

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
Approved: February 7, 2023

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:03 p.m. Mayor Meyers called the regular Council meeting to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

Council Members Present: Deborah Ball, Gary Chinn, John Hoffert, John Braun, Alex Bramel, Eddie Fessler, Mayor Gregory Meyers. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Attorney, Steve Franzen; City Administrator, Michael Giffen; City Clerk/Treasurer, Jeanne Pettit

Minutes for Approval

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of January 3, 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 approve the minutes from the regular council meeting of January 3, 2023. Seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Announcements

- Mayor Meyers announced there was a public hearing prior to this meeting to review past uses of funds and program performance for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Opportunity House project.

Scheduled Guests

- Robert Montgomery. Mayor Meyers presented a plaque to Mr. Montgomery recognizing his beautifully decorated home and winning the Christmas Outdoor Lighting Contest.
- Andy DeMoss and Bailee Jeffers, Auditors, RFH CPAs/Consultant.
- Mr. DeMoss provided an unmodified opinion for the fiscal year 2022 audit. This is the best opinion that can be provided to the City. Mr. DeMoss presented a PowerPoint covering the highlights of the audit. This included the Net Position for Assets including the ARPA funds received and used during the fiscal year; Pension and Post-Employment benefits as it relates to the retirement system; Governmental Fund Revenues and Expenses; NKU Revenues/Related Debt Service; and a Breakdown of Expenditures. Mr. DeMoss indicated the audit was a success.
- A Federal Single Audit was required due to the expenditure of over \$750,000 in Federal monies through the Community Development Block Grant. Additional testing is required for a single audit and there were no findings.

Correspondence: None

Staff Reports

- City Administrator – Michael Giffen
 - **Resolutions**
 - **Resolution 02-2023:** A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Northern Kentucky Regional Ethics Authority (NKREA) to carry out the enforcement of the Code of Ethics for the City of Highland Heights, Kentucky (CITY).

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
Approved: February 7, 2023

- **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion approving resolution 02-2023. Seconded by Member Fessler. Discussion: Attorney Franzen explained the benefit of the training NKREA members receive to understand and manage ethics requirements, and hear ethics complaints. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
- **Resolution 03-2023:** A resolution accepting the re-appointment of Marcus Carey, Darryl Cummins, Robert Sanders, Tom Quirk, Bryce C. Rhoades, and Jack Westwood and the appointment of James Dady as members of the Northern Kentucky Regional Ethics Authority Enforcement Committee for a two-year term, commencing February 1, 2023 and expiring on January 31, 2025.
- **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion approving resolution 03-2023. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
- **Ordinance – First Reading**
 - **Ordinance 01-2023:** An ordinance amending Ordinance Nos. 36-94, 05-95, and 01-2011 commonly referred to as the City of Highland Heights Ethics Ordinance by adopting procedures for the handling of ethics complaints and financial disclosures.
- **Resolution**
 - **Resolution 04-2023:** A resolution supporting expenditure of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to conduct a greenspace feasibility study for the greenspace located at 176 Johns Hill Road.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Member Bramel stated the need for increased communication to the citizens about the project. Additionally, he asked if there are other areas in the City that could use improvement. Member Bramel mentioned that the study had been put out to bid twice, the city only received one bid. The bid received was more than originally budgeted and the budget was amended. Additionally, Member Bramel stated that he is not in favor of spending \$80k for a greenspace study at this time.
 - Mr. Giffen explained the process the City has taken to explore additional uses of the greenspace. The first step was to discuss, with a group of citizens and council member, whether or not there is a benefit beyond what is already there, should options for use of the space be explored. The second step was to put something together to present to council and the community, and bring in a professional firm that specializes in greenspace design and management. Next, firm will use input from committee and residents, through open and public meetings, to develop a plan for the space.

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
Approved: February 7, 2023

- Member Hoffert stated announcements were put on the City's Facebook page, and information was in the newsletter, to build a committee. Members Ball and Chinn stated that this topic has been discussed at numerous council meetings, giving citizens an opportunity to learn more and participate in the process. Member Ball stated other areas of the city have been improved upon, specifically city parks.
- **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion approving resolution 04-2023. Seconded by Member Chinn. Ayes: Members Chinn, Ball, Hoffert, Braun. Nays: Members Fessler and Bramel. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

- Attorney – Steve Franzen

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

- Defibrillators are located in the City's buildings. It was mentioned that some police departments have them in police cruisers.

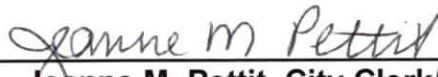
Citizens to Address Council: None

Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Member Bramel made a motion to adjourn the January 17, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Ayes: All. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.


Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Submitted by:



Jeanne M. Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed:



Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor