

**VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS  
3801 Harvard Avenue  
Newburgh Hts., Ohio 44105**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD 9/8/2022**

**Mayor Traore called the Special Session of Council to order at 5:36 PM.**

Roll Call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Chief Brian Higginbotham, Inspector Engineer James Sickels, Amy Hamilton for Law Director Luke McConville and Finance Clerk Michelle Bolin.

Mr. Moran motioned to enter into executive session. Mr. Dunman seconded. Motion passed 5 yes – 0 no.

**Executive session began at 5:37 PM.**

Discussion of personnel issues (to consider appointment, employment, discipline, or compensation of a public employee or official).

Mr. Moran motioned to exit executive session. Mrs. Graora seconded. Motion passed 5 yes – 0 no.

Concluded executive session at 6:05 PM.

A short recess was held and special session resumed at 6:11 PM.

**Legislation**

**ORDINANCE 2022-60**

**INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Traore**

**AN ORDINANCE CERTIFYING TO THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER FOR INCLUSION ON THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY TAX LISTS AND DUPLICATES ASSESSMENTS ON THE REAL PROPERTY PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS AND AMOUNTS IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN DELINQUENT ABATEMENT AND/OR ASSESSMENT FEES CHARGED THERETO AND OWED TO THE VILLAGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Dunman motioned to suspend rules and place Ordinance 2022-60 on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-60 is adopted.

**ORDINANCE 2022-61**

**INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Traore**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TERRACE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE MULTI-STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE I (E. 43RD STREET & ALPHA AVENUE) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,135,125.11, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Dunman motioned to suspend rules and place Ordinance 2022-61 on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-61 is adopted.

**Ordinance 2022-62**

**INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Traore**

**AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING RANDOLPH HOWARD, ESQ. AS CIVIL TRAFFIC CAMERA ENFORCEMENT ATTORNEY, NUNC PRO TUNC, AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE CIVIL TRAFFIC CAMERA ENFORCEMENT ATTORNEY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

The mayor moved the ordinance to the end of the meeting as she and council waited for Mr. McConville to clear up a few of their concerns via phone.

**Resolution 22-09**

**INTRODUCED BY:  
Councilpersons Dunman and Graora**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS BE AWARDED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FUNDS BY CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FOR ITS HOME MAINTENANCE GRANT PROGRAM AND \$49,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS DOG PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Dunman motioned to suspend rules and place Resolution 22-09 on 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Motion passed.

Resolution 22-09 is adopted.

**Resolution 22-11**

**INTRODUCED BY: Council**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER.**

Mr. Dunman motioned to suspend rules and place Resolution 22-11 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Motion passed.

Resolution 22-11 is adopted.

**Purchases and Approvals**

- a. Mr. Dunman made a motion to appoint Erik Johnson as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic for NHFD. Mrs. Graora seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- b. Mr. Dunman made a motion to accept the recommendation for NHFD Lt. Greg Jordan, hired 8/1/2021, to continue employment as a full time Firefighter/Paramedic after successfully completing his probationary period. Mrs. Kray seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- c. Mr. Dunman made a motion to accept the recommendation for NHFD Member Scott Reid, hired 8/9/2021, to continue employment as a full time Firefighter/Paramedic after successfully completing his probationary period. Mrs. Kray seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- d. Mr. Dunman made a motion to accept the recommendation for NHFD Member Stephen Zadd, hired 8/30/2021, to continue employment as a full time Firefighter/Paramedic after successfully completing his probationary period. Mrs. Kray seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- e. Mr. Dunman made a motion for the approval of the Southwest Emergency Rescue Team membership dues for 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Mrs. Kray seconded the motion. Discussion occurred. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- f. Mr. Dunman made a motion to approve the appointment of Tobbie Steele to full-time Building Department Housing Inspector and waiving the waiting period to qualify for health insurance. Mrs. Kray seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman-no, Giersz-no, Graora-no, Kray-no, Moran-yes. Motion did not pass.

Mayor Traore expressed her disappointment with council's decision, stating she felt it to be racially motivated as Mr. Steele is African American. Council vehemently disagreed with the mayor's assessment of their decision.

**Legislation continued:**

**Ordinance 2022-62**

**INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Traore**

**AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING RANDOLPH HOWARD, ESQ. AS CIVIL TRAFFIC CAMERA ENFORCEMENT ATTORNEY, NUNC PRO TUNC, AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE CIVIL TRAFFIC CAMERA ENFORCEMENT ATTORNEY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mayor Traore moved forward with the ordinance stating she originally misspoke and was requesting to withdraw the ordinance at this time, not table it. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Dunman motioned to amend Ordinance 2022-62 on page 2, section 2 so that the monthly pay for Mr. Howard would change from \$1,250 to \$3,000. Seconded by Mrs. Kray. Further discussion occurred. Roll call on amending the ordinance: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Mr. Dunman motioned to suspend rules and place Ordinance 2022-62 on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Mr. Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Graora, Kray, Moran voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-62 is adopted.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Kray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm. Seconded by Ms. Giersz. Motion passed 5 yes - 0 no.

Date Approved: 10/4/22

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 