

**City of Richmond Heights
City Council Meeting
June 13, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:18 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to excuse Lewis; passed 6-0

Excused: Lewis

Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to accept the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from May 23, 2023; passed 6-0.

REPORTS:

Mayor Kim A. Thomas:

- She attended the US Mayor's Conference and participated in a panel discussion covering Climate Protection, Infrastructure, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, and how to support our seniors and disabled residents.
- She flew to Chicago and Richmond Heights won the Daily Award for Water Equity. It is a benefit for the city because it provides a non-cause partnership with one of the world's largest engineering firms for professional consulting assistance and obtaining federal funds for lead line replacement and other crucial water infrastructure projects.
- She attended the Broadband Bootcamp focusing on accessibility for residents. This is an initiative to help seniors who are digitally divided.
- StLaurent and the mayor are in the process of starting a Youth Development committee.
- Thank you, Chief Williams, for being willing to stay for another 90 days. Civil service approved an extension for the chief of police for 90 more days.

Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:

- Thank you to the economic development team for their work on the legislation for the roof replacement project at the Fire Station.
- On June 9th the Dept of Homeland Security notified him that RH Division of Fire has been awarded a \$64,316.40 Assistance for Firefighters grant. The grant will fund aircraft rescue and firefighting certification for all members of RH Division of Fire. The grant is 95% funded and the local cost share is \$3063 which is 5%. The grant will enhance the Division of Fire's ability to provide emergency services by providing certification and training in PA and backfill staffing expenses in the Division of Fire. He will talk to council in detail at the safety meeting. They obtained the grant because of the grant writing skills of Jason Bus.

Police Chief, Calvin Williams:

- In the past 7 days there were 110 calls for service. They made 7 arrests ranging from use of a weapon while intoxicated to the usual capias and warrants. There were 26 traffic citations and 5 parking citations. They are currently down 2 patrol officer positions and will be down one

Lieutenant in a month. There will be a civil service test scheduled in August to fill that Lieutenant vacancy.

- There are currently four lateral positions in the pipeline, Civil Service and HR will vet those and come up with a certified listing once they get them the additional testing for those candidates in the pipeline. There are five entry level people in the pipeline. The plan is to hire from those available candidates. Two lateral candidates will fill the current two vacancies. Once the Lieutenants position is filled, they will backfill the sergeant's position that will open an additional patrol officer position. They will maybe be able to send an Entry Level candidate to the Highway Patrol Camp to fill that vacancy. It will be a 6-month process. Hopefully that officer will be back at the RH Police Department in March or April of 2024.
- They need auxiliary officers to work the day shift. They are looking for candidates to work in the volunteer capacity. They are looking for part time police officers who are serving currently in Cuyahoga County and want to work part time in RH.
- The memorial day parade went well. It was well attended. The people enjoyed themselves and they already started planning for next year.
- The Juneteenth Celebration is Sat from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
- Mayor's Bike ride is June 24th and they will send additional information.
- Lentine asked when a crime is committed in RH and they are arrested in another city who prosecutes. Williams said the prosecution goes on in the city where the crime happened. His car was stolen on memorial weekend. The person was found in his car. That individual was let go that night and was not put in jail. He was not arrested by another police department. He found out on his own that the person had a list of arrests and charges, and he was given a courtesy ride to the bus to get home. Williams said RH police and prosecutor and county prosecutor will be taking a hard look at the case. There is a detective working with the county prosecutor and he will get him an update on that.

Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:

- Saturday, June 17 is the Juneteenth event from 1:00-4:00 PM. There will be free food, ice cream, inflatables and live music.
- The Mayor's Bike Ride is June 24th. The starting point is Hilltop Plaza. All participants will receive a Free RH Water bottle.
- The 1st Summer Concert in the community is June 28th with Disco Inferno from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM.

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser:

- He is requesting support in passage on first reading of Resolutions 82-2023, 83-2023 and 87-2023.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney

- Chardon Rd plans submitted to ODOT. They have final plans targeted for submission. Construction is expected to start in 2024.
- 2023 Road Program Request for bids are on the agenda.
- Completion of 2022 Road Program. The contractor is to start work on June 26th.
- School Board bridge replacement and culvert extension is on the agenda this evening.
- IJA Funding loan design proposal was accepted in May. The NEORSB needs about 6 weeks to review, and they will know more about the design in July.
- 503/504 Trebisky- They are still waiting on Cuyahoga County to award the contract. Once that is done the county will be out with the contractor.
- Edgemont Slope Failure needs a budget modification. This is a 250k project to fix an erosion and slope failure issue. This will be reimbursed by the county from County Department of Public Works Stormwater maintenance fund.

- They are waiting on a schedule from Dominion Gas for the gas line replacement work on Highland Rd.
- They are waiting for scheduling information from AT&T for the fiberoptics they proposed for Trebisky Woods development.
- Waiting on info from Cleveland Water department for the lining project for the transmission main on Highland Rd. Once they have the information, he will forward it to everyone.
- Completed review of Firestone Plans for Belle Oaks. They are sending out comments to the designer tomorrow or Thursday.
- Restated Water Agreement and Potential of Waterline Replacement, he will forward the map to everyone along with asking them to pre-score the area. It looks like there are 11 streets that will be good candidates for immediate funding through their Suburban Water Main Renewal Program. It's critical to understand what the local expense would be. We would be responsible for pavement repair costs, and he is in the process of looking at each of the streets now to determine what the pavement costs would be and coming up with a strategy for how we will fund it to minimize the city's expenditures.
- Mayor asked who is putting together the site plan for the drop shaft. Courtney said the Regional Sewer district is in responsible for that and they are in charge of that design proposal. He partnered with GPD and submitted for potential design work in support of their proposal, and they are waiting to hear from NEORSD on who they will select.
- Jordan asked if RH is selected would it be our cost. Courtney said no it would be a separate arrangement through the NEORSD.
- Ursu said thank you for getting this strategy for the city to get the payment for this program. He asked does Willoughby Hills have anything in mind for their portion of Chardon Road. Courtney said that it's a state route and the state will have some control, but he will check.
- Alexander said that there seems to be a few spots where the shoulder is down on Richmond Rd. He asked is it something we can take care of. Courtney said it can be put in the hot spot section to address as a part of the road program.
- Nelson asked for the information for the 2023 Road Program. Courtney will send it to all of council.

Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:

- Thank you to the department for coming out to work on Memorial Day on their day off to set up and break down.
- They poured over 40 yards of concrete this year.
- Crews are still working on flower beds throughout the city.
- They received 75 new trash cans. They are being placed in all city parks.
- The city signs are in. They will work on the project starting next week and estimate a month to completion.
- 2023 Championship signs are in and have been installed last week.
- June 15th there will be a road Closure of Richmond Rd., Southbound traffic will not be detoured. Northbound traffic will be detoured.
- Jordan asked if we would get another porta-potty at Greenwood Farms. Tiedeman said they will move the one at the park over there.
- Ursu thanked Ryan about getting the sign at the top of Highland Rd Hill.
- Nelson said one of her constituents called and wanted to tell Tiedman thank you for cleaning Richmond Rd. She said he did a wonderful job.
- Jordan thanks Officer Ross for getting the branches that were in the middle of Richmond Rd.

Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:

- There is still a need for a School Crossing guard. Talk to residents and community members to fill the 2 crossing guard roles. They would report to the Police Department.
- They have been fortunate to fill the positions in the service department except for one. They need a class A mechanic. It's a full-time union position. Call Tiedeman or Lowe about the position.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Anita Blackwell of 485 Jeanette Dr. said that at the last meeting it was discussed that they would do a survey of the streetlights. Jeanette Drive would like to know council's position regarding this.

- Williams said he contacted the representative of the Illuminating Co., and they are setting up a meeting to find out how to process a lighting survey for the city.
- Jordan said this will be a lengthy process, but he is glad she came back.

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.

- This was discussed in the previous meeting.
- A vote was taken, and Resolution 143-2022 DID NOT PASS; 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 68-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE LIEUTENANT JOHN FREDERICK BOOS

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.: 70-2023 INTRODUCED BY: NELSON; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY FOR EXPENSES FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD MEETINGS

- **HOLD ON**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 79-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO THE AMOUNT OF A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BAIN ENTERPRISES FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW STREET SIGNS.

- Motion was made by Alexander seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 79-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 80-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF ITEMS OF SPECIFIC PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY INTERNET AUCTION BY GOVDEALS.COM, INC.

- **HOLD ON**

**ORDINANCE NO.: 81-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS AND ALL OF COUNCIL;
FIRST READING**

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 763, "TENANT'S RIGHT TO PAY TO STAY," OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.: 82-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Alexander, to suspend the rules; passed 6-0.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 82-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 83-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO ACCEPT A GRANT UNDER THE COMPETITIVE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM.

- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Alexander to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 83-2023; passed 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 84-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTHCOAST SIGNWORKS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW MASONRY SIGN PILLARS

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 84-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 85-2023 INTRODUCED BY: URSU; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024; SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 85-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 86-2023 INTRODUCED BY: URSU; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDITS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Alexander to pass Resolution 86-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 87-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WEST SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE FIRE STATION ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Lentine to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 87-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 88-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSEND ARBORCARE FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREE STUMPS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 88-2023; passed 6-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 89-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ON AGING FOR OLDER ADULT SERVICES AND TO PAY THE MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 6-0
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded Nelson to pass Resolution 89-2023; passed 6-0

CITY COUNCIL MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PER CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 137.19(b)

- Motion was made Jordan, seconded by Nelson to pass the motion; passed 6-0

Council President Jordan adjourned the June 13, 2023, City Council Meeting at 9:05 PM

Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council