

**City of Richmond Heights  
City Council Meeting  
March 28, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:16 PM.

**PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

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

Motion was made by Nelson seconded by Bell to excuse Ursu; passed 6-0

**Excused:** Ursu

Motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Lewis to accept the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from March 14, 2023; passed 6-0

**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.**

**REPORTS:**

**Mayor Kim A. Thomas:**

- excused

**Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:**

- Neumann said on Sunday at 8:03 Chagrin valley Dispatch got 9-1-1 calls reporting fire alarms sounding from sixth floor at 444 park apartments. Firefighters discovered a fire in a fifth floor apartment. Firefighters and police officers quickly evacuated the apartment. The fire was confined to the apartment. The fire was extinguished less than 30 minutes after firefighters arrived. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The fire is under investigation. RH community center was open for several hours to provide shelter. Once civilian was treated for smoke inhalation. One family is displaced. 444 Park is restoring the facility.
- Alexander asked was it due to a kitchen fire. Chief said it is under investigation.

**Police Chief, Calvin Williams:**

- Arrests last week include 5 misdemeanor arrests which include traffic warrant related offences and OVI offences. No felony arrests were made.
- Police issued 28 citations, 7 parking citations and answered 128 calls for service. The department completed 22 incident reports. The reports range from a missing juvenile, a stolen vehicle report and a shots fired report on Highland Rd. The vehicle they believed to be involved in the report fled and after a brief pursuit the pursuit was called off. They fled into Highland Heights.
- The police department is staffed with 21 officers, (1 chief, 1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants 15 officers 3 part time officers, 9 police auxiliary officers, 2 record clerks and there are 2 canine officers which

are a part of the 15 officers). They will interview 2 lateral transfer officers next week and one police auxiliary officer. They are opening the portal for lateral and police auxiliary. He and the mayor are discussing additional workforce with Human Resources. They are applying for a COPS hiring grant through the department of justice. The grant provides 75% of an officer's salary for 3 years. The city is responsible for 25% of the salary. In the past, when he was in Cleveland, they were able to write it into the initial offering for a possibility of a waiver for the other 25% where the grant would cover 100% of the salaries during that period. They are still discussing the number of officers needed to increase staffing.

- Lentine asked after the grant expires are they responsible to hire the individuals or is it as needed. Williams said yes, there is a requirement to retain employment for those officers for a period after the grant expires. There is a budgeting process that the finance director could speak to that will help the city save some money.

**Building Commissioner, Jim Urankar:**

- Excused

**Finance Director, Annette Harmon:**

- We have closed January books with the new reconciliation software. She is in the process of finalizing the reconciliation items. The unadjusted balance is \$15,452,376.75. She plans on closing February's books quickly, hopefully next week. She and the staff are preparing to close February next week and hope to complete March's books by the end of April.

**Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:**

- Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast is Saturday at the community center. The breakfast is at 9:00 AM and the egg hunt is at 10:00 AM.
- City Edition should be mailed out.
- Flooring project starts April 4<sup>th</sup>, in the foyer, bathroom hallway and small hallway will receive new flooring.

**Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser:**

- Requests approval on first reading for Resolution 42-2023 to authorize the mayor to enter into contract with Dynegy for energy aggregation.

**City Engineer, Chris Courtney**

- Richmond Run AT&T is complete, restoration work is scheduled in mid-April. They gave punch list to Mayor and councilwoman Nelson in case someone calls. Forward any complaints to them to address.
- Chardon Rd- They are addressing stage 1 comments. Stage 2 and 3 submittals are being prepared.
- Highland Rd- They are continuing plan development and asking for target request to advertise to bid on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 Road Program- They received word from CCDPW that they were awarded \$119,500 grant for work on Brush, Curtiss Wright, Highland, Monticello, Trebisky, White and Wilson Mills. Once the work is completed, they request reimbursement from the county. Survey work is completed on all project streets. They will be requesting advertisements to bid on April 11, 2023.
- The 2022 Road Program has \$350k remaining and they are working to get completed. They have a meeting with the contractors, mayor, finance, and service on April 4<sup>th</sup> to talk about scheduling and coordinating that work.
- School Bridge- still working on the agreement with the school attorney. They are targeting the request to advertise on May 7, 2023, so they can build the project over the summer.

- IJA Funding application- The sewer district presented at the COW tonight on this and the agreement is on the agenda.
- Ohio EPA stormwater project. The update is complete. There is some coordination with the service department. They need to complete inspections and once that is complete, they will send a report to the mayor and the EPA.
- 504 Trebisky/Pliodzinkas- He is planning a meeting with Laura Webber from the county this week to discuss plans and the construction schedule.
- Harris Rd Flooding Mitigation- The county has indicated that \$125k is available in the stormwater fund for this project. It will be 100% reimbursement to the city. He will discuss with Tiedman and the mayor if they want to complete the project this year.
- Edgemont slope failure-They looked at it and said it is a stream erosion problem. He submitted it to the county. The project is eligible for 100% reimbursement from the county as well. He recommends they pursue it this year.
- Jordan asked if the \$125k for the storm water project will be used this year or next year. Courtney said they have a stormwater maintenance account, and they are asking if they can draw on it this year and make a budget adjustment for Harris and Edgemont.
- Alexander asked where the issue was located. This is North of Pleasant trail on the east side a few hundred feet south of Harms.
- Tiedman said if it is not addressed soon, it could be problematic.
- Courtney will talk to the mayor to work on both at the same time.
- Nelson asked if Courtney could send the punch list to all of council.

**Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:**

- Busy cleaning up from the past storm over the weekend. Crews are cutting up downed trees and cleaning up brush.
- Crews are filling potholes, trimming trees, doing outside work and inside the shop organizing.

**Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:**

- Staff accountant is on board, the purchasing agent started yesterday, assistant finance director in place soon.
- Working with Service director and police chief to hire mechanics, laborers, crossing guards.
- Boards and Commissions kick off zoom meetings coming soon.
- Friday Rhonda will be out of the office attending a Benefits and Innovation Symposium by USI. Kathy Gamber will be in.
- Jordan asked if we could meet the new accountant and procurement officers. Nelson has seen the staff accountant. Harmon said they can attend the next council meeting.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

- Kimberly F. Brown of 16201 Lotus Dr 44128 Cleveland- She said she is the president of the Black Women Commission of Cuyahoga County. She said that this council is attempting to erase history of Myesha Headen who has been omitted from the wall of photos. They delivered an image to the mayor's assistant and were told that it was going to be put on the wall. They want to know if council will install Myesha Headen's picture on the wall. They want to make sure that Black history and women history is not erased or ignored.
- Brenda Vernae Bickerstaff of 9909 Garfield Ave Cleveland- She said she is a private investigator and would like to ask who is responsible for putting the photos up and who is the vendor to do the photo? This reminds her of HB1 and how the state dictates how history is taught in the schools.

She says council is allowing it to happen with her photo not being on the wall. She is asking if there is a format or meetings that need to be had.

- Monica Lewis of 6261 Dunham Rd Maple Heights- She wants to see the picture on the wall as a Black woman from Cuyahoga county, and a part of the Black Women commission of Cuyahoga County. They don't want council to feed into the erasure of black history. She wants to know when the photo will be installed and who they can follow up with.
- Marvetta Rutherford of 1006 Sophia Ave. Cleveland- She brought in the photo provided and she was able to meet her. She feels this is selective. She feels that the facts are being misrepresented. She met Ms. Headen and felt the photo could have been put on the wall with a pushpin. She feels a compromise would have been fine. They were promised the photo would be put up. They had a frame, and it was matted, it was not from the same vendor. They are asking for council to do the right thing.
- Lewis said she spoke with Ms. Headen today. She said that when she has time to get a professional headshot, she will bring it in. Ms. Headen would like to get her own headshot from a professional.
- Bell said her question was if it was okay with Ms. Headen to use her likeness.
- Hunt said he did some research and said that the only mayor surviving from the past is Ursu. Boyle put the photos up of all the mayors first. Mayor Ursu put his own photo on the wall and when they moved to this new building the mayor put all the photos on the new wall. When mayor Roach became mayor, he reached out to Mayor Headen at that time for her photo and received no response. Roach put his own photo up and Mayor Thomas put up her own. Ms. Headen's plaque was not purposely omitted. Mayor Headen has said that she will provide a photo. Mayor Thomas initiated discussion with Mayor Headen weeks ago. Mayor Thomas is in Columbus at a conference by the auditor's office. It will get done and will get done appropriately.

#### **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**

##### **RESOLUTION NO.: 39-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; SECOND READING**

A RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MICHELLE R. BARNES TO THE UNEXPIRED TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY.

- Motion was made by Alexander to suspend the rules, seconded by Bell; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 39-2023; passed 6-0

##### **RESOLUTION NO.: 40-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; SECOND READING**

A RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DR. WARREN J. GLEN TO AN UNEXPIRED TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 40-2023; passed 6-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO.: 41-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY FORD, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2023 FORD F350 PICKUP TRUCK WITH SNOWPLOW FOR A LOWER PRICE THAN PRICING AVAILABLE UNDER THE OHIO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 41-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 42-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DYNEGY ENERGY SERVICES, LLC AS THE ELECTRIC SUPPLIER FOR RESIDENTS, SMALL COMMERCIAL ENTITIES, AND OTHER ELECTRIC CONSUMERS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS' ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Lentine to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 42-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 43-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (“NEORS”) TO PROCURE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES TO PREPARE THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND COST ESTIMATES FOR THE SEWER CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 43-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 44-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A RENEWAL OF AN INSURANCE AGREEMENT WITH GREAT AMERICAN FIDELITY INSURANCE COMPANY FOR A RISK e-BUSINESS CYBER LOSS & LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 44-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 45-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE TWO (2) 2024 FREIGHTLINER MODEL 108SD DUMP TRUCKS WITH ALL STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT FROM VALLEY FREIGHTLINER, INC. THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Alexander to pass Resolution 45-2023

**RESOLUTION NO.: 46-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING**  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL EQUIPMENT PACKAGES FOR TWO (2) 2024 FREIGHTLINER DUMP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE FROM TRIVISTA EQUIPMENT THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.

- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Nelson to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 46-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 47-2023 INTRODUCED BY: LENTINE; FIRST READING**  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH STRYKER MEDICAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO CARDIAC MONITORS AND ONSITE SERVICE THEREOF FOR THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND UTILIZING U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 47-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 48-2023 INTRODUCED BY: LENTINE; FIRST READING**  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH FOR THE PURCHASE OF NINE (9) PORTABLE RADIOS AND ONE (1) MOBILE RADIO FOR THE DIVISION OF FIRE.

- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 48-2023; passed 6-0

**RESOLUTION NO.: 49-2023 INTRODUCED BY: URSU; FIRST READING**  
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND TO BE DESIGNATED AS “FUND 225 – UNCLAIMED FUNDS TRUST FUND”.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 49-2023; passed 6-0

*Council President Jordan adjourned the March 28, 2023, City Council Meeting at 9:02 PM*

*Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council*