

VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

HELD 11/1/2022

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

Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman present.

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

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

Executive session began at 6:36 PM.

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

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

Concluded executive session at 6:57 PM; Mayor Traore called a recess until 7:30 PM to prepare for the regular meeting.

Mayor Traore called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:37 PM.

Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman present.

Also in attendance: Law Director Luke McConville, Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Fire Chief Brian Higginbotham, Police Chief John Majoy, Village Engineer Jim Sickels, and Hilary Schickler, Inspector for the Housing and Building Department.

All stood for Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Traore introduced Jason Seymour, Jr. of the Sons of the American Legion Post 627 in Newburgh Heights. He led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Traore requested all cell phones and pagers be placed on silent mode.

Good & Welfare:

- a. Ms. Giersz made a motion to excuse Mrs. Kray from the meeting due to illness. Mr. Moran seconded. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.
- b. Mr. Dunman made a motion to amend the agenda under Purchases and Approvals to include the approval of Denis Garcia as acting Housing and Building Commissioner under the Safebuilt contract. Mrs. Graora seconded. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.

- c. Mayor Traore thanked Howmet Aerospace, the UAW and the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 627 for collaborating with the Village and providing a fun and successful Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 29th.
- d. Mayor Traore reminded everyone that election day is November 8, 2022. She also wanted to wish all our veterans a Happy Veterans Day and offer them many thanks for their service to the United States.
- e. Mayor Traore announced that Minuteman has donated \$800 in gift cards to aid in community support.

NEORSD Tunnel Project Presentation:

Charles Huse of the NEORSD, project manager, provided the information on their project to the council and attendees. A power point presentation was shown, and discussion occurred.

Public Hearing:

Mr. Sickels began the hearing at 8:04 PM. a brief overview of Federal Community Block Grant funds and Community Development Supplemental Grand funds was provided. The amount of these grants varies from year to year. This year the grant money would be used to update the Master Plan for the Village and to fund the new street signs. The application is due at the beginning of December. Discussion ensued. The Public Hearing concluded at 8:11 PM.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:

Mr. Dunman motioned to approve the minutes from October 4, 2022 as presented.
Seconded by Mrs. Graora. Roll call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.
Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Mr. Doug Barcroft of Washington Park Blvd. voiced his concerns over the property at 4048 Washington Park Blvd that has fallen into disrepair. Ms. Schickler noted that the owner is elderly but did come into housing court when summoned. However, she did not return for the follow up appearance. Housing and Building Department will follow up.

Debbie Zupkovich of East 42nd street expressed her gratitude for the Home Maintenance grant however finds it disheartening that inspections are so limited. She had a new hot water tank installed and was told inspections are only done on Tuesdays and Thursdays between noon and 2pm which is quite inconvenient. She asked if this would be changing as it is difficult to schedule these things when you work a full-time job.

Pat Harp of East 38th street voiced concerns over the lack of rat traps Rumpke has set up and the current rodent problem it has caused. Chief Higginbotham said there are rat boxes set up along the backside of the fence, but he will follow up with Rumpke tomorrow. Mr. McConville noted that the County Board of Health is very responsive to situations such as this if she would ever need to contact them in the future.

Jodi Reiner of East 41st Street stated that the stop sign at Beta and E. 41st is still being run through. She provided the Chief with information on the violators.

Mike Merry of East 41st complimented the Fire and Police Departments on the wonderful job they did on Halloween.

Legislation:

ORDINANCE 2022-67 (Rules suspended for adoption) Introduced by Mayor Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A NON-EXCLUSIVE PER DIEM LEASE AGREEMENT FOR JAIL HOUSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES WITH THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON FOR HOUSING OF PRISONERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Council Pro Tempore Dunman to adopt Ordinance 2022-67, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2022-67 be placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-67 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2022-68 (Rules suspended for adoption) Introduced by Mayor Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO CLOSE HUNTINGTON BANK ACCOUNT #01668451728 AND TO TRANSFER ANY AMOUNTS THEREIN TO THE VILLAGE'S EXISTING, CURRENT HUNTINGTON BANK PAYROLL ACCOUNT #01662668931, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Council Pro Tempore Dunman to adopt Ordinance 2022-68, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2022-68 be placed on 1st, 2nd and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-68 is adopted.

ORDINANCE 2022-69 (Rules suspended for adoption) Introduced by Mayor Traore

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL SECTION 401 ENTITLED "EMPLOYEE BENEFITS", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned to send Ordinance 2022-69 to the Standards and Policies Committee for further review. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on sending Ordinance 2022-69 to committee: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Motion passed.

