

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD December 26, 2019

This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President of Council Stacey L. Kelly at 8:22 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Motion to Amend the Agenda

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

Ordinance No. 181-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING NEW SECTION 125.022 ENTITLED ‘MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT’; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

and

Ordinance No. 182-2019 – 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 ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

and to amend the Agenda by entering Ordinance Nos. 181-2019 and 182-2019 onto the agenda as Item Nos. 9j1 and 9j2, respectively, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: Dell'Aquila, yea; Elliott, nay; Kelly, yea; Kiriazis, yea; Kulju, yea; Martin, nay; Snitzky, yea.

5 yea, 2 nay

MOTION CARRIED

READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Ms. Kelly, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 26, 2019, as printed.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

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CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 1**, of December 26, 2019, as printed, if there is no division of the question.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION by Mr. Kulju, seconded by Mr. Kiriazis, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 2**, of December 26, 2019, as printed, if there is no division of the question.
Council President Kelly stated, "I will be recusing myself."
Roll Call: Dell'Aquila, yea; Elliott, yea; Kelly (recused); Kiriazis, yea; Kulju, yea; Martin, yea; Snitzky, yea.
6 yea, 0 nay (Kelly recused) **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, January 28, 2020. Mr. Snitzky said that the minutes from the previous meeting (*December 17, 2019*) will be supplied, probably tonight, to the Clerk of Council.

Public Works

Public Works Committee Chairman Kulju stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, December 3, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Kulju said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 14, 2020.

Community Services

Community Services Committee Chairman Kiriazis stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, December 3, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Kiriazis said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 14, 2020.

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Police and Fire

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Elliott stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, December 17, 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, January 14, 2020.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Martin stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, and the minutes from that meeting are pending. Mr. Martin said that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 28, 2020.

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairman Dell'Aquila stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday evening, January 28, 2020, after 6:00 p.m.

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairperson Kelly stated that the Committee last met on Tuesday evening, December 17, 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, January 14, 2020.

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

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 164-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SECTION 1101.01, OBOA/CABO 1, 2 AND 3 FAMILY DWELLING CODE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1101, ADOPTION OF CODES, OF TITLE ONE, REGIONAL CODES, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS.

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MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 164-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 164-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Ordinance No. 164-2019.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 164-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 165-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1143.021, INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE (2006 EDITION) AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1143, EXTERIOR MINIMUM MAINTENANCE CODE, OF TITLE THREE, LOCAL BUILDING PROVISIONS, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERENCING THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Kulju, to read Ordinance No. 165-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 165-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Kulju, to pass Ordinance No. 165-2019.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 165-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 167-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1101.02, REGIONAL BUILDING CODE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1101, ADOPTION OF CODES, OF TITLE ONE, REGIONAL CODES, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERENCING THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Kiriazis, to read Ordinance No. 167-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 167-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Kiriazis, to pass Ordinance No. 167-2019.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 167-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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Ordinance No. 168-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SECTION 1101.024, OBOA/CABO 1, 2 AND 3 FAMILY DWELLING CODE, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1101, ADOPTION OF CODES, OF TITLE ONE, REGIONAL CODES, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Kulju, to read Ordinance No. 168-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 168-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Kulju, to pass Ordinance No. 168-2019.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 168-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Amended Ordinance No. 169-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH PHILIP TOMBERLAIN III FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIRECTING THE ROOKIE ATHLETIC YOUTH AND ADULT SPORT PROGRAMS AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Amended Ordinance No. 169-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 169-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 169-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 169-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Amended Ordinance No. 170-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE ETIQUETTE FACTORY BY MISS KIM, LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ETIQUETTE CLASSES AT THE RECREATION CENTER FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Amended Ordinance No. 170-2019 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

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Amended Ordinance No. 170-2019 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 170-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 170-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Martin, to amend Ordinance No. 177-2019 by adding the words '**and declaring an emergency**' to the title, and by adding the emergency clause to Section 4 of the Ordinance.

Mr. Dell'Aquila stated, "The proposed legislation refers to a contract to come into effect January 1, 2020. This will allow the contract to come into effect prior to our next meeting."

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 177-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE PART-TIME PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING VARIOUS CLASSES AT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Amended Ordinance No. 177-2019 by title only for its second and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 177-2019 was read by full title only for its second and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 177-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 177-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 178-2019 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING WITH THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS

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FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND THAT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS AGREES TO GRANT AN ANNUAL CONSERVATION APPROPRIATION TO THE SWCD NOT TO EXCEED \$5,500.00 FOR A TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD FOR SAID SERVICE. (NEORS Regional Stormwater Management will reimburse the City of Seven Hills for the \$5,500.00 through Title V of the NEORS Regional Stormwater Management Code, Section 79.)

