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 Stager, Ward 1 Councilman Biasiotta, Ward 2 Councilman Martin, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, Ward 4 Councilman Greenwald, Director of Public Service and Properties Johnson, Building Commissioner Houpt, and Engineer Collins. Absentee was Councilwoman-at-Large Kelly.

Motion to Excuse Absence

MOTION by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to excuse the absence of Councilwoman-at-Large Kelly from tonight’s Council Meeting due to illness.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED

READING AND DISPOSITION OF JOURNAL

MOTION by Ms. Stager, seconded by Mr. Martin, to accept the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held June 4, 2019, as printed.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to accept the Consent Agenda of July 23, 2019, as printed, if there is no division of the question.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Amend the Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Stager, to waive the twenty-four hour delivery requirement for:

Ordinance No. 111-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED $11,390.36 FOR A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO. 93-2019, PASSED BY COUNCIL JUNE 25, 2019, AND ORDINANCE NO. 100-2019, PASSED BY COUNCIL JULY 9, 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-I PRESSURE GOVERNOR CONTROLLER, CLEAR ALL CODES, AND RETEST ALL CIRCUITS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
and to amend the Agenda by entering Ordinance No. 111-2019 onto the agenda as Item No. 9L-1, as an emergency measure.

Council President Biasiotta stated.

“This is an emergency measure because it deals with repairs to our fire engine and for public safety; the repairs have already been made. We are merely paying the bill at this time.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION

There were no Resolutions of Commendation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development
Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 17, 2019. Mr. Snitzky said that the minutes from the previous meeting (July 16, 2019) are on file with the Clerk of Council.

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.

Parks and Recreation
Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Martin stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, July 16, 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, September 17, 2019.
Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics
Rules Committee Chairperson Kelly was not present. Council President Biasiotta stated that the Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee last met on Tuesday evening, July 2, 2019 and that Councilwoman Kelly would update Council on the minutes when she returns. Council President Biasiotta stated that the Committee will hold its next 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 16, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Biasiotta stated 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, July 16, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are pending. Mr. Elliott said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 17, 2019.

APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

MOTION by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to confirm and accept the appointment of JACK JOHNSON as ZONE MANAGER, and JACKIE PATON and SUSAN OYSTER as MEMBERS of the TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL, also known as TIRC, if there is no division of the question. Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The appointment of JACK JOHNSON, JACKIE PATON, and SUSAN OYSTER as members of the TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL is hereby approved.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS

The Clerk of Council read into the record a letter received from Holly and Tony Graham, of 6254 Gale Drive, dated July 10, 2019, addressed to Mayor Dell’Aquila, commending the Service Department for their assistance in avoiding a potential hazard by removing dead trees and debris.

The subject letter, in its entirety, has been appended to these minutes for reference as an exhibit.
The Clerk of Council stated that she is in receipt of a copy of a Mayoral Proclamation from the Mayor’s Office declaring that September, 2019 will be recognized as PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in the City of Seven Hills, Ohio.

Mayor Dell’Aquila’s Proclamation recognizing September, 2019 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month has been appended, in its entirety, to these minutes for reference as an exhibit.

Clerk of Council Sekerak stated:
“The Clerk of Council’s Office personally received a lengthy hand-delivered letter from Kent Starrett, of 237 East Ridgewood Drive, dated July 10, 2019, last week. Mr. Starrett requested that his letter be read into the record at the next regular Council Meeting. I just spoke with Mr. Starrett before this meeting, as he is present in the audience tonight, and he has given us permission to not read it in its entirety due to its length. Mr. Starrett is writing to Ms. Kelly, Chairperson of the Rules, Ordinances and Ethics Committee of Council, as follows:

‘I understand the Rules Committee has decided not to make changes to the City Ordinances to accommodate native plant gardens and rain gardens. I respectfully disagree with this decision. There are several reasons the City should be supporting changes to the ordinances that I will enumerate.’”

Mrs. Sekerak continued:
“Mr. Starrett does go on to enumerate all his reasons and recommendations, and closes his letter asking for Council’s close consideration and deliberation of the subject matter. Council President Biasiotta has referred Mr. Starrett’s letter to the Rules Committee for their study.”

The subject letter, in its entirety, has been appended to these minutes for reference as an exhibit.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 94-2019 by title only for its third and final reading. Roll Call: all yea
ORDINANCE NO. 94-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to further amend Amended Ordinance No. 95-2019 by changing the words ‘cash out’ in the title and in the body of the legislation to the word ‘convert’. Roll Call: all yea
MOTION CARRIED

Amended 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 CONVERT UP TO 40 HOURS VACATION TIME PER YEAR.
MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to read Amended Ordinance No. 95-2019 by title only for its third and final reading. Roll Call: all yea
Amended Ordinance No. 95-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.
MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 95-2019. Roll Call: all yea
AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 95-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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.
MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to table Ordinance No. 101-2019.

