

VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 4/11/2022

Mayor Elkins called the Special Session of Council to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Kray, Giersz, Dunman, and Moran present. Traore absent.

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Law Director Luke McConville.

(Mayor Elkins noted that Ms. Traore was en route, but a little late, and council elected to begin the meeting at the planned start time.)

Mayor Elkins noted that council is required by state law to follow the special agenda; however, while we wait for Ms. Traore to arrive, we can conduct the business out of order that he requested be added to this agenda, specifically Legislation and Purchases & Approvals.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 2022-30

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR ELKINS

AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING THE PAY, REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS PROVISIONS FOR ALL POLICE 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.

Mr. Moran motioned to adopt Ordinance 2022-30, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2022-30 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Kray seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Kray, Giersz, Dunman, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. (Ms. Traore arrived at 6:32 pm.) Roll call on adoption: Kray, Giersz, Traore, Dunman, and Moran. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-30 is adopted.

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Mrs. Kray motioned for the approval of the purchase of one (1) SCAG mower from North Royalton Power Equipment at state bid pricing not to exceed \$14,100. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call: Kray, Giersz, Traore, Dunman, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Elkins made a brief statement to clarify that he was not involved in the scheduling of this meeting beyond his request to add the business just conducted. He continued that he is not involved in council's election of their pro tempore, and never has been in his tenure as mayor. He has, in fact, refused to break a tie in the past. This meeting was called by the council members noted on the agenda.

Ms. Traore made a brief statement, noting her disappointment that other council members who elected her pro tempore in early 2021 and just a couple of months ago in January 2022, would consider removing her from the position. She has raised a family and earned degrees, working hard to put herself in a place that allowed her to be appointed and then elected to village council in Newburgh Heights, and she intends to continue serving at her best.

Mr. Dunman motioned to enter executive session for the discussion of personnel issues (to consider appointment, employment of a public employee or official), pending/potential litigation, and property acquisitions if necessary. Ms. Giersz seconded.

Motion passed 5 yes – 0 no.

Executive session began at 6:47 PM.

Mr. Dunman motioned to resume special session at 7:43 pm. Mr. Moran seconded.

Motion passed 5 yes – 0 no.

Resume special session at 7:43 PM.

Business:

Mr. Moran motioned to table the business on the agenda, including discussion of council vacancy, discussion of the position of council pro-tempore, election of council pro-tempore, and discussion of preparation for mayoral transition. Mr. Dunman seconded. Roll call: Kray, Giersz, Traore, Dunman, and Moran. Motion passed.

Business tabled.

Mr. Dunman stated: Council has discussed the issues before us and clarified misinformation and rumors brought forth. We would like to say that this opportunity has given us the resolve to communicate more effectively and thoroughly as we navigate the future. This Council supports Gigi Traore in her position of Council President Pro Tempore. Thank you.

Ms. Traore stated that her satisfaction that council was able to work together tonight, and confidence that council members will continue to work together to keep Newburgh Heights a great place.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Kray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Seconded by Ms. Traore. Motion passed 5 yes - 0 no.

Date Approved: 5/3/22

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 