

**Richmond Heights
City Council of the Whole
May 24, 2022**

Council President Jordan opened the meeting at 7:32pm

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

Motion for the approval of the COW Minutes from 5-10-22.

Motion by Lewis, seconded by Nelson; passed 7-0.

Motion for COW minutes 5-10-22 by Ursu, Nelson; passed 7-0

SPECIAL PRESENTATION from Chief Wetzel on the updated camera system for the buildings and the parks. Gave a comprehensive presentation on the camera systems in the city.

- Renee Trebec, Sales Consultant from Commserv Communications gave a presentation on the cameras and the Avigilon Motorola service.
- Bernard Pokonowicz helped present via the web and gave a demo of the cameras in action with views of city parks, buildings, and out in the public.
- No licensing fees, just a one time fee. Software updates every 3 years, 5 yr warranty.
- Can interface with the CAD system and the Fire dept radios.

Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting from May 10, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 27-2022, INTRODUCED BY LENTINE, THIRD READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH FOR THE PURCHASE OF WEARABLE CAMERAS, WIFI RADIO BASE, STANDARD CAR SYSTEMS, AND ASSOCIATED WARRANTIES, LICENSING, AND SOFTWARE, AND SET-UP AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR THE DIVISION OF POLICE.

- Chief Wetzel said this was budgeted for the year. They have not had time to get grant information. Costs are \$24,600, plus \$1700 public outfitting fee.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Lentine; passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO.: 42-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING THE GREENWOOD FARM PROPERTY AS A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PARK.

- Mayor said this will enable the city to apply for grants for the public park
- Todd Hunt said this will need recommendation from Planning Commission.
- Jim Urankar said it is on the agenda for June 8th
- HOLD ON

RESOLUTION NO.: 50-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, THIRD READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

- Council President Jordan asked Hunt to go over the charter regarding this.
- Hunt said this particular agreement needs authorization by Council. The Mayor has authority to put forth these contracts to Council on the agenda.
- Lentine commented on this legislation and on replacing Courtney and Co. He said the Mayor is allowed per city charter, but we were under the impression that we would hear and discuss other options. He said that in order to be transparent, we would like the reason for this change, would like to know why. Courtney has served the city well for a long time. We have a duty to help and serve the city. To change personnel just for sake of change is not necessarily good, plus his rates are much less expensive than this new one. Looking out for city's good and urge all to vote no on this resolution.
- Hunt said this is a contractual matter and not an appointment. Courtney is hired by the city via a contract and not charter. Mayor has the authority to bring to council new contracts.
- Nelson said she understands that Courtney has been here for 50 years, so she asked the representatives from CT, what is it that we can do better with CT? For change and growth? Asked them what they can offer city that is new or different from Courtney & Co.
- CT consultants (Peter Formica & Dave Wiles, CT President) said they have a staff of about 250 people with expertise on all types of engineering. Said that they are in a position where they can offer all sorts of specialties on staff in-house and get the best information available with expertise. Draw from best practices in community.
- Bell asked if all of the engineers on staff are professional. CT said not all of them but more than 80 professional engineers on staff.
- Mayor Thomas said that what is being asked of her has never been asked by another mayor. Being asked to get 3 quotes for a city engineer. Courtney has been here for 50 years, and we have nothing to compare this to. In all due respect she said she thanks him for his services, but based on charter and ordinance, it is her selection, just like replacement on boards, commissions, Council (Erron Bell- her replacement) and said that this is not any different.
- Lewis said she understands it is the mayor's right to make changes. But, change is not always growth. She sees this all the time with her small business. Getting new people sometimes does not work out for the better. The new engineers are charging more than what we are already paying, and Courtney is doing a great job.
- Mayor said that people are going by hearsay with prices and added she is not sure what costs will be. CT is a 100 yr. old company, and they can accommodate us on the if price issue. Haven't gotten the opportunity yet. No terms are in place yet.
- Nelson commented on the 2 choices and said that CT seems to be more of a one-stop shop with many areas of expertise, whereas Courtney is more family oriented and focused on certain things. Both positives, just different.
- Ursu asked about the survey crews. Mr. Wiles said they have several in Mentor. Courtney's are in Mayfield, which is a bit closer.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Jordan, seconded by Nelson. Motion did not pass 4-3. (NAY- Alexander, Lentine, Lewis, Ursu & YAY- Bell, Jordan, Nelson)
- It was decided not to read Res 50-2022 in the Council meeting, taken off.

RESOLUTION NO.: 61-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, SECOND READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF UNNEEDED ITEMS OF SPECIFIC PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTION BY GOVDEALS.COM, INC.

- Chief Wetzel said they have been doing this and it's been successful.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Ursu; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 62-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, SECOND READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTHCOAST SIGNWORKS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TEN NEW CITY ENTRANCE SIGNS.

- Mayor said this will replace new signs throughout the city that are old and warped.
- Cost under \$2500- for signs and posts.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Lentine, seconded by Bell; passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO.: 65-2022, INTRODUCED BY NELSON, SECOND READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE SEVEN, BUSINESS MAINTENANCE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ADOPT NEW CHAPTER 1380, REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF VACANT NONRESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

- Nelson said this is a box store ordinance so that when stores leave, they would pay a penalty for costs incurred if leave and maintenance is needed. Plan in place for a thriving business community.
- Hunt said this is for protection if a business suddenly vacates a building and it remains vacant for a time. Will keep it secure and lighted, keep areas maintained, with deposits to ensure it happens.
- Lentine said with LLC corps it is often difficult to find owners.
- Hunt said Prosecutor Mike Cicero spoke on this. They have been able to delve into this to research this. Depends on the number of vacated buildings.
- Nelson said it is better to have something in place and not use it than to not have it.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Nelson, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 66-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EDUCATION CENTERS TO GROW SKILLED TRADE JOBS.

- Mayor Thomas said this will support other cities as well with labor shortages since Covid. Will provide an avenue for the city to join a partnership for education in the workforce.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Bell; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 67-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOBBY JORDAN TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TWO-YEAR TERM TO THE GREENWOOD FARM HISTORICAL, CULTURAL & ARTS ASSOCIATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHICH TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2023.

- Mayor Thomas asked to appoint Bobby Jordan to the GWF board to fill her remaining position.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Lewis, seconded by Lentine; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 68-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING
 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MR. EXCAVATOR, INC. FOR THE Desan PARK GRADING AND DRAINAGE PROJECT.

- Courtney said this has been discussed in several meetings. Chris Courtney added that they have 7 bidders and there was a low bidder Mr. Excavator. Will be reimbursed by NEORSO with cost share.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 69-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING
 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER TO THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR NECESSARY ADDITIONAL ROAD PAINT STRIPING WORK FOR CITY STREETS IN 2022.

- Chris Courtney said this is the \$125K change order to replace pavement striping in city at the end of this season. Timeline would be by end of October.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Lentine, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 70-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING
 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE SIX (6) COMPUTERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE APPLE STORE FOR CITY DEPARTMENTAL AND SPECIAL EVENT USE.

- Mayor said the computers are due to be replaced in city. Upgrades due to current infrastructure and need new computers to run properly. City hall, Service, Police Dept and Fire Dept.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Lewis, seconded by Ursu; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 71-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING
 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO ACCEPT A GRANT UNDER THE COMPETITIVE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM.

- Rachel Gardner said the city received \$150K block grant from county and will be using money to replace new roof at lodge, cost would be about \$190-200K, and \$150K will be covered with the rest by capital improvements fund.
- Hunt said this needs passage due to county timeline by Sept 28th.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 72-2022, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR THOMAS, FIRST READING
 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT.

- Rachel Gardner- this is a \$50K grant from county and using it towards upgrading lighting and flooring in small hall of lodge and the illuminating handrail. Will be a year-long project.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Nelson, seconded by Lentine; passed 7-0.

MISC MATTERS:

Jordan reported on the Ward 3 and 4 meeting- Saturday, May 21- was a very nice event with about 75 people there. Thanked Councilwoman Nelson for her work.

Ward 4- some of the residents have asked for more deer culling.

Highland ridge—does not receive city services, concrete deteriorating- needs help.

Belle Oaks concern—asked for speed bumps on Hillary for traffic coming thru.

Streetlights- Jeanette, Karl- want more added.

Nelson- Ward 3- feedback on lock boxes for emergency, asked if information can be put into the newsletter.

Mayor Thomas said there will be a new city website and will be very sophisticated, will have training on this. Will take about 6 mos. to upload new website. Not live until Sept-Oct.

Deal point- “coming soon” on sign and some residents have asked for the wording to be changed as that is deceptive as it is not coming soon.

Thanked UH for supplying cheese and veggies at meeting.

Jordan commented on the Rushmore development; buckle in the street there and asked Kerniskey to check on that.

Lentine received a call from a resident on Douglas. House has tall grass, vehicles without license plates, behind \$72K on property taxes. ss cutting. How many homes like this do we have? Hunt said he will call the prosecutor’s office on this.

Bell announced the Ward 1 meeting on Sunday, June 5th from 3-5pm at Lodge.

AUDIENCE: -no comments-

Council President Bobby Jordan adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes taken by Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council