

VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 2/2/21

Mayor Elkins called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:34 PM.

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

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, this meeting was broadcast 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.

Good & Welfare:

- a. Mayor Elkins noted the letter from Sgt. Halaska that was shared with council members – Officer Derek Gore and Officer Russ Veverka received compliments from citizens for their work on patrol.
- b. Ms. Traore wished all a Happy Black History Month. She noted the local connection that Black History Month was first observed at Kent State University in 1970, to be recognized nationwide a few years later. The predecessor, Negro History Week, was introduced in the 1920s.
- c. Ms. Traore reminded council that NOCCA is hosting its quarterly forum virtually on February 18th at 7 pm. If you have not already received details, she can share them.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:

December 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting
January 20, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting

Mr. Dunman asked that references to him be standardized in the minutes for the January 20 meeting.

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

Minutes of 2/2/21 Regular Council meeting

Legislation:**ORDINANCE 2021-06****INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS
AND ALL OF COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING THE PAY, REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS PROVISIONS FOR ALL FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, AND AMENDING OR REPEALING, AS APPLICABLE, ALL ORDINANCES OR PROVISIONS THEREIN THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PAY, REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS SCHEDULES ADOPTED HEREBY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-06, rules suspended and that Ordinance 2021-06 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-06 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2021-07**INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS**

AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING THE PAY, REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS PROVISIONS FOR ALL FINANCE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL, AND AMENDING OR REPEALING, AS APPLICABLE, ALL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OR PROVISIONS THEREIN THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PAY, REMUNERATION, AND BENEFITS SCHEDULES ADOPTED HEREBY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-07, rules suspended and that Ordinance 2021-07 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Kray seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-07 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2021-08**INTRODUCED BY: ALL OF COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 121.01 ENTITLED "MEETINGS," FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-08, rules suspended and that Ordinance 2021-08 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray

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

Ordinance 2021-08 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2021-09

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 22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-09, rules suspended and that Ordinance 2021-09 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-09 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2021-10

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF AN ARROW EZ-IO INTRAOSSEOUS INFUSION SYSTEM KIT, INCLUDING DRILL, NEEDLES, AND CASE FROM UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance 2021-10 is placed on 1st reading.

RESOLUTION 21-02

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PLACE A CERTAIN 2002 GMC YUKON DENALI UP FOR SALE ON THE GOVDEALS AUCTION WEBSITE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Resolution 21-02 is placed on 2nd reading.

RESOLUTION 21-03

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PLACEMENT OF A CERTAIN SWENSON POLYHAWK PV SERIES SPREADER UP FOR SALE ON THE GOVDEALS AUCTION WEBSITE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Resolution 21-03 is placed on 1st reading.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4493

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 1/23/2021

PD. 1/29/2021

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 \$82,014.06 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Traore motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4493, rules suspended and that Payroll Resolution #4493 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Ms. Giersz seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4493 is adopted.

Reports:

Mayor:

The new audio-visual system has been installed in council chambers. We're working to learn the operation of the technology and plan to be operational for the next regular council meeting. We expect to begin virtual court sessions soon as well. The Village's mayor's court continues to work with citizens to ensure all drivers in Newburgh Heights are licensed and insured, making everyone in the community safer on the roads.

The mayor has had budget meetings with department heads and council, and is working to prepare a complete budget for council's approval in the next few weeks. We are operating under estimated temporary appropriations until March 31.

Based on the success of Ask the Mayor/State of Village teleconference events in the past few years, we plan to schedule one for 2021 soon. Since some residents prefer to attend in person, we are re-evaluating timing based on Covid restrictions.

Fiscal Officer:

Fiscal Officer Nagorski read the January 2021 RITA report (see attached.)

Fiscal Officer Nagorski presented the January 2021 Rumpke report (see attached.)

Mayor Elkins asked Mrs. Nagorski to contact RITA regarding income taxes paid by a certain employer. He has already reached out to his contact and received no response. Mr. McConville noted that he has a contact in the law department that may be able to help locate the correct party if Mrs. Nagorski does not have success via other avenues.

Ms. Giersz:

Nothing at this time.

Ms. Traore:

Reminder that Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 is the 1st quarter finance committee meeting. Please submit agenda items by February 9.

Cleveland Public Library is expected to install the material lockers at the end of March.

Mr. Dunman:

Recently shared the proposed mailroom access policy with council. Please return comments soon.

Shared his areas of interest for 2021:

Signage reduction

Light pollution

Traffic calming

Resident welfare

Internet stations in Village Hall lobby

Council and other residents are welcome to contact him with comments and ideas.

Mr. Moran:

Nothing at this time.

Mrs. Kray:

There will be no Easter Egg hunt for local children this year due to continuing Covid concerns.

The Recreation and Seniors committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday in March at 6:30 pm to begin planning the 2021 Fall Festival.

Chief Higginbotham:

Presented the November 2020 NHRFD report (see attached.)

Presented the December 2020 NHFD report (see attached.)

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Ms. Traore motioned to approve the appointment of Mr. Moran as council's representative to the Village's Planning Commission. Seconded by Ms. Giersz. Roll call: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

b. Ms. Traore noted that the next item proposed for approval was tabled on 1/19/2020. Since that meeting, Mr. Milano provided information on the need for new school zone traffic signal equipment, and asked if council had further questions or comments. None at this time.

Ms. Traore motioned to approve the purchase of new school zone traffic signal equipment from Signal Service at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Seconded by Mrs. Kray. Roll call: Giersz, Traore, Dunman, Moran, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Kray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Ms. Giersz. Motion passed 5 yes - 0 no.

Date Approved: 3/2/21

Mayor Trevor Elkins: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 