



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 18, 2023

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

Attendance: Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr., Councilwoman Elona C. White, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell, Councilman Matthew Howard and Council President Stanley Anderson

Roll Call: 5 Present

Motion to Excuse Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood-Thompson and Councilman Walter Stewart by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Anderson

Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Prayer: Councilman Matthew Howard

Minutes: June 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Williams

Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 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.

Residents' Requests and Comments:

Herbert Anderson Burns, Ward 2 Resident stated one of his concerns is transparency. He stated other cities have newsletters and meetings that may not include the public but the neighborhood is informed about decisions being made. He suggested City Council be a little bit more transparent when making decisions. He asked why the city is considering purchasing the lot where Eastwood Elementary School used to be.

Mayor Sellers responded the city is not thinking about purchasing it but it's been clearly stated for 15 years that development in the city is vital to its continuation. He explained the school district will come off the property and the city wants to make sure they control what's happening. So the school district may be in position to transfer their property for another piece of property and it is already in discussions. It is a large piece of property and they want to make sure it doesn't fall in the wrong hands. He stated last month the city passed a resolution allowing the city to start negotiations with the school district.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**

Mr. Burns asked if there could there be some type of newsletter that goes out to residents in Warrensville.

Mayor Sellers stated there is a newsletter that comes out quarterly. He stated every council meeting is posted online so he doesn't think you can get more transparent than the city already is. They lay it out there for everyone to see.

Mr. Burns replied that the problem is there are a lot of elderly people in Warrensville that are not tech savvy so he suggested just doing it the old fashioned way.

Mayor Sellers responded that the city will take it into consideration.

Juanita Brent, State Representative invited the Mayor, Directors and Councilmembers to her Town Hall held in exactly one week. She stated emails are sent out from her office every Monday so she asked that residents please do not hesitate to send their information to join the mailing list. Representative Brent stated that she knows people are concerned about Issue 1 and stated she has a lot of yard signs that she is giving out for free. The Town Hall will be on July 25, 2023 at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones at 3450 Lee Rd. in the building right next to the Shaker Heights Library at 6:00p.m.

Robert and Bridget Tift, Ward 3 Residents reported that there is a disturbance in the neighborhood. Mrs. Tift shared that on one Friday night the police were called on some children that were playing too loud outside at 11:00p.m. She stated when the police officer came, he started laughing and grinning with the children. When he left, the children got even louder so she had to call the Police Department and was given the third degree. Mrs. Tift asked Mayor Sellers what is going on because they have been talking about the same property for over three years. She told Police Chief Haynes there is a car that has been parked on Marvin Rd. since the last meeting and grass is growing around the car.

Chief Haynes asked if the vehicle is on their property.

Mrs. Tift replied it is on the grass.

Chief Haynes stated he will personally go over there and take care of the property.

Mr. Tift stated that one night there were children in the street and then the parents came and drove the car onto the middle of the lawn at 19408 Marvin Rd. and kept slamming the car doors. He stated a police car did drive down the street but the officer kept on going.

Mrs. Tift stated the neighbor also has a little Chihuahua that almost got hit by a car.

Chief Haynes stated he has no knowledge of the incident that happened on Friday but he'll look into it. He stated if there were officers disturbing the peace then his officers should have handled it. They tell the officers to interact with the children because they don't want them being afraid of the police. He stated that the officer that saw their neighbor parked on the grass should have made him move because the city has an ordinance against that. He stated the Department will keep an eye on the property.

Mrs. Tift asked about the people that are stealing dirt bikes.

Chief Haynes explained it is not only on Marvin Rd. They are putting things on Facebook Live and posting bikes. They are getting people from out of town and as they are trying to sell their bikes, they are hopping on them and taking off.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

Building Commissioner Brown stated that they were trying to get the resident in court last week but did not have legal service. They are going to attempt service again to get the process rolling. He commented the property at 19408 Marvin Rd. is an eyesore so they are going to continue what they can do on their side.

Carole Burns, Ward 2 Resident stated she was looking at the bus stop on the southeast corner of Northfield near the school where they put milk crates to sit on. She asked if City Council or someone could request a bench or shelter from the RTA. She stated there is a trash can for patrons to put their refuge. She stated there used to be a booklet that was furnished to new residents with the city ordinances and things in it. Would it help if that were issued to new residents?

Mayor Sellers responded that the city still provides the booklet. He explained the problem with the bus stop is their right of way is really sidewalks and curbs but once you hit the grass you're on private property. The RTA do not have room to put a shelter right there.

Ms. Burns asked if they could at least put a bench so people don't have to use the milk cartons.

Mayor Sellers responded they don't do benches now, they do shelters and that's \$25,000 a piece. He stated they need room because it so close to the curb; it is a safety issue.

Ms. Burns asked who would pay for the shelter.

Mayor Sellers: RTA

Order of the Day

1. Ord. 2023-068

COUNCILMAN MATTHEW HOWARD (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)

ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF ROSE MERRITT OF PROJECT CSI LLC, REPRESENTING RICHMOND NOOR, LLC, FOR A SIGN AND REBRANDING PROJECT FOR BP GAS STATION AT 4591 RICHMOND ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPN 763-07-003.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Howard,

Seconded by Council President Anderson

Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

2. Ord. 2023-069

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

ACCEPTING A CERTAIN BID FROM ARCHITECTURAL SIDING, TRIM, AND ROOFING, INC. FOR THE ROOF AND HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) EQUIPMENT ON THE ROOF FOR THE SENIOR AND CIVIC CENTER OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$581,300.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White

Seconded by Councilman Williams

Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart

Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.

Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

- 3. Ord. 2023-070** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE END OF LIFE REPLACEMENT COMPUTERS FROM DNS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$52,643.00 PURSUANT TO A NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE CONTRACT.
Motioned by Council President Anderson, Passage by Councilwoman White
Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 4. Res. 2023-023** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE THE VACANT LAND LOCATED ON EMERY ROAD IN WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO (PPN 761-22-004) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$26,000.00 THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF’S FORECLOSURE AND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilman Williams, Passage by Councilwoman White
Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 5. Res. 2023-024** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO DONATE \$2,500.00 TO THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Council President Anderson,
Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- 6. Ord. 2023-062** **COUNCILWOMAN ANDREA MITCHELL (ACTING PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)**
 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF GOPAL PATEL OF OHM SAI SHIV INC., REPRESENTING OVERLOOK SQUARE LLC, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A WALL SIGN AND TENANT SIGN PANELS FOR CV LIQUOR LOCATED AT 4620 RICHMOND ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44128, PPN 763-27-013.
 FIRST READ: 06/20/2023
 SECOND READ: 07/18/2023
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage Council President Anderson,
Seconded by Councilman Howard

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
 Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

**Councilman Howard makes a motion to keep the Item No. 6 on three reads.
Council President Anderson retracts his vote of "Passage."**

**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 4 Ayes; 1 Nay; 0 Abs – Motion Carried – SECOND READ**

- 7. Ord. 2023-054** **COUNCILMAN MATTHEW HOWARD (PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR)**
ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO
APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF LESLIE HENDERSON OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT
LLC, REPRESENTING CHIAROSCURO MOTIONS, LLC, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A
SIGN FOR THE GOOD PLACE RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 20017 HARVARD
AVENUE, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO, 44122, PPN 761-09-013.
FIRST READ: 05/16/2023
SECOND READ: 06/20/2023
THIRD READ: 07/18/2023
**Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Council President Anderson,
Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried**

Announcements from Directors:

Community Development – Manager Raymon Turner wished everyone a good evening. He shared that the first community meeting regarding the Greenspace Project was held last week Wednesday and he'd like to thank everyone for all their input and ideas. He reported there were over 60 residents at the meeting so they were happy about the turnout. He stated that the first food truck event on July 13, 2023 held at the Municipal Center. He shared the next food truck event will be on August 10, 2023.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell wished everyone a good evening. She thanked all the people that spoke during public comment because they see things that they all cannot. She gave condolences to the family of Jackie Gardner, stating that one is a State Highway Patrol Officer that came to a Council meeting to speak a while ago. She has three lovely sons and was a neighbor to Mrs. Rox. She stated more information on the services will be forthcoming so keep the family in their thoughts and prayers. She shared the oldest house she is aware of in the city was built in 1854 and is the Eastwood House that is right across from the new recreation field. She remarked it would be nice to have it as one of our city-owned properties but it is what it is. It is more than 20,000 sq. ft. She shared they had one of the first theaters which was a predecessor to what became *The Front Row* and there were people that came from around the globe to perform in Warrensville Heights. She commented that they have to know where they came from so they can build a better future built on a wonderful foundation. Councilwoman Mitchell reported spending approximately 45 minutes on Shadywood Ln. and Meadowlark Ln. in the last few days because she has received a lot of resident calls. She commented that she witnessed almost three accidents due to speeding. She stated the residents on Shadywood Ln.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

and Hathaway Ln. want speed bumps and she is okay with that. She commented they can be removable as long as they stop traffic. There are a lot of children and seniors in the neighborhood and the last thing they want is anyone to get hit.

Councilwoman Elona White thanked everyone for coming out, particularly Mr. and Mrs. Tift for sharing their comments and concerns. She thanked everyone who attended and volunteered at the Party in the Park event the past weekend.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams shared that the turnout for the August primary last year was 8% in all of Ohio. He put that in the context that there are 8 million registered voters in Ohio. He stated it is apathy from his perspective when the turnout was 661,000. He stated Cuyahoga County was a little better at 10.4% beating the entire State average of 8%. He encouraged everyone to do better and be better getting folks out to vote. He stated “some people” don’t want “some people” to vote which is why they had decided not to have August voting but decided to do it anyway. He shared the early returns are well above the statistics he provided but they have to put their thumbs on the pulse. Councilman Williams stated they must influence family, neighbors and friends to vote.

Councilman Matthew Howard stated speed bumps work. He reported Chicago and Cleveland have figured out a way to put them in. He stated the chicanes were a nice gesture and did slow the speeding down a little bit but overall it doesn’t work, especially on McCann St. He stated patrol cars cannot be sitting on a street all day long so they need to try something different.

Law Department

Assistant Law Director Keisha Hughes had nothing to report.

Council President’s Comments

Council President Stanley Anderson shared that he received a call from one of his constituents on Jennings St. and she complimented the city and Director Lastery regarding the transportation. He gets calls like that and want to pass it along. He stated he is not surprised by the election and the apathy is there. He stated often times when he is going door-to-door engaging people they approach him with issues. He stated he tries to resolve the issues as best as he can but often times it has nothing to do with a city ordinance. Council President Anderson stated the best thing they can do is try. For example, he may try to negotiate with a landlord on Walford. He stated police officers need to be able to engage positively with children to get them into compliance. He stated the apartment complexes would be the perfect place for the police officers to engage with young men and have hot dogs or something.

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers thanked everyone for taking the time to come out. He acknowledged State Representative Juanita Brent for taking the time to come out tonight. He recognized Mr. White, Ms. Tullos and Mr. Hicks from Civil Service Commission and Ms. Strong and Ms. Rox who serve on Planning

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

Commission. Mayor Sellers thanked them all for the work they do. He stated it is important to be flexible and look for opportunities to make adjustment when they can be made. He used Ms. Burns comment regarding the milk cartons at the bus stop as an example. He commented right across the city line you see a nice glass bus shelter in Beachwood. He named that at Emery Rd. and Richmond Rd., the college students end up sitting on the guardrail and on Miles Rd. in front of Cinema Park there is no bus stop. He stated they can contact RTA and their response will likely be who is going to help them come up with the \$22,000? He will look in to the matter further and report back. He thanked the Economic Development Department for putting on a successful food truck event and thanked those who attended the community meeting at the John Dewey building. Mayor Sellers stated that the city does a quarterly newsletter that is mailed out to all residents with pertinent information. He stated every meeting held is posted in advance in a variety of ways. He shared that there will be one meeting in August then they will go back to their regular schedule in September. He stated they are looking forward to the Summer Festival on August 19-20, 2023. Lastly, he shared that a third of the high school is up so it can be seen more clearly and will be open for the school year the first week of September. He stated it will be open for walk-throughs the last week of August to see what they've done.

Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn by Council President Stanley Anderson
Adjournment at 7:51p.m.**

08-15-2023

APPROVED



Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Dorise Thompson-Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White • Walter Stewart
Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Johnny L. Williams Jr.
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**