

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2024
Approved: May 7, 2024

Action Taken: Member Heinrich made a motion to select Councilmember Gary Chinn as Mayor Pro-Tem for the meeting. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Yes: 5. Motion passed.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at approximately 7:05 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn called the regular Council meeting to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Gary Chinn, Councilmembers Deborah Ball, John Braun, Rene Heinrich, John Hoffert. A quorum was present.

Council Members Absent: Mayor Greg Meyers and Councilmember Alex Bramel were unable to attend.

Staff Present: Assistant Police Chief, Nick Love; City Clerk/Treasurer, Jeanne Pettit; Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Fornash; Public Works Director, Steve Lehman; Attorney, Michelle Eviston.

Minutes for Approval

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2024.** These minutes had been previously emailed to the Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff for review.
- **Action Taken:** Member Ball made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held March 19, 2024. Seconded by Member Braun. Discussion: None. Yes: 4, Abstain: 1. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn declared the motion passed.

Scheduled Guests:

- Terry Hatton is running for state office in District 67. He encouraged people to vote in the primary on May 21. He introduced himself and shared some of his life experiences.

Correspondence: None

Staff Reports

- City Administrator – Michael Giffen
 - May 7 Council Meeting – The 2024-25 budget and greenspace recommendations will be presented. Additionally, grants to improve sidewalks along north US 27 and Sunset will be discussed.
 - ARPA funds must be earmarked by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.
 - Goals and Objectives for 2024 Comprehensive Plan will be presented to council during the June or July meeting.
 - Website – 80% complete. Could be going live with it in a month or so.
 - Electronic sign – There are limited options on where to put the sign on US 27. The possibility of having two signs, one on Johns Hill Road and one on US 27 by Veterans Park was discussed. Will residents see signs in these locations?
 - Publication of the next newsletter – It is not coming up immediately. The next newsletter will be a hybrid of electronic and paper copy once the new website goes live.
 - City Clean-Up event – Mr. Lehman stated one is planned for May 17-19 at the city building.

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- Assistant Police Chief – Nick Love
 - The police department has started the re-accreditation process that occurs every 4 years. There will be an on-site visit in July from the state.
 - There will be a Heros Day at Alexandria Middle School. Highland Heights' K-9 officer, police officers, and social worker will be in attendance.
- City Clerk/Treasurer – Jeanne Pettit: No Report
- Code Enforcement Officer – Dave Fornash
 - Site across from Lowe's should be cleaned up in the next couple weeks.
- Public Works Supervisor – Steve Lehman
 - Reverse auction for salt will be at end of May.
 - Easter Bunny tour was a big success; 175 goodie bags were distributed.
- Attorney – Michelle Eviston
 - **Resolution**
 - **Resolution 01-2024:** A resolution supporting expenditure of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), for an expenditure of up to \$78,000 for fiscal year 2024 to fill the Social Worker position within the Police Department.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$78,000 of SLFRF/ARPA funds for fiscal year 2024 to fill the Social Worker position within the Police Department. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Yes: 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn declared the motion passed.
 - **Municipal Order**
 - **Municipal Order 04-2024:** A municipal order appointing Kati Manning to the unexpired term of Mitch Miller on the Highland Heights Tree Commission.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Hoffert made a motion to approve municipal order 04-2024 appointing Kati Manning to the unexpired term of Mitch Miller on the Tree Commission. Seconded by Member Heinrich. Discussion: None. Yes: 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance – First Reading**
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to read ordinance 02-2024 in summary. Seconded by Member Hoffert. Discussion: None. Yes 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance 02-2024:** An ordinance of the City of Highland Heights in Campbell County, Kentucky establishing a non-exclusive franchise for the use of the public streets, alleys, and other public grounds of the city for the transmission and distribution of either or both natural gas and electricity through and for consumption within the City; and providing the terms thereof.

Unfinished Business

- Saturday April 27 is the Arbor Day Celebration from 11:00-2:00 at the city building.

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New Business

- Member Heinrich asked about state legislation affecting Highland Heights. Mr. Giffen responded that funding was a mixed bag:
 - The city received funding for the state lab and the old city building will be rehabbed for this purpose.
 - It was unexpected that Chase Law School will be leaving in the next 4-5 years as part of state funding that went to Covington for the old IRS site. NKU's plan is to back fill Nunn Hall and expand their departments.
 - Included in the state's two-year road plan is the completion of the round-about at Norse Boulevard.

Citizens to Address Council: None

Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Member Ball made a motion to adjourn the April 16, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Member Hoffert. Discussion: None. Yes: 5. Mayor Pro-Tem Chinn declared the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Submitted by:



Jeanne M. Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed:

 

Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor Gary Chinn, Mayor Pro-Tem