



CITY OF WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS Office of the Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Call to Order: Mayor Bradley D. Sellers at 7:02p.m. via Zoom Meetings Application

Attendance: Councilwoman Hagwood, Councilwoman Edwards, Councilwoman White, Councilman Stewart, Councilwoman Mitchell and Council President Howard

Roll Call: 6 Present

**Motion to Excuse Councilman Anderson by Councilwoman White
Seconded by Councilwoman Edwards**

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

Prayer: Council President Matthew Howard

Minutes: August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting
**Motion to Approve by Councilwoman White, Seconded by
Council President Howard**
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: All comments read into the record by Clerk of Council.
Submitted by Ward 2 resident Carole Burns:

"It has been observed on several occasions that people are parking cars on their lawns. It has been observed on Harvard Avenue and also on Brookfield Lane. Is there a City violation against this? There is enough room to park cars on the street and in driveways. This is very unbecoming to the neighborhood. Also it was reported to Councilwoman Mitchell that a resident on Ascot Lane has been taking his garbage can and emptying it in Eastwood school field. What he does is drag the garbage can to the field, takes out the plastic bags of garbage and leaves it in the field. Can this individual be sent a letter emphasizing that this is not allowed. I supplied the address to my Council person."

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Police Chief Haynes reported that the Department has been responding to the address on Harvard between Warrensville Center and Northfield about them parking their vehicles on the tree lawn. He stated that he sent an email to his officers that they are now citing and that there is no “advising.” He stated the residence on Brookfield Ln. has not been brought to his attention but if he is given the address he will look in to it. Chief Haynes stated he has not heard anything about the school trash dumping but that Eastwood School has cameras all around the building. He stated the Department can contact security to see if an image can be retrieved but the school has not contacted them about the matter.

Councilwoman White asked Chief Haynes if he spoke to Ms. Golden about the lawn parking on Preston Rd. Chief Haynes replied that he reached out to her and drove over to the area to address her complaint.

Mayor Sellers reported that the parking on the lawn comes in waves; sometimes it happens on the eastside of the City, sometimes the west. He asked Chief Haynes to explain the steps the Police takes when they get calls about this. Chief Haynes responded the Department advises them to move their vehicles and the City has Ordinance 351.04A prohibiting cars to be parked on tree lawns or the front grass. He stated people usually move their cars but the people at the Harvard residence do it habitually so a courtesy will no longer be extended to them.

Councilwoman Mitchell reported that the people at the Harvard residence have multiple cars parked on the lawn.

Mayor Sellers asked if anyone has the specific address for the resident on Ascot Ln. Councilwoman Mitchell responded that she has information about a resident on Ascot Ln. parking on the lawn but not about dumping trash.

Chief Haynes asked Council Clerk Joyner to provide him with contact information for resident Carole Burns and she responded that she will get it to him.

Submitted by Ward 1 resident Dawn Hodge:

“She would like special attention given to residents and patrons of Shop Express. They are parking at or very close to the stop sign which makes it dangerous when trying to enter or leave the intersection at Kings Highway and Warrensville Center Road. And also parking in front the No Parking signs.”

Chief Haynes reported Ordinance 351.04 prohibits people from parking closer than 30 feet in front of a stop sign.

Councilwoman Edwards added that it makes it difficult for those crossing over from Northfield Rd. and those coming eastbound. She reported that she recalls frequent accidents happening in the area.

Mayor Sellers stated he appreciates the information and will be “all over it.”

Submitted by Ward 2 resident/Eastwood Homeowners Association member Carole Burns:

“Councilwoman Andrea Mitchell informed the Eastwood Association that she has made a request on numerous occasions on behalf of the Eastwood Association to have the damaged

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guard rail replaced on the corner of Eastwood & Mayfair Lane. We have been requesting it for over a year. That corner presents a danger. Motorists cannot see the severely damaged rail in its present condition and many fail to stop at the stop sign. Ms. Mitchell informed me today that she has received a response that the rail has been ordered. However, the individual who gave this information said that "they" want to align with the Sewer Department, and complete the necessary repairs. Why is it necessary to align with the Sewer Department? We would like to be informed of who has approved the guard rail replacement and when it will be replaced."

Submitted by Ward 2 resident/Eastwood Homeowners Association member Frances Tyus:

"My name is Frances J. Tyus and I am a 45 year resident of Warrensville Hts. I am a member of the Eastwood Homeowner's Association. My concern is the very unsightly guard rails at the corner of Eastwood Lane and Mayfair. We have inquired of our Council person for several years and she has indicated that although she has brought it to your attention, she cannot tell us when this eyesore will be addressed. As a concerned longtime resident who has maintained my property and expects the city to maintain other spaces, my question for you is, why does it take so long to get this issue resolved? Please let us know when we can expect that this eyesore will be taken care of. Where is it on the agenda?"

Mayor Sellers reported that Service Director Ted Sims sent out an email in June about the guard rail that was forwarded to everyone on Council. He stated that the guard rails are tied to the lighting that is being put up on the houses behind Eastwood Ln. because it has to be pulled up for access behind the houses. He stated that he approved the replacement of the guard rails in June and the work CEI is doing on the light. Mayor Sellers stated that it was duly noted and advanced two months ago.

Councilwoman Mitchell stated that the Association keeps asking her and she cannot give them a date and does not have a timeline. She asked why the back of the houses won't be accessed from the medical school where there is more space and parking than the small space behind the guard rails. Mayor Sellers replied that he cannot speak for CEI but they wanted to come in that way and he has accommodated every concern they have had. He reported it was not his direction but what CEI indicated to him and it is on the agenda to be done.

Councilwoman White asked if there are any updates regarding the traffic light at Cinema Park. Mayor Sellers stated no but fortunately he has a meeting with County Public Works Director Mike Dever tomorrow.

