

VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 5/7/24

Mayor Elkins called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Roll Call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran were present.

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Solicitor Vince Ruffa, Police Chief John Majoy, Fire Chief Brian Higginbotham, Building Commissioner Nick Bellas, and Village Engineer Jim Sickels

All stood for Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Elkins requested all cell phones and pagers be placed on silent mode.

Good and Welfare:

Mayor Elkins asked for a moment of silence for condolences to the Perez family.

Presentation of 2024 Miss Poppy, Vivian Fortuna, and Master Poppy, Daniel Fortuna, from American Legion Post 627. Mayor Elkins read a related proclamation for Poppy Day.

Mrs. Graora performed the ceremonial swearing-in of Darien Tillett as patrol officer for Newburgh Heights Police Department.

Recognition of Mackenzie Welsh for outstanding volunteerism.

Mrs. Graora motioned to enter Executive Session. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Executive Session began at 6:22 PM.

Discussion of personnel issues (to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official), and pending/potential litigation.

Mrs. Graora motioned to exit executive session. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Regular Session resumed at 7:00 PM.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:

February 24, 2024 Special Session of Council
 March 18, 2024 Special Session of Council
 April 2, 2024 Regular Session of Council

Mrs. Graora motioned to approve the minutes presented. Mrs. Kray seconded. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 2024-24

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
 ALL OF COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023-38 ACCEPTING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) EMA FIRST RESPONDER RETENTION INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE STATE OF OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CERTAIN GRANT AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-24, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2024-24 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2024-24 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2024-25

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LETTER AGREEMENT WITH PARTNERS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING SERVICES FOR BERT AVENUE LANDFILL POST CLOSURE MONITORING – YEAR 25, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,120.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-25, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2024-25 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran

voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2024-25 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2024-26

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FIRE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO A LETTER AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS FOR THE TEMPORARY USE OF AN ENGINE/PUMPER AND AN AMBULANCE/SQUAD IN THE EVENT THAT ANY OF THE VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES ARE OUT OF SERVICE OR ARE UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-26, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2024-26 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2024-26 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2024-27

INTRODUCED BY: ALL OF COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 727 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Kray noted that she was not aware of this legislation and would prefer not to be listed in "introduced by."

Mrs. Kray motioned to refer Ordinance 2024-27 to the standards, policies, and rules committee for further consideration. Mr. Moran seconded. Mrs. Graora, Mrs. Kray, and Mr. Moran voted in favor via verbal confirmation, Mr. Dunman and Ms. Giersz opposed. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2024-27 is placed on 1st reading and referred to the standards, policies, and rules committee.

ORDINANCE 2024-28**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL****AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-22 RELATING TO THE PAY,
REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS OF POLICE PERSONNEL, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-28, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2024-28 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2024-28 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-10**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL PAYROLL WITH A
CHECK DATE OF 4/12/24 TO DISBURSE ARPA FIRST RESPONDER
INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-10, rules suspended, and that Resolution 24-10 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-10 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-11**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL PAYROLL WITH A
CHECK DATE OF 4/26/24 TO DISBURSE ARPA OHIO AMBULANCE
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-11, rules suspended, and that Resolution 24-11 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran

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voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-11 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-12

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY
COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM
(2024 NEC GRANT(S)) IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-12, rules suspended, and that Resolution 24-12 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-12 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-13

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S 9-1-1 PLAN
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-13, rules suspended, and that Resolution 24-13 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-13 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-14**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL****A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MAYORAL REPRESENTATIVE
ON 9-1-1 PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-14, rules suspended, and that Resolution 24-14 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-14 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-15**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
AND JOSEPH MILANO FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSULTING SERVICES
IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-15, rules suspended and that Resolution 24-15 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-15 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-16**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PLACE CERTAIN
EQUIPMENT UP FOR SALE ON THE GOVDEALS AUCTION WEBSITE, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-16, rules suspended and that Resolution 24-16 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran

seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-16 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-17

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 13-41 REGARDING THE
MAINTAIN TO OWN SIDE LOT PROGRAM FOR THE VILLAGE'S
LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-17, rules suspended and that Resolution 24-17 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-17 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-18

**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAINTAINING A CERTIFIED
BUILDING DEPARTMENT IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
AND URGING THE OHIO BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS TO
ALLOW THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS TO CONTINUE
MAINTAINING A CERTIFIED BUILDING DEPARTMENT
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-18, rules suspended and that Resolution 24-18 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-18 is adopted.

RESOLUTION 24-19**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS AND
ALL OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAINTAINING A CERTIFIED
BUILDING DEPARTMENT IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
AND URGING THE OHIO BOARD OF BUILDING STANDARDS TO
ALLOW THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS TO CONTINUE
MAINTAINING A CERTIFIED BUILDING DEPARTMENT
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 24-19, rules suspended and that Resolution 24-19 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 24-19 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4615**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL****MARCH 2024 DISBURSEMENTS**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PAYMENT OF
CERTAIN BILLS. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE
OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS OF OHIO THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS BE
PAID AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND THE FISCAL
OFFICER AND MAYOR ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY AUTHORIZED TO
DRAW THEIR WARRANTS AND CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF SAID BILLS
AS SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT
OF \$447,598.85 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4615, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4615 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4615 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4616**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL****EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 3/30/2024****PD. 4/5/2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS OF OHIO THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS BE PAID AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND THE FISCAL OFFICER AND MAYOR ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY AUTHORIZED TO DRAW THEIR WARRANTS AND CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF SAID BILLS AS SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$70,645.25 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4616, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4616 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4616 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4617**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL****EMPLOYEE PAYROLL FIRE DEPT ARPA****PD. 4/12/2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS OF OHIO THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS BE PAID AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND THE FISCAL OFFICER AND MAYOR ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY AUTHORIZED TO DRAW THEIR WARRANTS AND CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF SAID BILLS AS SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$42,700.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4617, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4617 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4617 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4618**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL****EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 4/13/2024****PD. 4/19/2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS OF OHIO THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS BE PAID AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND THE FISCAL OFFICER AND MAYOR ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY AUTHORIZED TO DRAW THEIR WARRANTS AND CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF SAID BILLS AS SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$87,909.21 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4618, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4618 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4618 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4619**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL****EMPLOYEE PAYROLL FIRE DEPT ARPA****PD. 4/26/2024**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS OF OHIO THAT THE FOLLOWING BILLS BE PAID AND THE SAME ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND THE FISCAL OFFICER AND MAYOR ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY AUTHORIZED TO DRAW THEIR WARRANTS AND CHECKS FOR PAYMENT OF SAID BILLS AS SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4619, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4619 is placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4619 is adopted.

Reports:

Mayor:

Brief review of the March 2024 Budget Snapshot (see attached.)

The winter/spring newsletter is expected to be sent to the printer by the end of this week.

American Legion Post 627 will be hosting the Memorial Day parade – police, fire, and council plan to participate. Please mark your calendars and attend.

Fiscal Officer:

Fiscal Officer Nagorski presented the April 2024 RITA report (see attached.)

Fiscal Officer Nagorski presented the April 2024 Rumpke report (see attached.)

Fiscal Officer Nagorski presented the March 2024 Fund Cash Report:

General Fund MTD Receipts	\$ 129,601.25
General Fund MTD Disbursements	\$ 349,105.94
General Fund Unexpended Balance	\$ 600,608.87
All Funds MTD Receipts	\$ 336,872.10
All Funds MTD Disbursements	\$ 447,598.85
All Funds Unexpended Balance	\$1,516,526.88

Councilperson Dunman:

The public should note that council and the administration continue to closely monitor the 2024 budget. Reminder that with effective management so far, the Village has gone from \$100K in the general fund to about \$600K in the first quarter alone.

Councilperson Giersz:

Nothing at this time.

Council Pro Tempore Graora:

Thank you to all departments for the assistance with the eclipse event, and thanks to residents for attending. Thank you to Ms. Giersz for the work on updating the contract for rental of the Village Hall community room.

The local International Firefighter's Union is having a spaghetti dinner; please keep watch for details.

The Village's annual garage sale event is in June, stay tuned for details and see the building department for permits.

Councilperson Kray:

She is happy to be back among her colleagues tonight.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers or those who fulfill that role for others.

Happy Birthday to those with recent or upcoming celebrations: Mrs. Graora, Mayor Elkins and Mr. Ruffa.

Councilperson Moran:

Nothing at this time.

Chief Majoy:

Chief Majoy shared the March 2024 NHPD report (see attached.)

A brief demonstration of the department's drone was done before the meeting. Training of officers and firefighters continues to ensure that the tool can be used effectively during any shift.

