



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 3, 2020

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

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

Prayer: Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell

Minutes: February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting
**Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by
Councilman Anderson**
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 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:

Corona Tucker stated she was speaking on behalf of a resident at 11157 Dandridge. Ms. Tucker reported that the snow plowers messed up the resident's mailbox on Saturday. She stated she saw that servicemen came to fix it but it is still crooked and the resident wants to know if it will be replaced.

Antlone Edmond from the Service Department stated that they did go out to try and straighten the mailbox but after further investigation, they will have to replace it.

Patricia Young thanked Mr. Edmond for replacing her mailbox. She asked is there a speed limit for a snow plow truck. She stated you cannot tell with the snow plows in Cinema Park because they go 40-50 mph and one plow hit three mailboxes.

Police Chief Haynes responded there is a speed limit for every vehicle on the road.

Mayor Sellers explained that in Cinema Park the mailboxes are too close to the curb and when a snow plow is picking up, especially heavy snow it has to go at a certain speed. He reported the Cinema Park mailboxes are made of plastic and can be easily

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damaged. He gave an example of the mailboxes on Emery Rd. having shields against the mailboxes to protect them when snow is thrown. Mayor Sellers told Ms. Young that he wants her to be clear about what she is saying because the City is not out here trying to break mailboxes; it is not the case.

Ms. Young stated that the Cinema Park residents would like sturdier mailboxes, especially the ones where we can get our mail in the back just in case the snow plow is coming down the street.

Mayor Sellers responded that those are the type of mailboxes the builders chose and it is not incumbent upon us to provide different mailboxes.

Ms. Young inquired if a traffic study can be done due to all the accidents that have occurred between Emery Rd. and Cranwood Parkway. Police Chief Haynes responded that he provided information to Ms. Young going back three or four years.

Mayor Sellers stated studies have already been done and the County determined that a traffic light is not needed up there.

Councilwoman Hagwood asked how many accidents have there been and Police Chief Haynes stated there have been two or three accidents per year.

Ms. Young stated that she thought the City was going to take it from a safety standpoint because there is something going on in that area and it is extremely dangerous. She explained that people drive Miles Ave. like it is two lanes. Police Chief Haynes replied that every accident that has occurred over there has been cited.

Mayor Sellers explained that he provided Michael Dever at the County with data because it is their jurisdiction. It is really a wide one-lane road that has been made into two but it is up to the County to figure out a solution.

Ms. Young commented that the last traffic study was done before Amazon was built and the traffic has tripled since it has opened. She asked what the residents of Cinema Park can do to put some pressure on the County.

Mayor Sellers stated that he and the City Engineer have addressed the residents' concerns and the potential for accidents with the County but they have to figure out in which direction they are going to go.

Councilman Stewart asked if this was a matter the Safety Committee should meet on and discuss. Mayor Sellers replied the Committee can meet on it but it is under the jurisdiction of the County. Councilman Stewart stated he would like to get a better understanding of all the particulars because it sounds like she has a legitimate issue. The Safety Committee could meet and take issues to the people at the County that are responsible. Mayor Sellers stated that the City has already done that but we just have to keep harping on it.

Ms. Young informed Building Commissioner Brown that she is starting to get a pooling of water in her backyard and he responded that will be a Spring time project with the City Engineer.

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Stephanie Wahome stated the last 10 years she has been living here she has been working for an organization that gets young people to write stories. She reported they have a winning writer this year from Cleveland and the story was made into a film. Ms. Wahome invited everyone to come to the film premiere at the Capital Theatre on the west side and it is about deportation. Ms. Wahome stated she wants our Warrensville educators and the School Board to become a part of this program. She reported that there have been eight films that have been on Showtime. She stated that tickets are \$5.00.

