



**CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS
Office of the Council**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2019

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

Attendance: Councilwoman Hagwood, Councilwoman White, Councilman Stewart, Councilman Howard, Councilman Anderson and Council President Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Present

**Motion to Excuse Councilwoman Edwards by Councilwoman White,
Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried**

Prayer: Council President Andrea Mitchell

Minutes: October 1, 2019 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Mitchell
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried

Departmental Reports: Mayor Sellers stated that Council should have a copy of the Departmental Reports in their possession. He stated that if they have 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:

Deborah Hill expressed gratitude to the City, the Mayor and Mr. DuVal for the vision for the mini park with the collaboration of South Pointe Hospital. She stated that nothing is as vital as having a healthy community.

<<Applause>>

Mayor Sellers informed attendees that the City was awarded a grant from Cuyahoga County to revitalize the area known as Eastwood Park. He stated that it will become an exercise park that can be used by the entire community. He reported it was based a collaboration with Ward 1, 2, South Pointe Hospital and the Brentwood Foundation. He reported that Groundbreaking was this morning and the area will be landscaped with new benches and exercise equipment. He

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thanked Ms. Hill for her presence at the Groundbreaking. He also thanked Economic Development Director Jerome DuVal and Community Development Director Raymon Turner for their efforts to keep pursuing the renovation.

Francine Wahome asked Police Chief Haynes what can women in the community do to protect themselves because she does not want anything to happen to them like what happened in Texas. She stated she had a meeting with other single women that they are widows and live alone. She commented that she is also concerned about young males she talks with in the schools that have been exposed to violence. She stated she does not want them to get in trouble with the law or be in the graveyard. She asked what can be done to help people and bring awareness to these issues.

Chief Haynes replied that a meeting can be had with the seniors and other women that live alone to discuss strategies or best practices to keep themselves safe. He stated the City has a good working relationship with the School Board and keep each other informed of all incidents that occur. He reported that there are programs that the police officers participate in with students such as Dr. Seuss Day.

Elizabeth Benson stated that she has lived in Warrensville for 40 years. She commented that she is extremely dissatisfied with her current situation. She reported that she lives next to a bar on Felch Street and when she initially moved into her home it was owned by a gentleman named Sully. She stated she did not have any complaints with the bar and all the patrons were courteous. She reported in the past two years, she is not being considered and cannot rest in her own home. She reported there is a party going on twice a week at the establishment and she cannot get any sleep. Ms. Benson stated she is 82 years old, these are her retirement years and she thought they were going to be peaceful but are not.

Mayor Sellers responded that the bar was originally called *In The Woods* and was on the street before the houses were built on it. He reported that it was always a quiet bar then it was bought by a former police officer, Sully. He stated Sully used it as a quiet, local bar. He stated that at some point Sully sold the bar to a fraternity organization. He reported we now have a dynamic that always has to be managed.

Chief Haynes reported that the City has had a couple incidents with The Kappa Compound and they have been cited one time. He reported they have been respectful in their response to complaints in the past. He informed her if she is having problems with the noise, she can contact them in the morning.

Building Commissioner Ben Brown reported that he was recently at the property following up on some outstanding violations.

Mayor Sellers commented that he understands Ms. Benson's concern about the noise. He stated that there is nothing he can do about the body flow of the place because it has standing. He stated the City does have ordinances for noise elevation so we have to dig deeper to find out what is going on.

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Evelyn Spears stated she lives at Green and Felch and has been on a three-way call with Ms. Benson when calling The Kappa Kompound about the noise. Ms. Spears stated that there is a problem with the smoke from whatever they are burning for firewood. She reported finding litter such as food containers in the street. She asked if there is a conflict of interest with the City and The Kappa Kompound.

Mayor Sellers responded that there is not conflict for the City because no one here is a Kappa.

Ms. Spears stated that we just want to be able to rest in our homes because Ms. Benson is too old to move away. She reported that patrons are standing out in the street at 2:30a.m.-2:45a.m. talking loudly.

