

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 13, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Highland Hills, Ohio was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Cassandra Pride in Room No. 14 of Village Hall. It was also broadcast via Zoom Video Communications.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was recited by all.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were Council President Cassandra Pride and Councilpersons Geavona Greene, David Mills, James McManus and Robert Wright II. Also present: Mayor Michael L. Booker and Law Director Thomas P. O'Donnell.

**DISCUSSION BY PUBLIC:** None.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine. Each item will be read individually into the record and the Consent Agenda will then be enacted as a whole by one motion and one roll call. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion by Council is desired on any item on the Consent Agenda, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council motion and considered in its normal sequence under the Regular Order of Business.

- a. Approval of minutes: \*October 16, 2024 Council Meeting  
\*November 4, 2024 Special Council Meeting
- b. **\*Resolution No. 2024-63:** A Resolution Authorizing Tax Advances from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, and Declaring an Emergency.

**\*Resolution No. 2024-64:** A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission of Cuyahoga County and Authorizing Necessary Tax Levies, and Certifying them to the Cuyahoga County Auditor.

Moved by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Wright to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve the Consent Agenda. All voted aye and the Consent Agenda was **adopted 5 – 0.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:** Mayor Michael Booker reported that a save-the-date calendar will be coming out to remind residents that the annual Tree Lighting will be held on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>; the WHHS Senior Appreciation Dinner is Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>; and the Village Christmas Party is December 14<sup>th</sup> at Camp George Forbes.

The Mayor went on to say that he had a chance to visit the Tiger Café at the high school for a soft opening. He had a delicious lunch and what the kids are doing is amazing. The café will be open three days a week. Students from Warrensville, Cleveland Heights and Maple Heights are taking classes in culinary arts. The school will be putting out a calendar, and the information will be included with the monthly senior calendar.

**DEPARMENT HEAD REPORTS:** None.

**REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:** Council President Cassandra Pride thanked Council members for their participation, ability to talk through the legislation and to know what is on the agenda. She appreciates their understanding of what it happening in the community and moving it forward. She also thanked Mayor Booker for his feedback.

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Finance	Cassandra Pride – met and a report is on file
Properties/Buildings	James McManus – met and a report is on file
Public Works	Robert Wright – met and a report is on file
Rules	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Safety	Geavona Greene – met and a report is on file
Committee of Whole	Cassandra Pride – did not meet

**REPORT FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO REGULATORY OR OTHER BOARDS:**

Audit	David Mills – did not meet
Board of Control	Cassandra Pride – did not meet
Board of Zoning Appeals	James McManus – did not meet
Fair Housing Commission	Robert Wright – did not meet
Human Resources Committee	Geavona Greene – did not meet
Planning Commission	David Mills – met and a report is on file
Senior Advisory Board	Cassandra Pride – met and completed a purse project; 28 purses and toiletries were delivered to the Hitchcock Center. Kuddos to the board, who do a lot for the community
Tax Incentive Review Council	Geavona Greene – did not meet

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **THIRD READING CONSIDERATION: None.**
- b. **SECOND READING CONSIDERATION: None.**
- c. **FIRST READING CONSIDERATION:**

**Ordinance No. 2024-65:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Bedford Heights for Bedford Heights to Provide the Village of Highland Hills with Public Safety Dispatch Services, and Declaring an Emergency.

President Pride requested a recommendation from Law Director O'Donnell, who advised that he spoke with Mayor Booker, and they are asking Council to pass this legislation. He said we do not have a definitive answer from Chagrin Valley Dispatch, but certainly want to let them know that we plan to move forward. Adopting this legislation is one way to do that. Bedford Heights is aware of our situation with CVD. It doesn't necessarily mean that we will enter into the agreement, but we want them to understand that we intend to move forward.

President Pride said that she agrees, and recalled that the Mayor has been pushing back on the cost since earlier this year.

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2024-65. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-66:** An Ordinance to Approve the Public Improvement of a Portion of Harvard Road within the Municipal Boundaries of the Village of Highland Hills as Further Described Hereinbelow, Requesting Cooperation and Partial Funding by the County of Cuyahoga, Ohio, Granting Consent for the Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman McManus to approve Ordinance No. 2024-66. All voted aye and the ordinance was **adopted 5 – 0.**

**Resolution No. 2024-67:** A Resolution Confirming Council’s Appointments to the Charter Review Commission for 2024-2025, and Declaring an Emergency.

Moved by Councilman Mills and Seconded by Councilwoman Greene to waive the three reading rule and referral to committee. All voted aye and the **motion carried.**

Moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve Resolution No. 2024-67.

Discussion: President Pride announced that the three persons Council is appointing to the Charter Review Commission are Jacqueline Lark, Kenneth Troutman and Diane Griggs.

There being no further discussion, all voted aye and Resolution No. 2024-67 was **adopted 5 – 0.**

**MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT:** Council President Cassandra Pride congratulated Councilman Robert Wright on his election to Council. Mayor Michael Booker added his congratulations, and noted that even though the councilman ran unopposed, he received more votes than any other candidate in Highland Hills, since the Mayor has been here. It is a testament to Councilman Wright and very impressive. All offered congratulations and applause.

Mayor Michael Booker advised that it was reported in Crain’s that the State has purchased an office building in Bedford, so their new juvenile detention center will not be coming to Highland Hills.

Law Director Thomas O’Donnell stated that it is a good thing, because if they are not coming to Highland Hills, then the pressure has to be put on them to make that land available. It could be a good site for a municipal complex. Mayor Booker said that Cleveland is already pushing back in that regard in that they want to keep the facility for storage or a SWAT facility. He is not going to let that happen.

Council President Cassandra Pride related that the Senior Advisory Board would like to do something in the future for the juvenile residents at the center.

Councilman James McManus asked what is going on at the golf course and Mayor Booker answered a driving range and additional parking are being added. They recently appeared before the Planning Commission and have to come back with additional plans.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, it was moved by Councilwoman Greene and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and the meeting concluded at 6:16 p.m.

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Cassandra Pride, President of Council

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Margaret Sikon, Clerk of Council