



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 3, 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, Councilman Walter Stewart, Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell, Councilman Matthew Howard and Council President Stanley Anderson
Roll Call: 7 Present

Prayer: Councilman Walter Stewart

Minutes: September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Anderson
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.

Residents' Requests and Comments:

Ray Freeman, School Board Member introduced a new resident to Cinema Park in Ward 3, Tiffany Grimes. She wanted to meet her councilperson and say hello.

Ms. Grimes shared that she moved onto O'Neal Point and she met Mayor Sellers and Councilwoman Mitchell. Her parents live in Ward 2.

Raymon Turner, Community Development Manager introduced Carol Sanford from Cleveland Clinic to briefly give a high level of the Blue Zone engagement. He shared that she spoke at the Senior Club meeting and some people came to the kick-off keynote session at Tri-C yesterday. He stated the session was very informative and he wanted Ms. Sanford to speak for those who could not attend.

Ms. Sanford introduced herself as the Program Manager for Community Outreach and Health Advocacy at South Pointe. The hospital is embarking on a relationship with Blue Zones which is a committee that has been established in 78 particular areas throughout the country that have a track record of individuals moving in their 90s and past their 100s. It is a lifestyle of adopting a mindset of being community-based, being active, reducing stress and getting enough sleep. They are trying to encourage a more plant-based diet with fruits, vegetables and nuts. She reported that last night there was an overview of the presentation informing attendees about

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the history of the Blue Zones and showing some of the successes. She stated this is the investigative phase before an assessment is done. She explained the assessment is done over a 6-8 month period and then they will receive the findings as to whether they have the structure to increase green space, walking space and bring the concept into the mind of their children. Also, if there are community members that are willing to be a part of it. She shared a lot of community members were not involved in the event yesterday and today because they need to get it more on a high level to ensure that they have civic, business and faith-based members invested in the program. They will be reaching out to the community to be a part of the assessment and sit on focus groups and committees. Communications will be sent out to everyone through Council and the Mayor.

Mayor Sellers thanked South Pointe for leading the discussion. He stated there is a way to connect the assets they have already put in place and create a structure that allows everyone that lives here to be the beneficiary of a policy discussion, change of planning and a thousand other things that come in to play here. He shared that if you have Netflix, there is a presentation on Blue Zones. It is spreading like wildfire and has the attention of many, not just in Warrensville but surrounding communities as well as the county. He stated living in a particular zip code can have a direct determination of what your life span is expected to be. He stated living in the 44128 zip code, you're likely to live 16-18 years less than someone living in the Orange, Shaker Heights and Beachwood zip codes. They should give that some thought because these are statistical facts.

Janice Rox, Ward 2 wished everyone a good evening and stated that some time ago she had mentioned taking down the monument sign in front of the old City Hall. She stated she has discussed with Planning Commission and Building Commissioner Brown taking down old signage in the city. Ms. Rox stated she would like to see the monument sign come down and residents have stated that new people coming to the city may think City Hall is still located there. She asked if the removal of the sign can happen soon.

Mayor Sellers replied that he wouldn't say soon but it is under discussion.

Francine Wahome, Ward 2 thanked Police Chief Haynes because she had her alarm system upgraded and all of a sudden the police were at her door. She stated she had just returned from Ghana and stated a police officer knocked on her bedroom door and asked if she was alright. Ms. Wahome stated her son also came and checked on her so she was wondering what happened.

Abdul Ali, Ward 5 stated that he wanted to address a problem that's increasing concerning leaves and trees. He stated his parents moved into the city in the late 70s and former Mayor Grabow took care of the city. He stated tree services were administrated...<inaudible>... and leaves would be gathered and there were...<inaudible>... There was a regular process that occurred especially during fall because it was necessary. He stated the trees have always been a problem primarily because they used to block the sewers and caused water problems. He stated that when Marcia Fudge was Mayor the city services

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declined rapidly. He stated they now have electrical companies that cut down trees and leave them in the back of the house. So, it is up to the property owner to move those trees! He stated he cannot drag trees out to the front yard anymore. He did not have to do this under former Mayor Grabow; he had a truck coming down the street regularly. He added that the electrical companies are not doing the stuff that they do now. Mr. Ali stated there used to be leaf service where they came down with a truck on a regular basis. At least twice a week. Mr. Ali stated there is no consistent policy when leaving leaves out and with the trees you are at the mercy of whatever. There should be a policy when people are notified by the city and they come drag the tree out to the front.

Mayor Sellers stated there is a policy on leaves and trees. It is advertised a number of ways in the city including a quarterly newsletter. He asked Service Director Sims to address the matter further but stated the city picks up leaves from October to the end of November.

Service Director Sims stated he received the name of the supervisor at The Illuminating Company that handles taking down trees under wires. He stated he rode out to Longbrook Rd. where there were several trucks and informed them that they are just leaving the trees out there. He stated their response was that they drag them out to the front. Director Sims informed them that they take the trees to the front but leave the leaves and that is a problem. He explained that beginning in April, the Service Department goes around the city and pick branches and brush and put them in the chipper. The service is provided until October 1st and they stop the service unless there is a storm and start the leaf pick-up. They go down and pick up the leaves that are brought out to the curb and they'll do that to the first snowfall. He stated that has been a consistent process since he has been in his position for the last 12 years.

Mayor Sellers stated that they have an abundance of leaves in the city so all they ask is they get them to the curb. He stated if the property owner has difficulties with getting the leaves to the curb, he or she can contact their councilperson or the Service Department. If there are issues with The Illuminating Company, let the city be the advocate for them. The city will take up that fight for the resident. Also, he asked that Mr. Ali get a copy of the newsletter to take with him.

Mr. Ali remarked he has not seen a chipper nor any leaf service. He lives on Brookton Rd.

Service Director Sims responded that the chipper was out today and the leaf service will start this week. There are not enough leaves to drive the truck around. He stated they went on Brookton Rd. but he'll get Mr. Ali's address and find out what happened.

Order of the Day

1. Ord. 2023-095

MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND AND VARIOUS SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

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- 2. Ord. 2023-096** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 19700 MILES ROAD, WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128, PPNS 762-13-008 AND 762-12-009 FOR \$414,000.00, 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 Council President Anderson, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 3. Res. 2023-032** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENGAGE IN A PUBLIC BIDDING PROCESS TO ADVERTISE FOR AND SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE HARVARD RICHMOND LIGHT FIXTURES PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 4. Res. 2023-033** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2024 CUYAHOGA COUNTY MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Howard
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
- 5. Res. 2023-034** **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT IF AWARDED, A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT THROUGH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2024 CUYAHOGA COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Anderson
Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

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Add-Ons:**6. Res. 2023-035****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 761-21-001) 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 Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilman Williams,
Seconded by Councilwoman White**

Roll Call: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

7. Res. 2023-036**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 761-22-001) 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 Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White,
Seconded by Council President Anderson**

Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Announcements from Directors:

Communications Department – Director Jeff Gates reminded everyone that the annual Trunk or Treat is in three weeks on October 24, 2023 from 6-8p.m. He explained it is a safe alternative to trick or treating for the children. It is held in the parking lot between Ohio University and South Pointe Hospital on Warrensville Center Rd. There are many organizations that take part including some of the councilmembers and the Police and Fire Departments.

Building Department - Building Commissioner Brown reported that he and Police Chief Haynes were at a problem house on Garden Blvd. He explained that the renter has no Occupancy Permit and at one point was selling appliances out of the property. He stated they did get the appliances off the property as he has not seen any recently. He reported that currently they have a barn on the property that include chickens, ducks and roosters which are allowed under the city's ordinance. He commented they may want to look at amending the ordinance. He reported several of the roosters got out and were walking down the sidewalk onto other properties. Police Chief Haynes entered the garage of the property and found over 50 rats in cages being stored in the garage. He stated they will continue to try and get the property owner in court. He stated the people that own these animals are renters that have been there since the spring.

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Mayor Sellers shared there is a belief that the renter is using the property to house the animals but they don't actually live there. He asked if they can stop occupancy in the house.

Building Commissioner Brown replied they have to get the owner in court before a judge to have them file the necessary paperwork to do inspections. He stated there is nothing in the city's ordinances that states the city can evict someone like a landlord can.

Police Department – Chief Haynes stated that they contacted Animal Protective League (APL) about the problem house on Garden Blvd. and they did not come out. The Department is going to work on APL coming out in the morning. He stated the tenant said she would have all the animals off the property by noon tomorrow. He explained the tenants are a woman and her mother. He stated he has issued a nuisance citation and cruelty to animal citation because there were dead turkeys on the property. The tenants were advised the police would be out there first thing in the morning. He reported first he spoke to the tenants on the phone and then they came out to the property.

Councilman Howard inquired if the tenants were breeding rats for snake food.

Chief Haynes replied the tenant informed him that she thought the two rats were both female but one was male and they reproduced quickly. He reported also seeing rabbits, cats, a turkey that was alive and a big dog inside.

Council President Anderson asked was there a reason given for having all the animals there.

Chief Haynes responded that the renter had a business in Cleveland that closed up and she brought the animals out here.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell wished everyone a good evening. She welcomed the new resident Tiffany Grimes. She appreciated the update about Blue Zones and shared this is the first documented community in the State of Ohio and the first community that looks like theirs. She commented that she is glad Ms. Wahome's alarm works and agreed with Ms. Rox about the monument sign being removed. She asked attendees to please be aware there will be a message from the President of the United States in order to test all devices at 2:20p.m.

Councilman Walter Stewart wished everyone a good evening and ask that they be safe.

Councilwoman Dorise Thompson-Hagwood wished everyone a good evening and thanked them for coming out.

Councilwoman Elona C. White stated it was a pleasure to see everyone.

Councilman Johnny L. Williams shared that October 10, 2023 is the registration deadline for voters. He stated he is sure people are out there making sure everyone in their circle is registered and will vote on November 7, 2023. He asked that people be aware that Ohio Senator J.D. Vance and Ohio

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Representative Jim Jordan voted to turn the lights out on the government. He asked that people enjoy the weather.

Councilman Matthew Howard thanked all the residents who spoke particularly, Mr. Ali who is one of his residents. He commented that he attended one of the Blue Zones meetings and it was very informative. He thanked the Police Department because he had a deer stuck between his neighbor's steel fence and the telephone pole. It was terrified and screaming. He reported that the Animal Warden came out as well as one of the new officers, Chris Angelo. The three of them had to put on gloves and pick up the deer by the hind legs and lift it over a 6 foot fence. He complimented the Animal Warden and said he was very knowledgeable and helpful. He thanked Chief Haynes and Building Commissioner Brown for handling the property on Garden Blvd. He commented that he grew up on that street and knew the family that lived there years ago. He stated his disbelief in their actions of having all those animals on the property. He shared that it reminded him of when he was cutting grass on Preston Rd. last year and there was a stench that was coming from the neighbor's home. He called the police because it was clear when speaking to the resident that she should not have been living on her own. There was a warrant issued and the APL removed multiple cats.

Law Department

Assistant Law Director Keisha Hughes wished everyone a good evening. She reported that the Law Department will look into the issues regarding the home discussed and figure out what their options are and what changes need to be made to the city code.

Council President's Comments

Council President Stanley Anderson wished everyone a good evening and welcomed the new resident to Ward 3. He thanked Chief Haynes for the department statistical reports he sent to Council and appreciated him putting that together.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He recognized Ms. Tullos, Mr. White and Mr. Hicks from Civil Service Commission and Ms. Rox from Planning Commission. He asked School Board Member Ray Freeman to provide an update on the opening of the schools and the construction project.

Mr. Freeman reported that they still don't have the keys yet but should receive them this Friday. The construction company is working out some kinks with the doors and cameras. He stated the schools have 300 cameras total and currently 200 are working in the 240,000 sq. ft. complex not including the athletic complex. He commented that the students are adjusting but they are waiting on the front parking on Northfield Rd. so the cars and busses come and there's no traffic backup for the Early Childhood Center. He reported they are saying parking will be completed on November 18, 2023. He shared that October 14, 2023 at 11:00a.m. that Ed

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Chambers, Stanley Miller and others will have a dedication event at the high school on the campus grounds.

Mayor Sellers thanked anyone who took the time out to attend the Blue Zones meeting yesterday. They are looking to do things in the city that will enhance the quality of life. He reported that last Shred Day of the year was this past Saturday and they had short of 200 cars. He reported that the location La-Z-Boy Furniture was in at Harvard Park will be an Aldi grocery store. The matter will be before Planning Commission on Monday, October 9, 2023. He remarked it will be the nicest Aldi in the area.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman Elona White

Adjournment at 7:59p.m.

10-17-2023

APPROVED


Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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