

# City of Seven Hills

## Record of Minutes of

### COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2023

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The Regular Council Meeting of May 16, 2023 was called to order by President of Council Phil Kiriazis at 6:39 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present and accounted for were Mayor Biasiotta, Director of Law Moore, Director of Finance Petrunyak, Councilman-At-Large Costanzo, Councilman at-Large Elliott, Councilwoman-at-Large Kelly, Ward 1 Councilman Kiriazis, Ward 2 Councilman Martin, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, Ward 4 Councilman Morrow, Dir. of Public Services and Properties Johnson, Building Commissioner Grassi and Engineer Schmitzer.

MOTION to excuse Councilwoman at Large Kelly from tonight's meeting by Mr. Kiriazis, seconded by Mr. Elliott.

Roll Call: all yea.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL**

Mr. Snitzky stated that having read the Council Minutes of the Council meetings 04/11/23 and 04/25/2023 I find no errors or omissions and, therefore, if there is no division of the question, I will make a motion to approve the minutes as printed seconded by Mr. Kiriazis

Roll Call: all yeas.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CONSENT AGENDA** – There were none.

#### **RESOLUTIONS OR COMMENDATION**

MOTION by Mr. Morrow, second Mr. Costanzo, to read Resolution 03-2023 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION CAPTAIN JOSEPH A. LECZNAR CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT.

MOTION by Mr. Morrow, second Mr. Costanzo, to approve the emergency clause found in Section 3 of the Resolution

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Mr. Kiriazis said that he wanted to thank you and congratulate you on your 34 years of service to the city, and all your dedication, and good luck with your retirement. He asked if there were any other comments from anybody on Council or from the administration.

Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Lecznar for his service.

Mr. Morrow explained that he has a lot of friends who are firefighters, and I really appreciate all the work that you do on a day-to-day basis to keep yourself safe, and to keep the city safe, and thank you for all those years of your service.

Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Lecznar for your service to the city.

Mayor Biasiotta explained one of the best things we can do is to say thank you to a first responder with 34 years of service, but thanks also go to the whole family, because when you are a first responder it is 24/7 when we need you, and you are there protecting us. He further explained you are also there for Carol, J.J. and Julie, so whether you are a police officer or a fireman, and in the winter a snowplow driver. Mayor Biasiotta pointed out that is time away from your family and you don't get that back, and you do it because you love the job, and you care about people. Mayor Biasiotta stated that pretty much sums up 99% percent of the policemen and firemen that I have known in my life it is not about a job it is about a passion to serve in helping others. He said the whole family makes a sacrifice for that person to be able to do these good goals, so thank you to the whole family for the 34 years I know you will be around, so I am not going to say goodbye I am going to say thank you for your service to the city and we will see you soon.

Mr. Snitzky congratulated Mr. Lecznar and he said that he has seen him around the neighborhood a lot over the years and thank you for all your work.

Mr. Costanzo said you may have been in my house in the middle of the night and there was a big firefighter, and I asked my wife, did you know they come that big, and he had on that big hat and the big coat. He explained it is a sacrifice for the family that goes along with all the little things that you had to do for 34 years to keep yourself trained initially, and continuous training after that, so I know you have other friends who are firefighters in other places. He further explained I respect everything you do as well as your fellow members of the department, so well done, and I am glad you were able to make it for 34 years it is a big deal.

Mr. Costanzo thanked Mr. Lecznar for not breaking down his door when he wasn't there, and thanks for everything you did by taking that from a department that was manned by volunteers. He explained when the calls would go out the car doors would slam, and they slapped that magnetized light on the roof of their cars and flew at great speed down to the Police Station to

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put on their gear then go up on the truck and roll off, and you guys still did a good job. He further explained it was due to the hard work of yourself and a bunch of other people we don't have to live like that anymore. He further explained we have a wonderful, manned Fire Department and he thanked Carol because if it wasn't for you, he couldn't have done that, and he probably would have chopped my door down.

MOTION by Morrow, second Mr. Costanzo to adopt Resolution No. 03-2023.

Roll Call: all yeas

ROLL CALL

#### RESOLUTION NO. 03-2023 HAS BEEN ADOPTED

Mr. Lecznar thanked Mr. Council President, the elected officials the Mayor, the Law Director, appointed officials, and our Chiefs, and for anybody who knows me I am usually not a man of few words. He pointed out there is nothing I can say anymore you do your time, and it was one hell of a ride. Mr. Lecznar stated, as the mayor did indicate it has always been a group effort by our firefighters, no one person has brought this Fire Department to where it is today. Mr. Lecznar stated that he would like to acknowledge the older members of the Fire Department that did band together for the Council and the mayor's support over the years. He stated the most important group are our residents, because our residents are an asset, and as you all know they love us.

Mr., Lecznar said these men in this department do one hell of a job, and it is 24 hours a day, and everybody thinks we are sleeping or working out, but this department, and other departments have gotten massively busy over the years. Mr. Lecznar explained we are being called for mutual aid on fires like they have never been before, and I still have a scanner at home, so I still listen, and everybody should be on the top of their toes. He further explained in 34 years you see a lot you start off young, and you don't know much, you rise through the ranks, and you help people. Mr. Lecznar pointed out that is what it has been for me for my career, and I am happy that my private sector job in the printing industry went by the wayside. I had this job to fall back on as a to provide for my family, and that is because of my wife whose father was a fire chief in Newburgh Heights, that is how I got introduced to this job.

Mr. Lecznar stated that he loves his wife dearly, but they haven't been married for 57 years yet, we have been married 37 years, He said some highlights of the job are that it is always nice to bring someone back some of these items in my past I totally forgot we revived a gentleman after a mass at St. Columbkille ,and he lived another year and a half until he got his reward in heaven. Mr. Lecznar explained then there are some sad things because we see things including the police that we really shouldn't see, but there have also been some nice times where you get to tell family members that we did our best, and our loved one is now breathing on their own on the

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way to the hospital. He further explained there have also been some rewarding times on this job, and I thank everybody, and I wish everybody further success, Unfortunately I wanted to move but my wife says we are staying here, but I am saying unfortunately in a funny way it is a beautiful town we raised our children here. He pointed out that we have a son who is a firefighter in Independence, so thank you again for the proclamation I am most humble.

Phyllis ? stated I have to tell you about this guy, he was so supportive of C.E.R.T. She said something that has stayed with me the last ride to the hospital Joe Lecznar was with the group that took my husband, and he was marvelous, and he was a star thank you Joe.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

##### **Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development**

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Snitzky reported that the Committee will meet again on May 30 2023.

##### **Public Works**

Public Works Committee Councilman Costanzo reported our last meeting was today May 16, 2023, and the meeting minutes will be on file with the Clerk. Mr. Costanzo said our next meeting will be on Tuesday June 13, 2023.

##### **Community Services**

Council President Kiriazis reported the Community Services Committee met this evening, and the minutes pending. Mr. Kiriazis said our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

##### **Police and Safety**

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Elliot reported our last meeting was tonight. Mr. Elliott said that our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, and the meeting minutes are on file.

##### **Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Morrow reported our last meeting was on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, and the meeting minutes are on file. Mr. Morrow said that our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

##### **Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics**

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Councilman Martin stated that the minutes from that meeting are on file. Mr. Martin said the next meeting is on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

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#### Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel

Finance, Civil Service and Personnel Committee Chairman Kiriazis stated that the Committee met this evening, May 16, 2023, and the minutes are pending. Mr. Kiriazis said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

There were none.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS OR CLAIMS

There were none.

#### COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

There were none.

#### ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, second by Mr. Costanzo to suspend the rules under the Charter and read Ordinance No. 26-2023 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ordinance No. 26-2023** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE FOR ENTRY TO PERFORM DEMOLITION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION TO ALLOW CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION THE RIGHT PRIVILEGE AND LICENSES TO ENTER ON AND IN THE PROPERTIES AT 3190 ROCKSIDE ROAD AND 3250 ROCKSIDE ROAD TO PERFORM ACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEMOLITION PRIOR TO OR FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF SAID PROPERTIES

**Third Reading**

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, second by Mr. Costanzo to pass Ordinance 26-2023

Roll Call: all yeas.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

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Motion by Mr. Costanzo, second by Mr. Kiriazis to suspend the rules under the Charter and read Ordinance 27-2023 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ordinance No. 27-2023** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH GRACE HOME HEALTH AND FITNESS LLC, JESSICA NADZAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ROCK STEADY BOXING/PARKINSONS FITNESS AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX. **Third Reading.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Costanzo, second Mr. Kiriazis to pass Ordinance No. 27-2023.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 27-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, second Mr. Martin to suspend the rules under the Charter and read Ordinance 30-2023 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ordinance No. 30-2023** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR FULL MANAGED SERVICES AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH WARWICK COMMUNICATIONS OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS., OHIO, TO PROVIDE FULL MANAGED SERVICES AND SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS' COMPUTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS; APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$366,000.00 FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **First Reading.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Mr. Elliott, second by Mr. Martin to approve the emergency clause found in the last section of Ordinance No. 30-2023.

Roll Call: all yeas.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, second Mr. Martin to pass Ordinance No. 30-2023 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **ORDINANCE NO.30-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second Mr. Elliott to suspend the rules under the Charter and read Ordinance 31-2023 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**Ordinance No. 31-2023** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A 48 MONTH NATURAL GAS SALES AGREEMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH INFINITE ENERGY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COMPETITIVE NATURAL GAS SUPPLY RATE FOR THE CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY **First Reading**

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second Mr. Elliott to approve the emergency clause found in Section 4 of the Ordinance.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, second Mr. Elliott to pass Ordinance No. 31-2023.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 31-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Costanzo to suspend the rules of Council and read Ordinance No. 32-2023 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Ordinance No. 32-2023** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$1,146.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES WHICH INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, PROVIDING FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (IPA SERVICES) FOR THE FISCAL PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, DECEMBER 31, 2020, DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECEMBER 31, 2022; AND DECEMBER 31, 2023 FOR A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE 04-2020 WHICH AUTHORIZED AN INITIAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$99,300.00, A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO 83-2020 WHICH APPROPRIATED AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$280.00, A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO. 42-2021 WHICH APPROPRIATED AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$3,479.00; A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO. 57-2022 WHICH APPROPRIATED AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$280.00; AMOUNT OF PAYMENT FOR SAID SERVICES SHALL NOT EXCEED \$104,807.00: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MODIFICATION AGREEMENT FOR A MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY **First Reading.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Costanzo to approve the emergency clause found in Section 4 of Ordinance 32-2023.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Costanzo to pass Ordinance No. 32-2023 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

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#### ORDINANCE NO. 32-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, second by Mr. Morrow to suspend the rules under the Charter and read Ordinance 33-2023 by title only for its first and final reading.

**Ordinance No. 33-2023** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$42,199.00 TO AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 36-2022 PASSED BY COUNCIL ON MAY 10, 2022 FOR THE SEVEN HILLS PARKS PHASE ONE IMPROVEMENTS (PROJECT NO. 21121) FOR A CHANGE ORDER TO AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 36-2022 WHICH APPROPRIATED AN INITIAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,147,067.00 FOR SAID PROJECT (Amount of payment to Hummel Construction for the Seven Hills Parks Phase 1 Improvements Project shall not exceed \$1,189,256.00): AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **First Reading.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Morrow to approve the emergency clause found in the last Section of Ordinance No. 33-2023

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Morrow to pass Ordinance No. 33-2023 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### ORDINANCE NO. 33-2023 IS DECLARED PASSED.

#### COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

There were none.

#### REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Biasiotta reported today we had the retirement of our Fire Captain, and I wanted to share some statistics. In the last decade we had a 46% percent increase in calls to our Fire Department, last year 1,860 calls were made, and 70% of those calls were ambulance runs. He stated that one percent were structure fires, so it is a tough job when you are dealing with heart attacks and strokes. Mayor Biasiotta thanked our Fire Department on behalf of everyone up here for those 1,860 runs and taking on that 46% increase without any drop in the quality of that service. He said in that same period our fire rating was upgraded to ISO3. I wrote about that a couple of newsletters ago, so everyone in the fire service is great,

Mayor Biasiotta explained that he also wants to thank our Police Department there is a Publication called Travel Safe, and they recently came out with a list of the top ten safest cities in the state of Ohio, and our beloved city came in second. He further explained here is what they wrote Seven Hills is in Northeast Ohio like many other cities on the list. Seven Hills is close to

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Cleveland, and it also has access to a lot of amenities that are available in a town that is so close to a large city. However, because it is a smaller town there are community events and lots of nature all around Seven Hills there is a Recreation Center, and many parks to choose from. The property crime rate is 4.7 out of 1,000, and violent crime for 2022 is 0.3 out of 1,000. Mayor Biasiotta pointed out this puts us at number two for the State of Ohio, so he thanked Chief Salloum and his Department.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS**

Director of Finance Petrunyak - had no report.

Director of Law Moore – Law Director Moore reported that his report is on file with the Clerk of Council where it is available for Council to review.

Director of Public Service & Properties Johnson – had no report.

City Engineer Schmitzer - had no report.

Building Commissioner Grassi - Building Commissioner Grassi reported the Building Department processed 23 contractor registrations, 76 permits, and 21 property maintenance complaints so far this month. He pointed out the Building Department software update is complete, and the training will wrap up this week with plans on going live with the new system early in June. Bldg. Commissioner stated that the vacant lot at Rockside Road and North Skyline the abatement is complete, and the routine maintenance will now be the responsibility of the landowners, so notices will be sent out this week regarding the high grass at the lot. He said the interior buildout at the NEO Church addition is now underway as the exterior shell of the project is complete. Building Commissioner reported that the Planning Commission met on May 3, 2023, and there were two submittals on the agenda St. Marks third floor classroom additions, and the Charley's Cheese Steak pickup window both received the Planning Commission approval. He stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on May 10, 2023, and there were two requests on the agenda, and both requests were recommended by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Costanzo said he wanted to address what the mayor said, and I want to thank Chief Salloum. I sat on a task force for the last 15 years in downtown Cleveland, and it was very different statistics with that city, so I wanted to say thank you for keeping us safe and we appreciate it.

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Mr. Elliott explained that he works downtown as you know, and it is not the best place to be, but I can't let you off that easy, at the very least you must come up here and give a speech. I will say something about the Chief since he won't talk about himself when I first came to Council six years ago this place was in a little bit of turmoil, and I remember I asked you what you needed, and you pulled out a bunch of papers. I didn't know how we were going to be able to do that and you said this is my three-year plan, and we made it through three years, and things have gotten better.

Mr. Elliott further explained he is on to his next three-year plan, and I can tell you that the next list isn't that big, but we are working on stuff now. He pointed out I appreciate your hard work, and the Fire Chief as well by getting the Fire Department squared away. Mr. Elliott stated that he deserves a ton of credit as well. I wish he was still here, but thank you for everything you do, and I know the guys are working hard. I know as a police officer myself it is extremely dangerous out there right now for us, and it is getting worse, so be careful out there, and thank you for your hard work.

Mr. Morrow stated I have lived in Seven Hills for so long, and I tend to brag about the city, and one of the main things I always say it is safe it has always been a safe town to live in. I never really have to worry about anything, and that is because of our Police Department, so thank you for doing a fantastic job. He said there is a police presence you see them all around, you see them patrolling neighborhoods, and it puts a lot of people at ease, so thank you very much.

**Mr. Martin** no comments.

**Mr. Snitzky** no comments

**Mr. Kiriazis** Mr. Kiriazis explained that he wants to thank Chief Salloum because ever since I have been on Council for the last four years every time, I talked to you about something you always came up with a solution, and he wanted to thank all the police officers. He pointed out that he also wants to thank the Fire Chief because I don't think people realize how busy they are they also have to cover mutual aid with other cities there was a big apartment fire on Saturday in Parma, and I know we sent one of our trucks over there to help out, and there were five other cities who helped. Mr. Kiriazis stated they are always helping other people, but they also help us when we need help.

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**ADJOURNMENT** Mr. Kiriazis made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Elliott

Roll Call: all yeas

**MOTION CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Kiriazis, President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Goslin, Clerk of Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_