Council President Howard asked who is going to contact the four residents that submitted comments and Mayor Sellers stated Administration will take care of it. He stated he will be able to give them dates for when their concerns will be address. He remarked that it is not the only guard rail in the City that needs to be replaced; there are a number of them.

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Councilwoman Mitchell asked if it has been determined if Miles Rd. will be one or two lanes because it is crazy over there. Mayor Sellers responded that will be a part of his discussion tomorrow with Mike Dever.

Order of the Day

No New Business submitted.

Announcements from Directors

Police Department – Chief Wes Haynes reported that he just spoke with the Supervisor on Duty and he is going to check on east Kings Highway. He reported that Officers will keep an eye on Harvard Ave. and Ascot Ln.

Law Department – Assistant Director Keisha Hughes wished everyone a good evening. She had nothing to report.

Finance Department – Assistant Director Lorie Reid had nothing to report.

Announcements from Council:

Councilwoman Mitchell wished everyone a good evening. She reported that there was a successful Eastwood Homeowners Association meeting that took place last week and a lot of good feedback came from the meeting. She stated that one question that was asked during the meeting is how the fining is done when people violate the ordinances like parking on the grass. She reported that the Association President Carole Burns has seen some things repeatedly so specifically asked what is the fine and how is it issued.

Chief Haynes replied that there is a parking citation issued which is a minor misdemeanor. He stated the fine starts off at \$30 and if it goes unpaid it will increase to \$50 and if they do not pay within 48 hours, the fine goes up to \$75. He reported there is a mechanic shop on Miles Road and they park on the grass so the Officers have gone and cited all the cars.

Councilman Stewart wished everyone a good evening and had nothing to report.

Councilwoman White commented that a lady that lives on Marvin Rd. has a deaf granddaughter and commended Service Director Ted Sims for completing her request to put a sign near her home. She also acknowledged the passing of Chadwick Boseman commenting that it is heartbreaking that such a young man could be gone because his life was so full.

Councilwoman Hagwood acknowledged Mayor Sellers for the move into the new Municipal Center and that she is impressed with what he has done. She stated that she heard Economic Development Director Jerome DuVal was leaving and wants him to know how much his loyal commitment to the progress of the City has been recognized and appreciated.

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Mayor Sellers reported that he has heard Director DuVal has an opportunity that will take him back east where he came from. He stated there is no real confirmation but he knows it is in the works.

Councilwoman Hagwood reported that the issue with the burning on Ridgewood Ave. has not gone away. She reported Pastor Mike and his wife are affected and they don't call her anymore about it making her feel like she has failed them. She explained that last Friday night she went out to her car and the smoke was so toxic and she is five houses away. She stated that the neighbors across the street from the resident burning things have called her many times and report that what she has is not a fire pit. Councilwoman Hagwood stated that she feels there is more that they could have done and should have done. She reported that she has walked to the end of her driveway and witnessed firemen giving the resident a high-five, never going behind her house and looking at the fire pit and seeing what was in it. She reported that the neighbors are afraid to call the police and this woman has disobeyed an ordinance. She stated that she does not know what she is asking and is not making anything up. Councilwoman Hagwood remarked that we need to take another look because this woman continues to intimidate and harass neighbors and landscapers that come to the neighbors' homes.

Mayor Sellers replied that he thinks it is time to work through the judicial system and opening it back up to look at it. He said his team is at her disposal. He stated they will wait on Council's lead but the matter has his full attention.

Councilwoman Mitchell stated that she would like to help out as this affects Ward 1 and Ward 2. She remarked that incinerators are illegal in our City and that is tantamount to burning as an incinerator would burn.

Councilwoman Edwards stated that she is in agreement with opening the matter back up and looking at it because no one should live under those circumstances. She confirmed that the original deadline for the 2020 Census was October 31st and the President moved it up to September 30th. She reported that Early Voting begins on October 6th and encouraged voting in-person at the Board of Elections. She stated she is proud of the accomplishment of the Municipal Center and is looking forward what will be done with the old City Hall.

Law Department

Law Director Teresa Metcalf Beasley had nothing to report.

Council President's Comments

Council President Howard commented that years ago he witnessed what was happening on Ridgewood but recently he was assaulted by the troublesome resident when landscaping in her neighbor's yard. He stated it is nothing he would want to tolerate and the behavior should not be tolerated in our City. He stated the removal of this resident from the City seems like it will be the only remedy. Council President Howard thanked everyone for a productive Caucus. He announced that the high school is having a food bank tomorrow at 11:00a.m. He commented that he is willing to drop off voter applications at Board of Elections. He announced that the

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YMCA is having a food bank at 11:00a.m. on Thursday. Lastly, he reported the Clarkwood Homeowners Association will start up again holding meetings via Zoom.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sellers stated when people feel violated and do not report it the City is unable to do its part which results in a quagmire. He reported that the Municipal Center is not completely open but all of the Departments have moved into the building except for the Police Department. He said we have made an investment and positioned the City to go forward the next 100 years. He announced that there will be an Open House on October 14, 2020. He stated last Saturday the City partnered with South Pointe Hospital for COVID-19 drive-up testing. He thanked South Pointe Hospital President Dr. Margaret McKenzie. He shared that the Economic Development Department and Jack Crews are pursuing an opportunity zone with a huge funding out of Boston so he is looking forward to that. Lastly, he stated his staff will be responding to all the resident comments tomorrow once they figure out specific dates so the residents will know what is happening.

**Motion to Adjourn by Councilwoman Mitchell, Seconded by Councilwoman White
Adjournment at 8:03p.m.**

09-15-2020

 APPROVED



 Amber Joyner, Clerk of Council

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