



## CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 7, 2020**

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

**Attendance:** Councilwoman Hagwood, Councilwoman Edwards, Councilwoman White, Councilman Stewart, Councilman Howard, Council President Mitchell  
**Roll Call: 6 Present**

**Motion to Excuse Councilman Anderson by Councilwoman White,  
Seconded by Councilman Howard  
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried**

**Council President Nominations:** Council President Mitchell nominated Councilman Matthew Howard, seconded by Councilman Stewart; No other nominations.  
**Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried  
Matthew Howard, 2020 Council President**

**Prayer:** Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell

**Minutes:** December 17, 2019 Regular Meeting  
**Motion to Approve by Councilwoman Mitchell, Seconded by  
Councilwoman White  
Roll Call: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abs – Motion Carried**

**Departmental Reports:** Mayor Sellers stated that Council should have a copy of the Departmental Reports in their possession. He stated that if they have 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:**

**Bobbie Lockhart** read from a *thank you* card addressed to the Warrensville Heights City Council. The Senior Club thanked Council for support of their holiday celebration at the MGM Casino on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council**

**Elizabeth Benson** reported that she is still very dissatisfied with the bar she lives next door to on Felch Street. She stated when she first moved to Warrensville 30 years ago it was quiet because the bar had 2 events a year. Ms. Benson reported that there is now an event 2-3 times a week now. She asked if Council can do anything about that because she is dissatisfied with the noise, the inconsiderate patrons and she is very unhappy.

**Mayor Sellers** explained that Ms. Benson is referring to a bar that was once called *In the Woods* then *Sully's* and is now *The Kappa Compound*. He stated the original owners wanted the establishment to be a quiet place but the new owners are trying to run the establishment "full scale." He explained that the City cannot say they do not have the right to do that if they are staying within the bounds of the law. He reported the City has jurisdiction over the bar in regard to litter and noise but even when we enforce it that is not going to resolve the issue. He stated there has to be a livable arrangement. He reported they have asked for an amount of time to come up with a reasonable way this can work and the City will see if it is viable. Mayor Sellers asked Council if they have anything to add on the matter.

**Councilwoman Mitchell** responded that he covered everything.

**Councilwoman White** stated something would have to be worked out with the owners and bring the parties together so everyone is satisfied.

**Mayor Sellers** stated he will continue to work on it and find a solution that works for everyone. He reported that the initial plan was to box it in so the people adjacent to it are totally screened off.

**Ms. Benson** stated she is trying to be patient and has waited 2 years so she has been more than patient.

**Mr. Gunn** stated he is a resident on Cricket Lane and he inquired what will happen to the land where the houses have been torn down.

**Mayor Sellers** explained that Cricket Lane is in an area by Mill Creek and homes were getting flooded and the land eroded because the creek was widening. He stated the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District did a study and determined houses needed to be cleared out in order to widen the flood plains so the water would dissipate. He reported that 17 houses were identified for purchase to be torn down so the issue will resolve itself. He stated 6 or 7 homes have been torn down and to his knowledge they were still communicating with the other homeowners. He explained that this is the Sewer District's plan and the City has nothing to do with it.

**Verdell Thompson** reported she lives on the corner of Cricket Lane and Longbrook Road. She reported she has been a resident of Warrensville Heights for 43 years and a homeowner on Cricket Lane for 37 years. She reported that she found out homes were being removed across the street from her in October. She reported receiving a notice from Councilwoman Mitchell to attend a meeting and a text inquiring if she was going to attend. Ms. Thompson stated she was

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White**

**Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards**

**Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**

**Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council**

unable to attend because of her grandchildren's activities. She reported finding out from a relative that owns a home on Cricket Lane. She stated she was very disappointed in the City of Warrensville Heights and City Council for not informing residents of what was happening. She recalled two major floods in the past where the water was waist high and the Police and Fire Departments had boats on the street to take people out of their homes. She asked how wide the creek is going to be once all the demolition is completed and will there be landscaping. She expressed concern about dealing with children seeing a huge open area during the summertime.

**Mayor Sellers** responded that this matter was initiated by the residents on Cricket Lane. He stated there were 2 meetings held before the one Councilwoman Mitchell informed her about. He stated that both sides of Cricket Lane were sent notifications on the door and there were huge crowds at the meetings. Mayor Sellers commented that he is not sure how she did not get notified but all the City did was convene the meeting and bring in the Regional Sewer District.

**Ms. Thompson** reiterated that she is unaware of what the renters on her side of the street knew but the other 3 homeowners did not know about the meetings. She also stated that since the 4 houses have come down in the cul de sac on Longbrook Road, their Kimble garbage cans have been out there for a week.

**Mayor Sellers** stated he will get her Economic Development Director Jerome DuVal's information so he can provide her with the contact at the Regional Sewer District.

**Service Director Ted Sims** stated the cans will be picked up tomorrow.

**Law Director Beasley** asked Ms. Thompson to provide her contact information tonight and she will text the Regional Sewer District so they will call her in the morning.

---

**Order of the Day:**

**The Motion:** *The members of City Council requested to Suspend the Rules by Unanimous Consent which were read by Attorney Beasley.*

**Motioned By Councilwoman White, Passage Councilwoman Edwards, Seconded by Councilman Stewart**

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

- 1. Ord. 2020 - 001      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL H. WILDERMUTH TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS A PLAN EXAMINER FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White**  
**Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards**  
**Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council**  
**Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council**

**2. Ord. 2020 - 002      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM GRISWOLD TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS AN ELECTRICAL, HVAC AND BUILDING INSPECTOR FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**3. Ord. 2020 - 003      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM GRISWOLD TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS A CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**4. Ord. 2020 - 004      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH G. GIFFORD DYER TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS A PLAN EXAMINER FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**5. Ord. 2020 - 005      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CALVIN SINGLETON TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS A PLAN EXAMINER FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**6. Ord. 2020 - 006      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ENTER INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GLORYA D. FLOWERS TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS A PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, HVAC AND BUILDING INSPECTOR FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**7. Res. 2020 - 001      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CURTIS BLOXSON TO THE BOARD OF ZONING AND APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council

**8. Res. 2020 - 002      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MONICA HUBBARD TO THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**9. Res. 2020 - 003      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CHRISTINE GRAHAM TO THE  
BOARD OF ZONING AND APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE  
HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**10. Res. 2020 - 004      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHNNY L. WILLIAMS, JR. TO THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**11. Res. 2020 - 005      MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**  
CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LOIS ROBERTS TO THE BOARD OF  
ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

---

**Announcements from the Directors:**

**Fire Department – Chief Herb Waugh** wished everyone a good evening. He stated that he has met with the Kappas to make sure they stay under their occupancy load. Chief Waugh stated the Fire Department is doing everything according to the law in that situation.

**Economic Development – Director Jerome DuVal** had nothing to report.

**Human Resources Department – Director Nicole Johnson** wished everyone a good evening. She reported there is an open position for a Laborer/Driver in the Service Department. She stated there are job description on the ledge and on the City website and the position will be closing on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Chief of Staff - Kelli Wilson** had nothing to report.

**Police Department – Police Chief Haynes** had nothing to report.

**Building Department – Operations Manager Sterlie Jones** had nothing to report.

**Service Department – Director Ted Sims** had nothing to report.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council

**Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery** wished everyone a good evening. She reported that they are still building a team for the *Mind Challenge* competition. She announced the team is meeting to practice on January 9<sup>th</sup> and a tentative date of January 14<sup>th</sup>. She asked that interested parties to call the Civic & Senior Center. She announced Ahuja will be at the Center on January 29<sup>th</sup> presenting *Healthy Heart & Exercise* from 4-6p.m. She reported that AARP will be preparing State and Federal taxes beginning February 7<sup>th</sup> and not only for seniors. They will be at the Center every Friday from 9:15a.m.-1:30p.m.; this is a free service.

**Finance Department – Director Karen Howse** wished everyone a Happy New Year!

**Announcements from Council:**

**Councilwoman Edwards** wished everyone a Happy New Year! She congratulated new Council President, Matthew Howard and thanked former Council President, Andrea Mitchell for her two years of service. She commented that the position can be grueling and antagonizing so thanked her again.

**Councilman Stewart** wished everyone a Happy New Year! He thanked the residents who shared their comments, questions and concerns. He thanked Mayor Sellers and members of his Administration, particularly Service Director Ted Sims and Building Commissioner Ben Brown for coming out during the time of the fire. He commended members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority that provided food and clothing donations to those affected by the fire. He shared his observations of the aftermath of the fire damage. He remarked that it is a miracle that everyone in the area got out of the building alive. He reported that there will be another clothing giveaway from 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. in the Granada Party Center.

**Councilwoman Hagwood** wished everyone a Happy New Year!

**Councilman Mitchell** thanked everyone for coming out. She remarked it is wonderful to see everyone but especially to hear from you to know what is going on. She thanked everyone that spoke at the meeting. She congratulated Council President Howard. She wished everyone a Happy New Year!

**Councilwoman White** wished everyone a Happy New Year! She thanked everyone that shared their concerns. She congratulated Council President Howard and thanked outgoing President Andrea Mitchell. She commented that Councilwoman Mitchell did a pretty good job!

**Law Department**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council**

**Council President's Comments**

**Council President Howard** thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening. He thanked outgoing Council President Andrea Mitchell for the two wonderful years she served. He stated she has been innovative and asked for everyone to give her a round of applause.

*<<Applause>>*

He stated it is an honor and a privilege to serve this City as a Councilman but now Council President as well. He remarked that he looks forward to continuing his work with everyone. He stated he will lead strong in the way everyone expects him to and will be as fair as he possibly can. Council President Howard stated that he had some good leadership from his fellow constituents and staff. He commented that former Council President Mitchell took him under his wing; he has known Councilwoman White and Councilman Anderson for as long as he can remember; he has gotten to know Councilwoman Edwards very well on Council and she keeps us all grounded; Councilman Stewart is a fighter and loves what he does; and he has known Councilwoman Hagwood all his life and when she worked for the schools she was the person students could come to and talk about their problems.

Council President Mitchell acknowledged Brian Siggers, President of Young Black Democrats in attendance at the Council meeting. He stated he expects great things from this young man.

*<<Applause>>*

He announced that he has to step down as Planning Commission Chair and commented that he loved his time chairing the committee. He reminded everyone of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup> and that City Hall will closed on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Lastly he thanked the School Board members Ray Freeman, Traci Mitchell and Millicent Gaiter and Superintendent Donald Jolly in attendance at the meeting as well as the residents who spoke.

**Mayor's Comments**

**Mayor Sellers** wished everyone Happy New Year. He congratulated new Council President, Matthew Howard. He acknowledged those that serve on various City Commissions and Boards in attendance: Mr. White and Ms. Tullos from Civil Service Commission; Ms. Rox and Ms. Strong from Planning Commission; Superintendent Donald Jolly, President Traci Mitchell, Vice-President Ray Freeman and member Millicent Gaiter from the School Board; and other employees Ms. Blackmon, Mr. Jones, Lorrie Reid and Spike Edmond. He commented that the Pre K-5 School at the Randallwood site is getting bigger every day as the construction continues. He thanked Vice President Ray Freeman and Superintendent Jolly for keeping him apprised as to what is going on with the school. He commented that we are looking forward to this year, particularly the moving into a new City Hall building in July 2020. He announced that

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council

on January 21, 2020 there will be an offer made to the Warrensville Heights City School District to make them apart of this collaboration. He stated a Charter Review Committee will be made up of 9 appointed residents of the City. He explained it is an independent group that will review the Charter and decide if they want improvements made.

**Mayor Sellers** commented that there was a massive fire at Granada Gardens and thanked God that no one lost his or her life. He thanked God for "old school construction" because the building was made out of concrete that acted as a firewall. He commended neighbors for helping neighbors to get people off of the floor. He thanked anybody that had a hand in helping with the fire. Lastly, he invited residents to attend more meetings.

---

**Adjournment at 8:13p.m.**

1-21-2020  
APPROVED

  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Dorise Hagwood • Andrea Mitchell • Elona C. White  
Walter Stewart • Matthew Howard • Stanley Anderson • Kimberly Hodge Edwards  
Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council  
Shirley Stubbs, Assistant Clerk of Council**