

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

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 6/6/2023**

Mayor Traore called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

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

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

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to enter Executive Session. Councilperson Moran seconded. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Executive Session began at 7:05 pm.

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

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to exit executive session at 7:42pm. Councilperson Kray seconded. Motion passed 4 yes – 0 no.

A short recess was taken.

Mayor Traore called the Regular Session of Council to order at 7:46pm.

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

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

Councilperson Moran made a motion to excuse Councilperson Giersz from this meeting. Councilperson Kray seconded. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

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

Good and Welfare

Mayor Traore let it be known that one of her goals was to have each seat filled on all the Village's boards and committees. She announced that all seats were filled. She proceeded to bring each new member to the front of the meeting to be sworn in and to receive their certificates. Appointees include Danielle Bowman for the Board of Zoning and Appeals; Brian Wright and Goran Vrhovac for the Planning Commission; Sydney Bowden, Bonnie

Horton and Edward Andexler to the Fair Housing Review Board; and Michelle Bolin to the Rose and Frances Holochek Tree Board.

Mayor Traore wished all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

The mayor reminded all residents that there is an ordinance in place prohibiting the use of fireworks in the Village of Newburgh Heights.

Council Pro Tempore Graora wanted to recognize Chief Majoy on being featured nationally for his involvement with the volunteer non-profit Cleveland Missing where he serves as board president.

Council Pro Tempore Graora also thanked the American Legion Post 627 for the beautiful Memorial Day ceremony and parade.

Presentation by Kwame Botchway for Power a Clean Future Ohio

Power a Clean Future is a non-profit organization founded in 2020. Its main goal is to assist municipalities in developing sustainability plans, setting emission reduction goals, helping secure grants relating to clean energy assistance, etc. This is a free service that relies solely on charitable donations to fund its projects to the communities it partners with as long as that community designates one staff member as its contact person. Power a Clean Future Ohio is currently involved with 12 municipalities within Cuyahoga County. Mr. Botchway was able to supply those present with numbers gathered by Cuyahoga County that state that Newburgh Heights has seen a decrease in emissions of 21% since 2010. He explained what would need to be done to reach the goal of 50% reduction by 2030. Councilperson Kray explained that the village is surrounded by other municipalities whose industry is sure to affect our emissions numbers. She then inquired as to what exactly is being measured and how are we to lessen the emissions from the 80,000 motorists that drive Harvard Avenue. Mr. Botchway explained that transportation emissions, residential emissions and commercial emissions all get calculated. Further discussion involving commercial emissions took place. Mr. Botchway was thanked for his presentation.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes

April 10, 2023 Special Session of Council

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to approve the minutes of the special session of council held 4/10/2023. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Minutes approved.

April 20, 2023 Special Session of Council

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to approve the minutes of the special session of council held 4/10/2023. Councilperson Moran seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Minutes approved.

May 2, 2023 Regular Session of Council

After noting several amendments that needed to be made and Mr. McConville advising council on how to approach the amendment of minutes, Councilperson Kray made a motion to table the minutes until the corrections and amendments could be made. Council Pro Tempore seconded the motion. Roll call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Minutes tabled.

Public Comment

Joseph Oravec of East 29th Street voiced his concerns surrounding the service that Kimble has been providing for the village. There have been multiple issues with trash and recycling collection throughout the past several months. Mayor Traore noted that the Service Department has been in contact with Kimble over these issues, but she will contact them directly.

Ken Nehez of Washington Park Blvd. stepped forward to inform council that recently there have been multiple packages stolen by "porch pirates" throughout the Village. He is asking on behalf of residents if the mayor and council would consider having Amazon lockers installed outside of the police station. Mayor Traore by saying that when this happens, report it to the police. She appreciated Mr. Nehez bringing it to their attention and suggests having Amazon packages delivered to current, local lockers or leaving specific instructions on where to leave the package at your home.

Several residents of Brow Avenue (their full names were unintelligible on the recording) brought it to the body's attention that they are consistently being harassed by a neighbor. The NHPD has been called out to the street multiple times and they feel it is a waste of the officers' time and resources at this point. They also wished to lodge a complaint about another neighbor's basketball hoop and the children who use it at all hours of the day and night. Chief Majoy stressed two things: 1. You are never bothering the police when you call. That is their job. 2. If they are playing basketball at 2am, call the police. Chief also said the police department will do their best to figure out who owns the hoop. He commended these residents on their attempts to compromise. Mayor Traore finished by offering to schedule a sit down with all parties involved to get these issues resolved.

