

**City of Richmond Heights
City Council Meeting
September 12, 2023**

President of Council, Bobby Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:17 PM.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

Motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Lentine to excuse Alexander; passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass the consent agenda items; 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.

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting from August 22, 2023.

REPORTS:

Mayor Kim A. Thomas:

- She met with Mycon last week. They are an organization to support youth and community development. They discussed potential partnership for the Youth Advisory Boards. They offered to provide grant opportunities to provide activities through Richmond Heights. Currently they are exploring the possibility of a movie night at Greenwood Farm.
- We signed a water agreement with Cleveland, and they are responsible for the water mains in Richmond Heights which allows us to apply for a \$3M grant. That resolution was passed. She thanked Courtney.
- Two months ago, she reported out on Leopardo Energy. They are in the process of assessing all four buildings. The feasibility analysis shows where we can improve our buildings and applying for funding. The study is complete.

Fire Chief, Marc Neumann:

- Heart Saver CPR training is Monday, October 23rd at 1:00 PM at Richmond Fire Station. Interested residents can email him or call 216-383-6304. It is free.
- Thank you to service department and service director Tiedman for maintaining the fire vehicles. They now perform in house maintenance by our mechanics at a considerable savings and keep the units on the street. They have serviced all the ambulances in the last month.

Police Chief, Calvin Williams: Excused

Finance Director, Michael Frederick:

- We are working with the auditors, and they will come on Tuesday to conduct a GAP analysis and SOD matrix analysis. He is working with his team to prepare for the audit.

Building Commissioner, William Gallagher:

- The Flex Jet Grand opening was today and representatives, guests, city council and city administration were invited.
- They continue to address complaints and resolutions with the apartments, and it is a high priority. They have had a number of calls with air conditioning failures and also Loganberry issues. They learned the Management Company has possibly abandoned its duties. They are investigating and will report back to the city once they find resolution to ongoing issues.
- Belle Oaks demolition starts next week. They are currently abating inside the building. The architect said they will split the relocation of the leasing center and will go to planning commission on October 11th and then to the ARB on Oct 2nd. It will be on City Council agenda October 24th.
- There is a request coming to the Planning commission consideration for acquisition of the church to the north of Belle Oaks development to be converted into residential area. There are zoning issues so it will take more time.
- They are hoping to start construction of the Leasing Center in December 2023 or January 2024. The site planning is not complete.
- Lentine said that 444 Park is resurfacing the lot. He asked did they get a permit. Secondly, they don't communicate. They sent a letter from residents on Friday evening that was poorly written and didn't explain proper parking but said they would tow anyone not parked correctly. There was no one in the office Saturday.
- Gallagher said the contractor is supposed to be registered and a permit is required. They received similar information and are aware. Lentine said he had to call the police department and that calmed things down.
- Mayor said she agrees that there are issues. They are in correspondence, but they don't return the phone calls. She and Hunt put together a waiver so residents can park in the park. Lentine said that Kiwanis lodge has events, so he discouraged residents from parking there. Lentine asked if residents could park in the area with the wood chips. Mayor said that they want to accommodate the residents so if there is not enough parking at the community center, they can park at the Community Park and they will get the information to the residents. Mayor asked Lentine to send residents our way or she can give the waivers to him to give to residents.
- Hunt said that they were alerted to the problem today. We asked them to fix the parking lot and they didn't give notice to the residents to move their cars and said they would tow them for parking wrong. They put a waiver/release form together to park in the city park parking lot if they sign the form and provide who the owner of the vehicle is and their license. He isn't sure if it is the Police Department or Service department who can give directions to the tenants.
- Lentine said there are elderly people that live in the apartments, some with oxygen tanks that cry over the activities. He said we have to do everything possible and stay on top of them.
- Mayor agreed and suggested that Lentine stay in contact with the management company. Administration will do everything possible and asked that he partners with the city to advocate for the residents. It's been going on for the last five years.
- Jordan asked if Lentine can develop a relationship with the management company. Lentine said that he calls them, and they don't answer the phones. Lentine said that the management company have no response when he does go to speak with them. He said he tries to build relationships with them, and the management agrees about the issues, but the management company has to go back to the property owners to get anything done. He said there are also residents who throw rubbish in the streets and have dogs that bark all night, so it's not all the management company.
- Mayor said that they got a notification today so if Lentine can send us items as soon as he receives it, we can be proactive. She said if we got the information on Friday, we would have tried to reach out to the management company.

- Jordan said that Flex Jet is A1, and we need an A1 hotel in the city. He sees the opportunity for a nice hotel in the city. Mayor said it was a topic of discussion last year. Gallagher said he would talk to the owners.
- Mayor said that on September 21st Joel Radner will do a Community Engagement Conversation at Richmond Heights Community Center from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM. She encourages residents to come out.

Human Resources Director, Rhonda Lowe:

- In the next several weeks we will have health benefits conversations along with the employees.
- We have 3 auxiliary police officers in training. Chief Williams has a new secretary, Carla Ellis.
- We have a new crossing guard, Mrs. Swoope. Wave at her.

Service Director, Ryan Tiedman:

- He said thank you to the fire chief and his crew for certifying our staff with CPR, AED and First Aid.
- They are preparing for Fall Fun Fest this week.
- They are doing grass cutting, tree trimming, flower beds and building maintenance.
- They are working on all the fall equipment. Leaf machines are serviced and ready for the season early. They are currently working on the trucks.
- Lentine said, on Douglas there are houses that the grass hasn't been cut can Tiedman look at it. Tiedman said they will go back out.
- Jordan gave kudos to Tiedman's team for cleaning up the animal remains. Second, he is glad they have their trucks since the UAW is about to strike.

Recreation Director, Cameron Campbell:

- The Fall Fun Fest is September 16th, from 12:00-5:00 PM at Greenwood Farm. There will be a chili cook off and seven vendors, face painting, games, inflatables and more. Information will be on the City's Recreation Facebook page and the map layout will be on the city event's calendar on the website.
- The second Community Bike Ride will be September 23rd, from 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Information will be on the website and Facebook.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney:

Chardon Road (2024)

ODOT District 12 Filed the Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) with the Central Office Yesterday. ODOT will now proceed with preparation, advertisement and award of the project. Construction will start in Late Spring 2024.

2023 Road Program AND Highland Road Resurfacing (East of Richmond)

Award Legislation is on the agenda this evening for this project (\$249,600). This work will be completed by 10-31-2023 and will allow us to receive \$120,000 in reimbursement from the County.

2022 Road Program

Currently waiting for the Asphalt contractor to return and place the final surface on Georgetown and Meadowlane. Other concrete repairs and hot spots have been addressed over the past couple weeks.

School Bridge Replacement / Culvert Extension

Demolition is complete and stream flow diversion is in place. Contractor was not on site the last week due to waiting on Steel Fabrication

Contractor will be back on site tomorrow and begin forming and pouring Junction Chamber, Culvert Extension and Headwall.

Work will proceed continuously until completion now that steel has been delivered.

Edgemont Slope Failure

We will ask for Authorization to Seek Bids at your next meeting on 9-12-23.

Highland Road DEOG Project

The contractor is now working on restoration.

503/504 Trebisky Clay Dam / Cut Off Wall

I have conducted three Zoom meetings with Laura Weber at the County to discuss and plan the clay dam / cut off wall project at these locations. We have been attempting to schedule a coordination meeting with Romas Pliodszinkas for the past month with no luck. He is currently out of town on an emergency matter and will notify us about his ability to meet upon his return.