Mr. Greenwald stated:
"I would just like to say for the record the reason I stated that, is that I think it is problematic to have this on the ballot at the same time as the Mayoral Election. I think this should be done during a different election."

Mr. Elliott stated:
"I disagree whole-heartedly. I don’t think it is this Council’s right to not send this off to the voters of Seven Hills. Let them pass it or deny the raise. I think we have done our research on it. As you know, I was opposed to this from the get-go. I’ve done my research on it. I talked to residents of Seven Hills, I have talked to other Mayors, and I have talked to other politicians around our City. I think it is time to put it on the ballot. I think it is a disservice if this Council doesn’t let it go to the ballot."

Roll Call: Elliott, nay; Stager, yea; Greenwald, yea; Snitzky, nay; Martin, yea; Biasiotta, recused.
3 yea, 2 nay (Biasiotta recused) MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 101-2019 was tabled.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to further amend Amended Ordinance No. 102-2019 by adding the words ‘and declaring an emergency’ to the title and by adding the emergency provision to Section 5.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED


MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Amended Ordinance No. 102-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED
Amended Ordinance No. 102-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 102-2019 as an emergency measure.
Roll Call: all yea MOTION CARRIED
AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 102-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED

MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to amend Ordinance No. 103-2019 by adding the words ‘and declaring an emergency’ to the title and by adding the emergency provision to Section 5.

Mr. Greenwald stated:

“The reason for the emergency is that, this is intended to be a ballot initiative this Fall — speed is required to accomplish that task.”

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; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to read Amended Ordinance No. 103-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 103-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Greenwald, seconded by Ms. Stager, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 103-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDEO ORDINANCE NO. 103-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.


MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to read Ordinance No. 104-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 104-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to pass Ordinance No. 104-2019.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 104-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.
Amended Ordinance No. 105-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE OMNIBUS DISCHARGE OF PENDING LEGISLATION THAT HAS BEEN HELD INDEFINITELY BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; ALL DISCHARGED LEGISLATION SHALL RECEIVE A ‘NAY’ VOTE AND BE MARKED AS ‘DEFEATED’.

Amended Ordinance No. 105-2019 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 106-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH OHIO GEESE CONTROL, LLC, OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $9,000.00 FOR FORTY (40) WEEKS (August 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019 and February 3, 2020 – June 30, 2020) OF GEESE CONTROL ON THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS MUNICIPAL COMPLEX AND RECREATION CENTER PARCELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Ms. Stager, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 106-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 106-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Ms. Stager, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 106-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 106-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 107-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT WITH BANK OF AMERICA MERCHANT SERVICES, LLC, FOR A NEW POINT OF SALE DEVICE (FDI30 CREDIT CARD) TO BE USED IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR BONDS (MERCHANT #345776966888); AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $599.00 FOR SAID PURCHASE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to read Ordinance No. 107-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 107-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to pass Ordinance No. 107-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 107-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.
Ordinance No. 108-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE FIREFIGHTER EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS GRANT (FEEEG) IN THE AMOUNT OF $11,970.00, TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF 84 GORE PARTICULATE HOODS ULTRA C6-BLACK AND 84 PRO-TECH FUSION GLOVES; AUTHORIZING $2,394.00 AS THE CITY’S OBLIGATION TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF THE HOODS AND GLOVES; COMPLETE PURCHASE OF THE APPROVED EQUIPMENT TOTALING $14,364.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Greenwald, to read Ordinance No. 108-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 108-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Greenwald, to pass Ordinance No. 108-2019 as an emergency measure.

Council President Biasiotta stated:

"Before we vote, I just want to edit my comments from Caucus. The total requisition for Ordinance No. 108-2019 is $14,364.00, of which the Fire Department did receive a grant for $11,970.00. So, the City-portion obligation toward the $14,364.00 purchase is only $2,394.00. I wanted to state for the record there was an additional $2,394.00 to get us to the $14,364.00 that we need. Once again, I want to congratulate our Fire Department for seeking this grant and getting it approved."

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 108-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

Ordinance No. 109-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $224,576.00, PLUS DELIVERY CHARGES, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW TYM/CO-MODEL 600, MOUNTED ON NEW DUAL STEERING 2019 FREIGHTLINER MODEL M-2 CAB AND CHASSIS STREET SWEEPER, WITH APPURTENANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY N.E. OHIO, THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT, S.T.S. SCHEDULE NUMBER 800550, INDEX NUMBER STS 235; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. TOTALING $14,364.00; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 109-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 109-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION**

by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Ordinance No. 109-2019 as an emergency measure.

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

"I would just like to note that this acquisition is going to be fully refunded by the Northeast Ohio Sewer District under their Community Cost Share Program. We view this as an important step in the sewer maintenance because the new sweeper will pick up more debris that ultimately could end up in our basements as it was reported by our Service Director in Caucus."

