



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 16, 2023

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

Attendance: Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood, Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr., Councilwoman Elona C. White, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell and Councilman Matthew Howard

Roll Call: 5 Present

Motion to Excuse Councilman Walter Stewart and Council President Stanley Anderson by Councilwoman Mitchell, Seconded by Councilman Howard

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

Prayer: Councilman Matthew Howard

Minutes: May 2, 2023 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
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:

Robert and Bridget Tift, Ward 3 Residents stated they still have a few concerns in their area on Marvin Rd. Mr. Tift stated some things are getting better but it seems once the city doesn't address something anymore it goes back to the way it was. He shared that there is one house in particular and he got a complaint from his neighbor on the other side of that house about the trash. He reported that Building Commissioner Brown got the matter taken care of but she stated that there is still a lot of trash and she's thinking about putting a fence up. He stated cars are still being parked on the grass and if you look in the back of the house, it's a forest. Mrs. Tift commented that it is a junkyard. Mr. Tift stated they don't want rodents because the property is not being taken care of. He stated another neighbor told him the people at this house are still putting their garbage cans where visible. He requested more police patrol and reported only seeing a police car once despite continuous overnight parking on the street.

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Police Chief Haynes responded that he knows his officers have been in the area patrolling. He commented that parking on the grass isn't allowed anywhere in the city. He explained violators receive a parking citation and if they get two or more that go unpaid, the city is allowed to tow. If his officers see it, they know to cite. They can put special attention on Marvin Rd. He reported since the Record Bureau has a new system, a report can be generated and sent to residents that have parking tickets advising them their license can be suspended for non-payment.

Building Commissioner Brown stated that a court summons was issued to the resident on Marvin Rd. for June 15, 2023 to appear in court for the fence, garbage cans and damaged landscaping. He reported speaking to the landlord about doing the repairs that did not take place. He explained when a property has nuisance landscaping a citation is issued to the property and they have three days to cure and if it's not done, the city has the authority to come out and cut it. The resident is sent the bill and if it's not paid, there's an assessment.

Bridget Tift stated the grass in going down Marvin Rd. that is city property has not been cut; it looks crazy. She commented that they are saying the same things over and over and it's not just the one house on the street. She stated if they have to pay higher property taxes, the city is going to have to do better than this! Mrs. Tift mentioned a yellow house in the corner where the grass is crazy and there's stuff coming off the garage.

Building Commissioner Brown stated he gets her concern and the Building Department does inspections daily. It is a process and they write numerous citations. He explained a lot of people do not immediately reply so they have to take time finding people and get them into court. He reported the Building Department averages 1500 - 2000 citations written every summer.

Mayor Sellers responded that in April and May, the grass in Warrensville is off the chain! He remarked it is not just houses but companies too! Once the matter reaches court services, they are on the train just like everyone else.

Robert Pearson, Ward 2 Resident stated he came in last month and spoke about how the tree lawn in front of his home has been black-topped and wanted an update on when that will change to grass.

Service Director Sims explained that there are a lot of projects the Department is working on now and they don't have enough manpower. They are going to take care of it.

Mayor Sellers responded they will be taking out asphalt, putting in top soil and seed the way it is supposed to be put in. He stated it will be taken care of.

Mr. Pearson stated he belongs to the Eastwood Estates Homeowners Association and he was designated as the person to express their concerns at their last meeting. He stated the curb is jacked up on the opposite side of the street from Eastwood Ln. all the way to Harvard Rd. It has been damaged but it got worse by the machinery used when tearing down the school. He reported that the lights in the Mini Park are not working. His neighbor informed him there is someone in the park at night sleeping.

Service Director Sims stated he wasn't aware the lights were out but he'll check it out tomorrow.

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Mr. Pearson reported that a neighbor on Mayfair Ln. has a driveway apron that was damaged by the snow plow. He stated the city made repairs to aprons on the street but stopped a few houses short of hers. He gave Service Director Sims the address. He reported an issue with one of the support cables on the telephone pole next to the mailbox on the corner of Eastwood Ln. and Harvard Rd.

Mayor Sellers responded that it is an AT&T pole or city highway pole so Service Director Sims will contact one of them.

Mr. Pearson inquired if the city still has an Animal Warden because there is a neighbor that is concerned about a dog that is really aggressive.

Police Chief Haynes stated that the Animal Warden was out on disability since June 2022 and recently submitted his resignation and the city posted a vacancy. The city has been outsourcing the Animal Warden duties to a company in Bedford.

Order of the Day

- 1. 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.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Williams
Roll Call: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried – FIRST READ
- 2. Ord. 2023-055** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS AND STANLEY ANDERSON, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**
AMENDING SECTION 123.01 PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ALLOW VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 3. Ord. 2023-056** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$2,680,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING (i) A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING THE CITY’S MUNICIPAL BUILDING, (ii) COSTS OF ACQUIRING RECREATION CENTER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTED FROM PROCEEDS OF A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011, AS SUPPLEMENTED, INCLUDING BY AN ELEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT DATED AS OF

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DECEMBER 10, 2020, (iii) IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING GRADING, DRAINING, CURBING AND PAVING, CONSTRUCTING AND INSTALLING SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS, OTHER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND LANDSCAPING, ALL TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, TOGETHER COMPRISING THE EMERY WOODS PROJECT, AND (iv) COSTS OF IMPROVING THE CITY'S TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM BY ACQUIRING AND INSTALLING SIGNALS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES TO DIRECT AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ALONG RICHMOND ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Howard

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

4. Ord. 2023-057

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell

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

5. Res. 2023-016

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 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 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilwoman White

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

ADD-ON:

6. Ord. 2023-058

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH JACKSON, DIEKEN & ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, INCLUDING PROPERTY AND CASUALTY, AND RISK MANAGEMENT, FOR A PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH MAY 31, 2024 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.00

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PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Williams

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

Announcements from Directors:

Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery announced there will be a Friday night event on May 23, 2023 from 7-10p.m. and there will be live music and refreshments with a cost of \$25. She asked everyone to come out and enjoy the evening.

Economic & Community Development – Manager Raymon Turner reported there is a community grant survey circulating. He stated John Dewey, currently the middle school will be coming down this fall. He stated in conjunction with the Warrensville City School District and county, they have taken on planning additional green space with Green Road Park. They are looking to get input from as many people as they can. He stated there are hard copies, it can be scanned via phone or they can go to the city website and complete the survey. He stated the deadline for the survey is June 7, 2023.

Building Department – Commissioner Benjamin Brown reported that the Donover Rd. property with the broken window and the home where a daycare is being operated have court dates for June 8, 2023. He reported issuing citations in Harvard Park to Juicy Seafood and Buffalo Wild Wings for their high grass. He stated the owner of The Good Place on Harvard Rd. initially came to the city as a bar but changed their operation to a restaurant which is a permitted use in the District. They procured a level - 2 license from the Health Department which allows them to do pre-packaged food and have a receiving kitchen. They have a total of 12 seats on the inside and six spaces dedicated to them per the parking ordinance. The occupancy is 46 people maximum in the establishment and the hours of operation are 11a.m.-11p.m., Monday – Saturday.

Police Department - Chief Wesley Haynes reported a nuisance ordinance was issued to the Carlozzi family regarding their property. The father stepped up and evicted the son from the property so the house is currently vacant. He stated the residents of the nuisance property on Sunset Ln. are scheduled to move on June 3, 2023. We contacted the property owner in California and the property management company in Solon and advised them of all the violent incidents that were happening from homicides all the way down to drive-by shootings and unruly young adults. The property owner issued a 30-day vacate order to the residents and if they don't leave, she will begin the eviction process. He reported officers were at the residence a couple nights ago for a reported disturbance and spoke with the renter who reported that she was moving June 3, 2023. He reported that this year, the city brought on three new officers and hopefully June 20, 2023, they will be swearing-in two more officers for a total of five.

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Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood wished everyone a good evening. She stated the members of her Ward 1 Advisory Board are in attendance this evening. She asked School Board member Ray Freeman to share news that a former Warrensville resident and scholar will be a part of a National Football Hall of Fame press conference in Canton. He announced that the event will take place on Monday, November 2, 2023 and the actual induction is July 30, 2023 in Canton. Councilwoman Thompson-Hagwood commended him for his leadership and making a difference. She stressed the importance of talking *to* youth and not *about* them. She stated adults have to come together and support each other and that will make a difference in what is happening in the world today.

Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell wished everyone a good evening and expressed appreciation for the attendees coming to the meeting. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Tift for sharing and congratulated Mr. Pearson for his new role of reporting out for the Eastwood Homeowners Association. She thanked him for amplifying the things that need to be done in the neighborhood. She shared recently there was a production of *The Wiz* at the high school and it was outstanding. She stated it is a fictional story but in our midst today they have a whiz, w-h-i-z. Councilwoman Mitchell shared that person completed more than 1000 hours of training in three years and came out of that with two certifications. That person will rarely say anything and speak up about those two certifications, one as a Certified Public Manager, which is not easy and one as a Certified Municipal Clerk. That person serves them, works with them hand-in-hand and helps them become a better *Friendly City*. Please stand on your feet and give Amber Joyner applause.

<Applause>

Clerk of Council Amber Joyner thanked everyone.

Councilwoman Mitchell stated that completing those two certifications in that amount of time required so much without dropping a thing. She picked upward and was able to complete work for eight people while completing these two certifications and it definitely worth mentioning. She stated she was so proud to work with Amber. Lastly, she asked that people continue to come out to the Council meetings and share information.

Councilwoman Elona C. White thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated School Board member Ray Freeman for all the work he's done. She congratulated Clerk of Council Joyner on her Municipal Clerk Certification.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams Jr. congratulated Clerk of Council Joyner. He stated he has always had a warm and fuzzy feeling over the acronym DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He shared yesterday the Florida Governor used a different acronym for DEI as he signed a bill, a law to prohibit DEI at the college level now. They started with Critical Race Theory and using that bunk but now it has risen to the college level and now they are looking to butcher to where the Governor now calls it Discrimination, Exclusion and Indoctrination. How pathetic and sickening is that? He is only a symptom

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of what is happening for many, many reasons that they all know to varying degrees. He asked that they keep their eyes open and don't keep their heads down.

Councilman Matthew Howard agreed that it is sickening but it's the nature of that group of people's game. He stated they have to find ways to combat that. He congratulated Clerk of Council Joyner and acknowledged her contributions and stated he appreciated everything that she does for them. He stated the home that had the drug activity on Donover Rd. is now pretty quiet. The window is still broken and there is trash on the tree lawn where they are cleaning out the home. He shared there are a few things in other areas that have popped up that they're keeping their eyes on. He commented it helps when people reach out and inform them of what is going on. He thanked his colleagues for agreeing to participate in the WHHS Senior Breakfast with a special shout-out to Councilman Williams for attending the event and Councilwoman Mitchell for finding a vendor for Council's contribution to the event.

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley had nothing to report.

Mayor Sellers allowed **Herbert Burns, Ward 2 Resident** to speak in support of what Councilman Williams was saying about the bill signed by the Florida Governor. He shared the Ohio State Legislature are the same as the antagonists of the Critical Race Theory with the creation of Bills 322 and 327. He stated he sent an email to their representative because he was concerned and she stated she voted "No." He shared the bills have not been proposed yet but they should keep an eye on it because what happened in Florida can happen here.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers stated Councilman Williams raised some good points. He thanked everyone for coming out and appreciated their concern. He acknowledged Mr. White and Mr. Hicks from the Civil Service Commission in attendance stating they do a good job. He recognized Ms. Rox from Planning Commission and School Board members Traci Mitchell, Barbara Mumin and Ray Freeman.

Traci Mitchell, School Board President wished everyone a good evening. She shared that the construction of the middle school/high school is coming to a conclusion. In August, they should be receiving keys for both buildings and the children will begin school on time in September. She reported that August 26, 2023 is the first home game in the new football stadium and they are very excited about that. She thanked City Council, Mayor Sellers and all the City Directors for their partnership. She announced they are celebrating The Last Roar on Memorial Day Weekend for the entire community as they celebrate the high school. She stated there are no days set yet for the Grand Opening Celebration but they will be sure to share with the community. She asked that they please join them at School Board Meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30p.m. There will be a summer hiatus but all the dates are on the website.

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Mayor Sellers shared that the School District was ranked at 608 and now they are at 298. So, they went from the 3rd worst to above Shaker Schools. He commented that Governor DeSantis and others are stacking with their own people. They don't like the dynamics of where the country is going so they're trying to erase a bunch of things like the Voting Rights Act and Brown vs. Board of Education. He stated they have to stay on guard at all times and they cannot give up on the children because they aren't thinking down the road. He acknowledged Ms. LaVert in attendance and stated she and Ms. Albright are going to be on the agenda to be appointed to the Board of Zoning & Appeals Board on June 20th. He shared that John Dewey, Westwood and the high school building are going to be torn down. He stated adjacent to John Dewey is Green Road Park and people are always complaining that there is not enough room for people to have multiple events. They went to the School Board and stated there is an opportunity to acquire John Dewey and see what a good green space park would look like in this community. This is where residents are going to hear real input and it is not going to happen overnight. Big tracks of land like that don't come up for green space opportunities like this. They want to take advantage of it so please complete the survey. He stated the public meeting will likely be in July and everyone can weigh in and say their part. The county is leading the production for the city. Lastly, he shared that there will be lights soon in the Harvard Park area on Richmond Rd. as agreed upon initially as it is dark in that area at night.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman White

Adjournment at 8:05p.m.

06-20-2023

APPROVED



Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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