



## CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Bradley D. Sellers at 7:00p.m.

**Attendance:** Councilwoman Hagwood, Councilwoman Edwards, Councilwoman White, Councilman Stewart, Councilwoman Mitchell, Councilman Anderson and Council President Howard

**Roll Call: 7 Present**

**Council President Nominations:** Councilwoman White nominated **Councilman Stanley Anderson**, Seconded by Councilwoman Edwards

Councilman Stewart nominated **Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell**, Seconded by Council President Howard

**Roll Call: 5 votes for Anderson, 2 votes for Mitchell**

**Stanley Anderson is the 2022 Council President**

Council President Anderson thanked his colleagues and stated he will push to unify Council more than they are now.

**Prayer:** Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood

**Minutes:** December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting  
**Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Edwards**  
**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried**

**Departmental Reports:** Mayor Sellers stated that if Council has any questions to please reach out to the individual Director. He stated that if they have additional questions, they can contact the Office of the Mayor as well for further discussion.

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**Residents' Emailed Requests and Comments:**

**Ray Freeman, School Board Member** introduced a new resident in the city that is a good friend of his, Regina Collins. He shared she moved onto McCann St.

**Regina Collins, Ward 6 Resident** shared that she is still in the process of moving due to transitioning her father into a memory care facility. She stated it is her third time living in the city.

**Mayor Sellers** welcomed Ms. Collins back to the city.

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**Order of the Day****1. Ord. 2022-001****MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, THE VILLAGE OF NORTH RANDALL AND THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONTRIBUTE \$40,000.00 TOWARD THE ANNUAL COST OF EMPLOYMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S RECREATION CENTER DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Superintendent Donald Jolly** thanked Council for their consideration of the partnership to restart their recreation program. He reported that the district has grown with 400 more students over the past three years. One statement they hear from parents is that the district has no recreation programs. He stated he did not want to have a levy to create rich programming but use their new facilities and some old ones with supplements to pay for the salary of the person. This is a one year deal and the district wants to reintroduce recreational programs in the city. He explained that they will facilitate the process by hiring a director that will use their facilities. They plan on implementing programs such as karate, gymnastics, baseball etc. for students and programs for parents as well. He shared that with the increase in student enrollment, the School Board is seeking to purchase Mt. Zion Church which has a school in it. The new elementary school was built for 869 students and they have 885 students so it is overcrowded already. This school would house pre-k and kindergarten students. It would provide a campus because all schools would be located on Northfield Rd. He stated that the estimated completion of the high school will be in March 2023. It was delayed due to the shortage of steel. The athletic fields were also delayed due to costs rising 30%. Everything will look like it's supposed to in 2024.

**Councilwoman Hagwood** stated that Superintendent Jolly has done an amazing job. She thanked him and stated she's appreciative.

<<Applause>>

**Councilman Howard** commented that he was engaged in recreational sports as a Child and it kept him out of trouble and gave him a competitive edge. He thanked the entire School Board.

**Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman Edwards,  
Seconded by Councilwoman White**

**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**

- 2. Ord. 2022-002 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MATTHEW HOWARD AND MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS AMENDING SECTIONS 121.03 MEETINGS AND 123.01 PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ALLOW VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**  
**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell**  
**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – MOTION CARRIED**
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**Announcements from Directors:**

**Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery** wished everyone a good evening and a happy new year. She announced that in-person tax preparation will begin February 11, 2022 - April 8, 2022 on Fridays between 8a.m.-1:30p.m. AARP Foundation offers free tax preparation for those of any age, especially for those over 50 or cannot afford to pay for tax preparation. Registration is required and you must fill out the packets prior to the appointment.

**Announcements from Council:**

**Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell** wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed them to *The Friendly City*. She implored everyone to be safe and shared that her cousin has been in the hospital since the 14<sup>th</sup> of last month with COVID and is on a ventilator. She stated based on the legislation on this evening's agenda, she's enthused that they're starting off 2022 in a powerful way.

**Councilman Walter Stewart** wished everyone a happy new year and thanked them for coming out this evening. He asked that everyone stay safe out there.

**Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood** wished everyone a happy new year and thanked all attendees for supporting them. She asked everyone to stay safe and practice social distancing.

**Councilman Matthew Howard** wished everyone a good evening and thanked everyone for attending. He congratulated Council President Stanley Anderson and stated he looks forward to working with him in the future. He has his total support and is available to help him any time. He acknowledged Mayor Booker from Highland Hills in attendance as well as members from the School Board.

**Councilwoman Elona White** thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She acknowledged Mayor Booker from Highland Hills, former employee Communications Director Ashley Gowens, members of the School Board and Superintendent Donald Jolly in attendance. She congratulated Council President Stanley Anderson.

**Law Department**

**Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley** had nothing to report.

### Council President's Comments

**Council President Stanley Anderson** thanked his colleagues again for their support. He reminded Council that their Ohio Ethics Commission financial disclosure statements are due May 16, 2022. He stated he will be reaching out to them all individually about committee assignments. He stated that they might not get everything they want but they'll work it out.

### Mayor's Comments

**Mayor Bradley D. Sellers** wished everyone a happy new year. He congratulated Council President Stanley Anderson. He acknowledged Highland Hills Mayor, Michael Booker in attendance. He thanked School Board members: Traci Mitchell, Darren Roberts, Ray Freeman and Superintendent Donald Jolly in attendance to support the initiative for the recreation programming. He acknowledged the Civil Service Commissioners: Edward White, Phyllis Tullos and Edward Hicks in attendance. He explained that their role is to vet all police officers and firefighters and that they take their job seriously. He thanked Janice Rox and Renee Strong from Planning Commission in attendance. He welcomed the former Communications Director Ashley Gowens who is now the Communication Director at Euclid Public Library.

Mayor Sellers stated he is entering his 11<sup>th</sup> as mayor for the City of Warrensville Heights and it has been 27 years since he returned to the city. He stated that Sherwin-Williams will be leaving the city in three and a half years and it will be a tremendous loss to the city. The site began with 80 people on 80 plus acres of land and after 20 years 400 employees are working there. He shared the budgetary number to the city is 2 million dollars so it will be a significant loss to the city when they leave. Mayor Sellers stated that there is no need to "fret" because they are working "triple-time" on a tentative deal. Sherwin-Williams is going to sell the land to the people that own Amazon. He stated this deal will carry Warrensville into the future for the next 60 or 70 years.

He announced that he is entering the Cuyahoga County Executive race. He stated he has enjoyed being the Mayor for the City of Warrensville Heights so the decision took a lot of thought. He stated he had to convince himself that sometimes it is better to help a community from another place. Mayor Sellers remarked that the city will be a place that they can all be proud of and continue to move forward. He stated his official announcement will be tomorrow at 1:30p.m.

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### Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn by Councilman Matthew Howard**

**Adjournment at 8:07p.m.**

*01-18-2022*

APPROVED

  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council