

VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 1/5/21

Mayor Elkins called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:33 PM.

Roll Call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman present. (Mrs. Kray, Ms. Giersz, and Ms. Traore attended via teleconference.)

Also in attendance: Law Director Luke McConville (via teleconference), Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski (via teleconference), Police Chief John Majoy (via teleconference)

(Due to the Covid-19 health crisis in Ohio, Mayor Elkins broadcast this meeting via Facebook Live, encouraging members of the public to attend without compromising the health of the community. In addition, council members and department heads were able to attend via teleconference per adjustments to the Open Meetings Act due to the pandemic. Department heads were excused from presenting reports at this meeting.)

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

Election of Council Pro Tempore:

Mayor Elkins opened the floor to nominations.

Mr. Dunman motioned to elect Ms. Traore to the position of Council Pro Tempore. Ms. Giersz seconded.

No other nominations were made.

Mayor Elkins called the roll on Ms. Traore's nomination: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes.

Ms. Traore is elected Council Pro Tempore.

Ms. Traore thanked council for their consideration. She looks forward to continuing the great work of the past few years. She noted a special thank you to Mr. Moran for his leadership and guidance since she became a council member.

Good & Welfare:

Mayor Elkins wished all Happy New Year.

Mayor Elkins noted that lifelong resident Frances Holecek passed away recently. She was so active in the village's tree board that we renamed it after her and her sister a couple of

years ago. She was active in the community in many other ways. Please observe a moment of silence in her memory.

Mrs. Kray wants to thank the mayor, department heads, and other village employees for their thoughtfulness while she had Covid and after her husband, Bill, passed away. Many residents, as well, were very kind. It was all very appreciated.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:

December 15, 2020 Regular Session of Council
December 18, 2020 Special Session of Council

Ms. Traore motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Giersz. Roll call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

Legislation:

RESOLUTION 20-34

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$250,000.00) FROM THE GENERAL FUND (100) TO THE MUNICIPAL CENTER FUND (415), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Resolution 20-34 is placed on 2nd reading.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4489

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 11/14/2020

PD. 11/20/2020

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 \$79,045.97 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4489, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4489 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Ms. Giersz seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4489 is adopted.

Reports:**Mayor:**

Mayor Elkins gave a brief review of the year-end budget: the village has finished 2020 with a General Fund surplus of \$1.6 million, which is a historic high.

Mayor Elkins had a conversation today with the director of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, because there is interest in starting a national program similar to the village's student loan assistance program managed by the CIC.

There will be a few changes to staff as we start the new year, including the photo enforcement prosecutor, who was offered another position that will preclude him from continuing work for the village.

Council may want to consider changing the 2021 meeting schedule to hold regular council meetings only once per month. We operated pretty well with a similar schedule during 2020.

Many council members have expressed interest in changing the village's purchase policy for department heads and the mayor. He has worked with the law director to make adjustments based on council's comments, and will present legislation for council to consider at the next meeting.

Fiscal Officer:

Fiscal Officer Nagorski read the December 2020 RITA report (see attached.)

Fiscal Officer Nagorski provided the December 2020 Rumpke report (see attached.)

Mr. Moran:

Nothing at this time.

Mrs. Kray:

Nothing at this time.

Ms. Giersz:

Nothing at this time.

Ms. Traore:

She will be sending a message to council members, scheduling a committee of the whole meeting and a finance committee meeting to get 2021 started. Please respond with availability by Friday.

Mr. Dunman:

Nothing at this time.

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Ms. Traore motioned to approve the 2021 management fees for the Heritage Home Program at a cost not to exceed \$1,080. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Roll call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

b. Ms. Traore motioned to approve the sale of a specific Swenson salt spreader on the GovDeals auction website. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Roll call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.


c. Ms. Traore motioned to approve the quote from Eversafe Security Solutions for security laminate on certain windows and doors at village hall at a cost not to exceed \$11,811. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Roll call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

d. Ms. Traore motioned to approve the purchase of two (2) police cruisers from Lebanon Ford at state bid pricing for \$32,266 each, or a total of \$64,532. Seconded by Mrs. Kray. Roll call: Moran, Kray, Giersz, Traore, and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

Mr. Moran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. Seconded by Mr. Dunman. Motion passed 5 yes - 0 no.

Date Approved: 1/19/21

Mayor Trevor Elkins: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 