Mayor Sellers stated the applicant came before Planning Commission about usage and the applicants had a zoning occupancy that allowed them to have that kind of facility there. I do not have an answer for you today but we will have to find out what it is.

Councilman Anderson reported that he was at the property last week and spoke to the gentleman that runs it. He stated the owner is in the process of cleaning up the place and he informed him that he had several complaints. Councilman Anderson reported that the owner said he would be vigilant to ensure that customers will not block peoples' driveways and that litter is cleaned from the street. He stated he has explained to residents on Felch Street that the bar was there first and zoning wise, there is nothing we can do.

Order of the Day:

- 1. Ord. 2019-132 MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT KYLE WITCZAK TO THE POSITION OF FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Council President Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Fire Chief Waugh wished everyone a good evening. He announced the Fire Department will be hiring Kyle Witczak and called him to stand up in front of everyone. He reported that Mr. Witczak has 10 years of experience with the Chagrin Falls Fire Department and his Chief Mark Vedder is here to see him sworn in today. He stated that Chief Vedder is the husband of our Warrensville Heights Fire Department Captain Ellita Vedder. He reported that Mr. Witczak is a firefighter, paramedic and has worked ten years as a registered nurse with the Emergency Room at Metro Hospital.

<<Applause>>

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Mr. Wiczak introduced his mother, wife Brittany, her parents Russ and Rose, his sister-in-law and his father. He thanked everyone for coming and stated he cannot wait to serve the City of Warrensville Heights and provide good care.

<<Applause>>

Swearing In of Firefighter Kyle Wiczak

<<Applause>>

He thanked everyone for being in attendance. He stated he will use his experience and skills to help keep the public safe and serve the residents of Warrensville Heights.

<<Applause>>

- 2. Ord. 2019-133** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION OF JEFFREY PLAUTZ OF NEFF & ASSOCIATES, REPRESENTING DEMYAK PROPERTIES, LLC, FOR A VARIANCE TO MAINTAIN A TRAILER ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 21206 AND 21122 AURORA ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPS 726-28-009 AND 726-28-010.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

- 3. Res. 2019-043** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS THROUGH ITS RESIDENTS AGE 50 YEARS AND OLDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 MIND CHALLENGE FOR THE NEW MAJORITY TRIVIA TOURNAMENT AND FOR THE CITY TO ACCEPT CASH PRIZES OF UP TO \$3,000.00.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Council President Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

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Add-On

4. Ord. 2019-134 MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT FOR THE SHURMER REAR YARD CATCH BASIN REPAIR PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Howard, Seconded by Council President Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Motion to move Regular City Council Meeting from Tuesday, November 5, 2019 (Election Day) to Monday, November 4, 2019
Motioned by Councilman Howard, Passage by Councilman Anderson, Seconded by Council President Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Announcements from the Directors:

Fire Department – Chief Herb Waugh thanked the Mayor and Council for the hiring of another firefighter which gives them nine per shift, 29 total including himself and Captain Vedder. He reported that over the past two years, six firefighters have been hired and it is refreshing to have new people in the Department. He announced the Fire Department received a \$140,000 grant so they have their CBAs (Self-contained Breathing Apparatuses) with 5% matching. He reported that the County has also offered to help pay the matching part of the grant so we will be at 100%.

<<Applause>>

Economic Development – Director Jerome DuVal had nothing to report this evening.

Personnel Department – Director Nicole Johnson had nothing to report this evening.

Chief of Staff - Kelli Wilson wished everyone a good evening. She reported that Trunk or Treat is on October 29, 2019 in the Ohio University Medical School next to South Pointe Hospital parking lot from 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. She instructed anyone interested in decorating their truck and participating to contact her.

Police Department – Chief Wes Haynes thanked Ms. Benson and Ms. Spears for bringing the concerns with the Kappa Compound to his attention. He stated he will follow up on the matter and find a resolution for it.

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Building Department – Commissioner Ben Brown announced that the Department will be completing the Exterior Maintenance Property Program this week on Miles Road, Annette Street, Hathaway Lane and Halifax Road.

Service Department – Director Ted Sims had nothing to report.

Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery wished everyone a good evening. She thanked Council and the Mayor for approving Res. 2019-043 for the senior mind challenge game. She stated she anticipates a lot of participation because it is for people 50 years and over. Ms. Lastery stated we need your brains and you wit so we can win and bring \$3,000 to the City so call the Civic & Senior Center to sign up. She announced there will be a Caribbean evening on November 1, 2019 with the band, The Chosen Few, learning to salsa with Candace Wilson and good, Caribbean food. She stated the event is from 6:30p.m.-10:00p.m. and is \$20 per person. She reported the Medicare Open Enrollment starts today, October 15th- December 7th. She stated if assistance is needed, there is an organization that helps and the Center can set up a meeting to ensure seniors are making the right choices.

Strategic Initiatives – Director Carletta Fellow announced the second installment on how to start and sustain a business. She reported there will be three workshops in Warrensville Heights at the library. She stated that first one will be held on October 30th, *How to Start and Sustain a Business*; November 13th, *Getting Credit Ready* for personal and business; and December 4th, *Funding for Your Business*. She encouraged people to come out for the information and stated the workshops are facilitated by The Urban League of Greater Cleveland. She announced there will be a Q&A event on *A Discussion on Preventing Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault* held at Warrensville Library on October 22nd. Lastly, she shared there will be a one act play by Warrensville teens that will address the issues of Domestic Violence on Sunday October 20th from 2-4p.m. at the library.

Finance Director – Karen Howse reported the budgets for 2020 were submitted on October 11th and we have received a refund from the Workers Bureau of Compensation for \$90,400.

Announcements from Council:

Councilman Stewart stated it is good seeing everyone this evening and thanked all for attending.

Councilwoman Hagwood thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Councilman Howard thanked everyone for coming out and acknowledged the President and Vice-President of the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association in attendance, Joannie Cooper and Phyllis Tullos. He commented they are doing an excellent job and always looks forward to meeting with them. He announced that the next meeting will be October 24th at 7:00p.m. at the

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Senior & Civic Center. He thanked everyone for the passage of Item 4 and commented it is much needed.

Councilman Anderson thanked everyone for coming out, particularly Ward 6 residents. He encouraged his constituents to give him call anytime they have a concern.

Councilwoman White stated it is a pleasure to see each and every one in attendance. She congratulated Firefighter Witczak and welcomed him to the *The Friendly City*

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Beasley reported that she had nothing to report.

Council President's Comments

Council President thanked all the speakers: Ms. Hill, Ms. Wahome, Ms. Benson and Ms. Spears for their comments and let them know they have an audience that cares. She congratulated the Fire Department on how they are doing "amazing things." She thanked the Finance Department for keeping the "dollars and coins in order." She shared a Shirley Chisholm quote "The one thing you've got going is your one vote." She stated Ms. Chisholm became the first African-American woman in Congress and first to run for President. She encouraged everyone to vote and offered to take absentee ballots to the Board of Elections for any resident. She wished everyone a wonderful evening.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sellers thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Firefighter Witczak for joining the City. He recognized those in attendance from Commissions and Board: Ms. Rudolph, Ms. White and Ms. Tullos from Civil Service Commission; Earl Darren Roberts from the Board of Zoning & Appeals; Renee Strong and Janice Rox from Planning Commission; and Deborah Hill from Records Commission. He encouraged residents to attend Trunk or Treat. He stated the new voting location is in the recreation portion of the high school where the pool is. Lastly, he reiterated to Ms. Benson that he heard her and they will do the leg work to figure out how to help her. He announced that the State of the Schools is October 22nd at South Pointe Hospital.

Adjournment at 7:57 p.m.

11-4-2019

APPROVED



Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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