Brian Wright of Washington Park Blvd. stepped up to comment that he liked the idea of Amazon lockers at Village Hall and suggested the Library Lockers be moved outside, under the overhang, once they are operational again. Mr. Wright voiced concern over the condition of the house at 4048 Washington Park Blvd. He feels that this house is a safety

hazard as well as an eyesore and that it is taking way too long to get the issues with the homeowner resolved. What can be done? Mayor Traore noted that since this issue is in court, we must follow the process. She explained the situation to those who were not familiar with it as best she could since the case is currently in court. Unfortunately, all avenues have been exhausted and all resources have been shared so all that can be done is to wait for it all to play out in court.

Legislation:

Ordinance 2023-09, as amended

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL SECTION 814 ENTITLED "PROGRAMS AND SERVICES," AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-09, and that Ordinance 2023-09 is placed on final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-09, as amended, is adopted.

Ordinance 2023-20

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-20, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2023-20 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-20 is adopted.

Ordinance 2023-21

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOVE INSURANCE AGENCY TO PROCURE COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH POLICIES BROKERED BY LOVE INSURANCE AGENCY AND UNDERWRITTEN BY TOKIO MARINE HCC PUBLIC RISK OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-21, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2023-21 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman,

Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-21 is adopted.

Ordinance 2023-22

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LETTER AGREEMENT WITH PARTNERS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR STATISTICAL BACKGROUND DATA SET UPDATE REQUEST, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,089.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-22, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2023-22 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-22 is adopted.

Ordinance 2023-23

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL 2022-2023 OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY ARMOR PROGRAM AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,268.75 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$2,765.25 IN MATCHING FUNDS, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO FINALIZE THE RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-23, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2023-23 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-23 is adopted.

Ordinance 2023-24, as amended

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE VILLAGE'S UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Kray motioned to amend section 408 to show two hours paid voting time. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed. Mrs. Kray motioned to amend section 813 to appear as section 814. Mrs. Graora seconded. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-24, as amended, rules suspended, and that Ordinance 2023-24 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-24, as amended, is adopted.

Resolution 23-18, as amended

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS TO BECOME A POWER A CLEAN FUTURE OHIO COMMUNITY AND TO ADOPT A GOAL TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE VILLAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-18, as amended, rules suspended, and that Resolution 23-18, as amended, is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora voted no, Moran voted yes.

Resolution 23-18, as amended, is placed on first reading.

Resolution 23-19

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

A RESOLUTION NOTIFYING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER THAT THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, OHIO, DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHEDULED TAX ADVANCES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-19, rules suspended, and that Resolution 23-19 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-19 is adopted.

Resolution 23-20

Introduced by Mayor Gigi Traore

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEWBURGH HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Resolution 23-20, rules suspended, and that Resolution 23-20 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora

and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 23-20 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4580 INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E. 4/29/2023 PD. 5/5/2023

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 \$84,040.52 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4580, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4580 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4580 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4581 INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E 5/13/2023 PD. 5/19/2023

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 \$93,446.34 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4581, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4581 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4581 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4582

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

EMPLOYEE PAYROLL P/E 5/27/2023

PD. 6/2/2023

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 \$85,487.85 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4582, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4582 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4582 is adopted.

PAYROLL RESOLUTION #4583

INTRODUCED BY: COUNCIL

APRIL 2023 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 \$607,211.51 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned to adopt Payroll Resolution #4583, rules suspended, and that Payroll Resolution #4583 is placed on 1st, 2nd, and final reading for immediate adoption. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll call on suspension of rules: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Roll call on adoption: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed.

Payroll Resolution #4583 is adopted.

Reports:

Mayor:

The mayor acknowledged the American Legion Post 627 for their continued involvement with the Village and for continuing their tradition of hosting a Memorial Day Parade. She also expressed her disappointment in whoever gave Fox 8 the tip that she would be at the

parade and is extremely disappointed in the disrespect shown to our veterans by the news team.

The Village is hosting two events this month. The first is the Shrink Your Lawn Presentation presented by the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. There will be free native trees and native plants given away to those in attendance. The event is free and will be in the Community Room from 6pm to 7pm.

The second is being held on Saturday June 24, 2023 from 9:30am to 12pm. The Office of the Mayor is hosting Bike/Hike with a Mayor in collaboration with Cuyahoga Greenway Partners. Participants will get to experience the Village and Metroparks and the future active transportation trail along Harvard Avenue. There will be raffles and refueling packs for the participants. Everything was donated.

The mayor asked council if there will be a Finance Committee Meeting on the third Tuesday of this month. Council Pro Tempore Graora noted that some of the committee members have other commitments but will check their schedules. After discussion among those present and rearrangement of some personal schedules, everyone at this meeting is available.

It was noted that a resident sent in a thank you note expressing their appreciation for the kindness and consideration shown to them by our firefighters.

Fiscal Officer

The Fiscal Officer presented the April 2023 Fund Cash Report:

General Fund MTD Receipts	\$	599,948.74
General Fund MTD Disbursements	\$	467,823.41
General Fund Unexpended Balance	\$	725,357.85
All Funds MTD Receipts	\$	642,820.71
All Funds MTD Disbursements	\$	607,211.51
All Funds Unexpended Balance	\$	1,565,676.66

Rumpke Report: May 2023

RITA Report: May 2023

Clerk of Courts

Please see attached report for April 2023

Councilperson Dunman:

The ambush by Fox 8 on Memorial Day is inexcusable.

Today is the 79th anniversary of D-Day.

Now that we are four officers down in the police department, Mr. Dunman noted that overtime hours will need to be considered. This may be the time for council to look into hiring another officer. Mrs. Graora asked Chief Majoy if there were any candidates. He answered yes. There is one candidate ready to be hired in a full-time position. This

candidate is a former NHPD employee with experience and the chief just needs authorization to hire him. If hired before July 1, this candidate will not need physical the Ohio Police and Fire pension, which costs the village \$750, as his hiring would be within the allowable timeframe from his last physical. If not hired by July 1, 2023 it would then cost the Village \$750 for the physical. This individual, having previously worked for us, would only need to shadow an officer for around 40 hours whereas a new officer, straight from the academy, would need 160 to 240 hours of training and an officer with prior experience elsewhere would need at least half of that amount of training. Seeing that we are almost halfway through June, hiring the individual that has worked for us before would be a plus. With two more officers gone, Mrs. Kray noted that the money should be in the budget, however it is not. The mayor responded that the money is no longer there and that these reductions were included in all budget proposals that were presented. Mr. Dunman stated his budget proposal did not reduce any money. The mayor reminded council that the mayor presents the budget to council, and they can amend it as they see fit. Council Pro Tempore Graora then stated that, if she understands correctly, we either hire someone with experience or pay overtime. The mayor affirmed that. She went on to say that Chief Majoy can submit a comparison between the cost of hiring a new officer and the cost of overtime for her review. This should include the cost of insurance, training, equipment, all the costs of bringing on a new employee versus overtime. Chief Majoy explained that not only is overtime financially costly it is detrimental to the health and well-being of our officers. It affects the department's ability to be pro-active instead of just reactive; it is taking away from officers' earned time off which they are entitled to. Unfortunately, this new generation is not one to just continuously work overtime. They want to work when it is convenient for them. When you eventually force them to come to work it then causes an issue with morale. Mayor Traore asked for the comparison by the week's end.

Mr. Dunman moved on to say he's noticed continuing and recurring discussions on our current traffic camera vendor. He would like to propose to council that they consider making an RFP to explore other vendors. He asked Mr. McConville how to proceed in making this proposal. Mr. McConville believes the RFP needs to be developed first so that council will know exactly what it is that you are going out to request. In this case you would need to put a multi-page document together describing the traffic camera program. This would allow for prospective vendors to put proposals together outlining what services they would provide, staffing, software, the cost, local legal assistance, etc. He stated that Mr. Dunman should take some time to come up with a comprehensive list of things he is looking for and develop a proposal from that. This way if you get multiple proposals from different vendors, they should all resemble each other. This will allow for an apples-to-apples comparison since the potential vendors will be following the same guidelines. Mr. Dunman then went on to state that he will have to come back to this topic once he has more time and information.

Councilperson Kray:

Councilperson Kray expressed thanks to Chief Higginbotham for keeping residents on Alpha updated and informed on the construction project and water outages.

Mrs. Kray addressed Chief Majoy stating she had a resident call her concerning his car being rifled through. She asked the resident if he called the NHPD to which the resident answered yes but was told he needed to come to the station however he couldn't at that time. She advised him to call and go up to the station in the evening as the police are there at night. He will be calling. She also told the resident that unfortunately it is the summertime and there are kids around that see unlocked car doors and seize the opportunity to take from those cars what they want. She also stressed that this does not only happen here but everywhere. These incidents need to be reported to the NHPD right away. Mrs. Kray advised that you don't leave valuables in your car, lock your doors, and just simply take out anything that may attract someone to your vehicle. Chief Majoy responded by stressing the fact that everyone needs to lock the doors of their vehicles, do not leave valuable items in your car and if your car has been broken into report it to the NHPD right away. Many times the department has come across stolen goods but cannot return them to their rightful owner because the theft was never reported. "You are never bothering us." There is someone in the police department 24/7.

Council Pro Tempore Graora:

Mrs. Graora had a resident complaint concerning how the Cleveland Metroparks mows their grass. They don't pick it up once it is cut and it creates unsafe conditions for motorcyclists and bicyclists. She is asking if someone, the mayor, could contact them to get this issue taken care of. The mayor said she will contact them.

Council Pro Tempore Graora mentioned that a special meeting may need to be held since there is legislation that needs to be passed, including the personnel manual. Mrs. Graora was reminded that the PPM was passed and that everything pertaining to it has been done.

Mrs. Graora reminded everyone of the community yard sale weekend coming up. Please get your permits by Thursday as Village Hall is closed on Friday. She asked anyone attending to please be mindful of their surroundings, be mindful of your driving and no parking signs. Mayor Traore asked about the availability of maps to which Mrs. Graora noted they are available at Village Hall and will be in the lobby.

Mr. Dunman asked Mrs. Graora if she was referring to the legislation for court when she mentioned having a special meeting. She replied yes.

Councilperson Moran:

Mr. Moran requested that Michelle Bolin add a "Congratulations" to the digital sign in front of Village Hall for all those that graduated this year. Ms. Bolin took note and stated it would be on the sign before the weekend.

Chief Majoy:

Chief Majoy received a message from one of the officers on duty stating that they have a possible suspect in the vehicle break-ins.

For council, the Wi-Fi mesh system that they approved has been installed and it is functional. If you need your devices connected, please contact him.

Chief Majoy was also disgusted by the conduct of Ed and Peggy Gallek of Fox 8 news at the American Legion Memorial Day Parade. He suggests that council quit taking a beating from these reporters and send a letter to the news channel admonishing their inappropriate behavior. He states that this kind of behavior makes someone who has been media friendly, like himself, not want to keep being media friendly.

Chief Higginbotham:

Chief Higginbotham has provided council with his report for April 2023.

Chief sent out several emails today concerning the status of the East 43rd / Alpha Water Main Replacement Project. He is assisting OHM to make sure these projects are running smoothly.

Chief Higginbotham noted that although the NHFD receives a lot of accolades but the one thing he is quite proud of is how well the NHFD and the NHPD work together. Although the NHFD gets the thank you note, he can guarantee that a police officer was also there on that call. We are always working together.

Mr. Sickels:

The Engineer's Monthly Report has been submitted to council.

The 41st/Beta/Alpha project is being financially reconciled. This is near completion.

For the next couple of weeks, they will be doing mostly water service installation on the Alpha/East 43rd St. project. Letters were sent where homeowners could opt in or out of the replacement program. Those choosing to opt in will be getting their lead or galvanized steel service lines replaced all the way up to their meter at no cost. If, at this time, residents choose to opt out and in the future their lines need replacing, it will be up to that homeowner to pay for it.

Thanks to Chief Higginbotham for keeping the water department in line.

Mr. Dunman asked Mr. Sickels about the opt-out of replacement option in the letter. He was curious to know if that became a disclosure item on a Point of Sale. Mr. Sickels stated that if the Village wanted that as part of the Point-of-Sale process it could be. There will be a letter on file with the Water Department stating that the property owner opted out of the line replacement.

Purchases & Approvals:

a. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval of the April 2023 Fund Cash Report. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll Call: Dunman, Kray, Graora, and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

b. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval to accept a \$200.00 donation from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 627 for the purchase of five (5) new flags and related flag poles. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll Call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

c. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval to continue NHFD member Jeff Wagner's employment as a full-time Fire Fighter/Paramedic as he has successfully completed his probationary period. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll Call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

d. Council Pro Tempore Graora motioned for the approval to continue NHFD member Brett Kelly's employment as a full-time Fire Fighter/Paramedic as he has successfully completed his probationary period. Councilperson Moran seconded. Roll Call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Public Comment:

Danielle Bowman, resident of Washington Park Blvd., asked if all water lines were being replaced. Mr. Sickels answered that only those lines found on Alpha Avenue and East 43rd Street are being replaced since that is where the project is taking place.

Edward Andexler of Harvard Avenue voiced how he is also tired of Fox 8 news reporting about the traffic camera tickets. He states if you don't want a ticket, slow down.

Mike Merry of East 41st wanted to bring some positivity to the meeting and mentioned how he loved Newburgh Heights and the services it offers.

Adjournment:

Council Pro Tempore Graora made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Kray seconded. Roll Call: Dunman, Kray, Graora and Moran voted yes. Motion passed 4 yes - 0 no.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Date Approved: 7/18/23

Mayor Gigi Traore: 

Fiscal Officer Cathleen Nagorski: 