Ordinance 2022-69 is moved to committee.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4557

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 10/01/2022

PD. 10/07/2022

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 \$86,634.08 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4557, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4557 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4557 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4558

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 10/15/2022

PD. 10/22/2022

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 \$96,311.54 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4558, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4558 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4558 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4559

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2022 DISBURSEMENTS

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 \$1,148,962.22 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4559, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4559 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4559 is adopted.

Reports:

Mayor:

Mayor Traore provided some of the highlights of her first six months in office. She held a business luncheon with about 15 community partners, has quarterly meetings with the Cleveland Municipal School District, submitted for several grants, hosted "Visit the Village" for some of our state representatives, has attended meetings with developers interested in Newburgh Heights and designated the Community Room as a Cooling Center during the extremely hot days this summer. She also noted that Village Hall has become more accessible to the community as the doors are unlocked during business hours.

Mayor Traore also announced that there are open positions on the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning and Appeals that need to be filled. If interested, please email her at mayor@newburgh-oh.gov BY November 14th, 2022. There will be an open position on the CIC in 2023.

Fiscal Officer:

Fiscal Officer Nagorski presented the September 2022 Fund Cash Report:

General Fund MTD Receipts	\$ 580,662.41
General Fund MTD Disbursements	\$ 971,843.50
General Fund Unexpended Balance	\$ 1,398,493.99
All Funds MTD Receipts	\$ 665,121.65
All Funds MTD Disbursements	\$ 1,148,962.22
All Funds Unexpended Balance	\$ 2,047,791.51

Rumpke Report: October 2022
RITA Report: October 2022
(please see attached reports)

Clerk of Courts:

Cash Flow Report September 2022
(please see attached reports)

Council Pro Tempore Dunman:

Mr. Dunman reminded residents that the Thanksgiving Gift Card Giveaway is this weekend, November 5th and 6th, in Council Chambers from noon to 4pm.

Councilperson Giersz:

She has photos from the Fall Fest ready to share.

Councilperson Graora:

Mrs. Graora asked if there were any reports from the Service Department of the Housing and Building Department for this meeting. The mayor informed her that there were no reports at this time.

Councilperson Moran:

Nothing at this time.

Department Heads:

Chief Majoy:

NHPD Monthly Report: September (see attached).

Chief Majoy also reminded residents to please call dispatch with any non-emergency concerns they may have. Posting on Facebook or other social media does not notify the department of any problems that might be out there.

Chief Higginbotham:

NHFD Monthly Report: September 2022 (see attached).

Mr. Sickels:

Engineer's Report (see attached)

Ms. Schickler:

The Housing and Building Department is hosting a Housing Resource fair on November 10, 2022 in the Community Room from 5:30pm-7pm. There will be all

kinds of information available potential buyers, homeowners, and tenants as well as refreshments and door prizes.

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of the purchase of 924 bales of straw for the Fall Fest at a cost not to exceed \$5082.00. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

b. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of the recommendation for NHFD Member Chris McCormack, hired 9/7/2021, to continue as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic after successfully completing his probationary period. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

c. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of the Independent Contractor Agreement with Timothy Clymer for the Finance Department effective November 1, 2022. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

d. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of contract modifications from Quality Control Inspection (QCI) for construction inspection services on the Alpha/Beta/East 41st Street project at a cost not to exceed \$24,377.50. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

e. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of the change order for the Alpha/Beta/East 41st Street project at a cost not to exceed \$44,350.37. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

f. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the approval of the appointment of Ms. Danielle Bowman to the Board of Zoning and Appeals, term ending in 2026. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

g. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the appointment of Mr. Goran Vrhovac to the Planning Commission, term ending 2028. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

h. Council Pro Tempore Dunman motioned for the appointment of Mr. Denis Garcia to Acting Building Commissioner under the Safebuilt contract. Councilperson Graora seconded. Roll Call: Giersz, Graora, Moran and Dunman voted yes. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Danielle Bowman of Washington Park Blvd. thanked everyone for her appointment to the Board of Zoning and Appeals and stated how lovely Trick or Treat was this year.

Brian Wright addressed Council with concerns over the timing of the traffic signal at Harvard and Washington Park Blvd and also the lights at Harvard and I-77.

Debbie Zupkovich asked if the Village could act as intermediary with ODOT concerning the light at I-77 and Harvard. She also asked for an update on the new bakery and pizza shop planned for East 42nd street.

Michelle Bolin of Bridgeview mentioned the Service Department and what a great job they did with Trick or Treat and all the other things they take care of in the Village.

Adjournment:

Councilperson Graora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:11pm. Seconded by Councilperson Moran. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Date Approved: 12/6/22

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 