

City of Richmond Heights
City Council Meeting
April 11, 2023

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:13 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

Motion was made by Ursu seconded by Lentine to excuse Lewis; passed 5-0

Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to excuse Nelson; passed 5-0

Excused: Lewis and Nelson

Motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Bell to accept the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from March 28, 2023; passed 5-0

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:

- No Report

Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:

- The Heart Saver CPR training classes scheduled for April 17th and June 19th are full. The first available class is August 21st at 7:00 PM at the RH Fire Station. If anyone is interested, please call 216-383-6304 or email chief Neumann from the website.
- The Division of Fire has a pending employee retirement of Lt. John Boos for 31 years of service. They will recognize him at a future council meeting. He is working with HR to maintain full staffing with the division of fire and the civil service commission to backfill Boos position and to promote a new lieutenant eventually.
- Jordan asked Neumann if he was aware of this retirement coming. Neumann said yes, with fire and police officers they have a certain amount of service they do in Ohio for the pension fund. They can stay up to an additional 8 years for deferred retirement option plan. Boos is one of two officers that are nearing the end of their term. They have another employee they suspect will retire possibly after summer. There will be a bit of turnover in the next two years.

Police Chief, Calvin Williams:

- In the last two weeks there was one felony arrest for receiving stolen property involving a motor vehicle. There were 12 misdemeanor arrests mostly for traffic warrants. There were 38 traffic citations and 7 parking infractions. RH police department handled 179 assignments.

- They are one patrol officer short. They are in the process of filling that position in the next couple of weeks. There are several police officers who may retire. They started to open the portal for lateral applications. If you know an officer who wants to apply, urge them to come join RH. The openings will be there in the next few months.
- Lentine said he has been trying to get a streetlight repaired at Richmond Park apartments for three months and asked if someone from William's office can call to CEI about pole 76 on Richmond Park East Dr. Chief Williams said they will do that.
- Jordan asked is there anything else going on because they are seeing lots of car theft. Williams said they haven't had too much of an issue with vehicle theft in RH. The mayor has secured some locks for Kias and Hyundais to raffle off. Vigilance is our best tool. Give the police a call if you see anything suspicious.

Building Commissioner, Jim Urankar:

- The Planning commission will meet tomorrow for the second time regarding the Type A Daycare Ordinance.
- May 2nd at 7:30 PM the Planning and Zoning Committee of Council will review the Belle Oaks Phase One Landscape, Hardscape and site lighting.
- Spectrum removed some of the wires at Loganberry. There is still some of the fence leaning on the wall and that should be removed soon.

Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:

- Arbor Day is April 28, 2023, from 1:00-2:00 PM in the Community Park. They will be planting three trees this year.
- Shred Day is Saturday April 29, 2023, at City Hall parking Lot.
- RH Kiwanis club is taking cash donations and non-perishable food items for Harvest for Hunger.
- The Recreation department has purchased outdoor cameras to monitor activity around the community center and the patio furniture. When they arrive Monday, Tiedman will install them.
- Jordan asked will there be a soccer league this summer. Campbell said it starts Saturday. Jordan asked is it too late for students to sign up. Campbell said no, they just need to come to City Hall.

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser:

- He urges passage of Resolution 52-2023 for the water easement issue regarding Belle Oaks. It was reported at the Ward 3 council meeting by Jeremy Turk from Marous Construction that demolition will start 45 days after the water agreement is executed.
- He urges passes of Resolution 54-2023 to authorize the mayor to apply to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to convert the courts to pickleball courts. If the grant is awarded it would happen in 2024.
- The floor at Kiwanis Lodge in the small hall has been completed. That includes the small hall and the foyer and leading to the bathroom has been replaced. Next will be new lighting installation in the small hall.
- Planet Fitness Grand Opening and ribbon cutting will be Thursday April 20th at 4pm.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney

- The contractor for AT&T is actively working on restoration of the Punchlist work. If there are any complaints, please forward their contact information to him so they can get added to the punch list for the project and to make sure the work is completed.
- For Chardon Rd. resurfacing they are scheduled to submit the stage Two/Three plans to ODOT on or about April 19th and to have the final plans completed June 1, 2023, allowing them to advertise the project in October.

- For Highland Rd resurfacing he anticipates asking council to authorize advertising for bids at the May 9th meeting.
- The 2023 Road Plan and specifications development will be completed in the next ten days. They target their request to have council advertise for bids at the April 25th meeting.
- The 2022 road program restart meeting was held April 4th with the contractors, the service department and the mayor. The focus was on completing the 2022 road program and they still have \$350k remaining. On Meadowlane, at the Kiwanis Lodge and Loop Rd they are putting ADA parking spaces and Advance Repairs on Cary Jay and Steven. They are currently assessing full curb and gutter replacement on Steven in advance of asphalt paving work.
- Hunt is working on the agreement with the school's attorney for the school bridge replacement. Courtney is asking for permission to advertise for bids at the May 9th meeting so they can build the project in the summer while school is out.
- At last council meeting legislation was approved relating to the regional sewer district for IJJA application for sanitary sewer improvements. They advertised the RFP qualifications statement last week. They will remain in contact with the Deal Point team to coordinate schedules for the portion of the project that is the drop shaft into the regional sewer district tunnel.
- OEPA Phase Two Stormwater update report is complete. They are adding a few items related to erosion control inspections and site plan reviews and then it will be submitted in the next 10 days. He will email PDF copies to Tiedman and the mayor.
- For 503 and 504 Trebisky the Pliodszinkas home, they met with Laura Weber last week to discuss advancing the project. The County assures us that they do this type of work. They said clay dams and sewer trenches are programmed in their General Services Contract with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving, who will be completing the work. Weber is working on a written work description and quantities for presentation to Fabrizi.
- They talked to the county about Harris and Edgemont, and they agreed that the money is available in the storm sewer account. Tiedman, Courtney and the mayor need to meet to discuss if they want to adjust the budget this year or program them for next year. The projects will be funded by the city and then fully reimbursed by the county.
- Dominion EOG is working on Meadowlane Rd. They are doing some pot holing and the replacement of 500-600 feet of gas line and reconnecting the lines in that area. There was an on-site preconference held today with gas company and their contractor.
- Alexander said they hadn't heard anything about Flexjet and asked where they were with them. Urankar said he was told it could be perhaps a couple of months before they get an occupancy and open. They are behind schedule, but the project is in progress.

Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:

- Crew members are out mowing and trimming the city properties. They are mulching and cleaning flower beds.
- They are opening and cleaning the concession stands, turning the water on or opening pipes to test and fix anything broken. They hope to have it done by May 15th.
- They started work on the baseball fields getting them ready for games. They are striping all three baseball fields and ten soccer fields. They received the picnic tables.
- They have to put together fifty tables. They have 40 and hope to get them done before the parks get busy.
- They received the 5 trucks from Enterprise. The mechanics will go through them and inspect them and put all the safety equipment on.
- Jordan asked will the trucks be in the parade. Tiedman said that they will put all the equipment on and stickered before the parade. They will be on the road in one to two months.

- Jordan asked when all the picnic tables will it be installed. Tiedman said they don't have all the benches yet or the trash cans. They have all the picnic tables and he's hoping by the end of the month it will be complete.

Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:

- They are still hiring in the city. Please look at the website for any open positions. In the audience they have members of the Mediation Board and the Tree Commission. They had a kickoff meeting on Monday April 3rd. She thanked everyone who was on the call.
- She attended a symposium that was put on by USI for benefits innovation. She came back with a wealth of information that will help her focus on key areas to support the staff in wellness and DEI.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Lila Hughley of 480 Catlin lives next to a group home. It's been closed for 2 years. The residents went from being physically hadicapped to mentally handicapped and police were being called 4-6 times a week. So many resources were being used. You would hear screams, residents there would get naked and lay in the flower beds. She understands people need a place to live but feels skilled people are needed who can handle the issues at the property at 4488 Catlin. She is retired and enjoys her home and community. If the new group home operates the same as the last, she will be moving. The employees would leave their cars on with the music going in the driveway. She hopes council can do something to pass ordinance that certain levels of homes can be opened in a residential area. North Coast is the owner of the property. She thinks the new owner is Mr. Patterson. He assured her that there would be 3 residents living there. One resident arrived yesterday, and another will be coming next week. The owner said it will be a 1:1 ratio of workers to residents.
- Lentine said he sympathized with her comments. He doesn't feel we have a lot of leverage of what we can do but we can ask the workers to be aware of the neighbors. Hughley said they will leave garbage out for days as well. She said the residents that live on the street that are homeowners don't do this to their property, they look out for their neighbors. She is asking for an ordinance to be passed to protect the community.
- Alexander said we have ordinances passed about this in the past. They lost lawsuits regarding this. There is lobbying for these types of homes. He said he sympathized with them. He said everything needs to be documented by the police if they aren't taking care of the property and causing a disturbance.
- Hunt said they can't prohibit group homes from coming into the community. There are limitations on the number of residents and there are ordinances in place that address the types of things Hughley discussed. You can place citations etcetera on the owners for these types of activities. The city needs to stay on top of the issues and know what's going on. If there are enough reports, they can be taken to court and if it gets too bad the facility can be declared a nuisance.
- Ursu said he remembers these facilities have requirements like sprinklers and other aspects that do help. Such homes should be brought to the attention of the building department to make sure the physical attributes are present. He recommends the building department to review that facility to ensure it is up to specification and ordinances. Urankar said he will contact the owner.

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**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 50-2023 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 Ursu, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 5-0.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 50-2023; passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 51-2023 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 Lentine, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Lentine, to pass Resolution 51-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 52-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, A “RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF A WATER MAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING WATER SERVICE” WITH THE CITY OF CLEVELAND AND RICHMOND HEIGHTS OWNER LLC.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 52-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 53-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2023

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to suspend the rules; passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 53-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 54-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A PROJECT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ITS NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules, passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 54-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 55-2023 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 A MOTOR.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 55-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 56-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BAIN ENTERPRISES FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW STREET SIGNS.

- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed 5-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to pass Resolution 566-2023; passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO.:57-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF CALINDA STRINGER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:58-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF BECKY STREEM TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:59-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF EDWIN MAYES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:60-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ALEX HARPER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:61-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JANELL TURNER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:62-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF KEN KIRKLAND TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.:63-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DANA WIGGINS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CITY'S BOARD OF ETHICS.

- **HOLD ON**

Council President Jordan adjourned the April 11, 2023, City Council Meeting at 9:05 PM

Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council