

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD July 9, 2019

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This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President of Council Anthony D. Biasiotta at 7:42 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell' Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, Director of Finance Herwick, Councilman-at-Large Elliott, Councilwoman-at-Large Kelly, Councilwoman-at-Large Stager, Ward 1 Councilman Biasiotta, Ward 2 Councilman Martin, Ward 4 Councilman Greenwald, Director of Public Service and Properties Johnson, Building Commissioner Houpt, and Engineer Collins. Absentee was Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky.

## **Motion to Excuse Absence**

**MOTION** by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Mr. Greenwald, to excuse the absence of Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky from tonight's Council Meeting.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

## **READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL**

**MOTION** by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 28, 2019, as printed.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Greenwald, to accept the Consent Agenda of July 9, 2019, as printed, if there is no division of the question.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

## **RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION**

**Resolution No. 19-2019** – A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION TO MIKE BINDER, CITY OF SEVEN HILLS HALL OF FAME RESIDENT OF THE MONTH, JULY 2019.

**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to read Resolution No. 19-2019 in its entirety for its first and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Resolution No. 19-2019 was read in its entirety by the Clerk of Council for its first and final reading.

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**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to adopt Resolution No. 19-2019 as an emergency measure.

**Mr. Greenwald** stated:

“I would like to congratulate Mr. Binder on this honor and thank him for his service to the community.”

**Ms. Kelly** stated:

“I would like to echo the words of Randy, as well. Congratulations to Mr. Binder. Thank you for being an outstanding Resident in our City.”

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

“This is something that we have started over a year ago -- we have been recognizing people who make a difference through various volunteer efforts, and/or their contributions to the arts, athletics, and all things that really make a City a community -- and give it a special flavor. Our honoree tonight is no different. Pitching in for sixteen years with the Baseball Federation, through coaching, creating the websites -- that are still in play today. You know, that all brings a service to the people, that the residents and the children that benefitted from this may not have had otherwise.”

**Council President Biasiotta** continued:

“In addition to his contribution to our Baseball Federation, we also honor and recognize a musician who will be performing at our Home Days. He is providing two valuable services to the community, and I congratulate him on this honor and recognition this evening.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

*There was a hearty round of applause from the audience and all those present upon the adoption of Resolution No. 19-2019.*

**Council President Biasiotta** stated that Mike Binder was unable to be here tonight because he is out and has a gig. He said that Mike Kostyack is here in his absence to accept the Resolution of Commendation in Mr. Binder's honor. Council President Biasiotta stated that Councilman Elliott would do the presentation this evening.

**Councilman Elliott** presented the Resolution of Commendation to Mike Kostyack, who accepted the commendation on behalf of Mike Binder, with his congratulations and best wishes.

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**Council President Biasiotta**, handing an envelope to Mike Kostyack to safeguard the Resolution of Commendation for delivery to Mr. Binder, added:

“Carol (*Clerk of Council*) put a lot of work into making that commendation look nice and she wants it protected. Thank you, and thank you Carol.”

*There was an additional round of applause from everyone present in recognition of Mike Binder after presentation of the Resolution of Commendation was completed.*

*There was a short pause before the meeting resumed allowing for photographs to be taken.*

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Snitzky was not present. Council President Biasiotta stated that Mr. Snitzky is not here this evening and that Council and the Administration would get an update in two weeks.

### **Public Works**

Public Works Committee Chairman Greenwald stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are pending. Mr. Greenwald said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 3, 2019.

### **Community Services**

Community Services Committee Chairperson Stager stated that the Committee also last met on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Ms. Stager said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 3, 2019.

### **Police and Fire**

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Elliott stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, June 18, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Elliott said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, July 16, 2019.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Martin stated that the Committee also last met on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Martin said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, July 16, 2019.

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

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Kelly stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Ms. Kelly said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 3, 2019.

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

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Biasiotta stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Biasiotta said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, July 16, 2019.

## **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**

**Bob Wrobel, 975 Winchester Oval**, made the following comments:

“I just want to make a comment about, and a suggestion about, Ordinance No. 105-2019. I would really, and I think that Council not only needs to take a look at this Ordinance in its entirety, to its appropriateness, but also to look again at the specific Ordinance Nos. 173-2018 and 174-2018, to make sure that this is something.....the subject of those Ordinances needs to be addressed. You may want to take a look at that. I close my remarks. Thank you.”

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance No. 147-2018** – 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, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

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**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 147-2018 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 147-2018 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Ordinance No. 147-2018.

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

“I would like to add for the record, as we have with other pay ranges, that a lot of work went into this. It is never a fun thing to do and is evidenced by our performance to budget last year, where we came in \$700,000.00 under our revised budget, \$1.3 million under our original budget. Things like this, this Council has never taken lightly. As such the question is at hand, is not about a raise or anything like that. The question at hand, before our Councilmembers, everyone to the left, is this an appropriate range for the position? We have been given significant research that indicates that even at the highest level of the new proposed range, we are still \$10,000.00 under the Northern Ohio average. So, if approved tonight, it is still very, very conservative, and it is in line with how we have addressed other issues when they have come to light. That is all I would like to state for the record.”

Roll Call: Kelly, nay; Elliott, nay; Stager, yea; Greenwald, yea; Martin, yea; Biasiotta, yea.

4 yea, 2 nay

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 147-2018 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 94-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTION 159.04(c), MAYOR’S COURT MAGISTRATE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 159, MAYOR’S COURT, OF TITLE SEVEN, JUDICIAL, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR’S COURT MAGISTRATE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2019.

**Ordinance No. 94-2019 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 95-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTION 129.011(c), DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 129, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING PAID VACATION BENEFITS, PERMITTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ‘CASH OUT’ UP TO 80 HOURS VACATION TIME PER YEAR.

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**Ordinance No. 95-2019 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 97-2019** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH QWESTCOM GRAPHICS FOR 6000 COPIES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS 2019 HOMEDAYS BOOKLET, INCLUDING ALL MAILING PREPARATION, POSTAGE, AND DELIVERY TO THE POST OFFICE; AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500.00 FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to read Ordinance No. 97-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 97-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to pass Ordinance No. 97-2019 as an emergency measure.

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

“I would just like to note for the record that this is a pass through; the cost of production and postage is paid for by the advertising in the Home Days booklet.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 97-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 98-2019** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH AMERICAN FIREWORKS COMPANY OF HUDSON, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING, FURNISHING, DELIVERING AND PRESENTING A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS 2019 HOMEDAYS; APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$8,500.00 FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to read Ordinance No. 98-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

**Mr. Greenwald** stated:

“I would like to state for the record, these are the fireworks for Home Days, that is coming up later this month. That is the reason it is an emergency.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 98-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

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**MOTION** by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to pass Ordinance No. 98-2019 as an emergency measure.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 98-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 99-2019** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH ALADDIN RENTS OF EASTLAKE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING TENTS, RISERS, AND APPURTENANCES, TO BE USED AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS 2019 HOMEDAYS; APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,301.00 FOR SAID SERVICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to read Ordinance No. 99-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 99-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION** by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to pass Ordinance No. 99-2019 as an emergency measure  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 99-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 100-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,906.94 FOR A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO. 93-2019, PASSED BY COUNCIL JUNE 25, 2019, WHICH AUTHORIZED THE REPAIRS TO FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE #2 (2003 Spartan/General Fire Truck Vin #4STAT2C983C043679) WHICH CONSISTS OF, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, REPLACING THE CLASS-1 PRESSURE GOVERNOR CONTROLLER, CLEAR ALL CODES, AND RETEST ALL CIRCUITS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 100-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 100-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Ordinance No. 100-2019 as an emergency measure.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 100-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

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**Ordinance No. 101-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 125.011(a), COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE ALLOWANCE OF MAYOR, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, OF TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, BY MODIFYING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR FROM \$14,000.00 TO \$28,000.00 ANNUALLY.

**Ordinance No. 101-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 102-2019** – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, A CERTAIN CHARTER AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL, SECTION 10, VALIDATION OF ACTIONS.

**Ordinance No. 102-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**MOTION** by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Stager, to amend Ordinance No. 103-2019, by replacing all references of ‘Councilman’ to ‘Councilperson’ in reference to Section 11, President of Council.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Amended Ordinance No. 103-2019** – AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, A CERTAIN CHARTER AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING ARTICLE III, THE COUNCIL, SECTION 11, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

**Amended Ordinance No. 103-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 104-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 121.09, RULES OF COUNCIL, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 121, COUNCIL, OF TITLE THREE, LEGISLATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING RULE 27, ENTITLED ‘REVISIONS’.