Roll Call: all yea

**ORDINANCE NO. 109-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 110-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED $26,866.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) HUSTLER SUPER Z HD 72” VX4 DECK 36HP VANGUARD MOWERS, WITH FLEX FORKS ($24,366.00), AND ONE (1) DECK OVER TRAILER TANDIUM AXEL WITH FOLDING RAMPS ($2,500.00), WITH APPURTEANCES, FOR USE IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM BAKER VEHICLE SYSTEMS, OF MACEDONIA, OHIO, THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF STATE PURCHASING CONTRACT (STS #800604).

Ordinance No. 110-2019 was read by full title only for its first reading.

**Ordinance No. 111-2019** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED $11,390.36 FOR A CHANGE ORDER TO ORDINANCE NO. 93-2019, PASSED BY COUNCIL JUNE 25, 2019, AND ORDINANCE NO. 100-2019, PASSED BY COUNCIL JULY 9, 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. Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Stager, to read Ordinance No. 111-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

**Council President Biasiotta** stated:

"I would like to add, once again, the reason for the emergency is this was repairs to Fire Engine No. 2."

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 111-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Ms. Stager, to pass Ordinance No. 111-2019 as an emergency measure.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 111-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Resolution No. 20-2019** – A Resolution Memorializing the Amendments to the City of Seven Hills Charter Relating to Matters of Form Only (Gender Revisions).

**MOTION** by Ms. Stager, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to read Resolution No. 20-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Resolution No. 20-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Ms. Stager, seconded by Mr. Biasiotta, to adopt Resolution No. 20-2019.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-2019 IS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE**

**Tom Jaros, 224 Crescent Ridge Drive,** made the following comments:

"I made some public document requests during the week and got answers about.......I asked for budget line numbers for sewer preventive maintenance and I got a number that didn't key on preventative maintenance, just a general number. I strongly suggest that somebody establish a separate budget line for preventative maintenance of the sewer system, be it storm water, separate from sanitary, or combined. We have seen some things happen here -- we heard for a long time about the problem at John Glenn. We've heard about Ridgewood Drive -- flooded basements on Ridgewood. For the last ten years, I have been hearing that they have been doing smoke and dye. Recently, we heard there was also smoke and dye work that was going to be done by the latest outside company involved. We never heard any results. Years ago, we heard former Planning Commission Member, Joe Andres, talk about allegedly undersized pipe on Winchester that may or may not have had something to do with the flooding on John Glenn. We can't seem to get an answer whether that pipe is undersized. If it does exist, if it is, then the people on John Glenn might have sanitary in their basement again."
Mr. Jaros continued:

“We need to get serious about preventative maintenance -- 200 hours average a year for the sweeper, and Mr. Johnson says it is not sweeping very good, so we don’t know how long it has not been sweeping too good. I have experience with rebuilding equipment of the street sweeper type -- $100,000 is a lot of money.”

Mr. Jaros concluded:

“I don’t know what you guys plan on doing with it. I would suggest if you look into repairing it, get another quote on the rebuild. They’re really simple machines -- $100,000 -- it would have to be pretty much falling apart to need that much money. But the sewer situation is obviously serious. If we had been videoing the sewer pipes on a regular basis, it is likely we would have discovered the problem on North and South Mary. Two, twelve-inch pipes feeding a twelve-inch pipe. A competent guy on a camera would have seen that. I thank Engineer Collins for pointing out the fact that, that exists. Honesty is appreciated. But, people on North and South Mary never had a chance -- two, twelve-inch pipes into a single twelve-inch pipe, a camera would have saw that. I think we need to get professional about the sewer maintenance. I sure hope you guys can make it happen. Thanks you.”

Joe Andres, 1004 John Glenn Drive, made the following comments:

“I would agree with what I just heard. A number of years ago we had to buy a new ambulance because our old one was unreliable. So, we bought a new one. The contract agreed to keep our old one running until the new one arrived. Do you know what the repairs amounted to on the old ambulance? A new set of batteries and battery cables and it was running just fine. When the new one came, we kept the old one for a short period of time, and then it was turned over to the Service Department and they used it for many years. I was in business my whole life, I had equipment, I know what it costs. $100,000 to rebuild a street sweeper?”

Mr. Andres continued:

“I had Class A tractors. I would spend money. I would spend $14,000 and rebuild an engine and do a transmission. The joke of it is, when I sold my company, I cut it down to one, Class A tractor. Guess what? They are still running that truck today. A new one costs about $190,000. Their costs aren’t anywhere as near that, and it is running fine. A number of years ago we had to buy a new fire truck. The reason I was told was we had to rebuild the engine. What is wrong with the old engine? Well, nothing -- but it is old. That is not an answer. The I asked, well, what else? Well, the tank is leaking. Well, what kind of tank is in there? Do you get a stainless tank or not? No, we didn’t know about that, we just got a steel tank. How long is that steel tank going to last with water in it all the time? I think we should start getting somebody here to assess our equipment and say what we should do with it, and maintain it. I know we are already going to buy the street sweeper. But I live on John Glenn, I don’t think we see that street sweeper once a year -- maybe once, that’s it.”
Mr. Andres continued:

“If you’re going to spend this kind of money, let’s use it, just like with this sewer cleaner. Let’s use it. $200,000 you can’t afford, if you are a private company, you couldn’t afford to pay $224,000 for a piece of equipment and use it two times a year. That’s unheard of. That is unheard of. You have got to have pay-back. We are a City, but we are actually a business. Why not run it like a real business and only buy things we are going to get a pay back on? Not sitting somewhere. The worst thing you can do with equipment is let it sit.”

