

**City of Richmond Heights
City Council Meeting
July 25, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:10 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

Motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Lewis to accept the consent agenda and the meeting minutes from July 11, 2023; passed unanimously.

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:

- Neumann thanked Councilwoman Bell for her service to the community.
- A CPR class is coming up on Monday Aug 21st, 7:00 PM at the fire station. Residents who are interested should check the website to sign up. Call chief at 216-383-6304 and he will add them to the roster.
- Earlier today the firefighters ran a call for a ravine rescue in the bluffs. One of the senior residents fell 65-75 feet into the ravine. His neighbor was with him and heard him from the ravine. Lt. Roush took quick action and effected the Heights rescue team with a rope rescue system by harnessing him and walking him up the ravine. He went to an area hospital to be checked out. He had minor visible injuries on site. Fire fighters, police and tactical rescue team acted quickly. Thank you Lt. Roush.
- Lentine asked how long the rescue took. Neumann said the rescue took two hours. The call came in at 11:34 AM and ended around 1:30.
- Neumann said they went through the rope rescue training last year and they had all the right tools and equipment because of that grant.

Police Chief, Calvin Williams:

- National Night out is August 1st 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM at Community Park. They are encouraging everyone including Council to come out and talk to safety forces and service department folks and assistance from Span partners.
- They are in the process of scheduling interviews for two police auxiliary: one male and one female. They would be a good addition to our personnel.

- They are in the background process for one lateral police officer, which should be completed in a week or two.

Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:

- Reggae Band Carlos Jones + will be performing at Community Park. There will be a Hibachi, BBQ, Fruits, Ice Cream and Kiwanis Club will be selling snacks and refreshments.
- The city is hosting its first Back to School Bike Ride on July 29, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM at Community Park. There will be free school supplies given to participating children and there will be free food.
- The City Edition will be sent to printers by Friday. Residents should get copies next week.
- Spray Grounds are down for the rest of the summer due to mechanical issues.
- The Recreation Department and the Richmond Heights Football Coach are collaborating to develop a Youth Flag Football team for ages 5-10 and registration opens this Friday.
- Jordan asked of some spaces could be reserved for council tomorrow. Campbell said he would and will designate the front lot for handicap parking.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney

- The Final Plans for Chardon Rd were submitted this week. This is a \$1M improvement project with the city only pays 10%.
- The 2023 Road Program & Highland Rd.- He met with everyone who spoke at the last meeting last Monday to talk about a number of changes to the bidding process. He hopes to have work with the purchasing director to have those projects out to bid next Thursday.
- The 2022 Road Program concrete and catch basin repairs are complete. The asphalt contractor started last week at Kiwanis Lodge, Meadowlane and Georgetown. The hot spots are being marked and prepared.
- School Bridge Replacement project legislation is on the agenda tonight. He checked with the contractor, and they should start August 21st and have work completed by October. Everything will be done to make it as safe as possible for the students.
- Edgemont slope failure project survey work has been completed. They are working on the improvement plans. It should be ready by mid-late August.
- The Highland Rd Gas company is out of RH. They are going to be working for another month or so. They are waiting on the water dept for preconstruction meeting on Highland for the main.
- They submitted all of the projects to the Water Department for the Suburban Waer Main renewal program. At council's next meeting he will be submitting a request for the application for pavement portions of those projects. We should hear from the Water Department in the first week of September.
- Jordan asked when the completion will be for the school bridge. Courtney said mid-October. They will start August 21st. Construction will last two months.

Building Commissioner, William Gallagher:

- **Update on Belle Oaks**
 - They are awaiting the demolition checks.
 - He spoke to Frank via email, and they submitted a certificate for the Firestone Building. They hope to see construction in mid-August.
 - Flex Jet was issued a temporary certificate of occupancy. They expect the cert of occupancy in August.
 - They are having a ZBA meeting next week for the Sunoco building.
 - They have been receiving calls for Air BNB and will have a meeting tomorrow to discuss.

- They received a half a dozen calls for the Apartment Buildings. They are following up on every call and continue to take the questions and comments back to the management company.
- Residential Reviews are current and getting approved in a timely manner.
- Mayor asked if Flex Jet gave him a date for the ribbon cutting. Gallagher will follow up on the formal dedication and let everyone know.
- Hunt received information from Flex Jet to rename the street, not Curtiss Wright Parkway. It is a private street, and they can name it anything they want. They need to check with the post office if they want to use it as an address.
- Gallagher will follow up on that and work with service for signage. Hunt said they will also.
- Alexander asked if the lot on Trebisky was sold. Hunt said it hasn't be sold and the city still owns it.
- Ursu asked if we are still awaiting a date for demo. Gallagher said they are awaiting a check and then they will get a certificate of construction to move forward.

Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:

- They are working on two of the concrete beds for RTA. They are working with RTA to determine a new location for the third bed and will have more information by August.
- They are working on water main breaks and filling potholes. They are trimming tree limbs that grow out in the street and are a hazard to plow trucks.
- On August 3rd, there will be a Down Wire training, on how to handle them safely.
- Aug 21-31st the Service Department will be receiving CPR training with the Fire Department.
- Lentine thanks Mayor and Tiedman regarding signage at Cary Jay. They will be coming out Thursday or Friday to move it. He spoke to the mason today and he is hoping the masonry will be complete in a few weeks.

Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:

- There is one additional position that chief Williams is staffing for a School Crossing Guard.
- They did some phone screens this week and are moving forward in the process.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Perry Williams of 4770 Lindsay Lane said that he and two of his daughters live here. He is the owner of Roman Designs Construction Company, and he would like to work in the community and to do whatever it takes to keep the city wonderful.
- Mayor Thomas asked him to leave his email with them. Jordan asked him to sign in on the sign in sheet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 70-2023 (REVISED 07/25/2023) INTRODUCED BY: NELSON, BELL & LENTINE; THIRD READING

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

- **HOLD ON**

ORDINANCE NO.: 100-2023 (REVISED 7/25/2023) INTRODUCED BY URSU; SECOND 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 Bell to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 100-2023; passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO.: 102-2023 INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR THOMAS & ALL OF COUNCIL; FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE CHARTER AT ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4(c), TO REVISE THE THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR EXPERIENCE TO BE AN APPLICANT FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 102-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 103-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT HALF INTERNATIONAL INC. FOR THE CITY'S TEMPORARY STAFFING NEEDS.

- Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 103-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 104-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH GREAT LAKES CRUSHING, LLC FOR THE SCHOOL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Lentine to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Bell to pass Resolution 104-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 105-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WEST ROOFING SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE POLICE STATION ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Jordan requested to add the 20% contingency to the resolution.
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Bell to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 105-2023 with the 20% contingency revision; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 106-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF SHAYLA L. DAVIS
AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

- Mayor said that the Economic Development projects are on hold. They also have a resource fair with the County, and they need to get this person in place. She assured that she would get the resumes to Alexander.
- Alexander said that he wasn't given an opportunity to review the resumes and will vote no.
- Hunt said a motion is not needed to keep it on first reading, but a motion is needed to suspend the rules and to pass it.
- Motion was made by Bell seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules. Alexander and Lentine voted no, Nelson abstained.
- **HOLD ON**

COORESPONDENCE

- Jordan said He was not aware that Dr. Bell was leaving. She works long hours and is a doctor and a mother. She's sacrificed a lot to be here and to provide service to Council and to her husband and family. He thinks her work is exceptional and that her ward is an active ward, and he salutes her.
- Lewis gave well wishes to Bell.
- Ursu said it was a pleasure being her partner at their team building outing.
- Nelson said she hates to see her go because she brings so much to council as an independent thinker. She appreciates her honesty, candidness and thoroughness.
- Lentine said that she made herself available to him. The best thing he remembers is the health training she facilitated. He thanked her for her service and wished her the best.
- Alexander thanked her for her service. It takes a special kind of person to step up and gave her a round of applause.
- Hunt said that it's been a pleasure to have her on Council. He admires her for being prepared and having thoughtful analysis and remarks.
- Mayor said thank you and she couldn't think of a better person to take her council position when she won the race for Mayor. She thanked her for her leadership and for stepping up and serving. Mayor asked Tiedman if they have the Chardon Rd sign to give to Bell as a going away with Council's approval. Tiedman will look for it.
- Bell said she never thought she would be on city council, but when she was asked, she saw this as an extension of being a physician. She has learned so much that she shares with her patients. She suggests law school, med school, economics, engineering as options to young people. This will give her an opportunity to do more in the city. She looks forward to doing great things and thanked everyone.
- Council President Bobby Jordan gave permission to Bell to adjourn the Council Meeting.

This Council meeting of July 25, 2023 was adjourned by Councilwoman Bell at 9:10 PM.

Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council