

NORTH COLLEGE HILL CITY COUNCIL

Minutes for Virtual NCH Council Meeting, February 16, 2021, 7:00 pm

Persons wishing to address Council prior to its dealing with current legislation may do so by registering with the Clerk of Council. Please provide to the Clerk, your name, address and the issue you wish to discuss.

Prayer

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Bailey	Absent	Ms. Blythe	Present	Ms. Underwood	Present	Mr. Miller Novak	Present	
Ms. Zorb	Present	Ms. Hartman	Present	Ms. Anderson	Present	6 Present		

Mr. Miller Novak moves to excuse Ms. Bailey, Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0

AGENDA: Ms. Underwood moves to adopt the agenda. Ms. Anderson 2nd. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Anderson moves to adopt the 02-01-2021 minutes. Ms. Underwood 2nd. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

Communications: Great Lakes Community Action 2021 Training & Services catalog. Link, ohrca.org sent to council for the training schedule that is offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance: Ms. Last met 2-8-2021. Ms. Anderson reports. Lengthy discussion regarding the raising of the building at Dummley Park. Why, when, how. Splash Park

- Presentation from Finance Director
- Street Levy, Prospect Place. Ms. Blythe adds in 2022 Prospect Place would be eligible for 50% funding for repairs. Also discussed 2020 carry over of \$605,000. And asked if Ms. Zorb had received the debt service schedule, she had requested from Ms. Hall
- Next meeting March 8, @ 7:30 pm

City Community and Development & Recreation: Ms. Anderson reports. Last meeting February 8, 2021

- Discussed possible summer events that would be covid friendly such as dance, Zumba, fitness Ms. Kim Stewart has offered to host and to ask if We Thrive could host an event. Possibly bringing back Movie night. Reaching out to DAV and Chamber of Commerce to work with the committee on that.
- Lengthy discussion about a Splash Pad at Dummley Park, location, grants, and the demolishing of the building. Discussed other NCH Parks that need improvements and cleanup of them.
- Discussed the Comprehensive Plan that is part of the legislation tonight.
- Next meeting March 8, @ 6:30.

Public Safety: Ms. Underwood reports. Not met since last Council meeting. Next meeting February 22 @ 7:30 pm.

Rules & Public Policy: Ms. Underwood. Not met since last Council meeting. Next meeting February 22 @ 6:30 pm.

AD Hock Reports:

- CIC, Ms. Underwood reports; CIC has not met since last Council meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for this Thursday, February 18 @ 6:30 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor's report: Thanks, Public Works for their excellent efforts in trying to keep up with the huge snowfall. They work on limited resources and limited employees.

Mayor's Report cont.

Reminds citizens for information on the upcoming Fire Levy in November go to firelevy2021@northcollegehill.org

City Administrator report:

- Salt supply is low and hopes to have the ordered salt in by this Friday. He laid out the prioritized system typically used to clear street of snow. Concentrating on the main streets and through streets and the local streets and side streets. Every street will be addressed. This has been a good exercise in communication with the Police Department who diligently went out identifying people to ask people to move cars due to the level emergency of the city. Found a good amount of compliance from the community. He commends the police department and Public works for working cooperatively to make this happen.
- Mentions the 605K surplus was in the General Fund, largely a result from the assistance the city received from the Covid-19 funds. Asks council to please keep in mind that 100K of that was moved out almost immediately to cover the last past period of the 2020. Budget did enjoy a slight surplus in revenue from what was originally budgeted.
- Addresses the Prospect Place loan on the ballot for this year. He explains a brief overview of the process to apply for street repairs. Prospect Place did not score high enough for the 50/50 loan (50% grant money, 50% loan). It was eligible for the interest free loan payable over 20 years, paying approximately \$22,000.00 a year. He recommends Council to take advantage of it.
- He will continue to report staffing. That report is scheduled for April.
- Talks about 2 major levy's that will be on the ballot for this year. One in the spring, renewal of the street levy funds at 4.8 mil and the Fire Levy in November. The millage is still being discussed.
- **Discussion:** Ms. Zorb corrects the statement made earlier. The carry over for the street levy is \$1.2 million. Asks if salt can be purchased from another city. Mr. Mosby responded, if the shipment does not come in this Friday as expected, surrounding neighbors have offered to help out with the street salt.
- Ms. Zorb inquiries about the baseball building at Dummley Park. It was reported the building is falling down. She drove by and sees no evidence of the building falling down but the roof is in need of repair. Instead of tearing it down, could that money be used to replace the roof? Or postpone tearing it down until Council gets the Splash Pad project in order. Mr. Mosby reports If Council makes and passes motion to not tear it down it could be stopped. The roof is beyond repair. He is in complete support of a splash Pad and continues to say the very building is very old and is beyond current ADA compliance. It would be cheaper to rebuild with ADA compliance than try to bring the building to compliance. The demolition is only \$15,000. To put on a new roof would be more costly than that. Mr. Miller Novak recalls that years ago the building was an eyesore and asks if grant money is lined up. Ms. Zorb responds 2 members have spent an entire Saturday researching grants. No grants have been awarded at this time. Mr. Mosby has made it a part of their CDBG plan. A grant of \$75,000. to \$100,000. would be needed.

Law Director Report: Not present. No report.

- **Finance Director Report:**
- to reiterate the \$605,000.00 was pertaining to the General Fund not to the entire city budget.
- Street Levy fund is not free and clear. The carry-over is earmarked for other projects such as the Sundale project and the Galbraith Rd. project.
- Additional revenue from income tax as well as Bureau Workers Comp dividend.
- Police overtime and PPE equipment fund kept budget from being overextended.

Call of Members:

Ms. Blythe: Two points to make tonight.

- The General fund snapshot for the Fire Department is expenditure is \$670,379. The Fire task force said the levy would generate \$110,992 per mil. So, an 8-mil levy could possibly generate approximately \$897,936. So, the difference from the \$670,379 the \$897,936.00 is \$227,000 for the 8 mil.
- Tonight, and tomorrow night on PBS there is going to be a documentary, a two-part series, Called the Black Church hosted by Henry Lewis Gates. The history and culture of the black church and explore African American faith communities.

Ms. Underwood: Addresses the fire department funding. They do not have the funding they need to provide services to our community. There was a high-profile emergency where there were not enough fire employees to take a child to the hospital, an NCH Police officer drove the ambulance to get that child to the hospital. With our aging population, cardiac arrests, every minute counts. We need to be able to respond with medical aide and or life saving measures and get that person to the hospital in a timely fashion. Chief Fels has applied for and received another grant on behalf of the fire department. He works diligently to maximize what he has and works tirelessly to keep as full as staff as possible. Chief Fels has proposed a 12-mil proposal and that was a compromise. Our Finance Director recommended not less than 15 mil. If you have questions please reach out to Chief Fels.

- Thanks to public works for all the hard work keeping our streets clear as best as possible in this winter storm.

Mr. Miller-Novak: Thanks to the Public works Department for a good job despite limited resources they have to work with and despite the negative comments on Facebook. Agrees with Mr. Mosby comparing our street to other neighborhoods and ours are far better.

- Also, thanks to Ms. Underwood for speaking up for our fire department and agrees with her as well.

Ms. Zorb: It was reported on Facebook several cars stuck on the dead end of Balfour and asks if someone could hopefully check into that tomorrow as a higher priority.

- Also completely agrees with the work ethic of Chief Fels, however she would like to discuss other options besides the 12-mil levy and states it is her opinion there are other ways to financially supporting the fire department without making them self-sufficient on the levy.

Ms. Hartman: Big thank you to our Public works department.

Ms. Anderson: Thanks, to the Public Works crew also specifically her neighbors for picking up the slack and clearing of sidewalks and driveways.

- She met with Chief Fels and was given a tour of the firehouses and its vehicles and equipment. He explained how many different things were purchased with grant money. Agrees with Ms. Zorb maybe another millage could be considered, but looking at sustainability the suggested 12 mil is something that should be taken seriously. It was not something that was just thrown together. It wasn't met easily; a lot of time and energy was put into it and Council should be considerate of that.
- She would like to touch on something, not meaning to lecture anyone but has noticed a lot of cussing and foul language. Maybe it's the little kid teacher in her but she would like to see younger people get involved and vulgarity and lack of professionalism isn't the face of council she would like them to see. Not a lecture but a request to watch our language.

Ms. Dewald: Asks to be recognized. Ms. Judith Boyce reached out to her in hopes to recognize the Lighthall family for making a contribution to the City by installing a library at St. Paul's church.

Legislation:

FIRST READINGS:

Resolution 08-2021, A resolution to ask for requests of proposals for amending the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion: Ms. Underwood asks if this was seen by the Law director. And requests that all legislation be sent to him before we put it on the agenda. Ms. Zorb asks if Pres. Graver can have the Law director look at this while we are still having readings.

SECOND READINGS:

Resolution 07-2021 A Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the City of North College Hill on behalf of the State of Ohio (the borrower) to reimburse its _____ Fund for the PROSPECT PLACE improvements, CB36X with the proceeds of Tax-exempt debt of the state of Ohio.

Discussion. Ms. Anderson asks if Res. Can be looked by the La director as well. Prs. Graver said he would look into it. Ms. Dewald explains, if it comes from the Law director, the last page has his disclaimer on it. Ms. Dewald asks if the Law Director can date the disclaimer. Pres. Graver will ask.

THIRD READINGS:

Resolution 04-2021 A resolution authorizing city of North College Hill to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation improvement program(s) and to execute contracts as required.

Discussion: Ms. Anderson recognizes there is no disclaimer and if the Law Director can look at that as well. Mr. Mosby reports this is an annual resolution that is submitted and believed it was not seen by Mr. Deters. Mayor Nichols responds saying when she was clerk legislation came to her from the Administrator after being reviewed by the Law Director. After more discussion President Graver and Ms. Dewald will discuss outside of a council meeting. Ms. Zorb believes it is written out in Council rules. Ms. Zorb motions to adopt Res. 04-2021. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0.

Resolution 05-2021, A resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt contracts awarded in 2021 and declaring an emergency. Ms. Zorb moves to adopt. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0.

Ordinance 01-2021, An ordinance to establish a North College Hill Home Buyers Assistance Fund titled The Down Payment Assistance Fund Numbered 206. **Discussion:** Ms. Zorb asks if this has been seen by the Law director. Ms. Dewald points out that there is no disclaimer on this legislation. Ms. Underwood recommends it should be reviewed by the law director before moving any further on it. It was determined to refer to the Law director. Ms. Zorb moves to refer this to the Law Directors office. Ms. Anderson 2nd. Motion passes 6-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Zorb discusses additional investigation before the demolition of the Base Ball Bldg. Ms. Zorb moves to request the City Administration postpone tearing down the baseball building at Dummley Park on Simpson Rd. until the recreation committee can investigate further into the splash pad. Ms. Blythe 2nd. Ms. Underwood asks for a time frame for the investigation and the bath house accommodations for a splash pad and if that building could be adapted for bathroom, showers, changing rooms and the like. More discussion about the poor condition of the building and the ability to bring it up to code and time needed to investigate. Ms. Hall explains the whole process is in motion, the company has been contracted. Ms. Zorb repeats the motion adding 3 months for investigation. Ms. Blythe confirms she 2nds. Motion passes 5-1.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Anderson moved to adjourn. Ms. Anderson 2nd. No discussion. Motion passes 6-0.

Mary Dewald, Clerk of Council

Mike Graver, President of Council