Chief Higginbotham:

Confirmed the battery-powered vehicle extrication equipment ordered via the AFG grant arrived and was installed for safe transport. It is in service for emergency response as needed.

Commissioner Bellas:

Mr. Bellas presented the April 2024 Building Department report (see attached.)

Mr. Sickels:

Mr. Sickels provided a May 2024 update on the projects occurring and planned for the Village (see attached.)

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve the March 2024 Fund Cash Report. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.

- b. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve quote from Flock Safety for four (4) additional license plate cameras and installation at a cost not to exceed \$12,600. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- c. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve the proposal from Timan Custom Window Treatments for purchase and installation of window blinds in Council Chambers at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- d. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve various expenses for signs, advertising, etc. for the Village's garage sale event, at a cost not to exceed \$200. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- e. Mr. Dunman motioned to designate 3963 East 54th Street (PPN #511-16-094) and 3959 East 54th Street (PPN #511-16-095) as a playground. Seconded by Mrs. Graora. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- f. Mrs. Graora motioned to donate extra books from the fall festival to local organizations and/or residents. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed. Mayor Elkins noted that council needs to supply an inventory of the books for audit purposes.
- g. Mrs. Graora motioned to the proposal from Top Notch Tree Service for tree maintenance at Kathy Edwards Park at a cost not to exceed \$3,900. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- h. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve an additional payroll with check date 4/26/2024 to disburse ARPA Ohio Ambulance Transportation Program premium funds to qualifying NHFD members. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- i. Mrs. Graora motioned to approve the proposal from Top Notch Tree Service for tree maintenance at various addresses on Washington Park Boulevard at a cost not to exceed \$3,850. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.
- j. Mrs. Graora motioned to authorize the Mayor to negotiate and enter into a land agreement with the Newburgh Heights Garden Club for use of parcels 511-12-037 and 511-12-038 as a community garden. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

John Fortuna, East 42nd Street, asked for confirmation regarding repealing the side lot program. Mayor Elkin clarified that the Newburgh Heights Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) is reviewing and reconsidering a side lot program, but the Village's side lot program, which required homeowners to maintain the lot for a certain period before the transaction was complete, was very cumbersome and has not been used for a number of years. Council repealing that program cleans up the lingering question of that version of the program being discontinued, but the CIC will continue discussions on moving forward with a new iteration of a program that allows adjacent homeowners to buy certain lots.

Mr. Fortuna noted that the Family Dollar property does not look well, and it is somewhat of a gateway to the Village. Mayor Elkins said it is a topic of discussion at Village Hall, that the building department will be reviewing soon, and Fire Chief Higginbotham has been corresponding with management at Family Dollar in relation to their commercial fire inspection and made it clear that the current appearance of the property is not acceptable.

Mr. Fortuna asked if the local printer at East 42 & Beta has been considered as a vendor for printing the newsletter. Mayor Elkins said that is not the current vendor, and working with that local vendor in the past has proven difficult as they do not have the capacity to deliver products in the needed timeframe. Mayor Elkins noted the current vendor is also a union shop, which is preferred by the administration.

Brian Wright, Washington Park Boulevard, thanked council members for the consideration of granting use of a property to the garden club, and thanks to everyone who participated in the Earth Day community clean up.

Mr. Wright asked about the Burke Brooke project next to I-77 and the restoration of the tree canopy. Mayor Elkins explained that he contacted the sewer district, which completed the project, and they noted that they have replanted as much as planned and will be leaving the rest to nature for repopulation. Mr. Wright expressed disappointment.

Joe Oravek, East 29th, asked if the light at the end of his driveway will be disturbed during the construction. Mayor Elkins asked for clarification, as streetlights will be restored when the project is complete. Mr. Oravek noted it is between his house and the sidewalk, not a streetlight. Mayor Elkins said it should not be an issue, but asked Mr. Sickels to confirm via the Village's engineer.

Jeff Moore, Washington Park Boulevard, asked for an update on the enhanced Home Maintenance Grant. Mayor Elkins explained that the plan remains for council to review the rules at an upcoming meeting, and the applications should be open on July 15. The building department will have details at that time. If you want to apply for this grant, work cannot be started prior to applying and receiving approval for the grant.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Graora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Seconded by Mrs. Kray. Five voted in favor via verbal confirmation, none opposed. Motion passed.

Date Approved: 6/4/24

Mayor Trevor Elkins: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 