

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michael C. Barth at 8:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell'Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, Director of Finance Johnson, Councilman-at-Large Barth, Councilwoman-at-Large Lecznar, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 1 Councilman Bryda, Ward 2 Councilman Fraundorf, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, and Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst. Absentees were Director of Public Service and Properties and Acting City Engineer Lovece, and Building Commissioner Moro.

## **READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL**

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to accept the:

- (1) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 10, 2014;
  - (2) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 15, 2014;
  - (3) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 17, 2014;
- as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 1** of March 24, 2014, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Council President Barth** stated:

“Councilman Trafis will be recusing himself from Consent Agenda No. 2 because of a conflict with the Bentkowski litigation.”

**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 2** of March 24, 2014, as printed.

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, yea;  
Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis (recused)

6 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused)

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION**

There were no Resolutions of Commendation.

# *City of Seven Hills*

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Trafis stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, March 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Trafis said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 21, 2014.

### **Public Works**

Public Works Committee Chairman Bryda stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, March 3, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Bryda stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 7, 2014.

### **Community Services**

Community Services Committee Chairman Fraundorf stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, March 3, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Fraundorf stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 7, 2014.

### **Police and Fire**

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, March 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Snitzky stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 21, 2014.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson Lecznar stated that the Parks Committee also last met on Monday evening, March 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Lecznar stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 7, 2014.

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

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Ernst stated that the Committee last met in Special Session jointly with the Parks and Recreation Committee on Monday evening, March 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council.

Mrs. Ernst stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 7, 2014.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

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## **Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel**

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Barth stated that the Committee held two meetings since the last Council Meeting. Mr. Barth stated that Budget Hearings were held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, and the minutes from that special meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Finance Committee Chairman Barth said that the Committee last met in regular session on Monday evening, March 17, 2014, and the minutes from that meeting are also on file with the Clerk of Council.

Mr. Barth stated that the Finance Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, April 7, 2014.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS**

There were no appointments or confirmations.

## **COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS**

There were no communications, petitions, or claims.

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

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance No. 13-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., FOR PERFORMING ANNUAL TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S LIFEPAK 12 AND LIFEPAK 15 DEFIBRILLATOR/MONITORS, AED 1000 AND BATTERY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$5,336.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Ordinance No. 13-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

Ordinance No. 13-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION CARRIED**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

---

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Ordinance No. 13-2014  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 13-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 14-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERFORMING ANNUAL TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT’S AED UNITS LOCATED IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE VEHICLES (MODEL LIFEPAK 500 SERIAL NOS. 11798923; 31514931; 9325899); AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$927.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 14-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 14-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 14-2014.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 14-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 15-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., FOR PERFORMING ANNUAL TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER’S LIFEPAK 500 AED UNIT AND BATTERY SUPPORT SYSTEM (LIFEPAK 500 SERIAL NO. 30782548) 1 LIFEPAK 1000 AED UNIT, AND BATTERY SUPPORT SYSTEM (LIFEPAK 1000 SERIAL NUMBER 38749016) AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$679.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Ordinance No. 15-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 15-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to pass Ordinance No. 15-2014.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

---

**Ordinance No. 16-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., FOR PERFORMING ANNUAL TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT OF THE AED UNIT LOCATED AT CITY HALL (MODEL: LIFEPAK 500 Serial Number 31019276), AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$309.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to read Ordinance No. 16-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 16-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to pass Ordinance No. 16-2014.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 17-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., FOR PERFORMING ANNUAL TECHNICAL SERVICE SUPPORT OF THE AED UNIT LOCATED AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS SERVICE GARAGE, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS (\$309.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Ordinance No. 17-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 17-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Ordinance No. 17-2014.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 17-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 21-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$136,458.00, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) HENDERSON MODEL MUNIBODY – 10' STAINLESS STEEL DUMP BODIES FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM HENDERSON TRUCK EQUIPMENT – OHIO THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (ODOT 065-14).

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

---

**Ordinance No. 21-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Amended Ordinance No. 22-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$28,316.50, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2014 FORD F350 PICK-UP WITH CREW CAB (4WD, 12,800 LBS.), WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM WALT SWEENEY THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (Index GDC093); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Amended Ordinance No. 22-2014 by title only for its second and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Amended Ordinance No. 22-2014 was read by full title only for its second and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 22-2014 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 22-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Amended Ordinance No. 23-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$50,615.00, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2014 FORD F350 PICK-UP TRUCKS (FULL SIZE, 4WD, REGULAR CAB, 12,800 LBS., LONG BED), WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM WALT SWEENEY THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (Index GDC093); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to read Amended Ordinance No. 23-2014 by title only for its second and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Amended Ordinance No. 23-2014 was read by full title only for its second and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 23-2014 as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Fraundorf** stated:

“I would just like to say that both Amended Ordinance Nos. 22-2014 and 23-2014, again, were vetted. This is for three pick-up trucks, one with crew cab, and two with regular cabs. It was felt that we needed to get these vehicles on order as quickly as possible so they could be delivered to the Service Department as quickly as possible.”

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

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**Council President Barth** replied, "Thank you. I appreciate that, Councilman."  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 23-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 24-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$9,250.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SNOW PLOW, WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM HENDERSON TRUCK EQUIPMENT – OHIO, THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (ODOT-065-14).

**Ordinance No. 24-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 25-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOB CREATION AND JOB RETENTION AGREEMENT WITH PROFICIO MORTGAGE VENTURES.

**Ordinance No. 25-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 26-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH NORTHCOAST PROMOTIONS, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECRUITING, CONTRACTING, AND MANAGEMENT OF CRAFT, ART, AND COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS 2014 HOMEDAYS.

**Ordinance No. 26-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 27-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH NORTHCOAST PROMOTIONS, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECRUITING, CONTRACTING, AND MANAGEMENT OF CRAFT, ART, AND COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS 2014 FALL FESTIVAL AND CHILI-COOK-OFF CRAFT SHOW.

**Ordinance No. 27-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Ordinance No. 28-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH NORTHCOAST PROMOTIONS, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECRUITING, CONTRACTING, AND MANAGEMENT OF CRAFT, ART, AND COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS WINTER CRAFT SHOW AND VFW CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 7, 2014.

**Ordinance No. 28-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 29-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 505, ANIMALS AND FOWL, CROSS REFERENCES; AMEND SECTION 505.01, DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE; AMEND SECTION 505.021(A)(F), IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS; AMEND SECTION 505.0211(F), VICIOUS DOGS; AMEND 505.0212, REMOVAL, IMPOUNDMENT AND DESTRUCTION OF VICIOUS ANIMALS; AMEND 505.022, DANGEROUS, WILD AND UNDOMESTICATED ANIMALS, INSECTS, OR PETS PROHIBITED; AMEND 505.04, ABANDONING ANIMALS; AMEND 505.05, KILLING OR INJURING ANIMALS; AMEND 505.07, CRUELTY TO ANIMALS GENERALLY; AMEND 505.12, COLORING RABBITS OR BABY POULTRY; SALE OR DISPLAY OF POULTRY; REPEALING SECTION 505.023, EQUINES, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 505, ANIMALS AND FOWL, OF PART FIVE, GENERAL OFFENSES CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO.

**Ordinance No. 29-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 30-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$155,374.00, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2014 INTERNATIONAL 7400 SFA 4X2 (SA525) 10-TON TRUCKS, WITH APPURTENANCES, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM RUSH TRUCK CENTERS THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (ODOT CO-OP CONTRACT 023-13).

**Ordinance No. 30-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Amended Ordinance No. 31-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, AS CONTAINED IN PART FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 125.021, “MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT”.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

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**Amended Ordinance No. 31-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Amended Ordinance No. 32-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 125.02, ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR/SENIOR CITIZENS COORDINATOR, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, OF PART FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO.

**Amended Ordinance No. 32-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 33-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 151.091, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES GENERALLY, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 151, EMPLOYEES GENERALLY, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AND AMENDING TITLES OF POSITIONS.

**Ordinance No. 33-2014 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Councilman Trafis** stated:

“I’m going to recuse myself from the vote on the next ordinance. To keep consistent with past practice, I will also remove myself from the room.”

*At this point in the meeting (8:23 p.m.), Councilman Trafis requested of Council President Barth to be excused from the meeting and left Council Chambers briefly.*

**MOTION**

by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to amend Ordinance No. 34-2014 by making the following changes:

- (1) In the Title, Line 2, removing the words ‘the Mayor’ and replacing those words with ‘*the City*’; and
- (2) On Page 2, Section 1, Line 1, removing the words ‘the Mayor’ and replacing those words with ‘*the City*’; and
- (3) On Page 2, Section 3, Line 1, removing the words ‘the Mayor’ and replacing those words with ‘*the City*’; and
- (4) On Page 2, on the Signature Line for President of Council, replace ‘Michael C. Barth, President of Council’ with ‘*Caryl Lecznar, President of Council Pro Tem*’; and
- (5) On Page 2, on the Signature Line for Mayor, replace ‘Richard P. Dell’Aquila, Mayor’ with ‘*Michael C. Barth, Acting Mayor*’.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

---

---

**Amended Ordinance No. 34-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY’S INSURANCE CARRIER; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT WITH COUNCILMAN MATT TRAFIS; AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO PAY \$5,000.00 FOR ATTORNEY FEES INCURRED BY COUNCILMAN MATT TRAFIS IN DEFENSE OF THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM IN *DAVID BENTKOWSKI V. THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, ET.AL*, CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CASE NO. 13CV803270.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Amended Ordinance No. 34-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

**Mr. Fraundorf** stated:

“My belief is it is unfortunate that a former Elected Official of Seven Hills has placed a personal agenda above the welfare of the City. Today this lawsuit faced by Seven Hills has cost the residents of our small City over \$91,000.00 and climbing. The negative financial impact created by this one individual will mean that this money will not be available for resident services or City infrastructure. This unnecessary drain of our resources of time, manpower, and money serves only to further exacerbate the financial challenges faced by our community.”

**Council President Barth** stated:

“I’d like to say it’s been just over nine months since Councilman Trafis filed his first moral claim against the City seeking reimbursement for legal fees incurred from the Bentkowski lawsuit. The claim was made because in a letter dated April 23, 2013 our insurance carrier agreed to defend the City, the Mayor, the Law Director, and City Prosecutor, but stated that they did not owe a duty to defend Councilman Trafis under the umbrella coverage. One reason they denied coverage is because they believed that the majority of allegations against Councilman Trafis did not involve his role as a City Councilperson. Accordingly, the insurance carrier said it would not retain counsel to represent Trafis and that they would not pay for the amounts claimed against Councilman Trafis in the lawsuit. Councilman Trafis then asked to have an attorney of his choosing represent him and the City to compensate him for legal fees incurred. Even though the insurance carrier refused coverage for Councilman Trafis, City Council felt that at least some of the allegations against him involved events while he was a Councilman, so, at the City’s expense, we continued to pursue the insurance carrier for coverage. In June of 2013, Councilman Trafis filed his first moral claim for his legal fees. In response, Council offered him one-half of his legal fees. He refused the offer and threatened legal action against the City. In December, 2013, the Court dismissed all of the claims against the non-City individual defendants, including Councilman Trafis.”

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Council President Barth** (continued):

“Again he asked City Council to pay his legal fees and indicated that he might bring a claim against the City if it did not pay his fees, so the City’s legal counsel again pursued the insurance company. After some negotiations and argument, the insurance carrier finally agreed to pay one-half of Councilman Trafis’ current legal fees defending the action filed by Mr. Bentkowski, around \$10,000. The City then negotiated a final settlement with Mr. Trafis under which Mr. Trafis would receive \$10,000 from the insurance carrier, \$5,000 from the City, and the balance of his legal fees, \$4,675.05, would be his responsibility. As part of the settlement, Councilman Trafis also agreed to have Squire Sanders represent him for any discovery proceedings in the current lawsuit, and also represent him along with the City in the event of an appeal, where all of the Defendants’ interests would be aligned. That settlement is what we are voting on here tonight. I supported the settlement because the City had already spent in excess of \$10,000 on behalf of Councilman Trafis’ request for legal fees and because Seven Hills could not afford the damage and further expense that another lawsuit by another Elected Official would bring. This whole thing has been gut wrenching to me and I sympathize with those in this room that were or remain defendants in this lawsuit brought on by former Elected Official David Bentkowski. I have wrestled with this whole issue since the beginning and I am still not sure if this is the right thing to do, but I know it is the sensible thing to do. An affirmative vote on this claim will prevent another lawsuit by another Elected Official, causing further damage and expense to our City.”

**Mr. Snitzky** stated:

“When I was thinking about what to say about this, unfortunately the word that kept popping into my head was the word ‘*vendetta*’. I looked up the word *vendetta* in the dictionary and one source said ‘*A long running bitter feud between two clans*’. What I have witnessed in our City since I entered public service is a long-running political feud between two groups that has damaged the reputations of people and most egregiously of all, the City that we are sworn to protect. I was almost an early casualty to this type of dirty downtown party politics when one side of this group attempted to have me removed from the ballot on a dubious technicality. Even so I have endeavored to continually try to do what is right for the community. It is no surprise to me, that this vengeful sniping finally led someone to take legal action and neither side in this melodrama can or should claim innocence. Now we have come to the point where we have to pay off a portion of one party’s legal expenses, expenses that our own legislative bonding company believes are dubious, under the threat that if we do not do so that party will continue this legal circus by suing the City!”

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Mr. Snitzky** (continued):

“In our current financial situation, with hard-working, long-term administrative personnel forced to take furlough days and doing without reasonable raises, I find this situation appalling. But in the spirit of compromise; in the spirit of striving to do what is best for the community. With an eye toward the future and endeavoring to put past buffoonery behind us, I will take a deep breath and vote for this legislation in the expectation that it will close this terrible chapter in our City’s history.”

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, yea;  
Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis (recused).

6 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused) **MOTION CARRIED**  
Amended Ordinance No. 34-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 34-2014.

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Bryda, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, yea;  
Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea; Trafis (recused).

6 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused) **MOTION CARRIED**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 34-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

*Councilman Trafis returned to Council Chambers at 8:31 p.m.*

**Ordinance No. 35-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JACKSON-DIEKEN & ASSOCIATES, INC., OF WESTLAKE, OHIO, AND APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$80,842.00, FOR THE FURNISHING OF COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL LIABILITY COVERAGE; AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY & PHYSICAL DAMAGE COVERAGE; PUBLIC OFFICIALS ERRORS & OMISSIONS COVERAGE, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY; POLICE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY COVERAGE; PROPERTY (Building and Contents) COVERAGE; INLAND MARINE COVERAGE; BROAD FORM CRIME COVERAGE; EDP COVERAGE; UMBRELLA COVERAGE; AND BOILER COVERAGE; THROUGH U.S. SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to read Ordinance No. 35-2014 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**MOTION** Ordinance No. 35-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.  
by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to pass Ordinance No. 35-2014  
as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 35-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 36-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH WARWICK VOICE AND DATA TECHNOLOGIES OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO, TO PROVIDE THE SETUP OF A NEW VIRTUAL SERVER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS TO FACILITATE THE UPGRADE OF THE CURRENT 2003 SERVERS TO THE LATEST MICROSOFT SERVER 2013 PLATFORM, WITH APPURTENANCES, AND ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$29,500.00) FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to read Ordinance No. 36-2014  
by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** Ordinance No. 36-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.  
by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Bryda, to pass Ordinance No. 36-2014  
as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Snitzky** stated:

“It should be noted that we are doing this as an emergency at the request of the folks in the City that deal with our IT issues. We need to expedite this as quickly as possible.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 36-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 37-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$13,119.56, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) OPTIPLEX 3010MT COMPUTERS, THREE (3) AC511 STEREO SOUNDBARS, FOUR (4) OPTIPLEX 7010MT, AND THREE (3) DELL AC511 STEREO SOUNDBARS, WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM DELL COMPUTERS (STATE CONTRACT #40305); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to read Ordinance No. 37-2014 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 37-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to pass Ordinance No. 37-2014 as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Fraundorf** stated:

“I would just like to say that I’m very pleased that the City, along with signing a recent contract with Warwick Technologies to service our IT management, that we have gone forward to upgrade our servers and our computers. The belief, I believe that all of us share, is that we will realize improved efficiency here at City Hall, which in the end saves our residents money.”

**Council President Barth** stated:

“Thank you, Councilman, very well said. I don’t think there’s any question that our IT is now moving in the right direction, for sure.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 37-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 38-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH CHRIS KOPY, D.B.A. BODIES IN MOTION FITNESS, LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS AT THE RECREATION CENTER FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Ordinance No. 38-2014 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 38-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Ordinance No. 38-2014 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 38-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 39-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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---

**MOTION** by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 39-2014 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 39-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Bryda, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 39-2014 as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Bryda** stated:

“I would just like to explain that this Ordinance allows us to enter into an agreement with the State to allow them to inspect our bridge, or in this case culvert, like they should do.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 39-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 40-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$22,988.00 FOR THE FURNISHING OF THE COUNCIL ROOM AND COMMUNITY ROOM SOUND SYSTEM, AND APPURTENANCES, IN THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; DETERMINING AND ACCEPTING THE BID OF XTEND TECHNOLOGIES OF BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO, TO BE THE LOWEST AND BEST BID THEREFORE; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR SAID PROJECT.

**Ordinance No. 40-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 41-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PARMA, OHIO, TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE CITY THROUGH ITS RECREATION COMPLEX FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2014; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,100.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 41-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 42-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING AND TESTING MS4 OUTFALL LOCATIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE CITY’S NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR STORM WATER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,250.00 FOR SAID SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2014 REPORT PERIOD.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Ordinance No. 42-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 43-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH STRYKER EMS EQUIPMENT OF PORTAGE, MICHIGAN, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING TWO (2) MODEL 6506 POWER PRO AMBULANCE COTS, WITH APPURTENANCES, AND TWO (2) MODEL 6390 POWER LOADS, WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE CITY’S FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE SQUADS, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$82,394.44 FOR SAID PURCHASE.

**Ordinance No. 43-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 44-2014** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH HORTON EMERGENCY VEHICLES OF GROVE CITY, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING THE MODEL 6506 POWER PRO AMBULANCE COTS, WITH APPURTENANCES, IN FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDIC #2 AND MEDIC #7; AND APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,876.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 44-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 45-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH emsCHARTS, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO UTILIZE emsCHARTS SOFTWARE PRODUCTS TO ASSIST THEM IN CREATING, MAINTAINING, ACCESSING, MANAGING, AND REPORTING PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION.

**Ordinance No. 45-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 46-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT, AND ENACT THE FEBRUARY, 2014 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND TO PUBLISH THE ENACT OF NEW MATTER.

**Ordinance No. 46-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Ordinance No. 47-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART FIFTEEN, TAXATION CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, BY ADDING NEW CHAPTER 1533 ENTITLED “TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX”.

**Ordinance No. 47-2014 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 48-2014** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to read Ordinance No. 48-2014 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 48-2014 was read by full title only for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to pass Ordinance No. 48-2014 as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Trafis** made the following comments:

“By law we have to vote in favor of passing a budget by March 31<sup>st</sup>, which is why I’m voting ‘yes’ on this. My concerns are that we are passing a budget that is not balanced, and will be using cash balances to, once again, pay for expenses that exceed our current revenue intake. This is what happened in the recent past. It’s not a good practice, and it’s what got our City into financial trouble. My goal, and I’m sure everyone else’s goal, will be to continue to do all that is possible to achieve a true balanced budget by year end with the hope that additional revenue sources come to fruition. I also do want to take a moment to thank our Finance Department – Jack Johnson, Joe Hotchkiss, and everybody else – who contributed to putting the budget together, and put together the budget hearings that were held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. I found that exercise to be very helpful. Thank you.”

**Council President Barth** made the following comments:

“These amended appropriations are a result of countless hours put in by Director Johnson, his staff, the entire Administration, and five hours of budget hearings put in by this Council with the Administration on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. These appropriations reflect expenditures of approximately \$8.3 million from the General Fund with revenues expected to be \$7.8 million. That \$500,000 deficit is attributable in part from losses in State and Local funding, most notably a \$642,000 loss of inheritance tax revenue from the State. The Administration and Council worked very hard and made many sacrifices to overcome the recent recession and now we get hit again with State budget cuts.”

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Council President Barth** (continued):

“Technically we are providing for a balanced budget because we will provide for the shortfall from our General Fund operating balance that we have, but that cannot continue beyond this year. As we learned at our budget hearings, there is not much more to cut unless we drastically cut service to our residents, and our Safety Departments are nearly 50% of the budget. So the question is how do we balance the budget, keep our residents safe, and still provide a level of quality service that our residents are accustomed to? That’s the balancing act this Council and this Administration has in front of us. We simply cannot get there by cutting expenditures. Anyone who tells you that is being disingenuous. Approximately a million and a half dollars have been cut over the last few years. There is nothing more substantial to cut and I don’t believe anyone in this room feels we should compromise the safety and well-being of our citizens. Add to that the capital improvements that need to be made over the next five years, most notably street repair and replacement, so the only thing left is an increase in revenues. From what I have heard we are all in agreement that we need to increase our revenues to the tune of about \$1.5 million per year to ensure a balanced budget in the future and to make the capital improvements needed. Is the task in front of us difficult? Yes it is. But I feel confident that with the talented Elected Officials in this City we can get where we need to be.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 48-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Amended Resolution No. 9-2014** – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, EXPRESSING THE MAYOR’S AND COUNCIL’S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED 2014-2018 CAPITAL BUDGET.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Amended Resolution No. 9-2014 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Amended Resolution No. 9-2014 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to adopt Amended Resolution No. 9-2014.

**Mr. Trafis** made the following comments:

“I’m very glad that we’re returning to instituting a capital improvement plan. It was very successful when the City did it back in the late 90’s under another Administration.”

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Mr. Trafis** (continued):

“It is important to note that just because we are passing this Resolution, it doesn’t mean that each line item will be approved in the future. This is simply a road map to help us identify the needs of the City, and each item will come before us again for separate approval. A lot of these line items were discussed in our budget hearings, and I’m glad that a number of my concerns were removed from this plan until the City is on more stable financial ground.”

**Mr. Fraundorf** stated:

“I’d just like to say that I am supportive of Mr. Trafis’ comments.”

**Council President Barth** made the following comments:

“This Resolution, in support of a first-ever.....I guess it’s not a first-ever if you say we used to do it, Councilman Trafis..... Seven Hills capital improvement plan is, again, the result of countless hours of work and debate by the Administration and Council. It is a well thought out plan that is a blueprint for long overdue and much needed improvements in our City. It is a 5-year plan that prioritizes the improvements needed and how to fund them. It includes a street repair program, IT upgrades, and new vehicles and equipment for our safety and service departments. This Resolution is a working document that allows our Finance Director to financially plan for the future, improve bond ratings, and lower the cost of borrowing, better communicates financial information to the public, and determines service levels and priorities for the future. It is a non-binding Resolution and each and every improvement or purchase listed would still have to come before the Council for final approval.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 9-2014 IS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

## **COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Mr. Bryda:**

I just want to say and remind everyone there won’t be a meeting next Monday due to it being the fifth Monday of the month.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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**Mr. Trafis** had no miscellaneous comments.

**Mrs. Lecznar:**

I'd like to thank the Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director for their excellent assembly of the City budget.

I would also like to thank the Directors who took time out of their Saturday to come in and 'defend' their department budgets.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of Council who took time out of their Saturday to attend the budget hearings. For those that are new to Council, I hope that this process proved informative and gave you a better picture of the City finances.

On Saturday my husband was honored as the Cleveland Society's Good Joe. I want to thank Mayor Dell'Aquila for personally attending the dinner and giving him a Proclamation. It was greatly appreciated. I also want to congratulate my husband on receiving this honor. He truly is a 'Good Joe'.

I would also like to wish our Council President a belated Happy Birthday.

**Mrs. Ernst** had no miscellaneous comments.

**Mr. Snitzky:**

I'll second what Mrs. Lecznar said – I appreciate the work of the Administration and the Finance Director and all the Directors that came in and spoke eloquently about their goals and processes for the next year. They were good budget hearings – I appreciate that.

**Mr. Fraundorf** had no miscellaneous comments.

**Council President Barth:**

I would just like to reiterate what everybody said about coming in on that Saturday. We never had budget hearings in the City until probably five or six years ago. And I just want to say how informative they are, and I think it is absolutely important that a City does things like that so we have some say and know and understand what the City is doing. I think it's a great thing to do. I'd like to thank everybody for their participation.

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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

### **Director of Finance Johnson:**

I would like to personally thank each and every Councilperson here for allowing us the time to delay the budget hearings. We were having some technical problems with putting the presentation together, and I appreciate the Council delaying the time for the budget hearings and for allowing us the time to prepare.

I'd also like to thank you for adopting the Resolution on the Capital Budget. This provides a roadmap to the Administration so that we know how to plan for capital improvements. Thank you very much.

### **Director of Law Pignatiello:**

I've been around here a long time, and I am very proud of this Council, Administration, Mike Barth especially, and Jack Johnson for the work they've done on the appropriations and the capital budget. I've never seen things operate this smoothly, and hope that it continues throughout the year.

**Director of Public Service and Properties and Acting City Engineer Lovece** was not present.

**Building Commissioner Moro** was not present.

### **Council President Barth** added:

"I'd like to thank the Council Clerk for all the work you have done this past week in preparing this agenda. I understand it's a record as to the amount of legislation passed by Council."

Mrs. Sekerak stated, "Thank you. I don't remember -- in my years -- ever an agenda being so packed with legislation."

Council President Barth continued, "I would just like to congratulate you for the work that you're doing."

*Council and the Administration provided a round of applause for the Clerk of Council.*

Mr. Snitzky commented, "You read all this tonight, Carol, and you didn't stutter once!"

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD March 24, 2014

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Mrs. Sekerak replied, "Oh yes, I did! However, I would like to mention that Law Director Pignatiello and Teri Matson need to be commended, also. They certainly played a big part in getting Council's agenda together, too."

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR**

**Mayor Dell'Aquila** made the following remarks:

"I'd like to first thank Council for its unanimous passage of Ordinance No. 48-2014, our appropriations for the year. I think we are now seeing the first glimmer of our rising from the ashes of the catastrophe caused to the City by the design and construction of the Recreation Center and the management later on. Fortunately the cuts that we have made in the last couple of years, the streamlining of City operations, and the reorganization of the Recreation Center – particularly in the last two years – have resulted in about a 150% increase in our General Fund balance. Our balance when I took office was about \$1.5 million. As we sit here today, it is about \$3.7 million. And I think that's commendable. It's attributable, in part, to everybody seated up here, and I thank everyone for your efforts in turning around our City's fortunes. The shortage that we are facing in 2014, this current appropriation, although not significant, is a relatively large figure in relation to the expenditures and the budget itself. But I thank those who did remark for noting that it is entirely – practically entirely – attributable to the reduction in State funding. Had we not lost those funds, we would not be having the angst that we are currently having over the passage of this appropriation. So I think it would be entirely unfair to characterize this budget in any other way. What this budget does specifically highlight is the need to increase the City's revenues in a fair and equitable manner -- a way that does not build walls between neighbors, but builds cohesion among our residents."

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mrs. Ernst, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The March 24, 2014 Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael C. Barth, President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

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