

**CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**  
**Council Minutes**  
**December 3, 2019**  
**Approved: January 7, 2020**

On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Meyers called the regular Council meeting to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

**Present:** Mayor Meyers, Councilmembers: Deb Ball, Gary Chinn, Rene Heinrich, John Hoffert, Michael Kessler, and Virgil Miller. A quorum was present.

**Staff Present:** Attorney Steve Franzen, Police Chief Bill Birkenhauer, Public Works Director Steve Lehman, City Engineer/Zoning Administrator Dave Whitacre, City Clerk/Treasurer Jeanne Pettit

**Minutes for Approval:**

**Regular Meeting Council Minutes of November 5, 2019.** These minutes had been previously e-mailed to the Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff for review.

- **Action Taken:** Member Miller made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting of November 5, seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

**Announcements:** None

**Scheduled Guests:**

- Students from Calvary Christian School, Lego Robotics Team – City Planner, Dave Geohegan, worked with the Calvary Intelligence Association (CIA) students from Calvary Christian School to develop a solution for crossing US 27 at Sunset Avenue. The students presented their solution to council – a covered walkway built over US 27 with ramps and stairs for access. Students will be entering their project in competitions with the goal of going to the state finals, which they won last year.
- Mayor Meyers and Councilmember Hoffert presented Bonnie & Dannie Davies with the Beautiful Front Yard Award.

**Correspondence:**

- Councilmember Heinrich received two emails regarding the Fairness Ordinance. One from NKU student Anna Burt and one from NKU Director of LGBTQ Programs and Services Bonnie Meyer. Their emails are attached to these minutes.
- Mayor Meyers received a letter from Mike and Karen Castle thanking Sgt. Love and Officer Williams for their quick action in finding the person who stole Mrs. Castle's purse. Their letter is attached to these minutes.

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**Staff Reports:**

- Police Chief – Bill Birkenhauer – report is attached to these minutes. Mayor Meyers encouraged people to be careful when shopping and keep packages in your car out of sight. The Veterans Park vandalism is still being investigated.
- City Clerk – Jeanne Pettit – Report is attached to these minutes.
- Finance Director – Harry Barlage – No Report.
- City Engineer and Zoning Administrator – Dave Whitacre – Report is attached to these minutes.
- Public Works Supervisor – Steve Lehman – Report is attached to these minutes. The Kentucky League of Cities awarded the City a grant for \$3,000. The check was received December 3, 2019. The letter is attached to these minutes.
- City Attorney – Steve Franzen
  - **Action Taken:** Member Chinn made a motion to have the second readings of ordinances read in summary, seconded by Member Heinrich. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.
  - Second Reading of Ordinances
    - **Ordinance #15-2019** – An ordinance amending the maximum payroll tax to the maximum allowed under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act.
      - **Action Taken:** Member Miller made a motion to adopt Ordinance #15-2019, seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None; Roll Call Vote: Kessler, yes; Hoffert, yes; Ball, yes; Chinn, yes; Heinrich, yes; Miller, yes. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.
    - **Ordinance #16-2019** – An Ordinance creating a new chapter of the City of Highland Code of Ordinances to prohibit certain discriminatory practices within the City.
      - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to adopt Ordinance #16-2019, seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None; Roll Call Vote: Miller, yes; Heinrich, yes; Chinn, yes; Ball, yes; Hoffert, yes; Kessler, yes. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.

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**Good Neighbor Award:**

- Mayor Meyers recommend students from Calvary Christian CIA receive the award for their solution to the problem of safely crossing US 27 at Sunset.
  - **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion to present the Good Neighbor Award to the Calvary Christian CIA students, seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.
- Mayor Meyers recommended the Asbury Methodist Church Choir for signing at the Tree Lighting event.
  - **Action Taken:** Member Ball made a motion to present the Good Neighbor Award to the Asbury Methodist Church Choir, seconded by Member Hoffert. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.
- Mayor Meyers recommended the NKU Honors students, who have helped with the Halloween Party, Veterans Day Ceremony, and Senior Breakfast, receive the Good Neighbor Award stating the citizens at the breakfast really appreciated meeting and talking with the students.
  - **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion to present the Good Neighbor Award to the NKU Honors students, seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- **Discussion of Short-Term Rentals**
  - Discussion items included:
    - Questions
      - Do we want to have them in the city? Edgewood chose not to permit them, but this might be difficult to police. Another was set up like a boarding house where the live-in owner rented rooms to visitors.
      - Should the number of renters be stipulated in the ordinance?
      - How many are in Highland Heights? Two or three exist in the city.
      - What is the attraction?
      - Should off street parking be required? If so, will people be parking in the front yard?
    - Benefits
      - Property will be well taken care of because if it is not, people won't rent it.
      - City will receive taxes and license fees from the business.
  - Members Heinrich and Kessler will read back through the ordinances from other cities and the discussion will continue at the next meeting.

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- **Tree City Status**

- Member Hoffert stated that Tree City status has been passed through the state and now on to the Arbor Day Foundation for approval. He also announced that the next Highland Heights Arbor Day will be April 25 at the City Building Shelter. The time is tentatively set for 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

- Cancellation of the December 17, 2019 regular City Council meeting.
  - **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion to cancel the December 17, 2019 council meeting due to lack of business. Seconded by Member Kessler. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared motion passed.

**Citizens to Address Council:**

- Joni and Randy Fowee discussed their concerns and the effects of the water draining into their backyard from building being constructed at US 27 and Nunn Drive. They discussed the communications between themselves and the developer. Mr. Lehman was asked to set up a meeting to include himself, Mr. Whitacre, Mr. Franzen, Mayor Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Fowee and the Developer, Fairmont Properties.

**Adjournment:**

- **Action Taken:** Member Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Hoffert. Discussion: None; Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:24 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Submitted by:



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Jeanne Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed:



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Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor