

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD August 7, 2014

This *SPECIAL* Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michael C. Barth at 6:16 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell'Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, 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 Finance Johnson, Director of Public Service and Properties and Acting City Engineer Lovece, and Building Commissioner Moro.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 124-2014 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH ACP GREENE + ASSOCIATES, LLC (dba planning NEXT) OF COLUMBUS, OHIO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,000.00, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM MARKET RESEARCH FOR VARIOUS DESIRABLE LAND USES AND AREA PLANS FOR ROCKSIDE ROAD IN ORDER TO UPDATE THE 'SEVEN HILLS STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN' DATED 2002; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Ordinance No. 124-2014 by title only for its first and final reading.

Mrs. Lecznar stated:

“There were some areas in the contract itself, and I know the Law Director is aware, of some typos. I would like to make sure that those typos get corrected. Wherever it says ‘*Independence*’ it should read ‘*Seven Hills*’.

Council President Barth added:

“More specifically it is on Page 5, under 3.0 Market Analysis, 3.1 Office Market Analysis subsection (h), where they use the word ‘*Independence*’ instead of ‘*Seven Hills*’.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 124-2014 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

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MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Ordinance No. 124-2014 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“As everybody in Seven Hills knows, Rockside Road is really one of the keys to the success of the future of Seven Hills. We’ve made a little bit of progress with the building of the nursing home off Rockside which is definitely going to help. Our residents definitely deserve us to work toward a more fruitful way of bringing more money into the City through using this land. In the recent past they experienced an absolute disaster of the Rockside Terrace Project that former Mayor Bentkowski put us through. This ordinance is certainly a step in the right direction to bring a lot of money into Seven Hills in the future. I’m happy to support this.”

Mr. Snitzky stated:

“I just would like to thank the Dell’Aquila Administration, and specifically Ed Foley, for constantly working toward the betterment of the City in constantly coming up with better ways of trying to develop the economy, the economic development of the City, and the remaining property to the best use that we could possibly find. Also, I’d like to point out that when they talk about regionalism, this to me is regionalism at its very best – two neighboring communities working for the betterment of both of them. So thank you.”

Council President Barth stated:

“I’d just like to say that this has been in the making for a few months. The Mayor and I had a number of meetings with the City of Independence and Mayor Kurtz. Since Chairman Foley has stepped in we have been able to take a step back, and I want to thank him for that. I know this project is in very capable hands with Ed Foley chairing it. Thanks, Ed, for all your work and dedication to Seven Hills.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 124-2014 IS DECLARED PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Barth asked if there was any further business before Council.

Mayor Dell’Aquila made the following comments:

“A little bit of bad news came to us this week. Our Engineering Technician, Jeff Hickling, has resigned his position with the City of Seven Hills effective on August 15, 2014.”

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Mayor Dell'Aquila (continued):

“He has accepted a position with the City of Broadview Heights. Jeff has been a loyal, dedicated employee of the City. He has a wealth of knowledge about the City and the City’s infrastructure and its operations, which is now going to be diminished, if not lost, to us. He’s always been very responsive to our residents. I think anybody who has seen him in action would acknowledge that. Also, if you saw what he did in stepping up when our Service Director became ill, you can’t help but acknowledge how important Jeff Hickling has been to our City during a particularly crucial time. Without Jeff the Engineering Department is now stretched very thin and we will need to scramble in the coming weeks and months to fill a very large gap. Our agreement with the consulting engineers to save money was dependent upon Jeff being available here in Seven Hills for daily operations of the department. There’s going to be times now when there will be no staff in there until we decide how we’re going to fill that hole. The entire arrangement must now be restructured, and will likely cost the City more, but will generate a lower level of service to our residents. Jeff will be greatly missed. Broadview Heights has recognized his value and immediately offered him a position when Seven Hills paused to reflect. They knew a good employee when they saw one. I also understand, though, Jeff’s concerns for his career stability here that he had to factor into his decision. All of us who have worked with Jeff Hickling wish him the very best in his new position with the City of Broadview Heights. Thank you, Mr. President.”

Council President Barth added:

“Thank you, Mayor. I think Jeff is going to be sorely missed. He was the liaison with our residents. I know every time I called him he was out there within a day or two to try to resolve the problems of the residents. He really impressed me – as he did a lot of people on this Council – when he stepped in for Stewart when Stewart had his medical problems.”

Mayor Dell'Aquila concluded:

“I just want to thank everybody on Council for working so diligently, effectively, and concisely, in getting Ordinance No. 124-2014 on an agenda and passed this evening. This is the kind of thing that always motivated me to become involved in City government. We missed the boat a couple of decades ago on Rockside, and I’m very happy to see that we are in position now to not have that occur again. This is our seed core. Rockside Road commercial development is going to be the future of our town. It’s very critical to everything we need to do to turn around the City and make sure that we provide it for future stability in the coming decades. I also want to acknowledge Ed Foley for all of his efforts. Ed has been invaluable in a number of volunteer positions with the City. Ed exemplifies what a volunteer resident citizen means to a City – how critical Ed has been to so much that we’ve been trying to accomplish around here. Thank you, Ed, for everything.”

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There was no further business brought forward before Council.

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The August 7, 2014 Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Michael C. Barth, President of Council

Attest: _____

Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____