

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

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD 2/7/2023**

**Mayor Traore called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.**

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

Also in attendance: Law Director Luke McConville, Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski, Police Chief Majoy, Assistant Fire Chief Wasielewski (for absent Fire Chief Brian Higginbotham) and Engineer Jim Sickels.

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

**Good and Welfare**

Council recognized Mackenzie Welsh for her contribution to the children's Visit with Santa this past year. Her hard work and extraordinary efforts produced very happy children. Council presented Ms. Welsh with a proclamation honoring her outstanding volunteerism.

Council also recognized Michelle Bolin, a resident and employee of Newburgh Heights, for her work with the American Legion Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary at Post 627. Council Pro Tempore Graora briefly outlined her recent activities and accomplishments and noted that when talking about branding it would be a mistake not to mention these endeavors as not only do her efforts positively effect American Legion Post 627 but also the Village of Newburgh Heights.

**Reading & Disposition of the Minutes**

December 6, 2022 Regular Session of Council, as amended  
January 17, 2023 Regular Session of Council  
January 26, 2023 Special Session of Council

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Moran. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Mayor Traore asked that a motion be made to amend the agenda to reflect the appointment of Michelle Bolin to the Tree Board. Pro Tempore Graora made a motion to amend the agenda with a second from Councilperson Kray. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

**Legislation:**

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**Ordinance 2023-03**

**Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES TO ASSIST NPDES AND MS4 PERMIT COMPLIANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-03 rules suspended and that Ordinance 2023-03 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-03 is adopted.

**Resolution 23-06**

**Introduced by Councilperson Kray**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS “AMERICAN HEART MONTH,” AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST HEART DISEASE, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND STROKE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-06 rules suspended and that Resolution 23-06 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-06 is adopted.

**Resolution 23-07**

**Introduced by All of Council**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND AND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$89,200.00) FROM THE GENERAL FUND (100) TO THE GENERAL OBLIGATION FUND (301), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-07 rules suspended and that Resolution 23-07 is placed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and final reading for adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-07 is adopted.

**Resolution 23-08**

**Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore**

**A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-08 rules suspended and that Resolution 23-08 is placed on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and final reading for adoption. Councilperson Moran

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seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-08 is adopted.

**Resolution 23-09**

**Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING RES. 21-19 TO EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD FOR REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM THE GENERAL FUND (100) TO THE GRANTS/CDBG FUND (205), AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-09 rules suspended and that Resolution 23-09 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-09 is adopted.

**PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4568**

**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL**

**DECEMBER 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 \$1,853,295.32 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4568, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4568 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4568 is adopted.

**PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4569**

**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL**

**EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 1/7/2023 PD. 1/13/2023**

**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 \$91,326.39 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4569, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4569 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4569 is adopted.

**PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4570 INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL**

**EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 1/21/2023 PD. 1/27/2023**

**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 \$100,199.58 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4570, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4570 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Roll call on adoption Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes.

Payroll Resolution #4570 is adopted.

**Reports:**

**Fiscal Officer**

The Fiscal Officer presented the December 2022 Fund Cash Report:

General Fund MTD Receipts	\$ 519,059.82
General Fund MTD Disbursements	\$ 1,496,493.83
General Fund Unexpended Balance	\$ 183,540.97
All Funds MTD Receipts	\$ 1,460,524.95
All Funds MTD Disbursements	\$ 1,853,295.32
All Funds Unexpended Balance	\$ 1,459,842.04

Rumpke Report: January 2023  
RITA Report: January 2023  
(please see attached reports)

**Council Pro Tempore Graora**

Mrs. Graora mentioned the fence at Kathy Edwards Park was in need of repair.

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She also noted that the Finance Committee has yet to set a date for a meeting.

Mrs. Graora is interested in scheduling a presentation with the Air Quality Control of Cleveland to discuss the current issue with the pollution sticking to everything. Representatives are available to meet with council and residents on Tuesday March 7, 2023 before the regular session of council.

#### **Councilperson Dunman**

Mr. Dunman inquired about the best way to get in touch with Mr. Edelburg, the Recreation Director. His email and phone number have been provided.

#### **Councilperson Kray**

Mrs. Kray noted that National Random Act of Kindness Day is earmarked for February 17, 2023.

Thanks go out to the NHPD and NHFD for their professionalism in helping to resolve an issue.

At this time Mrs. Kray provided those in attendance a rebuttal, from Council, to the Mayor's State of the Village Address which was presented to the Village on January 17<sup>th</sup>. A copy of Council's response was provided to the Clerk of Council for the record.

#### **Mr. Moran**

Mr. Moran pointed out that everything that's been done in the Village was accomplished without raising taxes.

#### **Fire Department**

Assistant Chief Wasielewski attended the meeting in place of Chief Higginbotham. Council was provided with the report for January 2023.

He shared with those in attendance that the finishing touches were being put on the new squad and it should hopefully be here next week.

#### **Engineer's Report**

Engineer's Report (please see attached)

Mr. Sickels went on to report that First Energy finally ran their lines at the East 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Plaza and that the East 43<sup>rd</sup> and Alpha project has been moved back to March or April due to the shortage of brass fittings.

Mr. Sickels announced that the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is looking to change their MCIP program to a direct pay program instead of a reimbursement program.

#### **Purchases & Approvals:**

- a. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval of the December 2022 Fund Cash Report. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.
- b. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval of the Southwest Emergency Response Team annual membership for 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

c. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval of the increase in cost for the installation of a battery backup system at the intersection of Harvard Avenue and East 49<sup>th</sup> street by Signal Service to a cost not to exceed \$7,713, an increase from \$6,956, which was approved on March 1, 2022. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

d. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to approve the Fire Department to place five (5) bunker gear storage racks for auction on GovDeals. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

e. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to approve the Fire Department to place patio furniture, including one (1) table and five (5) chairs, for auction on GovDeals. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

f. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to appoint Michelle Bolin to the Rose & Frances Holechek Tree Board for the term ending in December 2025. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

Resident Trevor Elkins urged those in attendance to reach out to the NEORSB Board of Trustees regarding the change. Mayor Bacci of Cuyahoga Heights and former mayor of Newburgh Heights, Ron Sulik, are board members that some council members and residents may be familiar with.

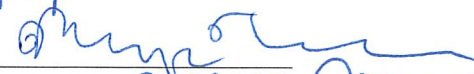
Council Pro Tempore noted that the trees that were planted on the former Heat Treat site are being eaten by the deer. They are peeling the bark right off. Michelle Bolin stated she would inform the Service Department and ask them to put protective covers around the trunks of the trees.

**Adjournment:**

Council Pro Tempore Graora made a motion to adjourn with a second from Councilperson Kray. Roll call: Dunman, Giersz, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Date Approved: 3/7/23

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 