

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023
Approved: July 18, 2023

On Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Meyers called the regular Council meeting to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

Council Members Present: Mayor Gregory Meyers, Councilmembers Deborah Ball, Gary Chinn, Rene Heinrich, John Braun, Alex Bramel. A quorum was present.

Council Members Absent: Councilmember John Hoffert notified the City he would not be able to attend.

Staff Present: City Administrator, Michael Giffen; City Clerk/Treasurer, Jeanne Pettit; Attorney, Michelle Eviston.

Minutes for Approval

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2023.** These minutes had been previously e-mailed to the Mayor, Council Members and City Staff for review.
- **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting held June 6, 2023. Seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Scheduled Guests: None

Correspondence

- Karen Finan, CEO, One NKU Alliance, sent a packet of support letters for the smoke free air ordinance.

Staff Reports

- City Administrator – Michael Giffen
 - Announced an on-line survey to solicit feedback from community for greenspace amenities at the City Building. Survey is posted on the City's website and Facebook page.
 - **Ordinances – Second Readings**
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to read Ordinance 07-2023 in summary. Seconded by Councilmember Chinn. Discussion: None. Ayes, All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance 07-2023:** An ordinance amending the City's pay classifications ordinance for all employees and various city board member by adding the position of Assistant Police Chief.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to accept ordinance 07-2023. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None.
 - **Roll Call:** Councilmember Ball, yes; Councilmember Chinn, yes; Councilmember Bramel, yes; Councilmember Heinrich, yes; Councilmember Braun, yes. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to read Ordinance 08-2023 in summary. Seconded by Councilmember Chinn. Discussion: None. Ayes, All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance 08-2023:** An ordinance enacting the "Smoke-Free Air Ordinance" that prohibits smoking in certain places open to the public, places of

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employment, and certain public places in the City of Highland Heights, Kentucky.

- **Action Taken:** Member Chinn made a motion to accept ordinance 08-2023. Seconded by Member Braun. Discussion: None.
- **Roll Call:** Councilmember Ball, no; Councilmember Chinn, yes; Councilmember Bramel, yes; Councilmember Heinrich, no; Councilmember Braun, yes. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
- **Salt Bid Authorization**
 - **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to accept the bulk salt bid from Cargill, Incorporated for \$104.50 per ton for 900 ton of salt for a total cost of \$94,050. Seconded by Ball. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
- Attorney – Michelle Eviston
 - **Ordinance Second Reading**
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to read Ordinance 09-2023 in summary. Seconded by Councilmember Bramel. Discussion: None. Ayes, All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance 09-2023:** An ordinance accepting Highland Meadows Drive as a public street in the City of Highland Heights, Kentucky.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to accept ordinance 09-2023. Seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None.
 - **Roll Call:** Councilmember Chinn, yes; Councilmember Bramel, yes; Councilmember Heinrich, yes; Councilmember Braun, yes; Councilmember Ball, yes. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- Sidewalk Ad-Hoc Committee
 - Discussed financing the addition of sidewalks to streets that don't have sidewalks, potential grants, and an amount to budget in order to match a possible grant.
- Bramble Avenue
 - Install a concrete pad, and possibly a shelter, at the corner of Bramble and US 27, for children waiting for the bus.
 - **Action Taken:** Councilmember Bramel made a motion to have City Engineer, Frank Twehues, assess the installation of a pad and possible shelter at the corner of Bramble and US 27. Seconded by Councilmember Chinn. Discussion, None. Ayes, All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

New Business

Oxford House had opened a sober living home in Highland Heights. City Administrator Michael Giffen, gave a background on Oxford House

- Warren Burch, 9 Brandywine – People have delt with one resident who did not take care of home. The house was purchased, renovated, then sold. This is a home for men in recovery from drugs/alcohol. Concerned that everything was done in the dark without residents' knowledge. Also concerned for children's safety.

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- Marissa Burroughs, 6 Brandywine – Traffic has increased, people are speeding and not watching where they are going; she is concerned for children’s safety. Concerned that property values will be lowered, and difficulty selling houses because of Oxford House on the street. Chief Birkenhauer encouraged people to call 911 or non-emergency dispatch when they see something happening.
- Dale Elifrits, 19 Brandywine – Talked to Kentucky manager of Oxford House. He discussed with the manager the need to talk to the neighborhood face-to-face or they will encounter continued opposition. Mr. Elifrits will send an email to the manager to have an open house. He also discovered that there will be 8 people living in the house and there is no time limit to length of stay, but most stay 3-6 months.
- Rose Pfaff, 315 Knollwood – If something like this can move in without notice, can we have an ordinance addressing these sober living homes requiring them to notify the city of their intentions?
- Janet Jackson, 21 Brandywine – Are they permitted to own weapons and is somebody checking on that? Most of the children live at the top of the street and speeding around the corner puts the children in danger.
- Eric Kelley, 19 Bon Jan – Increase patrol through Knollwood/Brandywine. Bon Jan has a car filled with garbage and the drive can only see out passenger side window and windshield. There is speeding on Bon Jan and requested speedbumps in the street.
- Sgt. Blank discovered Oxford House was using the residence when he noticed strange activity and asked a person in the car what was going on.
- Have someone from Oxford House come and speak to council and residents.

Citizens to Address Council

- Leslie Leopold, 67 Robinson – Speeding issue on Robinson Road. The worst offenders turn onto Regency Court. There is only one speed limit sign that faces away from the street entrance at 57 Robinson. Requested additional signs placed as vehicles enter the street. The speeding is resulting in lots of dead animals on street. Also requested speedbumps because there are no sidewalks.

Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to adjourn the June 20, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.


Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

Submitted by:



Jeanne M. Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed:



Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor