

**City Council Meeting  
City of Richmond Heights  
January 24, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:48 p.m.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

***Roll Call: Alexander, Bell, Jordan, Lentine, Lewis, Nelson, Ursu***

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted after reading of the titles of each by two motions -- one motion requires five affirmative votes to suspend the Council's rules requiring three separate readings of legislation and the second motion requires four votes for passage of all items listed on the Consent Agenda. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to their adoption. If any Councilperson desires discussion, the particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately by Council with full discussion and individual action thereon.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting from January 10th, 2023.

Motion made by Jordan and seconded by Lewis to pass the Consent Agenda items; passed 7-0.

**REPORTS:**

**Mayor Kim Thomas:**

- Last week went to the US mayors conference in DC with over 250 mayors. On that Friday, President Biden also met with the mayors at the White House where they could ask questions about providing the municipalities with direct funding. Many of the mayors had concerns about the timeline of funding that comes from federal to local. Many of the mayors agree to advocate at state and local levels for additional resources and funding to serve the residents better.
- Met with Starbucks leadership team members about exploring bringing Starbucks to Richmond Heights Ohio. She met with Kim Winston last year from the Starbucks Leadership Team.
- Cameron Campbell is part time and has donated over 20 hours a week for the department and is the only director getting part time wages. Campbell has a bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine and also worked for Volunteers of America and Cleveland Heights. He oversees 4 staff members and is helping Gleisser in overseeing grant management, which should be managed by the recreation department. Mayor Thomas stresses that his position needs to be full-time.
- Mayor Thomas is looking for the council to take the 4 part-time positions in the service department and convert them into 2 full-time positions. There's a \$59k difference. Tiedman's department is short-staffed and needs the 4 part-time positions converted.
- The Council passed a 25% budget for all the departments. Tiedman's department is down 3 plow trucks and in desperate need of plow trucks. When we get calls from residents about leaves not picked up or streets not plowed, we have to be honest that we have the money but not the equipment. Two days ago the front end fell off of one of the plow trucks because it was rotting.
- Mayor Thomas asked what is the cost of the equipment? Ryan says the two plow trucks are \$250k each, the new sidewalk plow is \$75k, and the salt bin is \$350k. We won't get the trucks until 2025 because they haven't been ordered. Mayor Thomas asked the council to pass a budget for Tiedman to order the trucks. We have the funds to purchase the trucks.

- Tiedman says 5-6 trucks are needed. The trucks being used are from 2001 and the fire walls are rotting. If the second layers rot, there may be carbon monoxide and will have to be put out of service.
- Last year Mayor Thomas asked the Mayor of Mayfield Village could they use their truck.
- Alexander asked can we put together an inventory of what trucks we have vs what we are asking for. Tiedman says we got 1 truck of the 3 we already ordered and is asking for bigger trucks. Mayor Thomas says she provided an inventory list of the trucks last year.
- Jordan asked didn't we order 3 new trucks. Tiedman said the trucks weren't built out and we only have 1 of the 3 new ones we ordered. Tiedman said we got bumped. In 2024 we will get two 108s and two 106s.
- We have 4 trucks out of service.
- Lentine said it's not this councils fault we don't have the trucks. We got bumped and need to let the residents know we aren't dragging our feet and it's not that we don't want to buy the trucks. He thinks it's because of being bumped, how long it takes to be built and the administration change and department head change. Mayor Thomas says that if the trucks were ordered in December that we would not have gotten bumped.
- Bell asked if we pass legislation by Feb when will we get trucks? Tiedman says if we can pass legislation tonight, we will get trucks in 2025.
- Alexander asked if we could choose another company. Tiedman says Freight Liner has been good and other companies have had problems such as transmission problems.
- Jordan asked Hunt do we have to wait until March to pass the budget. Hunt said we can do an interim appropriation at the net meeting or a special meeting.
- Alexander asked who bumped us? Ryan said Concord bumped us.
- Mayor Thomas asked how many trucks do we have on the road? Tiedman says we have 3 trucks.
- Mayor Thomas said we currently don't have a head mechanic and are in the process of hiring one. If the truck breaks down, we will do everything in our power to plow. We are currently understaffed and don't have the equipment we need.
- Nelson asked do we have a backup plan. Mayor Thomas our only backup plan is to ask other municipalities to use theirs.
- Jordan asked Alexander is there a recommendation on how to move forward?
- Alexander- He believes things will work out. He doesn't think it will continue.
- Jordan lets prepare for a special meeting for the 7<sup>th</sup> to do an amended appropriation.
- Tiedman said we don't have to pay until they deliver the trucks, we just need a letter to permit them to order.
- Mayor asked how many are we ordering? Tiedman said we are ordering 2 for \$250k each truck.

**Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:**

- Good News we secured the ladder truck, and the team will go to Hilliard OH 2/27/22 for a design build meeting.
- The projected time to build will be 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024.
- The ladder truck we currently have is well maintained and will be ok.
- In 2027 he will ask for the fire engine for 2030.
- After 3 years we are starting the Heart Trainer CPR training again.
- RH div of Fire in partnership with Univ Hospital will offer a bi-monthly CPR course for residents of RH. Heart Saver AED course teaches adult CPR and AED use in addition to choking training.

Participants must be 16 years old to attend. Information is on the city website and a whole year of classes are posted.

- A question came up in the safety meeting about how many nonresidents were transported by RH in 2022. There were 1447 transports and 24 were nonresidents. This is 1.7% which is a consistent trend. Over 98% of transport is for residents.
- Lentine asked are we at full staff for fire personnel? Neumann said Yes.
- Jordan asked are the AEDs expensive and should every household have one? Neumann said 911 will ask if you have an AED when you call. There are consumer grade AEDs starting at the \$700-\$800 range and can go up to maybe \$2500 due to features.
- Ursu asked if the increase in the price has to do with features and not durability. Neumann said they all operate the same. The consumer level may not be as robust and durable as one that is carried in an ambulance. They all function the same.
- Alexander asked about the life span of the AEDs. Neumann said every 8 years it's recommended to replace the units and he's starting to investigate grant opportunities to get more AEDs in.

**Police Chief, Thomas Wetzel-** excused

**Building Commissioner, Jim Urankar-** excused

**Finance Director, Annette Harmon:**

- As of 12/31/2022 the adjusted bank balance after outstanding checks and other deductions is \$16,014,561.97. The Book balance is \$15,997,929.69. The cash statement attached to the report shows the unexpended balance is \$15,997,929.69. The adjusted book balance is \$16,014,561.97.
- The bank and books are in balance as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.
- Mayor Thomas commented that the data converting the 4 part time positions to 2 shows \$185k and subtracting \$126k there's a difference of \$59,329. She wants council to see the difference in converting the 4 positions into 2, the value it would bring the departments

**Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:**

- Youth Basketball League continues their games on Saturdays.
- This week and next Saturday they will play at 8:00 due to the girls basketball games.
- Mayor Thomas asked about the city edition. Campbell says it will be ready in about 3 weeks.
- Our website in the recreation department has a section to book the lodge. Don't use it because they weren't aware of it. Call the recreation department.
- Jordan asked about the event for March. Campbell says it's a women's Day event to appreciate the accomplishments of Women in every industry. The speakers will be Danita Harris and Jasmine Bailey. The date is March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Economic Developer, Brian Gleisser:**

- Yesterday, Mayor Thomas, Gleisser and two other staff met with representatives at CGI Communications- They are the company that does the commercial district banner program.
- The program is to be paid for entirely by business sponsorship. There are 4 businesses that have agreed to sponsor banners so far. They want to put 25 banners up and they are looking for volunteer sponsorship for 6 banners for the schools. The cost for a business to sponsor a banner is \$795 per year. 25% of the banner has the business name. Will stay up a year. There's a 3-year contract agreement. They are looking at banner designs. They are looking at spring for installation.

- Mayor Thomas asked if the businesses could make monthly payments? Gleisser said yes.
- Jordan asked Gleisser to discuss the meeting with the Marous Brothers. Gleisser said he met with Marous, and they told their story in their years of experience. If you know minority contractors send them to us and we will send them to Marous. Bids haven't gone out on the construction side, but they are taking bids for demolition.
- Jordan said we did as for a firm date to start construction. We are getting closer.
- Mayor Thomas said thank you councilwoman Nelson and Jordan. The meeting happened because of dialogue from last year. What we stress is that they look inside our community to hire contractors within the city. This was the 1st meeting. They were asked to be a part of a committee to put contracts together and they were told that it was private. Mayor would like to talk about putting a committee together and who to include from the last meeting.
- RTW asked is that for all trades? Brian Gleisser, Yes and they break down the contracts in smaller pieces. They are doing multiple building in phases. The more they break down each phase more contractors can participate.
- RTW would like to participate. Brian says reach out to him.

**City Engineer, Chris Courtney**

- Courtney got a call from the water dept commissioner about some frustration between the water department and Bell Oaks so there can be a combined coordination to discuss the issues.
- Jordan asked why can't they talk to the sewer department? Gleisser said sanitary is Cuyahoga County and Water is the City.
- The plaque that was approved by the city has been fully executed and picked up by the attorney for the developer. It will be recorded and provided as a part of the city record.
- The sanitary sewer repair at 5306 Wilson Mills that was undertaken by the county on behalf of the city has been completed.
- Courtney said thank you for the opportunity to present the budget and for consideration of Highland Rd.
- AT&T has continued work at Richmond Run. They are working on the fiber optics installation. They should be there another month or a month and a half and then restoration work will be completed.
- The Chardon Rd. Project is advancing.
- Had a meeting with the Mayor and Tiedman about the 2023 Road Program

Motion made by Jordan to authorize the city administration to order two new model 108 freight liner trucks with snowplow and road salt equipment in an amount not to exceed \$500k and expressing council's intent to authorize an appropriation therefore, seconded by Nelson; passed 7-0

**Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:**

- We received 6 quotes for the lodge 3 for floor 3 for lighting. They will open bids tomorrow.
- They are interviewing a mechanic. Considering someone in-house.
- Continuing Leaf pick up.
- Met with NEORSD with the Mayor to introduce himself.
- Brush clean- up continues bi-weekly
- Lentine said the split rail fence is down and now there are cones. Tiedman says they have the cones because there are holes in the fence.

### **Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:**

- HR and leadership team will do performance reviews and walking the team through the process to complete the 2nd week of March.
- They are encouraging everyone to watch the website for opportunities in RH. Will see a few different things on the website.
- Finally, they are looking for help with the community for opportunities on the boards and commissions. They are excited about it.
- Mayor Thomas asked Lowe to talk about the new pay ordinances. Lowe said there is a new purchasing agent. There are new positions being added to the pay ordinance such as the purchasing agent and school crossing guard. The pay ordinance will come before you once it is completed and Hunt reviews.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

- Patricia Ackerman of 456 Rushmore Dr. - President of The Concerned Tax Payers of Richmond Heights.
  - They learned a lesson about approving 25% of the fiscal budget. There were multiple impacts that were not anticipated. In fiscal conservancy, be clear of the impacts to anticipate if we are to be that conservative.
  - In appreciation of the conservancy, they are concerned that the service department should not be treated as a secondary concern as they are the first line of help involving resident safety and security.
  - Lastly at the Sunday meeting in December for the hearing of the budget they thought they heard it all and at today's meeting they question the difference between the presentation that was given tonight vs December by the city engineer. She is assuming that the city engineer isn't an employee of the city as others are. She wants to know why they didn't get all the details in December.
- Jordan said he assumed the engineer would give a budget report and thought this was happening in the past. That is why the report was given. He believes 25% of the budget was from the past. Alexander says it's 25% plus any payments that you know you will have to pay.
- Mayor Thomas said approving 25% of the budget was done like this in the past, but when she talks to other mayors in other cities, she asked what budget they passed, and the majority passed the full budget. It's crucial that if we want to move the city forward, we can't just say there's 10% or 20% of the budget. Just because something was done in the past doesn't make it wrong or right. We have to find better ways.
- Courtney- even though he's talking about the budget all the info was submitted in final form on the 29th of December. This is not a last-minute presentation. Mayor said they met on that Sunday and Lee Courtney was not present. Jordan said he assumed Lee Courtney would be present.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **ORDINANCE NO.: 143-2022, INTRODUCED BY NELSON; THIRD READING**

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 1170 OF THE ZONING CODE TITLED "CHILD DAY CARE HOMES" AND AMENDING SECTION 1135.02, "PERMITTED USES" AND SECTION 1169.08, "STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC CONDITIONAL USES" TO REFERENCE NEW CHAPTER 1170.

**HOLD ON**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 154-2022, INTRODUCED BY NELSON & MAYOR THOMAS; THIRD READING**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137, "DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADOPT NEW SECTION 137.19, "COMPETITIVE BIDDING; EXCEPTIONS".

- Todd codifies all ordinances into the new ordinance.
- This can be held until we have a Purchasing agent.

**HOLD ON**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 1-2023, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; SECOND READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION AND TRANSFER OF FEE TITLE OWNERSHIP TO TWO CITY-OWNED PARCELS TO THE CLEVELAND METROPARKS.

MOTION MADE BY NELSON AND SECONDED BY LENTINE TO SUSPEND THE RULES.  
MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0.  
MOTION WAS MADE BY NELSON AND SECONDED BY LEWIS TO PASS RESOLUTION NO. 1-2023. MOTION PASSED 7-2.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 4-2023, INTRODUCED BY NELSON; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO PERFORM CERTAIN INTERFUND TRANSFERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Nelson said this is \$55k to be transferred from 904 to the general fund and 202k to from 907 to the general fund.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NELSON AND SECONDED BY BELL TO SUSPEND THE RULES.  
MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0  
MOTION WAS MADE BY URSU AND SECONDED BY LEWIS TO PASS RESOLUTION NO. 4-2023.  
MOTION PASSED 7-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 5-2023, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, IN THE MATTER OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED IMPROVEMENT TO WILSON MILLS ROAD, REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF THE COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEXANDER AND SECONDED BY LEWIS TO SUSPEND THE RULES;  
MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0  
MOTION WAS MADE BY URSU AND SECONDED BY LEWIS TO PASS RESOLUTION NO. 5-2023;  
MOTION PASSED 7-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 6-2023, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO IN THE MATTER OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED IMPROVEMENT TO HIGHLAND ROAD AND REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF THE COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- This is for the Highland Rd project which is about \$480k. This will be 50/50 funding with the county.

MOTION WAS MADE BY LENTINE AND SECONDED BY LEWIS TO SUSPEND THE RULES;

MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0

MOTION WAS MADE BY URSU AND SECONDED BY LENTINE TO PASS RESOLUTION NO. 6-2023; MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 7-2023, INTRODUCED BY ALL OF COUNCIL AND MAYOR; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOBBY JORDAN AND CASSANDRA NELSON TO THE CITY'S HOUSING COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 3735.69(A).

- Hunt said that the Ohio Revised Code requires a Housing council be appointed by the city to do annual inspections to ensure improvements have been made and to hear any appeals by persons who were given decisions about the tax abatement.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NELSON TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THIS RESOLUTION TO ADD ALL OF COUNCIL BY JORDAN, SECONDED BY BELL; PASSED 7-0

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEXANDER AND SECONDED BY BELL TO SUSPEND THE RULES

MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0

MOTION WAS MADE BY URSU SECONDED BY LEWIS TO PASS RESOLUTION 7-2023

MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0

Motion, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 153.65 to 153.73, to support the issuance of a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") by the Director of Public Service and Properties to professional architecture, design and survey firms to provide professional design, construction administration, and/or field survey services for various anticipated City project types, including; but not limited to: Park Lighting and Utility improvements; New Service Department Complex; Salt Storage Building Design; City Hall Generator Replacement; Porch improvements with ADA Access at Greenwood Farm Park; and Public Park Facilities.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JORDAN AND SECONDED BY URSU TO PASS THE MOTION

MOTION WAS PASSED 7-0

*Council President Bobby Jordan adjourned the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 City Council Meeting at 10:14 PM*

*Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council*