Ray Freeman, School Board Vice President stated that he would like to share announcements from the Warrensville Heights School District. He reported that on March 16th at 6:30p.m. at Westwood Elementary School there will be a conversation about the buildings that will be “in play” once the pre K-5 elementary school is completed. He stated March 19th at 6:30p.m., the School Board will have a meeting at Eastwood Elementary School. Mr. Freeman stated these will be hour long meetings and Superintendent Jolly will go over the options that we have. He announced on April 8th at 6:30p.m., the last community conversation will be at John Dewey on Emery Rd. He shared that they are ahead of schedule with the new pre-K-5 elementary school and it is scheduled to be completed in November 2020. He added it is anticipated to move the children from all three elementary schools in to the new building in January 2021 after winter break.

Order of the Day:

1. Ord. 2020 - 023 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
APPOINTING SHAWN BAILEY TO THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Council President Howard, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

2. Ord. 2020 – 024 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
APPOINTING ELIZABETH RYAN TO THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Anderson, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Police Chief Haynes announced that he is proud to announce that the City is bringing on two new Officers to the Police Department. He commented that finding individuals for this profession is hard and for them to pass a background check can make it even harder. He shared

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the two candidates being sworn in went through a strenuous background check and they came out with flying colors. He explained that Civil Service Commission gave the Department the "thumbs up" on them and then they interviewed well with the Mayor/Safety Director and the Chief of Staff. He announced the first person to be sworn in is Shawn Bailey.

Mr. Bailey introduced his mother, grandfather, girlfriend, brother and friend.

Swearing In of Police Officer Shawn Bailey

<<Applause>>

He thanked the Chief of Police, City Council and the Mayor for appointing him as a Police Officer with the City of Warrensville Heights. He stated it is an honor and privilege to work with such a great Department and he will continue to drive to be the best Officer he possibly can. He stated he looks forward to starting his career and legacy in the Friendly City.

<<Applause>>

Police Chief Haynes stated that the next candidate is Elizabeth Ryan.
Ms. Ryan introduced her father, brother, mother and boyfriend.

Swearing In of Police Officer Elizabeth Ryan

<<Applause>>

She thanked all the Council members and everyone for welcoming her to the Department. Ms. Ryan stated she is appreciative and will do her best.

<<Applause>>

**Motion for an Executive Session based on ORC.121.22(G)(3) to discuss a Pending Court Action
Moted by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilman Anderson
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs - Motion Carried
Adjournment to Executive Session at 7:45p.m.**

**Motion to End Executive Session and return to Regular Meeting Agenda.
Moted by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Mitchell
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried
Regular Council Meeting reconvened at 8:04p.m.**

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3. Ord. 2020 - 025 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
RESCINDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-004 (AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CHN HOUSING PARTNERS TO DEVELOP MULTI-FAMILY AND WORKFORCE HOUSING).
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Council President Howard
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

4. Ord. 2020 - 026 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A RISK MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PREFERRED RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC TO PROVIDE SAFETY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Hagwood, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Council President Howard
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

5. Ord. 2020 - 027 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW A SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND CLINIC WELLNESS ENTERPRISE, LLC ON BEHALF OF ITS LIFESTYLE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICES FOR \$3,802.50 FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Anderson, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

6. Ord. 2020 - 028 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS NECESSARY TO MEET THE EXPENDITURES FOR THE OPERATIONS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilwoman Hagwood, Seconded by Councilman Anderson
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

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7. Res. 2020 - 017 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO APPLY FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilman Stewart, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

8. Res. 2020 - 018 **MAYOR BRADLEY D. SELLERS**
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ACCEPT THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PURSUIT AND USE OF POTENTIAL OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS TO ACCEPT THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PURSUIT AND USE OF POTENTIAL OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motioned by Councilwoman Mitchell, Passage by Councilwoman White, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

****Motion to Move Tuesday, March 17, 2020 Regular Council Meeting to Wednesday, March 18, 2020 Due to Primary Election****

Motioned by Councilwoman White, Passage by Councilman Stewart, Seconded by Councilwoman Hagwood
Roll Call: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abs – Motion Carried

Announcements from the Directors:

Fire Department – Captain Ellita Vedder provided an update on Coronavirus or COVID-19. She stated there are no cases of it in Ohio right now. She reported there are currently 108 cases of in the United States with a death of nine. She explained the reason it is a concern is because of the general population during a regular flu season, 1% gets sick to the point of death. Captain Vedder shared that the Coronavirus has a 3.4% death rate effecting the elderly, immunosuppressed people and children as well. She stated the City is preparing for it but it works the same way as the flu. She reported the CDC recommends the same universal precautions that we use with any infections that we come in contact with. Also, she announced that four firefighter candidates have been interviewed to feel the Department's vacancy.

Economic Development – Director Jerome DuVal announced there will be a Warrensville Heights Business Pitch Competition in partnership with The Chamber, Urban League and

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Jumpstart similar to the television show *Shark Tank*. He reported that there has been an overwhelming response in the first three days with 15 or so businesses.

Human Resources Department – Director Nicole Johnson thanked Council for passing Items 4 and 5 on the agenda.

Chief of Staff - Kelli Wilson had nothing to report.

Police Department – Police Chief Haynes thanked the Mayor and Council for the appointments of Shawn Bailey and Elizabeth Ryan. He also thanked the Civil Service Commission for all their hard work.

Building Department – Commissioner Ben Brown had nothing to report.

Service Department – Antlone Edmond informed anyone that if they need plastic for their furniture that they are throwing out it is available at the service garage. He stated that furniture put outside will not be picked up if it is not wrapped in plastic. He announced that the Department will be making repairs to tree lawns and sidewalks damaged by the snow plows as soon as the weather breaks. He encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to call the Service Department.

Civic & Senior Center – Director Jennifer Lastery wished everyone a good evening. She announced the movie, *Harriet* will be shown at 1:00p.m. and admittance is only a \$1.50 for light refreshments. She stated participants will be going to the Cavs V. Suns game on March 30th and tickets are \$45.00 per person. She announced classes will reconvene next week.

Finance Department – Director Karen Howse wished everyone a good evening. She thanked Council for passing the appropriations and they will be submitted to the County on or before Friday but no later than Monday of next week. She announced the Department is starting to prepare for the 2019 Audit and some documents have already been submitted. Ms. Howse reported the Department is working on their timelines for Kronos as well as their new financial software.

Announcements from Council:

Councilman Stewart wished everyone a good evening. He stated he appreciates the Fire Department, Police Department and the Mayor in having meetings to get more information about the Coronavirus. He stressed how important it is to educate our residents and not create fear and chaos.

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Councilwoman Hagwood stated she had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Mitchell wished everyone a good evening and stated she appreciated those that attended. She acknowledged those that spoke at the meeting. She congratulated Stephanie Wahome and her efforts to help the community understand our issues. She congratulated the new Police Officers Bailey and Ryan. She added that it is very becoming that we have appointed a female officer during Women's History Month.

Councilman Anderson congratulated Officer Bailey and Officer Ryan and welcomed them to the Friendly City.

Councilwoman White stated that she understands Ms. Young's grief because she lives off of Miles Ave. and goes up Warrensville Ctr. Rd. to avoid Miles because it is so bottleneck. She stated hopefully something will eventually be done because it's terrible.

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Beasley had nothing to report.

Council President's Comments

Council President Howard wished everyone a good evening. He thanked Councilman Stewart for his Black History Program that he held last week at Granada Gardens. He stated the City's Black History Program was also a treat and it was informative; he congratulated Jennifer Lastery and her staff on a job well done. He announced the Clarkwood Estates Residents Association will be reconvening on March 26th at 7:00p.m.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sellers acknowledged those in attendance that serve on various Committees and Boards: Mr. White and Ms. Tullos from Civil Service Commission; Ms. Rox and Ms. Strong from Planning Commission; and Ray Freeman from the School Board. He thanked all for attending the meeting and sitting through the swearing in of officers and the executive session.

Adjournment at 8:03p.m.

3-18-2020
APPROVED


Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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