Ordinance No. 178-2019 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 179-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$62,380.50 FOR THE PURCHASE OF NINETEEN (19) TASERS, MODEL 7, FOR USE BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT, WITH NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, SAID PURCHASE TO BE MADE FROM AXON ENTERPRISE, INC., OF SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Ordinance No. 179-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Mr. Elliott stated:

“The reason for this emergency, I would like to state, is because we received around an \$8,000.00 discount by doing this at the end of this year instead of doing it next year. It is a cost savings, and this is why we put it on emergency.”

Mr. Snitzky stated:

“I would also like to say that this piece of legislation is long overdue. We are probably the last municipality on the whole South side that does not issue tasers to our officers. Right now, if an officer confronts an aggressive perpetrator, he either has to lay hands on them or shoot them -- there is no in between. This gives them another option, not a lethal option, and an option that will probably lead to less injury to both the perpetrator and the officer. It is long overdue, and I am glad we are finally doing it. It's a lot of money, but it is well spent.”

Mr. Kulju stated:

“As per our Chief of Police, they have had better results using tasers than guns, which was a surprise to me as far as the element of fear. I feel it is well worth the investment for the Police Department.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 179-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Martin, to pass Ordinance No. 179-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 179-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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Ordinance No. 180-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 305, TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE, SECTIONS 305.01 AND 305.02, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, BY ADDING THERETO ‘NO PARKING ANYTIME’ SIGNS IN FRONT OF 2400 DORSET AND 2480 DORSET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Kiriazis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 180-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 180-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Kiriazis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 180-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 180-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 181-2019 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 125, MAYOR, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE FIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING NEW SECTION 125.022 ENTITLED ‘MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT’; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 181-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: Dell’Aquila, yea; Elliott, yea; Kelly, yea; Kiriazis, yea;
Kulju, yea; Martin, nay; Snitzky, yea.

6 yea, 1 nay

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 181-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 181-2019 as an emergency measure.

Ms. Kelly stated:

“I feel this Ordinance is important to have on. Currently what this Ordinance speaks to is the Mayor’s Executive Assistant, which is a position currently, and it expires December 31, 2019. We’ve asked that this be put on the agenda, with the twenty-four-hour notice waved, and the emergency added, so this position can be maintained within the City. The Mayor does require sufficient staff to operate properly, and this is one of those functions.”

Mayor Biasiotta stated:

“I would just like to add that staffing was all done with pre-prudence and bench marking against other cities.”

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Mayor Biasiotta continued:

“The Mayor’s Office, if this is passed, will have two full-time employees, one to handle day-to-day stuff, and one to handle phones and emails in addition to other very important functions -- public records requests, signatures and financial stuff, Mayor’s license processing, etc. -- in addition to a number of clerical and secretary people have been laid off over the last eight years. So, we are merely starting to put back the City, in a manner of which a City of 12,000 residents should operate. Our revenue is exceeding \$20 million a year. We are not quite the typical yet. I believe this is.....the funding is there and basically net, net we are adding one employee to the payroll of already 200 employees. By passing it this evening, it will ensure critical functions are carried over into the new year without disruption to our residents. I appreciate the countless support on this. Thank you.”

Mr. Martin stated:

“Obviously, I’ve opposed the Ordinance. I feel it is not necessary. I feel it is not being done in a manner that would support a doctrine of work flow. What is this person going to be doing in lieu of the fact the Chief of Staff is not yet on board. This is a rush to be able to retain an employee within the building. That would not have been considered sixty days ago. So, I feel it is inappropriate, and I don’t appreciate the reference made here. I think it is tailored to an individual and not to the position itself that the entire public could have benefitted from. So, additional funding that was not declared prior to November, was going to be necessary for staffing. So, it does not rise to a level of emergency at this point.”

Roll Call: Dell’Aquila, yea; Elliott, nay; Kelly, yea; Kiriazis, yea;
Kulju, yea; Martin, nay; Snitzky, yea.

5 yea, 2 nay

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 181-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 182-2019 – 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 ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR’S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 182-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: Dell’Aquila, yea; Elliott, yea; Kelly, yea; Kiriazis, yea;
Kulju, yea; Martin, nay; Snitzky, yea.

6 yea, 1 nay

MOTION CARRIED

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Ordinance No. 182-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Ms. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 182-2019 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Martin stated:

“Again, I disagree with the Ordinance that has been put forth. It is a situation where, again, no Chief of Staff in his or her role yet to have done an evaluation of the position, let alone the numeration. It appears to be at the high end of this newly established pay range. The inability to have explored part-time staff in lieu of creating a new full-time position with full benefits, in lieu of being able to reduce costs to the City by having gone in additional approach with part-timers to provide additional coverage within and without the office, was not explored. That’s why I oppose.”

Mayor Biasiotta stated:

“This issue has been explored by me. Information pertaining to how other cities have been set up has been shared with Council over a month in advance. This Ordinance brings us into a fraction of how other cities are run in their Mayor’s Office in City Hall.....a fraction. Further, I would like to note the salary range was taken off of the current labor agreement between the Seven Hills Clerical Union and the Union Representatives for a *Secretary Year 1* to *Secretary Year 5*. As a matter of fact, it is a little lower than that range than what we are paying our Union Clerical. So, it was bench marked, researched by the Mayor, and shared with Council. There should be two people in the office -- one to manage and handle phone calls and emails and such, i.e.....clerical. Well in advance of this evening. For these reasons, I once again urge Council to support this measure.”

Mr. Martin asked, “Is this position a Unionized position, or an at-will position?”

Council President Kelly answered, “This would be an at-will position.”

Mr. Martin asked, “Then why are we bench marking off a Union structure in order to establish the guidelines? Why not restoration of a Union employee that was laid off?”

Mayor Biasiotta responded:

“There is an exception for the Mayor’s Office in the Union Contract. Before presenting this, I met with the Union Leadership within City Hall and their Union Representative. Matters of the Mayor’s Office are considered confidential due to the information that they open. They deal with the processing of wage increases, and things like this, and legal matters. So, based upon the Union Contract, which I have in my hand -- and I can pass it down if you’d like. Exceptions are made for the Mayor’s Office. Why is it bench marked like that? I thought it would be fair that the secretary in this building would be paid consistent with the other secretaries in the building. Thank you.”

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Roll Call: Dell'Aquila, yea; Elliott, nay; Kelly, yea; Kiriazis, yea;
Kulju, yea; Martin, nay; Snitzky, yea.

5 yea, 2 nay

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 182-2019 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Resolution No. 30-2019 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2020 CUYAHOGA COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Martin, to read Resolution No. 30-2019 by title only for its first and final reading.

Mr. Dell'Aquila stated:

“The reason for the emergency provision is for the purpose of applying for the grant prior to the deadline, which is January 3, 2020.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution No. 30-2019 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Dell'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Martin, to adopt Resolution No. 30-2019 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION NO. 30-2019 IS DECLARED ADOPTED.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Biasiotta:

First of all, I would like to wish our residents that celebrate Christmas a very Merry Christmas. We all still in the season. Hope for everyone that they were safe and happy. Have a very safe New Year.

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Mayor Biasiotta continued:

From a Safety Director standpoint, I would like to inform Council that we did have a serious house fire on Christmas night on East Clearview. Firefighters from our Department and several mutual assistances were required. In addition, our Police Department helped out. The fire reignited a little later in the evening to make matters worse. The occupants were not home, thank God -- however, two pets were. Firefighters kicked down the door, and were able to get the first pet out of the house quickly, and it is in great shape. The second pet was rushed to the twenty-four-hour animal clinic. I do not have an update regarding the second pet this evening.

I wanted to have a list of the firefighters that spent their Christmas working on the home and saving the family pets. In addition, it is my understanding that a number of our Police Officers went above and beyond the call of duty yesterday evening. All my best, and all my respect to our safety forces for taking on this large task on Christmas Day. My prayers go out to the impacted family -- and that their second pet pulls through okay.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Director of Finance Herwick was not present.

Director of Law Pignatiello had no formal report.

Director of Public Service and Properties Johnson

I would just like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I would like to let everyone know that we are officially suspended for leaf pick up for this season. If you have any other leaves, I would recommend that you bag them and put them out with your trash.

Also, this week and next, the trash pick up will be delayed by one day. Just keep that in mind, that trash will be delayed one day this week and next.

Engineer Collins was not present.

Building Commissioner Houpt was not present.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Kiriazis:

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Martin:

I just want to reiterate my disappointment of being given a choice between having to reject an employee for a position. I have said this to everyone before, and I will say it again. It is a very small town, and very cronyism-like in order to make a move that was made. I do not think the public can be.....I think the public is going to be very disappointed. It was crafted, and an employee was protected by an incoming Administration, who is an at-will employee.

Mayor Biasiotta interjected, "The Rules of Decorum state to not impugn or suggest what the other person's motives were."

Mr. Martin continued:

Okay. I will just let the public understand what the suggested approach might be when you have taken an existing at-will employee whose tenure ends at the time when the Mayor's term ends. And then suggested they would be placed at another position within the organization, and it is rejected and brought back again, and now a third time, then finally passed five to two, of course, into a position. So, you can infer what you want. It is pretty clear what is going on, and it is inappropriate. It is very disappointing from my perspective to see that type of action. You want to bench mark from other communities -- well, why don't we just bench mark against Seven Hills and just start doing things in a manner that is to Seven Hills' benefit and not to individuals' benefits. Thank you.

Mr. Snitzky:

Happy New Year.

I do not like the fact that this thing had to be done on an emergency. It was sort of a drop ball. Stuff like that happens, especially in a change of Administration. At the same time, you know when you have valuable employees -- and I don't call it cronyism. You have valuable employees that are doing a decent job, you don't tend to shoe them out the door during the holidays, or anytime, because you cannot take the time to do something a little bit out of the ordinary.

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Mr. Snitzky continued:

This position is needed. The person that is being referred to has done a very good job over the years. I do not see any reason why this shouldn't be done. Yes, I agree, it should have been done a little cleaner, but I just cannot go along with this issue that it is some type of cronyism thing. I am sorry. I have seen cronyism -- and I think a lot of us up here have. This is not what you would call cronyism. It does not rise to that level.

But anyway, I want to forget all that. Everyone needs to have a happy, healthy New Year. Be very careful out there, and good luck to everybody. That's it.

Mr. Dell'Aquila:

I wish everybody a Happy New Year.

I, also, rise to reject to the use of the word cronyism. Having served eight years in the Office of the Mayor, I know very intimately what it takes to run that office for eight years. We struggled every day, every week, and every month to meet demands that come in sometimes planned -- most of the times, unplanned. We have a need there for full-time coverage, particularly in light of the fact that the Mayor is a part-time Mayor, whose salary has not been adjusted for almost fifty years -- that is 50 years.

We all have a right to earn a living and support our families. I admire anybody who is willing to set forward on behalf of their City, and that includes everybody on this dais, for minimal pay, putting yourself out there, doing important work for the advancement of our families, our businesses and our residents -- this is what it is about. I strongly object and I am offended by the use of the word cronyism. This is an important step that needed to be taken, and I fully support it.

Mr. Kulju:

I would just like to wish everybody a Happy, Healthy, and Blessed 2020.

Mr. Elliott:

I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Thank God we have great Police and Fire in the City to handle tragedies like that.

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Mayor Biasiotta added:

“I would just like to state for the record. It was mentioned from the dais that this matter was being debated here, was rejected once, and reintroduced. It hasn’t been rejected or come for a vote prior to this body. This was the first introduction of this proposal.”

Mr. Martin replied:

“That is a distinction that is very thin. As you know, it was debated, or discussed or reviewed, or suggested in other formats regarding what to do with that individual. If you want to come back and then say something that is not true then.....you are absolutely right, there was no vote taken. You are absolutely dead right about that. Do not think that this is the first time, that this is the only time, that this has been debated -- it’s not true. Justify it because you wanted an individual, don’t justify it because of debate.”

Mayor Biasiotta concluded:

“I am merely stating and correcting the record. The matter did not come to a vote, not ever been rejected for this position.”

Ms. Kelly:

Ordinance No. 181-2019 and Ordinance No. 182-2019 were discussed. It was proposed. The language was not in agreement -- not the language I should say, but the proposed writing was not agreeable -- out of order per se.

This is not something that was just recently introduced. There was discussion on this. This is a current position that has been held for many years by a certain individual with a wealth of experience and knowledge, who has made great contributions to this City, who has been very successful in programs running for the City.

The ordinance that was introduced tonight is an extenuation of this employment and the same job title. Different changes in job responsibilities. Ordinance No. 182-2019 is a reduction in the salary range. So, I stand by this. I believe in.....and this is good business for the City. These are good employees, high-quality employees, and people who make a difference. So, I stand by this.

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

Roll Call: all ye

MOTION CARRIED

The December 26, 2019 Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Stacey L. Kelly, President of Council

Attest: _____
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____

Transcribed 1/18/2020
Lisa Plisko, Council Assistant
(Edited C. Sekerak)