**Ordinance No. 104-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**



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**Ordinance No. 105-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE OMNIBUS DISCHARGE OF PENDING LEGISLATION THAT HAS BEEN LAID ON THE TABLE INDEFINITELY BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; ALL DISCHARGED LEGISLATION SHALL RECEIVE A ‘NAY’ VOTE AND BE MARKED AS ‘DEFEATED’.

**Ordinance No. 105-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Resolution No. 20-2019** – A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS CHARTER RELATING TO MATTERS OF FORM ONLY (Gender Revisions).

**Mr. Martin** stated, “The Resolution just read by the Clerk of Council, that is where everything is being fixed regarding the words Chairperson, and etc., for gender issues. So, we have done a redundant thing here by correcting the other language. Section 11 was not changed, in its introduction as an item.”

**Council President Biasiotta** asked, “Understood. So, Resolution No. 20-2019 would have amended what we needed when it would have passed? Thank you, Councilman.”

**Mr. Martin** stated, “Correct.”

**Ms. Stager** added, “I thought my understanding was, was that was just the Charter in Resolution No. 20-2019, not an Ordinance.”

**Council President Biasiotta** replied, “Okay, no worries. Both were on for first reading today. We have our ducks in a row now. I appreciate both Councilpersons, Ms. Stager’s and Mr. Martin’s, contribution.”

**Resolution No. 20-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

## **COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE**

**Ron Chura, 1187 John Glenn Drive** made the following comments:

“I am going to read a statement, that I am going to pass out, my attempt to read something to Council. I will read the first paragraph and I will pass this out.

*‘I attempted to address Seven Hills City Council with the following at a Caucus Meeting on June 18, 2019. I was rushed and interrupted by the Council President. I felt that it was either rudeness or controlling my presentation to shut me up. I tend to believe the latter.’ ”*

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*Mr. Chura approached the dais from the podium and proceeded to distribute a one-page document to Councilmembers.*

*The subject piece of paper was not presented or identified to the Clerk of Council for record purposes.*

**Mr. Chura** concluded:

“Also, I am going to post this on social media for anybody that wants to look at it. Basically, that is all I have to say.”

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

“Thank you, Mr. Chura. In the future, Mr. Chura -- it is okay with me -- but the Rules of Council state that you need to ask permission to approach the dais to hand out stuff. So, I’m good with it. The first act I did was take the rope down.”

*There was an inaudible comment from an unidentified audience member.*

**Council President Biasiotta** answered:

“That is because things were becoming a circus and they had to put a rope up. These last two years people have been treated with respect, and the rope came down.”

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

**Mayor Dell’Aquila** stated:

“I have an update on the City-wide rain and flooding. I am going to read into the record an item that has been posted online, and I ask that it be included into the minutes.”

Mayor Dell’Aquila read the referenced document into the record.

*Mayor Dell’Aquila’s ‘Update on the Citywide Rain & Flooding This Season’, dated July 9, 2019, was read into the record. The subject update, in its entirety, has been appended to these minutes for reference as an exhibit.*

Mayor Dell’Aquila added that he wished to identify City Engineer Dan Collins and Director of Public Service and Properties Jack Johnson, who have been most instrumental in addressing this situation.

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

**Director of Finance Herwick** had no formal report.

**Director of Law Pignatiello** had no formal report.

**Director of Public Service and Properties Johnson** had no formal report.

### **Engineer Collins:**

My latest report is on file with the Mayor's Office.

**Building Commissioner Houpt** had no formal report.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Mr. Martin** had no miscellaneous comments.

**Mr. Greenwald** had no miscellaneous comments.

**Ms. Stager** had no miscellaneous comments.

### **Mr. Elliott:**

I would like to acknowledge Tony Terry and all the hard work he is doing this month. I would like to thank him in advance. He is planning and putting Home Days together. You know, it is a very rough month for him. He is also coaching baseball and doing some other things being a dad and a husband. I would like to thank him in advance for his hard work. I know it is extremely tough on him this time of year. That's all.

**Ms. Kelly** had no miscellaneous comments.

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## **Council President Biasiotta:**

Couple of things -- and I will address Mr. Chura's comments first.

I apologize if you felt it was an attempt to control you. I wanted to impart upon you that I agree with you that Joe Andres, Jr. deserves significant recognition. I was trying to impart that after the VFW of Seven Hills closed, which was named after Joe Andres, it was one of the last things we had recognized on him. It has been something that has been on my mind for a long time, that we should do something. And, I wanted to let you know that I had already talked to his father in the hallway. I told him that I was thinking.....the Rockside partners have already agreed to name a street and a plaza after him.

