

Village of Newburgh Heights
3801 Harvard Avenue
Newburgh Hts., Ohio 44105

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

HELD 10/4/2022

Mayor Traore called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Roll Call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray present; Moran absent.

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

Mrs. Kray motioned to enter executive session. Mr. Dunman seconded. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.

Executive session began at 6:37 PM

Discussion of personnel issues (to consider appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of a public employee or official), pending/potential litigation, and property acquisitions if necessary.

Mr. Dunman motioned to exit executive session at 7:08pm. Ms. Giersz seconded. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.

Mayor Traore called a recess until regular session was scheduled to begin.

Regular Session of Council at 7:30 PM

Mayor Traore called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:30 PM.

Roll Call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray present; Moran absent.

Also in attendance: Law Director Luke McConville, Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Chief Majoy, Chief Higginbotham and Engineer James Sickels.

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

Good and Welfare

Mayor Traore conducted the formal swearing in of Firefighter Erik Johnson to the Newburgh Heights Fire Department.

Mrs. Kray motioned to excuse Mr. Moran from this meeting. Mrs. Graora seconded. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Mr. Dunman motioned to remove Ordinance 2022-65 from this meeting's agenda. Mrs. Kray seconded. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes

Mrs. Kray motioned to approve the minutes from the special meeting of Council on September 8, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dunman. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Dunman made a correction in the minutes for the council work session of 9/8/2022. The date for the Standards and Policies Committee should read October 6, 2022, not December 6, 2022. Mrs. Kray motioned to approve the minutes from the council work session on September 8, 2022, as corrected. Seconded by Mr. Dunman. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Mrs. Kray motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Council on September 20, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dunman. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Tanmay V. Shah, staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, made himself available to Council if they had any questions concerning the "Pay to Stay" ordinance.

Legislation:

Ordinance 2022-50

Introduced by Councilwoman Giersz

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING RULE OF COUNCIL 210 ENTITLED "ORDER OF BUSINESS," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunman motioned to refer Ordinance 2022-50 to the Standards and Policies Committee. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on motion: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes.

Ordinance 2022-50 has been referred to committee.

Ordinance 2022-64

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE CORRECTING A SCRIVENER'S ERROR BY AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-24 RELATING TO THE PAY, REMUNERATION AND

BENEFITS OF FIREFIGHTERS BY ELIMINATING THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS MANDATE SET FORTH THEREIN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunman motioned to adopt Ordinance 2022-64, and that Ordinance 2022-64 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-64 is adopted.

Ordinance 2022-65

Council Pro Tempore Dunman

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL SECTION 401 ENTITLED "EMPLOYEE BENEFITS" TO MAKE ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IMMEDIATELY ELIGIBLE UPON HIRE FOR HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunman motioned to adopt Ordinance 2022-65, and that Ordinance 2022-65 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Mrs. Kray seconded. Roll call on suspension: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-65 is adopted.

Resolution 22-14

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE'S APPLICATION TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM, SEEKING GRANT FUNDS TO UPDATE THE VILLAGE'S HARVARD CORRIDOR STUDY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunman motioned to adopt Resolution 22-14, and that Resolution 22-14 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes.

Motion passed.

Resolution 22-14 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4556

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 9/17/2022

PD. 9/23/2022

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 \$99,179.90 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunman motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4556, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4556 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Kray seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes.

Motion passed.

Reports:

Mayor:

The deadline for submitting the Cuyahoga County Community Planning Grant is October 14, 2022.

The mayor wanted to remind everyone that Trick or Treating will be held on Halloween 10/31/2022 from 6pm-8pm. The fire and police departments will be patrolling and providing road closures throughout the village.

Fiscal Officer:

Clerk of Courts:

Cash Flow Report August 2022
(please see attached reports)

Council Pro Tempore Dunman:

This year's fall fest was a success. There are bales of straw available to the residents at Kathy Edwards Park. Those that are left are being donated to the Cleveland Municipal School District's fall event.

Councilperson Giersz:

Nothing at this time.

Councilperson Graora:

Mrs. Graora asked about the sound system and where we stood with having it fixed. Mayor Traore informed her that the office has been in touch with JAVS. Michelle Bolin noted they were coming out on October 11th.

Thanks to the Clerk of Council's office for printing double-sided.

Councilperson Kray:

All village staff came together to make the fall fest a success. There were 385 people who signed in with at least 229 of them being children. Special thank you to resident Marilyn Lotarski for always being available to help Mrs. Kray.

The Thanksgiving gift card distribution will be held on November 5th and 6th from 12pm to 5pm in the Community Room. The village will also be providing refreshments to those picking up their cards.

Santa Claus will be visiting this year, at the Service Department, on December 11, 2022.

Chief Majoy:

The police department has been issued baseball caps as part of their uniform on a trial basis. Twenty have been ordered and officers have been given orders that the caps are to be taken off when entering a building.

Chief Higginbotham:

Nothing at this time.

Ms. Rose, Service Department:

Mayor Traore noted that leaf pickup will begin the third week of October.

Please see attached report for more details.

Mr. Sickels:

Engineer's Report – September 2022

(please see attached report)

Mr. Sickels noted that the plaza clean-up and landscaping was done. There is still an issue with electricity as a transformer needs to be updated.

Purchases & Approvals:

- a. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned to approve the appointment of Amber Voiers to the position of full-time Administrative Assistant at the amended rate of \$20.63, with

no wait for healthcare and making the pay rate retroactive. Mrs. Graora seconded. Discussion ensued. As a result of the discussion, Mr. Dunman made a motion to withdraw the original motion as well as the second. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on withdrawal: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Motion passed. Mrs. Kray made a motion to approve the appointment of Amber Voiers to the position of full-time Administrative Assistant at the rate set forth in Resolution 22-07, with an initial rate of \$21.25. Mr. Dunman seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Mr. Andexler, resident, voiced his feelings on not being able to hear what is going on during the meetings. He was advised that a repair call had been made and someone was coming out the following week. He also wanted to know what the timeline was for the Harvard Corridor and when construction would start. Discussion occurred.

Mr. John Newby, another resident, also commented on how difficult it is to hear anything being said by council or the mayor. He, too, was assured repairs would happen soon.

Councilperson Graora inquired as to what the proper name of the plaza next to the old pizza shop is. Mayor Traore suggested calling it the East 42nd Street Plaza.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Kray made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm with a second from Mr. Dunman. Roll call Dunman, Giersz, Graora and Kray voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.

Date Approved: 11/1/22

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 