Mr. Andres concluded:

“I had ten lift trucks with my company when I sold it. The oldest one -- guess what? It is still running. It cost a few bucks to maintain it. It is either spend a couple bucks or spend about $90,000 or $100,000 and replace that lift truck. We didn’t use it enough because you need different lift trucks – couldn’t afford a new one. You’ve got to think of payback. That is what we should be thinking on street sweepers, medical vehicles, and whatever it is -- it’s payback. Thank you.”

Dave Ruffo, 2623 North Mary Lane, made the following comments:

“I just have a few questions -- since a few of the people that I voted for to represent me don’t have the common courtesy to call me back. Can anybody tell me what happened with the meeting between Fabrizi and the City with the storm sewer problem that they had?”

Council President Biasiotta replied, “I will take down all your questions and then I will have people respond to each one, if possible. So, you want to know about the meeting with Fabrizi and the City?”

Mr. Ruffo continued:

“What would happen, because they apparently put in a bigger line at the end of the street. The question then would be.....Is that part of the Hemlock Creek Project, or is the City paying for that? That problem back there has to be fixed. In the year 2000, my house had in excess of $25,000.00 worth of damage from the storm sewer backing up in my house. In 2006, again, over $25,000.00 in damage. This past backup -- $40,811.00.”

Mr. Ruffo concluded:

“You have to fix this problem. We will never, ever be able to sell this house. Thank you for your time.”

Council President Biasiotta asked, “Anyone from the Administration wish to respond to either question at this time?”

Engineer Collins responded, “Not at this time.”
Viola Segedi, 311 Mapleview Drive, made the following comments:

"I am sorry, this is basically just a general question. I have trouble hearing, even when I was sitting here. I thought I would hear better in the back. My question is, and you may have already said this. When does the Council meet again?"

Council President Biasiotta answered, "Our next regularly scheduled Committee Meetings start in September – September 3, 2019."


Council President Biasiotta added, "We do have a distribution list. If you see Carol (Clerk of Council) after the meeting, or if you have email. We email this Agenda out in advance. Typically, and probably more than likely, there will be a Special Meeting before then, and I don't want you not to know about it."

Ms. Segedi continued, "Okay. My other question is......I recognize that you recess for the month of August, I believe. I remember that from years ago when I attended all the meetings. When it is adjourned, are all the Councilmen still available?"

Council President Biasiotta answered, "Sure."

Ms. Segedi continued, "Okay. That was my next question. Thank you."

Council President Biasiotta continued, "After the meeting, you can come up and I can give you all my contact information. You can contact me directly, at any time."

Ms. Segedi continued, "Yes, I know those procedures. But you know, I just couldn’t hear back there. If you answered this question earlier, I’m sorry to have taken......"

Council President Biasiotta replied, "No, no. This is the first that this has come up. Thank you."

Robert Leech, 5739 Rockhaven, made the following comments:

"You guys get your deserved credit for all the work that you really put in. I read everything and I have for the last 45 years. But I want to thank everybody. This Council and Administration has worked together a heck of a lot better than I have seen in years. I congratulate you for that. Entering August, recess time, I am sure a lot of you are going to be campaigning and I wish you the very best, of course. This is a good Council. You have gone over your learning curve. I am very proud of the work that you have done. I am sorry for the attire tonight. I am the world’s oldest t-ball player. I did have a game at the Cleveland Indians old stadium this afternoon in Canton. It was wonderful."
Mr. Leech continued:

“I did not hear back from anyone regarding the flags on the two cell towers. I asked that back in November, sent several emails -- I have asked it in several different Council Meetings. I would like somebody to explain that to me because losing the flag on top of two huge towers affects everybody in the City. I am kind of ashamed that it is not back up there anymore. I don’t know the mechanics of it, but it was a wonderful, wonderful symbol for our City. People saw that every day. There was one person over here, I remember, last meeting -- we had brought it up and he said his kid looks at it first thing in the morning -- and that is beautiful, they should.”

Mr. Leech continued:

“One other thing is our wonderful Home Days -- Tony Terry back here. Every year it gets more difficult and difficult to find people to help. I am asking all of you to spend a couple of hours to volunteer for this worthy cause. It is the biggest time that you get to see a lot of people from the City that you don’t normally do, and being there is wonderful. You’re representing the City. If you can give Tony two or three hours, one hour, I am sure he can use it. It seems this year it is kind of worse. Young people for some reason don’t volunteer like they used to. I mean, I am going back to the Jaycees when I was there, and we did a heck of a lot of things and then all of the sudden, we folded -- and then the VFW, they folded. People just don’t volunteer anymore and I don’t know why that is, but as an example, I would like to see all you guys out there some time or another helping to set it up, not just being there as such.”

Mr. Leech concluded:

“I appreciate what you guys do. It was wonderful to see this Council absorb all the information, all the different fields that you have to work in. Congratulations for getting on Council, Mr. Martin, it is a pleasure. You guys did well together. I would like to see more of that. Mayor, you have become a very, very good businessman, and I thank you for your service, and everyone’s service. And, my love, Carol Sekerak -- we go back forty years probably, or more. She does a phenomenal job, thank her for her service. God Bless.”

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Dell’Aquila gave the following report:

Thank you, Mr. President -- just a couple of things that were brought up in the audience portion.

As Council is aware, and I believe some of the audience is aware, the sweeper has been an item of discussion now for many months. The excessive rains over a short period of time, which the City and every area of our region has experienced in June, July, etc., have highlighted the need to continue upgrading our maintenance of the sewers. I am glad that Council has seen fit to purchase this item. We all know the condition of the old item and we will be using this to great effect in maintaining our sewers.
Mayor Dell’Aquila continued:

Sewer capacity is an issue. When a localized area receives several inches of rain over a very short period of time, it’s likely, as we have seen in all the Cities around us, that it will overwhelm the carrying capacity of any sewer.

With regard to the gentleman’s question about Mary Lane, we took a look at the drawings there. Those sewers were designed in 1959. This is the Eisenhower Administration. It is a mischaracterization -- a canard really -- to say that there is a defect there. The problem is again that the sewer is overwhelmed. The design -- and I think that the Engineer has some information on this -- the design is such that there are two lines that feed into a catch basin, and then is fed out by a third line. It was felt in a meeting with Fabrizi that perhaps putting in a supplemental line to help will help with the situation, so it was authorized.

With regard to phone messages, we have a number of people who call and do not leave a message. We had, for example, a person come up at a prior meeting saying that her call had not been returned -- so, we took the trouble to go through our records and, indeed, she did call at 6:15 a.m., but no message was left. So please, if you call, leave a message.

We do not own the cell phone towers. Flags, as everyone is aware, must be illuminated at night. They may not be left up in the rain. We have had problems with the lanyard banging against the pole and damaging the pole. So, I do not know where that stands with regard to the actual ownership, but it certainly is problematic to put up a flag at night that is not illuminated or to leave it up in the rain.

Tony Terry has done great job on Home Days, and I hope to see everybody there.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Director of Finance Herwick stated:

I have no formal report.

I would like to say thank you for your appointments to the Tax Incentive Review Council, as well as the passing of Ordinance No. 95-2019.

Director of Law Pignatiello had no formal report.
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Director of Public Service and Properties Johnson stated:

I have just a couple of things.

First of all, I would like to thank City Council for voting affirmatively on Ordinance No. 109-2019. I appreciate that very much.

At the last Council Meeting there was a question from the audience. I believe this was his question -- what sewers do we maintain, and do we have a plan. For 2018, we cleaned 19,467 feet of sanitary sewers. We cleaned 28 catch basins. We repaired 46 catch basins. We cleaned 1,100 feet of ditches, and replaced 40 feet of culvert pipe. So, our plan is to……...and we have to report this to the Northeast Ohio Sewer District every year……...the plan calls for every sewer catch basin and sewer main to be cleaned once every seven years. My goal is to accelerate that so that we are cleaning them at least once every five years. So, we are trying to make improvements in that area.

There was also another question from Councilman Martin about the generator. As you know, last weekend we finally got the Police Department onto the emergency generator. There were questions that came up with regard to capacity and length of time that we would be able to run. Our generator is a 75kw generator. We had the electrician come out that did the conversion. He came out and measured just the other day, when we had these 90-degree temperatures, to find out what we are at full capacity -- and that is with the air conditioning running. Our full draw is 50kw. So, our capacity is 75kw and we’re running at 50kw. I found a chart that estimates approximate run-time, and based on this chart, which was published by a company I do not know, I am estimating that we should be able to run on a 480-gallon tank of diesel approximately five days. That is with the air conditioning running at full blast and the entire department running full. Whether five days is adequate or not, is yet to be determined. That was your question, I believe. I hope that answers your question. I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Engineer Collins stated:

A couple of things.

The Mapleview Drive and East Hill Circle Watermain Replacement Project is wrapping up. We have our first three streets -- they are going to be commencing for rehabilitation and resurfacing in the next two weeks.

McCreary Road will be started within the next week or two. We are then going to Evelyn Avenue and then Mapleview Drive.
Engineer Collins (continued):

Our remaining eight streets will be occurring probably in the beginning of September.

That is really all I have. My latest report is on file with the Mayor’s Office. Thank you.

Building Commissioner Houpt had no formal report.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Martin had no miscellaneous comments.

Mr. Snitzky:

I would like to thank Councilman Martin. He has really made an impact coming into Council so quickly here and starting to do some things -- Ordinance No. 102-2019, Ordinance No. 103-2019 and Ordinance No. 104-2019. They are good-government ordinances and should help us conduct business in the future. So, I wanted to thank him for those.

That is it. Have a great Home Days, everybody. Everybody go to Home Days. It is a wonderful event and, unfortunately, I will not be able to work it like I have in the past. When I did work, I was amazed how many people come from outside the City to come to our Home Days. To me, that says a lot. Go to Home Days. That is it. Thank you.

Mr. Greenwald:

I would just like to say how excited I am to hear that the street projects for 2019 are getting started.

On that note, I will see everyone at Home Days. Hopefully I won’t see the rest of Council too often until September.

Ms. Stager had no miscellaneous comments.
Mr. Elliott:

I would like to reiterate Ordinance No. 101-2019 -- the members of Council that wanted this tabled, I hope you do your due diligence. Actually, look into it, actually to some of the residents of Seven Hills, because this is America and the residents have a right to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on this. Hopefully, in September when we come back, we can revisit this.

Thank you.

Council President Biasiotta:

Councilman Martin is our liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals. We put on the Agenda some floor motions. These floor motions are variance related -- Council acts on Administrative actions as to whether or not to concur with the findings of the Zoning Board. We reviewed these in depth in Caucus. So, if there is no division of the question, I am going to concur with all four variances.

Council President Biasiotta said, at the July 11, 2019 meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Board made the following motions regarding variances requested:

“1810 Hillside Road, Natalie Martinez-Polinski
The Zoning Board of Appeals voted whether (or not) to grant applicant and property owner Natalie Martinez-Polinski, of 1810 Hillside Road, a variance to Ordinance No. 963.02(a) Accessory Buildings or Uses, to allow the homeowner to construct a pole barn (2nd garage) as depicted on the drawings submitted.
Roll Call: 5 Yea, 0 Nay
Motion Carried”

“1810 Hillside Road, Natalie Martinez-Polinski
The Zoning Board of Appeals voted whether (or not) to grant applicant and property owner Natalie Martinez-Polinski, of 1810 Hillside Road, a 700 foot variance to Ordinance No. 963.02(a)(1) Accessory Buildings or Uses, to allow the homeowners to construct a 1500 square foot pole barn (2nd garage) as depicted on the drawings submitted.
Roll Call: 5 Yea, 0 Nay
Motion Carried”

“2580 Voyager Circle, Sam Randazzo
The Zoning Board of Appeals voted whether (or not) to grant applicant and property owner Sam Randazzo, 2580 Voyager Circle, a 2’ variance to Ordinance No. 997.03(d)(2) to allow the installation of 6’ high fence.
Roll Call: 5 Yea, 0 Nay
Motion Carried”
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"2580 Voyager Circle, Sam Randazzo
The Zoning Board of Appeals voted whether (or not) to grant applicant and property owner, Sam Randazzo, 2580 Voyager Circle, a variance to Ordinance No. 997.03(d)(4), to allow the installation of a 6’ high fence 12’ forward of the rear building line as depicted on the submitted drawings.
Roll Call: 4 Yea, 1 Nay

Motion Carried"

MOTION
by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Mr. Martin, to concur with the findings of the Zoning Board of Appeals of July 11, 2019, in granting variances to Natalie Martinez-Polinski, 1810 Hillside Road, in reference to the construction of a pole barn (2nd garage) toward the rear of the property, and in granting variances to Sam Randazzo, 2580 Voyager Circle, in reference to the installation of a fence forward of the rear building line, if there is no division of the question.
Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Council President Biasiotta concluded:

That’s it for this evening.

I hope to see everyone at Homedays.

Mr. Ruffo, if you can talk to me after the meeting, I want to arrange some meetings so that you can get some answers.

If anyone in the audience wants to get on Council’s distribution list so you know when meetings are, come up and see Carol after the meeting as well.
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MOTION by Mr. Biasiotta, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The July 23, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

__________________________
Anthony D. Biasiotta, President of Council

Attest: _______________________
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: ________________________

Transcribed 8/12/19
Lisa Plisko, Council Assistant
(Edited C. Sekerak)
Mr. and Mrs. Graham
6254 Gole Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131

July 10, 2019

Mayor Richard Dell’Aquila
7325 Summitview Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131

Dear Mayor Dell’Aquila,

I would like to commend the Seven Hills Service Department for their help in removing branches and logs from our yard a couple of weeks ago. These were larger dead trees that we removed so they would not be a road hazard, should they fall in a storm. After a call to the service department, my husband and I were promptly called back and we were happy to hear that they could fit us in their schedule sooner than we anticipated. The crew arrived early and proceeded to tackle the job with teamwork and efficiency. I will gladly tell people I know, and especially those who are considering moving to Seven Hills, that we have a Service Department willing to assist its residents in ways that ultimately result in the enhancement of our community.

Thank you for a job well done.

In appreciation,

Holly and Tony Graham
PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

It is declared that September, 2019 will be recognized as “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month” in the City of Seven Hills, Ohio.

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 174,650 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in the United States alone every year – that’s one man every 3.2 minutes and roughly 31,620 will die this year from the disease – which is 87 men every day; and

Whereas, in Ohio an estimated 5,340 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and an estimated 1,130 deaths will occur in 2019; and

Whereas, Men with relatives – father, brother, son – with a history of prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease. Prostate cancer is most commonly diagnosed cancer in American men and the second leading cause of cancer death behind lung and colon cancer; and

Whereas, Men who served in the military who have been exposed to chemicals and herbicides are at a higher risk for developing prostate cancer; and

Whereas, 1 in 9 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime. Overall, African American men are 1.7 times more likely to be diagnosed with—and 2.3 times more likely to die from—prostate cancer than white men; and

Whereas, education regarding prostate cancer and early detection strategies is critical to saving lives, preserving, and protecting our families. The economic and social hardship prostate cancer has on the families is huge; and

Whereas, almost 3 million men in the U.S. are living with a prostate cancer diagnosis; that number is estimated to climb to 4 million by 2024 as men in the baby boomer generation age. All men are at risk for prostate cancer and we encourage the citizens of the City of Seven Hills to increase the importance of prostate screenings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that I, RICHARD DELL’AQUILA, Mayor of the City of Seven Hills, together with the City Officials and the residents of Seven Hills do hereby designate September, 2019 as “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month” in the City of Seven Hills.

Dated this 23rd Day of August,
In the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen

HONORABLE RICHARD DELL’AQUILA,
MAYOR, CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO
Dear Ms. Kelly, RULES, ORDINANCES, and ETHICS Chair,

I understand the Rules Committee has decided not to make changes to the City Ordinances to accommodate native plant gardens and rain gardens. I respectfully disagree with this decision. There are several reasons the city should be supporting changes to the ordinances that I will enumerate.

1. Habitat loss is a major problem for native species in the US and around the world. This year the UN published findings on the drastic decrease in biodiversity worldwide. The scientific journals Nature, Science, and PLOS ONE have recently reported on the overall decline of species. PLOS ONE reported on a study that showed a 33% decline in butterflies in Ohio over the last 20 years. We need native plants to support the food webs that are essential to our native fauna. We can help compensate for the loss of habitat and increase biodiversity in our area by increasing the number and types of native plants. In Seven Hills each new development on undeveloped land reduces natural areas and decreases our native species. By allowing residents to plant and maintain native plant gardens you can partially compensate for this loss.

2. There are several problems with 521.11 dealing with maintenance of grass and weeds. First, the definition of "Grass" is defined as "any of a large family (Gramineae)", however current nomenclature has changed
the name of that family to Poaceae although most plant references will refer to both. The bigger problem is that all the ornamental and decorative grasses belong to this family and as such violate the ordinance as they all grow over 6 inches in height, flower, and produce seed. In my opinion native grasses, like Danthonia spicata, is just as beautiful as and support other native species better than alien ornamental grasses. It makes no sense to me to give an exception to ornamental grasses and not native grasses. It seems the city is selectively enforcing this ordinance. Also, many lawn grasses can flower and go to seed, a violation of 521.11 5b. In addition, the definition of “Weed” is subject to interpretation. It is described as “a plant of no value, and usually of low rank growth”. What is meant by “of no value”? If it is monetary value then many native plants can be purchased thus assigned a monetary value. There are too many ways to interpret “value” to use it in the code without further definition. The next part of the definition, “and usually of low rank” is as ambiguous. Low rank compared to what? The code would be better served to reference the State of Ohio’s list of invasive plants in this section as well as clarifying the definitions and allowing exceptions for native and ornamental grasses. As you are well aware, Seven Hills does not have the staff to inspect for every code violation. So, it is left to rely on the reporting by residents when a violation occurs. This can lead to or increase neighbor tension, use of the code to punish a neighbor for an unrelated dispute, and use by self-appointed citizen inspectors to file complaints based on their own personal agendas. By modifying 521.11 dealing with maintenance of grass and weeds you can reduce possible conflicts between neighbors and reduce the selective enforcement of this section of the code as well as support native plant gardening.

3. Native gardeners have a multiplying effect on the native bird and insect populations. Dr. Douglas Tallamy has described the interrelationship between native plants and animals through research and his writings. If you want a healthy environment for native bird populations you must have native plants. The interrelationship between native plant populations and all the fauna they support is too detailed to go into here. I urge you to review his book “Bringing Nature Home” or listen to one of his recent lectures on the subject.

4. Not every lot and parcel in Seven Hills has the same environmental quality. Older homes, like mine, have land that has not been completely denuded of the original soils and as a result have 1) a seed bank of native plants waiting for the right conditions to germinate and grow and 2) the right soil conditions for native seeds and plants introduced by other means. I have had the joy of being able to see an orchid, Rattlesnake Plantain (Goodyera sp.), growing in my front yard
because I provided the opportunity for growth, I introduced seeds of Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) onto my property and have 2 of these uncommon plants growing. I have planted a number of native plants that are successfully growing. But the native species on my property that required nothing on my part besides the opportunity to grow is amazing. Besides the native orchid I have two species of *Vaccinium* (Blueberry and its relatives), the unusual Grape fern (*Botrychium* sp), Teaberry (*Gaultheria sp*) and many more. All present because I gave them the chance to grow. My point is that some of us have a resource in our yard to support native plant populations that others lack and that resource should be supported and not suppressed. Today’s building techniques strip the soil during development and remove native soils and seed banks. By allowing homes with the potential to restore native plants and their associated fauna to Seven Hills we increase biodiversity and recreate some of the original habitat that has been destroyed.

5. Planting native gardens and rain gardens is an investment in the future. The increase in rain we have seen this year is predicted to become more normal in the future. Rain gardens can help moderate the excess flow of water into our storm sewers thus reducing the potential for flooded basements and overflow of sewage into our waterways and homes. Planting native gardens can also provide a reservoir of native plant species for future generations to enjoy and use.

6. I believe the property owner should, within reason, have control over what his property should look like. I am not advocating letting lawns grow up without regard to neighborhood or city standards. Nor am I wishing to mandate a native garden on every property. I am looking for a set of rules from the city to allow me to grow native plants and support existing natural environment without fear of violating city ordinances.

7. Finally, you have a chance to allow your citizens to be more involved in beautifying and increasing the diversity of native plants in Seven Hills through native plant gardens and become more involved in reducing excess rain runoff through rain gardens. Nothing energizes peoples involvement more than direct participation in projects they feel benefit them and their community. A citizens committee could be implemented to advise and support both native plant gardens and rain gardens. Code changes could also implement a citizens advisory committee to deal with grass and weed complaints in order to assist the land owner in meeting the new ordinance requirements before the city inspectors are involved.

I am aware some feel the native plant and rain gardens are a negative to the community. I have heard the following reasons reported:


1. Decreased property. I have done a quick internet search on major factors that affect property values. None of the searches listed landscaping or native plant gardens or rain gardens as a major factor affecting an area's property values. I did find references to how landscaping can increase the value of a home. An Appraisal Institute article references a study by Michigan State University indicating landscaping can improve the value of a home. The article goes on to list several suggestions on landscaping. Their second suggestion is "Go native" by planting native plant species. This is not to say some people will not like the native plantings in the same way people don't like a house style or house plan or a future neighbor, but native plantings are NOT a major determinant to property value.

2. The planted area will be eventually neglected. This could be a problem but it is no more of a problem than any landscaped area. Over time the area changes and without proper maintenance the area will take on a neglected appearance. This factor can be mitigated by active community involvement. But ultimately it is the property owners responsibility to maintain the landscaped area in accordance with city code. I have walked the neighborhood around my property and found that neglect occurs on normal landscaped properties. I would not expect this to be more of a problem with native and rain gardens.

3. Not "Neat and Tidy". Native plant areas, to some, do not appear to be well organized landscaped areas. And some are not, but that does not mean they are without order or reason. Natural environments support a number of plant species whose distribution and density are determined by microhabitat factors and chance. There is a beauty to the seasonal growth, distribution, and variation of plant species of these areas that many appreciate. But native plantings can also be as organized as any other landscaped area. It just depends on whether it is humans or nature doing the organization.

4. No resources for monitoring and inspection. This is true with any of the city ordinance dealing with property. But specifically, dealing with native gardens should be no different than dealing with any landscaped area. The problem can be reduced by landowners active involvement in nature organizations, and by communications from community committees and between neighbors to help the landowner understand his responsibilities.

In closing I believe the council has a responsibility to future citizens of Seven Hills to guarantee that they have an environment to live in that is not devoid of nature. You can be a leader in the growing efforts to preserve our natural heritage or be the source of its continued decline.
I ask you to think about what Seven Hills will be like in 150 years. Will the homes we live in now still be standing? Will the Seven Hills businesses and their buildings still exist? How much energy and cost would it take to keep all the structures and future structures functioning in 150 years? I believe few of the constructs of humans will be the same as they are today. But a natural area, with a minimum of human intervention, can maintain itself for centuries. I ask you to let those of us who feel a responsibility to create and maintain those natural areas through native plant gardens and rain gardens allow us to continue our work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kent Starrett

M.S. Biology

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4. Increasing Insect diversity  
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5. Butterfly decline  
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0216270

6. State of Ohio Invasive Plants  
https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/cda/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/invasive-plants


8. Doug Tallamy Speech to CNPS  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wzcz8dWyBc

9. Appraisal Institute  
https://www.appraisalinstitute.org/landscaping-a-major-contributor-to-property-values-appraisal-institute-says/