So, I was just trying to let you know that I agree that he is a great person, humble, and did a tremendous amount for the Country, and that I even have a bigger plan for him. If it is Council's desire to name North Park after this distinguished American, I am all for it. I think he deserves even more. So, I hope you accept my apology.

You have been complimentary for about four years now on two terms of my hard work on Council. I'm disappointed that it is political season, and you feel differently now. That is the nature of the game -- and I will take it.

I will point out the June 18, 2019 meeting that you passed out, I was not present, so the date is wrong. But I certainly remember the meeting you are talking about; it was a different date. What did happen at the June 18, 2019 meeting, were several violations of our rules and we hope that we do not have that again.

It is inappropriate for a Councilmember to interrupt any member of this dais. It is inappropriate for any audience member to yell '*point of order*' and interrupt a person. Whether you like the person or not, they were elected and represent the people of Seven Hills. So, when we are interrupting, we are interrupting a person who was voted on by the people to represent the citizens of Seven Hills.

There were a number of violations by the audience at the June 18, 2019 meeting. I trust that will never happen again. Repeated warnings can lead up to removal to keep the meetings moving. I am very confident, as I know everyone in the audience that, that will come to be.

Let's continue to work together, debate our differences in a civil manner, and vote when it is time to vote. Let's leave politics outside in the parking lot.

So once again, I apologize if you thought I rushed or interrupted. You will do what you'll do, but I am presenting the facts.

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**Council President Biasiotta** (continued):

I agree with you that this great American should be recognized and I already had a plan in place that you would appreciate. If you prefer to do the Park, then that is okay with me as well.

Everyone, have a good evening.

**MOTION** by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The July 9, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

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Anthony D. Biasiotta, President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

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

Transcribed 7/26/19  
Lisa Plisko, Council Assistant  
(Edited C. Sekerak)



# City of Seven Hills Ohio

7325 SUMMITVIEW DRIVE • SEVEN HILLS, OHIO 44131 • PHONE 216/524-4421

July 9, 2019

## UPDATE ON THE CITYWIDE RAIN & FLOODING THIS SEASON

Seven Hills along with all of northeast Ohio has been experiencing record rainfalls this season. As such, a few neighborhoods in Seven Hills were impacted to varying degrees. In addition to our permanent sewer department (staffed by four employees), Seven Hills over the last year and half has proactively taken additional steps to improve our sewer infrastructure, including:

1. Replacing 30 Catch Basins (Fully reimbursed by the NEORS).
2. Contracting with the Cuyahoga County Department of Publics Works to supplement our sewer maintenance capabilities.
3. Hiring AECOM to perform smoke and dye testing around the E. Ridgewood area.

A couple of weeks ago the city suffered an unusually heavy rain event that significantly impacted some residents. Understanding how devastating this can be to a household, the City immediately scheduled a meeting with impacted residents to achieve the following:

1. Conducting the emergency public meeting to identify those impacted
2. Categorizing the different types of issues (e.g. flooded basement, storm/sanitary, back yard water, private property laterals, etc.)
3. Determining areas of highest impact to set the priorities

After gathering feedback from our residents, the City then consulted with professionals to develop both short term and long term objectives to anticipate future high rainfall storms.

Regarding the Hemlock Creek Watershed Utility Improvements Project, after a review with the Engineering Department and the Contractor performing the improvements, it was decided an initial step of authorizing an additional storm water relief discharge sewer from the Mary Lane area would be a logical first step to possibly addressing some of the storm water issues experienced in that general area.

Much more study is required in light of these heavy rain storms, as the varying potential issues that may impact one neighborhood could be completely different in another part of town. In the short term, the City plans to increase contractual implementation with the County in order cover more ground faster.

Long term, the City is working on a comprehensive plan with the intent of identifying root causes and long term strategies to meet the challenges posed by these ever more frequent heavy storms. This plan will initially include:

- Sewershed Development
- City Wide Flow Monitoring
- Prioritization of Problem Areas
- Public Property Investigation (Mainline Dye Testing)
- Private Property investigation (Residential Dye Testing)
- Additional jetting, cleaning, and maintenance of City-owned storm sewer infrastructure
- Continuing to work with the NEORS on providing all reported flooding calls
- Eventual implementation of future NEORS recommendations discovered from their continual data collection regarding storm water, storm sewers, and sanitary sewers

**--Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila**