr. Appleton interrupted that he wanted to let Council know that they all are residents of Warrensville and moved to Cinema Park because they liked it, a lot of them get along and already knew each other.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked the other residents to be quiet so Mr. Appleton could be heard.

Mr. Appleton reiterated that they have a good community but they cannot afford the increase.

Council President Mitchell responded that because there is such a high volume of people, she is again asking that residents meet with Mr. Turner immediately following the meeting. She stated Council can then be informed of a lot of the details and logistics. She acknowledged Attorney Beasley to speak then but Mr. Appleton asked curtly if they can tell their mortgage company next month that they will get back to them like Council is telling residents.

Attorney Beasley clarified that Council President Mitchell is stating that we are listening to them but suggest that the two ladies waiting speak tonight because Cinema Park residents all have the same issue. She reiterated that we are hearing them and we will let Mr. Turner and possibly our Director of Finance address it. She stated the only thing she can say is, we will have to get back to you; we cannot make a decision tonight so that is the only option we are offering them. Mr. Appleton retorted that Council did not just find out about this matter today.

Council President Mitchell responded that Council did not know and Mr. Appleton questioned how many of them did not know.

Attorney Beasley asked again if we could hear the other two residents that are waiting to speak. She asked that Cinema Park residents give us an opportunity to respond as best as we can tonight with the information we receive. She explained that she is not sure of how the follow up will go because there are so many people in attendance tonight so if they could designate one point person or a few point people for the group to remain after the meeting to address concerns.

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Lanita Appleton stated she is the wife of the Stan Appleton who just spoke and wanted to voice her concern as well. She stated the residents are at a critical point and have to decide now if they are going to stay in the community or move. She declared she does not have to be treated like this and pay this amount of money to live off of Miles! She stated she does love her home and it is a great community but when the Mayor came to them to talk about this tax deferral, "all this \$3000 a year" was not discussed. She explained that there were meetings with the Mayor before they became residents while their homes were being built. She reported the Mayor is now saying we have to pay to have the streets repaired and things like that but in the initial meetings, the Mayor said those things would be included. She stated the City was to take care of those things once the last home was completed and "that came from the Mayor's mouth." She stated that they were required when moving in to put landscaping in and that was thousands of dollars we had not counted on and then we were directed how to place it. She remarked that is fine because it makes the neighborhood look good but then the HOA fees went up because some people pay and some people do not. She shared that the land was not completely graded on the homes that were built so they could not finish their landscaping and they were reprimanded for that. She expressed her dislike that Cinema Park residents have to pay an extra \$3000 a year for the infrastructure when it is the responsibility of all of Warrensville Heights so these monies need to be distributed throughout, not just their neighborhood. She reiterated that there are people up there that are now looking for places to move and others have already lost their homes. She reported that some people are trying to seek legal representation so it is "a mess" and something has to be done about it.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked if any statements were made to the residents about special assessments and how they would come about. Ms. Appleton responded that the tax deferral was supposed to offset the special assessment.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked if it is in the contract that the offset would take care of it and Ms. Appleton replied that is what they were told but it is not what has happened.

Councilwoman Hagwood stated she is asking if it is in the contract.

Mr. Page interjected that the contract says that they have a tax abatement.

Councilwoman Hagwood stated that she is talking about the special assessment.

Mr. Page retorted that in the purchase agreement it states there will be an assessment but the assessment is a tax so the tax should be abated. Ms. Appleton then stated they live next door to each other and are all neighbors.

Councilwoman Hagwood stated she was impressed and loves this City; she has been here for 43 years. She shared she recently saw one of her former parents-

Ms. Appleton interrupted by asking if her taxes went up \$3,000.

Mr. Page retorted "NO!"

Ms. Appleton stated she was not trying to be smart.

Councilwoman Hagwood responded that she said she has been here 43 years, so why would her taxes be going up for an assessment; she will not be assessed! She stated she is not trying to argue with Ms. Appleton but trying to get clarification. Ms. Appleton reiterated she was not trying to be smart but just asked a question. She explained that

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she just wants to know if this is going across the board or if it is just applies to Cinema Park residents.

Council President Mitchell called for order specifically addressing Ms. Appleton and Councilwoman Hagwood. She stated this is part of the reason why she wanted to stay after the meeting so we can go to conducting the business at hand.

Councilwoman Hagwood stated she just wanted to know about the tax assessment, how it came about and if residents were aware of it.

Council President Mitchell responded that is why it is important to stay after due to the logistics and all of the details that can be discussed after so we can go in to the agenda.

Councilwoman Hagwood confirmed she is not going to stay after but wanted to know- Ms. Appleton interrupted again stating she could not hear Councilwoman Hagwood and wanted to know what she was asking.

Mr. Page interjected to comment about the agreement.

Councilman Howard called POINT OF ORDER.

Councilman Stewart responded that he has his point.

Mr. Page still continued stating that in the contract there is a 15 year tax abatement and in the contract it states they we will be assessed a tax.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked of how much.

Mr. Page responded that it does not say how much but that there is a special tax assessment for the water improvements. He stated that there have been none; everything has remained the same. He asked with respect to the agenda, what does the process look like for residents regarding communication. He asked if we can use their City Council person as a point person and if she will be the liaison. He remarked that obviously there is something broken in the communication process since Council is unaware of such a big problem.

Council President Mitchell called POINT OF ORDER. She explained that to answer Mr. Page's question, you have to have someone in Administration hear the concern first before it comes to Council because we are the legislators. She reported there is a young lady who has been standing for quite some time to speak. She stated she does want to hear what she has to say.

Barb Sonnier reported that she took off to come to the meeting because her taxes went up \$3200. She reported that she was paying \$900 and has the tax abatement for Cleveland but paying \$3200 for the City of Warrensville. She stated she did not come for drama but took off of work because she is concerned about a paper she received with fees that are for sewer, grading and miscellaneous. She stated she has nothing against the grader because he came and she told him she needed to be in Parma by 6:00 and he came to her home 5:00; he is excellent and I wave to him every morning. She stated the problem that she brought up about a year ago are fees for curbing, taxing and sewer and "for \$1500 every 5 months, I could get a plow myself!" She stated they are plowing but her problem is it is not an itemized bill so when she called the County and the representative replied "I work for you all so you have to go to the City of

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Warrensville" so that is why she is here this evening. Ms. Sonnier stated that she needs to know the breakdown because some people have an increase of \$3000 but her paperwork has \$3200 and other residents have \$3500. She reported the house note went up and if you do not pay it, you are going in to foreclosure. Ms. Sonnier reiterated she just wants to know the breakdown because if it is the City of Warrensville, everyone should share the bill. She stated she needs to leave by 8:00p.m. but wanted to come here and stress her concerns because it is a City Council meeting.

Council President Mitchell thanked Ms. Sonnier for sharing and that she really appreciates her comments and the comments of the other residents but seeing the number of people, there are too many to address at this time. She stated that she wants to hear from Mr. Turner before we proceed.

Raymon Turner, Community Development Manager stated that he has spoken to quite a few of the residents in attendance on the phone. He explained that as he had stated then, the assessment was outlined in everyone's purchase agreement as well as their declaration. He stated the tax abatement at one point was a 12-year abatement then the city sought to increase it to 15 years to offset the assessment costs. He reported that your abatement is on your home not on the assessment and is based on your property value. He remarked that some people indicated that they have a sewer bill for \$70; he pays that as well as a Warrensville resident. He stated that they are paying the additional \$3000 because it is a new development. He stated if you go to the Chateaux of Emery Woods, they pay the same type of assessment because it is a new development.

Ms. Appleton interjected "we do not live there!" Mr. Turner responded that he knows that so he is going to pass around a tablet and instructed attendees to sign their name and he will try to address all their concerns but it was outlined in the purchase agreement. Mr. Turner shared that he started fielding phone calls regarding this because he was unaware so he pulled one of the agreements from an applicant that already submitted for a tax abatement and found the assessment was in there.

Mr. Page asked what does the process look like to address their concerns.

Council President Mitchell asked him to wait, stating this is not a conversation, it is a business meeting. She acknowledged Councilwoman Edwards to speak.

Councilwoman Edwards stated that she thinks everyone is here for a reason and that their concerns need to be addressed properly but this is not the format. She stated Council have heard their concerns and what needs to happen next is scheduling a meeting with the Mayor and the Economic Development Department so they can look at the contracts, go in to the details and find out what was said and what you signed off on so we can get to the bottom of it. She stated it is hard to address the concerns without looking at an actual document and being able to interpret the contracts. She asked that Mr. Turner come up with a date and get back to the individuals.

Council President Mitchell stated we can do that immediately following this meeting.

Councilwoman Edwards added if we can get someone from your organization to meet

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with Mr. Turner we can get a date and actually go through the details of the contracts; we have to get to the bottom of it.

Mr. Turner requested that residents write their email addresses down if they have one.

Council President Mitchell asked if there is another resident that has anything that has not been previously mentioned to share and asked if that person can please come forward to the microphone.

Francine Wahome 19606 Harvard Avenue. She stated that her voice can carry and Council President replied that she has to come to the microphone because the meeting is being recorded. Ms. Wahome reported since the weather is now changing children are roaming in the playground and going down the street. She asked if they are in the playground too long or loitering on that empty lot next door, can she call the police. **Sergeant Turner** replied that she can feel free to call if she observes any sort of suspicious activity.

Lee Hatcher stated there is a vacant house next to him, 19505 Sunset Drive and it is falling apart. He commented that he would like the city to get a head start on that before it starts getting hot because he is afraid of the stragglers that may start to vandalize the place. He remarked that he does not want to end up in jail or have a family member hurt because someone decides to make a residence out of the place. He reported that he noticed a complaint sign on it today but he is concerned about that house. He stated he would like to know what is the next step regarding that property.

Council President Mitchell thanked him.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked if she could address Mr. Hatcher as a Ward 1 resident and Council President Mitchell responded yes. Councilwoman Hagwood thanked Mr. Hatcher for keeping his word in coming and shared that they have spoken more than once about the property next door to him. She stated she called him twice leaving a message and sent an email. She stated if it is okay she would like to ask Mr. Brown to respond to the action that they promptly took.

Ben Brown, Building Commissioner reported that when he received the call last Friday from Councilwoman Hagwood, he went out to the property and did a complete inspection of the property, issuing a 30 notice orange placard. Mr. Brown shared that the owner of the property has 30 days to comply with the violation(s). He reported that the owner resides in Seattle, Washington and he has an agent in Akron so they were both served and if they do not comply they will receive a court summons.

Mr. Hatcher asked what if they do not follow up and Mr. Brown responded that a court summons is issued and he has declared the property a nuisance so the worst case scenario is the city can pursue demolition. Mr. Brown reported that the entire process can take up to a year.

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Attorney Beasley announced that the Mayor can meet with the Cinema Park residents on Monday, March 25th at 6:30p.m.

Mr. Turner repeated Monday at 6:30p.m. and stated the meeting will be in Council Chambers.

Council President Mitchell reiterated that the Cinema Park residents will have a meeting on Monday at 6:30p.m. in Council Chambers with the Mayor and any other designated Administrators that can assist. She asked are there any other questions or concerns because we are here to know what is going on.

Curtis Blockson announced that he was just awarded as an inductee to the Basketball Hall of Fame in Detroit, Michigan. He stated that it is not about basketball but what he has done in Warrensville Heights because he grew up here. He stated he either knows you, knows your grandparents or helped raised you. He explained that is what he tells the children that he deals with everyday. He remarked that he knows most of the police officers, the Mayor who he raised and Ms. White and her son. He also stated that he won a State Championship, holding up his hand stating that the ring is right here so he is not lying. He stated he wants to thank those that made this happen for him like School Board Vice President Mr. Ray Freeman, Mr. Raymon Turner and everyone else. He added if you get a chance come down to Detroit and enjoy some things. He commented that they said he can bring as many guests as he would like because it is on them!

<<Applause>>

Council President Mitchell announced that the ceremony is at the Charles Wright African-American Museum on September 22nd.

Mr. Blockson thanked everyone.

<<Applause>>

Order of the Day:

The Council requested to suspend the rules by unanimous consent.

The Motion:

The members of City Council requested to suspend the rules by unanimous consent which was read by Attorney Beasley.

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

Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

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- 1. Ord. 2019-031** **Councilman Matthew Howard (As Planning Commission Chair)**
Accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the application of Paul Gallagher of Fastsigns of Lyndhurst, representing Cipriani Property Company, Ltd., for the replacement of four (4) panels on an existing pole sign for a Diva's Dream Salon and Sister Hair Braiding located at 23018-23072 Emery Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio, 44128, PPN 763-15-024.
- 2. Ord. 2019-032** **Mayor Bradley D. Sellers**
Adopting a revised Credit Card Policy for the City of Warrensville Heights, and declaring an emergency.
- 3. Ord. 2019-033** **Mayor Bradley D. Sellers**
Amending certain sections of Chapter 752 Donation Bins of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Warrensville Heights in order to revise the rules and guidelines for donation bins located in the City of Warrensville Heights.
- 4. Ord. 2019-034** **Mayor Bradley D. Sellers**
Establishing the permit application and renewal application fees for donation bins, and declaring an emergency.
- 5. Ord. 2019-035** **Mayor Bradley D. Sellers**
Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Thorson Baker & Associates to provide engineering services to assist the City of Warrensville Heights with various phases of the construction process involving the Warrensville Heights City School District, and declaring an emergency.
- 6. Ord. 2019-036** **Mayor Bradley D. Sellers**
An Ordinance appropriating funds necessary to meet the expenditures for the operations and functions of the City of Warrensville Heights for the fiscal year 2019, and declaring an emergency.
- 7. Ord. 2019-037** **Councilman Stanley Anderson (as Personnel Committee Chair)**
Amending Chapter 131 Mayor of the Warrensville Heights Codified Ordinances in order to create the position of Information Technology Manager, and declaring an emergency.
- 8. Ord. 2019-038** **Councilman Stanley Anderson (as Personnel Committee Chair)**

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Amending Ordinance Number 2019-018 in order to add a salary range for the position of Information Technology Manager of the City of Warrensville Heights, and declaring an emergency.

9. Res. 2019-012 Mayor Bradley D. Sellers
Authorizing the Administration to apply for, and accept if awarded, a \$1,500.00 sponsorship award through the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for the City of Warrensville Heights' 2019 Summer Festival, and declaring an emergency.

10. Res. 2019-013 Mayor Bradley D. Sellers
Authorizing the Mayor to approve the Community Reinvestment Area Residential Tax Abatement application of Keisha Pollard for 15172 O'Neal Point, located in Cinema Cark, Permanent Parcel Number 762-08-028, pursuant to Chapter 3735 of the Ohio revised code.

Announcements from the Directors:

Fire Department – Chief Waugh greeted everyone and announced there is a statewide Tornado Alert tomorrow morning so residents may hear the siren and to not be alarmed because it is only a test. Also, he applauded the efforts of Mr. Freeman and other members of the School Board after attending the Advisory Board meeting for the Fire Academy at the high school.

Economic Development – Manager Raymon Turner had nothing to report.

Personnel Department – Director Nicole Johnson greeted everyone and stated that the department is still accepting applications for the Summer Program for Warrensville Heights students 9-12th grade until April 5th and information can be found on the website. She added that there are two roles now available for seasonal help that are on the website as well.

Chief of Staff – Kelli Wilson had nothing additional to report.

Communications/Activities Department – Director June Scharf greeted everyone and stated that the State of the City event is April 17th at Corporate College and she hoped to see everyone there. She reported that the City Magazine should be in mailboxes by April 1st and to let the department know if they are not because they are working with a new printer that handles the mailing.

Building Department – Commissioner Ben Brown had nothing to report.

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Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**

Service Department – Director Ted Sims had nothing to report.

Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery had nothing to report.

Strategic Initiatives – Director Carletta Fellows thanked everyone for coming out and stated that she had information to report but will discuss it at the next meeting.

Finance Department – Director Karen Howse announced that she is happy to report the City was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from GFOA Organization for the 12th consecutive year for good financial reporting.

<<Applause>>

She acknowledged the former Finance Director, Rubin Moultrie who was so kind to stay on through her transition to help with the audit.

Council President Mitchell asked Ray Freeman, School Board Vice President if he has any updates to share regarding the School District, especially since Chief Waugh mentioned the Fire Academy.

Ray Freeman shared that the 2019 Graduation will be May 19, 2019 on the Football Field. He reported that Project Phase I with the Pre-K to 5 school is still taking place and they are trying to set a time in May to break ground. He reported they do have an event Saturday, May 25th, where they will be cutting a ribbon at the old Randallwood Elementary School and then actually lay the foundation. He stated the school is projected to be completed by September 2020 so the scholars will go into the new building in Fall 2020. He stated Project Phase II is for the middle and high school and they are looking to break ground at the end of this year or early 2020. He stated the buildings will be done with a brand new middle school, high school, football field, track and an AAU gym by 2021.

Council President Mitchell thanked Mr. Freeman.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Edwards thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns because they are important to Council. She stated she looks forward to attending the meeting on Monday so she can figure out the best course of action for Cinema Park residents.

Councilman Stewart thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns. He stated that Council works for the residents, the residents do not work for Council. He stated that residents have the right to confront any of us if they are not happy about a situation or a situation has changed. He commended Ms. Gregory because no one really knows what she has been through since January but justice is going to prevail and he promised her that.

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Councilwoman Hagwood wished everyone a good evening and stated she wants to explain to those residents that are still here that knowledge results in clarity but most of all an understanding and that is the reason why she asks her questions. She stated there are only two answers to a question: yes or no. She stated before we can make those assessments we need to get clarification. She explained that was her reason for interjecting her questions. She acknowledged and thanked the Directors that were respectful enough to respond to her email regarding the Ward 1 and Ward 3 Spring Meeting. She stated the award goes to Ben Brown because it is as if he is waiting for her to email him because he responds immediately. She asked the Directors to let her know as soon as possible if they can attend because she and Councilwoman White have special guests coming that they will be pleased to meet and for the Councilwomen to have an opportunity to introduce you as a Director and speak to the community. She asked Mr. Freeman, who is on the ballot this year, if he is going to show up. Mr. Freeman replied that he always shows up and will be there. She announced the date is April 18th at 6:30p.m. at the Civic Center. She remarked that once you attend the Ward 1 and Ward 3 Community Meeting, you will never miss it.

Councilman Howard acknowledged that it was a very emotionally charged meeting and that he has an undeniable love for his people, community and constituents; he felt the pain from the Cinema Park residents and the woman that spoke of the incident with one of our officers. He reassured everyone that the situations will be addressed but it is a process; no solution will happen tonight and may not happen by the end of the month but rest assured it is going to get addressed as soon as possible. He stated nobody wants to see a brand new development go empty.

<<Applause>>

He stated that if we do not address it that is what we can expect to happen. He stated he appreciates everyone coming out this evening and wish we had more time to find out what was going on in the hearts and minds of all attendees but we heard enough to know we have to move forward and give you as much support as we possibly can.

Councilman Anderson had nothing to report.

Councilwoman White wished everyone good evening and stated it is a pleasure to see them. She confirmed that we will address the concerns in Cinema Park because it is important for them to look at the paperwork and see what was in the contracts before we can make any statements or comments regarding them. She congratulated Coach Blockson and commented that the most important part of all that coaching is to develop our young black men. She stated she has seen so many of the young men he has coached over the years and they have turned out to be amazing. She recalled when Warrensville won the Championship in 2000, the whole City was charged! She stated he deserves all that praise.

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<<Applause>>

Law Director Teresa Beasley had nothing additional to report.

Council President Mitchell announced that our Law Director, Teresa Beasley is now a law partner at McDonald Hopkins. She stated that she is the lead of a new department at the firm, Public Law. She reported that Ms. Beasley made partner at her last law firm in less than 7 years and walked in the door as partner in this law firm which is awesome! She stated there are a lot of things that happen to people and having someone of this ilk with us is really helpful in our community as there are many concerns we will not know about until you bring them to us. She thanked everyone for sharing their concerns and gave kudos again to Mr. Blockson. She announced the Ward 2 Community Meeting will be on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 11:00a.m-12:00p.m. at Eastwood Elementary School and there will be refreshments. Lastly, she thanked Ms. Wahome and Mr. Hatcher for their comments.

Adjournment at 8:04p.m.

4-2-2019
APPROVED


Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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