Suburban Watermain Renewal Program Projects (CWD Restated Water Agreement)

The Cleveland Water Department Presented their Re-States Water Service Agreement to the Mayor and Council earlier this year. The Council of the City of Richmond Hts. then adopted this Agreement in July. With adoption of the agreement, the City turned over ownership of our local watermains to CWD and became eligible to apply for, and receive, funding for the rehabilitation/replacement of these local watermains as part of a competitive program known as the Suburban Water Main Renewal Program (SWMRP), where CWD funds 15 million a year in requests from communities that have adopted the Re-States Service Agreement.

Once the new agreement was in place, we immediately prepared and submitted our first round of requests to Cleveland Water under the SWRP.

This Fall CWD received 54 project requests totaling \$28,000,000 for consideration under the SWMRP Grant Program. OF the 54 projects submitted, only 10 were funded.

Our initial Application targeted replacement of the watermains on Douglas Boulevard, Dumbarton Boulevard, Edgewood Road, and Sunset Drive. The request to replace these waterlines totaled nearly 10,000 feet of main at cost of over \$3,000,000.

These streets were selected as they contain some of the worst watermains under some of the worst pavements in the city (per our 2022 Whole City Pavement Assessment). The request is in line with our focus of “replace the worst first” philosophy that we adopted last year to help guide our infrastructure replacement efforts.

We are very pleased to report that CWD announced awards last week for the Fall SWMRP Requests and **ALL FOUR** of our Projects were funded. In Summary, awards are for:

Douglas Boulevard	\$722,703
Dumbarton Boulevard	\$857,444
Edgewood Road	\$704,329
Sunset Drive	\$750,264

Since the SWMRP provides only partial pavement replacement funded by CWD (pavement over waterline trench only), we are now in the process of pursuing Ohio Public Works Commission Grant and Low Interest Loan Funding to assist with the Total Pavement Reconstruction of each roadway after the completion of the waterline work. This work is estimated to cost about \$4,000,000. OPWC applications are due September 14, 2023, with award notifications planned in the first quarter of 2024. The OPWC Program is highly competitive, but we are hopeful we will be able to obtain funding to help offset the large cost of reconstructing almost 250,000 square feet of pavement.

However, the wonderful news is, we have been successful in securing a \$3,000,000 Grant for the Watermain Replacement on these streets and look forward to starting Survey and Design in 2024, with Construction Planned for 2025.

OPWC Application – Due 9-14-23

I am in the process of preparing two applications for Grant/Low Interest Loan Funding from Ohio Public Work Commission. These applications are due this Thursday 9-14-2023.

The first, as noted in my discussion on the SWMRP, relates to the full pavement reconstruction of Douglas, Dumbarton, Edgewood and Sunset AFTER the completion of the planned waterline replacement under the SWMRP.

The Estimated Cost of the Pavement Portion of the project is \$4,000,000 and we will be requesting a \$2,000,000 OPWC Grant to offset the substantial local cost.

The Second Application relates to our cooperative project with Cuyahoga County for the Resurfacing of Wilson Mills Road, which is planned for 2025 (after the opening of the Meijer's Store).

The Total Project Cost for the purposes of the application is about \$1,600,000. We already have a commitment of Federal Funds through NOACA for approximately \$980,000 and will be requesting and OPWC Grant of \$200,000 to help offset the local share (\$450,000) which will be split 50/50 between the County and City.

- Jordan asked will the rental unit have running water. Courtney said it will have running water.
- Jordan asked if they have completed the Pliodszinkas property. Courtney said they have a work order from the county and Tiedman and Cortney have been trying to reach him for the last 6 weeks. They are waiting for him to return to town, but they have kept in contact with him about everything that's going on.
- Jordan thanked Mayor for the agreements the city has agreed to, including the water program.
- Mayor said it was an easy decision. She found out RH was one of only two cities that remained that owned their water mains. She researched and talked with the water company and now because of the agreement we qualify for funding and \$3M. She also serves on that board.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- Asu Robinson of 350 Clayborn Blvd. said thank you to mayor and council for the sign on Scottish Highlands. They couldn't get the sign from previous administration.
- Linda Drummer & Tyrone Drummer of 470 Pearson Dr. and John & Arnetta Parker of 479 Wordsworth Ct. - Arnetta Parker said they are residents of Richwood subdivision that has 80 households. They are here to say thank you for resolving the maintenance issue at the entrance of Richwood Subdivision. The entrance property is owned by defunct developers and residents were told they needed to maintain the entrance area and once they tried, they were told they could not because it was not their property. The area continued to fall into disrepair for many years and was not reflective of the home values in Richwood. Under this administration the entrance area is now maintained by the service department and a new sign was installed. They want to say a special thank you to Mayor Thomas, Councilwoman Nelson and the Service Department and they say thank you on behalf of the residents. Linda Drummer said that a few weeks ago there was a storm, and she was concerned about the sign, she left early to ensure the sign was ok.
- Mayor said thank you and there is more to come. They received numerous calls when she first took office to replace the sign. The old service director said we couldn't replace it because it doesn't belong to the city. Another recommendation was to have the residents' insurance pay for it. She said as the mayor we will pay for it. Council President gave some push back. They got good push back on the signage. They are now figuring out how to have lighting for the signs and it will be a process.

- William Morrison, President of Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club said thank you to the city for sponsorship for their golf outing. Proceeds of the outing go to seniors for scholarship. He thanked Tiedman for installing the buddy bench for the school. He thanked Campbell for meeting the needs of the Kiwanis club.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 106-2023 (AS REVISED 8-8-23) 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.

- **HOLD ON**

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 118-2023 INTRODUCED BY JORDAN; FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 121.20, "STANDING COMMITTEES", TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIMES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD BEFORE AND ON THE SAME DAYS AS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING TIMES.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.: 119-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT OF OHIO, INC. FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.: 120-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH GREEN VISION MATERIALS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Lentine to pass Resolution 120-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 121-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A BID FOR THE SECTIONS OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR REPAIRS AND RESURFACING OF VARIOUS CITY STREETS FOR THE 2023 ROAD PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT THEREFOR WITH SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lentine to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 121-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 122-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.

- **HOLD ON**

RESOLUTION NO.: 123-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SMITH & OBY COMPANY THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR NEW HVAC COMPONENTS FOR THE POLICE STATION.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 123-2023; passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO.: 124-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING
PRELIMINARY LEGISLATION (LPA-ODOT-Let Project Agreement) (PARTICIPATORY)

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 124-2023; passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO.: 125-2023 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, 92-2023, AND 100-2023; TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO MAKE CERTAIN INTERFUND TRANSFERS RELATED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Nelson to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 125-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 126 -2023 INTRODUCED BY LENTINE; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO PURCHASE AGREEMENTS FOR THE RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES WITH LEXIPOL, LLC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ONGOING SUPPORT OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE DIVISIONS OF FIRE AND POLICE.

- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Lewis to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Lentine, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 126-2023; passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO.: 127-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH DENNIS R. SPAULDING, INC. (dba COMMSERV) THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR MOTOROLA TWO-WAY RADIOS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass Resolution 127-2023

RESOLUTION NO.: 128-2023 INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS; FIRST READING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (“OPWC”) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS CITY STREETS; TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Ursu to suspend the rules; passed unanimously.
- Motion was made by Lewis, seconded by Nelson to pass Resolution 128-2023; passed unanimously.

MOTION:

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE STATE OF OHIO, DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL’S “ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRANSFER FORM (TREX)” TO PERMIT THE REQUESTED TRANSFER OF A C-1 AND C-2 LIQUOR PERMIT TO MEIJER STORES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, dba MEIJER, AT ITS PROPOSED LOCATION AT 5155 WILSON MILLS ROAD.

- Motion was made by Ursu, seconded by Lewis to pass this motion; passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Council President, Bobby Jordan adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:18 PM

Minutes taken by Donnie Hunter, Clerk of Council