

**City of Richmond Heights
City Council Meeting
July 11, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:36 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

Excused:

Motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Lewis to accept the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from June 27, 2023; passed 6-1- Bell Abstained

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:

- Mayor gave her report in the Service and Recreation committee meeting.

Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:

- The roof replacement project at the division of fire will begin on Thursday July 13th and will last approximately 3 weeks. West Roofing Systems will work Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM. The crews will not be able to work during inclement weather or when the roof is wet due to safety concerns. Staff can expect of increased noise from the equipment during the construction hours. Parking of personal vehicles of employees at the work site is highly discouraged and only contract with vehicles construction equipment delivery vehicles should be on work site. Any questions or concerns can be directed towards Neumann or the service director.
- Lentine asked will they be working on just the bad areas. Neuman said there will be some added attention given to those troubled areas. Neumann said yes, they've done site surveys they've reported to architectural review board and through the Commission as well and those are being addressed.
- They have the Heart saver CPR training class coming up on Monday August 21st at 7:00 PM. These classes are free to residents of Richmond heights. You must be 16 years old to attend. It's posted on the LED board as well as on the website. To sign up you can also call Neumann at 216-383-6304.

Police Chief, Calvin Williams:

- **Excused**

Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:

- The next summer concert is on July 12th. Forecast will be performing in our Community Park gazebo from 6:30 to 8:30.

- The City Edition is nearing completion, and he plans on sending the final copy to the printers by Monday.
- Our spray ground will be closed this weekend just due to staffing for that date.
- Lentine asked where you can go to go swim and take kids to go swim. He thinks it's important that we announced that it's exactly the same as last year. Campbell said Richmond Heights residents can swim at the South Euclid pool. A day pass for our residents of \$6 and seniors are free.
- Lentine said a resident asked is there any way we could have food trucks at the concerts. Campbell said they do have food trucks planned for the concerts.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney

- Chardon Rd.'s final plans along with the supporting documentation are due by July 24th. They are on target to make that submittal. Construction will start in Spring of 2024.
- The 2023 Road Program, he's already emailed Atkins some revised bid dates assuming that the bids will be rejected which would be the first advertisement date on July 20th the second ad on July 27th the pre-bid meeting on July 31st and then have the bid opening on August 4th which is the same bidding schedule set up for Highland Rd.
- The County Department of Public works 7 highland Rd. between Richmond highland heights some point this week they're cleaning and televising the crossover pipes to see if we have any damaged pipes from that warrant replacement before any new service on the road.
- For the 2022 Road Program, Concrete/Catch Basin Repair Contractor Started last week and will be working on various Catch Basins throughout the City. The Asphalt Contractor is scheduled to start work next week after some weather delays on other projects.
- For the School Bridge repair school bridge project, we don't have a recommendation ready for the today. He would anticipate that given the discussion this evening we will have an ordinance in front of council for next meeting for authorization. He received final approval of the plat of the right of way plat from the county on Monday. so that plat is now being circulated for signatures once the school board signs it will come to council for signatures.
- The Edgemont Slope Failure Project started. They are doing surveying work this week and will be working on the improvement plans as soon as that field work is completed. This project costs about \$250,000, which would be fully reimbursed by the county.
- Started work on Highland Rd. They are doing main line work. They anticipate it to take about one or two weeks. Traffic will be restricted to one lane.
- The Cleveland Water Department 54" main on Highland Rd waiting for them to determine material availability and whether or not they're going to proceed with the project this year or next year depending on the material availability. Before they start will be invited to attend the pre-construction meeting.
- For the suburban water main renewal program, with the action taken by council at the last meeting the Mayor, Tiedman, Atkins and Courtney met to discuss potential projects. They looked at not only the condition of the water mains but also our city by assessment that we have done to try to target projects with bad water mains and bad roads for their first fabrication trying to address our worst roads first. There are five projects that we're submitting for consideration under the Fall 2023 round of funding which is \$7.5M by the water department. The funds would be paid 100% by the water department if we are successful in getting them. He thinks there's a good chance we get at least two maybe three of those classifications through Monday and we will find out the first week of September whether or not we're funded just in time to determine what they want to do for the public works Commission applications. Applications are due on the 17th. and he has a draft application that he advised the folks here that they're coming over for review on Thursday. He hopes to have them sent to the water department on Monday for their deadline.
- Courtney said he is a team player and wants what is best for the city. He said he tries hard to communicate what's going on and thinks there's a better way of working as a team in order to

address things. It's within Council's discretion to reject bids if there was a concern about the integrity of the process. Anyone can reach out to him with questions, and he will respond.

- Ursu asked how long the Gas company job will go on. Courtney said they anticipate it being a week or two.
- Mayor said that the team felt the same as Courtney regarding communication and their concerns were with the steps that were eliminated.
- Jordan asked if any more catch basins would be fixed. He sent the catch basins to the clerk and 22 more will be worked on as a part of 2023 or the next round of construction.
- Jordan asked would the School Bridge would be completed before school starts on August 21st. Courtney said if a contract is awarded on the 25th of July, he will try to obtain a construction contract so that they can coordinate with the school, but the area will be protected. He will get the construction schedule to everyone.
- Jordan asked about the Pliodszinkas property. Courtney said that he updated Mr. Pliodszinkas. The county intends to do the work out of the Fiscal 2024 contract which has not been awarded yet. He spoke to Webber, and he updated Mr. Pliodszinkas on the schedule he wanted him to participate in.
- Alexander asked if there were any reports of flooding last Monday. Courtney said the only one he is aware of was on Harris Rd. It is planned to be addressed with 2024 construction funded by the county.

Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:

- They finished the flower bed at the sand park. They planted new trees, grass and put down mulch.
- They poured 30 yards of concrete in the past two weeks.
- They've done five more repairs from water main breaks and then they will switch over to the concrete patch for the bus shelters.
- There is a 1988 GMC truck out of service. He has a company coming in September to inspect it. He will bring the inspection to council.
- Jordan said the service department is doing a great job with keeping the city clean.

Building Commissioner, William Gallagher:

- They are following the apartment buildings. Any time there is a complaint the property inspectors will come out to the apartments, and he will be reporting information that they haven't been usually hearing this on a 2-week basis.
- Mayor said that any time there is a complaint about the 444 apartments they send the complaints to Gallagher, and he responds. Once Urankar left he informed the building inspector to pass along concerns to the prosecutor so that's what they were doing. Mayor said that Gallagher says the building inspector should go out and follow up. Urankar used to go do the follow up, but he's gone.
- Mayor said we dropped the ball. She said the inspector should go visit the property after a complaint. Lentine said the problem continues to be with the management company that has no authority to do anything even if our inspectors visit the property. The issue is the owners, that are an investment group in New York. He agreed with the mayor.

Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:

- Finance Director and Economic Development directors have been hired.
- Auxiliary, school crossing guard, civil services are making headway.
- Service department will be fully staffed as of Monday. They found a Class A Mechanic.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Brian Silver of 25790 Highland Rd said there was standing water on Highland Rd. Who do they contact to clean the catch basins? Tiedman said they can contact the Service Department. Mr. Silver asked if the information had been relayed to the individuals that complained about the Air BNBs. Jordan said that he told the individuals at the last meeting that we would be drafting legislation and working with the law director to address it. He can reach out to the residents who spoke at the last meeting. Alexander reported it to Gallagher, and he has contacted the Air BNB owners and notified them of the current ordinance that says they can't operate for less than 30 days. Any legislation that is passed will affect all Air BNBs.
- Hunt said this is what's known as a short-term rental prohibition ordinance which he's drafted in council as a draft. Then hopefully we'll get it firmed up and introduced at the next meeting. It does have to be referred to the Planning Commission because it's in the zoning code, but it does prevent any rentals less than 30 days. It's going to be under the authority of the police officers to actually request copies of the lease if there's an incident to prove that they're running more than 30 days. It's been pretty effective in other cities and municipalities, not only in Ohio but he took some of this from New Jersey and couple other communities where they've adopted it. It's not going to help those people who actually rent for over 30 days and decide to have parties and that's going to be on the Police Department generally and the building department if there are building code violations.
- Paul Ellis of 4795 Ridge Lane asked if council could speak into the microphones. He uses hearing aids and finds it difficult to hear what's being said. Second point is just from your food for thought kind of thing since we have a lot of discussion this evening about capital plans and road programs. He thinks it would be useful for the city to investigate with the county how much room there is within the 10-mill limit for the issuance of bond anticipation notes, because the city doesn't have any outstanding general applications at this time. He knows prior administrations were not interest in General Obligation debt, but it may be a way to take a comprehensive look to do a capital loan for the city to have resources available. By being in the market with bond anticipation notes you can maintain your credit rating.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 68-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL; FIRST READING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE LIEUTENANT JOHN FREDERICK BOOS

- Resolution was read in its entirety by clerk of council.
- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 68-2023; passed 7-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 70-2023 INTRODUCED BY: NELSON, BELL & LENTINE; THIRD READING

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

- Jordan said this resolution will be heard in the Finance Committee.
- **HOLD ON**

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

- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 80-2023; passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 98-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH PC ALTERNATIVES, LLC FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE CITY.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed 7-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 98-2023; passed 7-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 99-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SENIOR TRANSPORTATION CONNECTION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Alexander to suspend the rules; passed 7-0
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 99-2023; passed 7-0

RESOLUTION NO.: 100-2023 INTRODUCED BY: URSU; FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NOS. 27-2023, 78-2023 AND 92-2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules. The vote was 4 Yes, and 3 Nos by Alexander, Bell and Nelson.
- Hunt said the resolution will have to be held because five votes are necessary to suspend.
- Jordan asked if there were union stipulations. Neumann said that one item is earmarked for tuition reimbursement, but he worked with the finance director to get an interfund transfer to pay for that for now.
- **HOLD ON**

Hunt said to make a motion to reject the bids for the 2023 Road Program but also to give guidance on how it should happen. He said it's probably two votes; one vote to reject the bids and a second motion to put in place if it's going to be re-bid and how it's going to be re-bid.

- Alexander asked if they are accepting the bid for the bridge and just re-bidding the road. Jordan said this motion is just for the road program.
 - Motion was made by Ursu to reject the 2023 Road Program bids not including the school bridge, seconded by Jordan; passed 7-0
- Courtney suggested the advertisement schedule as he stated in his report which would be the First ad on July 20th, the Second ad on July 27th, Pre-Bid meeting on the July 31st and the Pre-Bid opening on the August 4th. Include in the document that the work that is specified for County Road maintenance that we secure pricing for that to be completed in 2023 so that we're able to secure the reimbursement from the county of about \$200,000 that we have in a grant for. We have to make that work this year and then for all the other

sections, we secure pricing for completing the work in 2023 and for completing the work in 2024 so that we could see if a contractor wants to come in and try to start to fill their plate early for work in 2024 and we can get some really great out of the gate pricing that would lead Council to award that work in anticipation of completing it next year. That it will present options for council to consider regarding awarding or not awarding anything.

- Courtney discussed the new process for bidding presenting options for council to consider regarding awarding. The bid books would solicit pricing for all the County Rd work to be completed this year and all the other sections to be priced out for this year and next year. Contractors can price it both ways and once we have the numbers we can discuss how to proceed after the bidding.
- Mayor said she is OK with it and just making sure everyone has those options. If they bid everything they have for 2023 and get the same price for 2024 there will be a price difference but at least they are providing those options.
- Courtney said what could conceivably happen if contractors think it's too early to work for 2024 and they get the same pricing, we award section one for all the County Road work we get that done maybe a small section for continuing with catch basin repair all the other work you reject the bids and then we read advertise it early next year.
- Nelson asked are there documented procedures on the process of the bids that can be given to Council. Courtney said there's an outline that documents the entire bidding process and he will get it to Council.
 - Motion was made by Ursu to use the advertisement schedule as Courtney stated in his report which would be: The First ad on July 20th, the Second ad on July 27th, Pre-Bid meeting on the July 31st and the Pre-Bid opening on the August 4th. Include in the bid document that the work that is specified for County Road maintenance that we secure pricing for that to be completed in 2023 so that we're able to secure the reimbursement from the county of about \$200,000 that we have in a grant for. We have to make that work for this year. Then for all the other sections, we secure pricing for completing the work in 2023 and for completing the work in 2024 so that we could see if a contractor wants to come in and try to start to fill their plate early for work in 2024 and we can get some really great out of the gate pricing that would lead Council to award that work in anticipation of completing it next year. That it will present options for council to consider regarding awarding or not awarding anything, seconded by Bell; passed 7-0
- Motion was made by Alexander, seconded by Jordan to pass on the pending legislation for Air BNB to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their review and recommendation; passed 7-0
- Hunt said there is a 10-day notice window for a public hearing which will likely be in August once the Planning and Zoning Commission make their recommendations.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Council President Jordan adjourned the July 11, 2023 City Council Meeting at 9:31 PM

Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council