



City of Hudson, Ohio

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Craig A. Shubert, Mayor

William D. Wooldredge, President of Council (At-Large)

Beth A. Bigham, Council Member (Ward 4)

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., Council Member (At-Large)

Christopher W. Foster, Council Member (Ward 2)

Katherine R. Schlademan, Council Member (Ward 1)

Skylar J. Sutton, Council Member (Ward 3)

J. Daniel Williams, Council Member (At-Large)

Jane Howington, City Manager

Matthew J. Vazzana, City Solicitor

R. Todd Hunt, Special Counsel

Elizabeth A. Slagle, Clerk of Council

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall
27 East Main Street

1. Call to Order

Mayor Shubert called to order the meeting of Hudson City Council at 7:02 p.m., in accordance with the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio, O.R.C. Section 121.22.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

Staff in Attendance: Ms. Howington, City Manager; Mr. Vazzana, City Solicitor; Mrs. Slagle, Clerk of Council; Mr. Griffith, Management/Budget Director; Mr. Hannan, Community Development Director; Mr. Knoblauch, Assistant City Manager - Financial/Special Projects; Mr. Kosco, City Engineer; Mr. Leiter, Production Assistant; Mr. Sheridan, Assistant City Manager - Professional Services; and Mr. Wash, Assistant Public Works Director.

4. Approval of the Minutes

A. [20-0006](#)

Minutes of Previous Council Meetings

Brief Description: Draft minutes of previous meetings are provided for City Council's review and approval.

Attachments: [January 7, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#)
[January 11, 2020 Special Workshop Minutes - DRAFT](#)
[January 14, 2020 Council Workshop Minutes - DRAFT](#)

There being no changes, the above minutes were approved as submitted.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Paul Gorman, 5835 Nicholson Drive, commented favorably regarding the current walking trail adjacent to his property, and he asked that the City halt work on the proposed trail expansion project. While he was supportive of connectivity, he was against widening and paving the existing trail. He expressed safety concerns with removal of the trees behind his home due to stray golf balls, and he urged the City to re-evaluate the project. He submitted diagrams and a photo (attached to record copy of these minutes), and he also commented that removal of trees would disrupt the beauty of the neighborhood, and he cautioned that promoting bicycle and pedestrian traffic together would be dangerous.

Mr. Neal Peller, 5954 Nicholson Drive, agreed that connectivity is a tremendous asset to the City, but he questioned the location of the Veterans Trail Phase 3 Project, noting that the original "Spine Trail" ran along the eastern edge of Ellsworth Meadows Golf Club, which was safer and not near homes. He questioned the current proposed location behind homes, the tree removal, and the cost; and he urged Council to either move or put a halt to the project.

Mr. Don Sitts, 5905 Nicholson Drive, agreed with previous speakers concerning tree removal and width of path, and he also expressed parking concerns. He urged Council to look at trail options and consider a compromise.

Mr. Jim Love, 5850 Nicholson Drive, expressed similar concerns as previous speakers and said that the proposed trail project would make the pathway unsafe for young children and dogs. He opposed the tree removal, urged Council to reconsider, and questioned the project scope and cost.

Dr. Shannon Navy, 5811 Nicholson Drive, commented that the City's communication was lacking for the Veterans Trail Phase 3 Project, and she felt that residents' comments were not considered in the project design. She cautioned that the proposed tree removal would adversely affect drainage, the environment, and wildlife, and she suggested that funding could be better spent elsewhere. She suggested a bike lane along Nicholson Drive, and she urged Council to act in accordance with the concerns expressed by area residents.

Mrs. Joyce Ferriot, 5853 Heritage Court, said that the trail behind Nicholson Drive is very popular, but the proposed project would significantly change the character of the trail and use of nearby Cascade Park. She supported connectivity but opposed the proposed project and said further that the availability of state funding should not justify the proposed project design. She expressed safety concerns and proposed bike lanes on Barlow Road and Nicholson Drive instead, she opposed tree removal and paving of the subject trail, and she asked Council to protect the character of the neighborhood by not proceeding with the proposed project.

Mrs. Kirstin Toth, 5770 Nicholson Drive, urged Council members to act on behalf of Woods of Williamsburg residents, many of whom are opposed to the proposed trail project and would be negatively impacted by it.

Ms. Wei Li, 5825 Nicholson Drive, agreed with neighbors, spoke of the importance of preserving the privacy and character of the neighborhood, and asked Council to consider the costs versus benefits of proceeding with the proposed trail project.

Mrs. Kathyne Ellison, 5791 Nicholson Drive, opposed the proposed trail project and expressed safety concerns, especially for children. She thanked Council for listening.

Mr. Nick Tucci, 5912 Nicholson Drive, spoke in support of his neighbors, urging Council to protect the

integrity of the ecosystem. He said that sometimes the best projects are the one you don't do..

Mayor Shubert asked for staff input. Ms. Howington said that this is not a forum at which staff should debate public comment. She respectfully asked that Council provide direction concerning the subject project, and staff will report back..

Mr. Greg Janik, 36 Thirty Acres, suggested that a pervious trail be considered for park trails. He also spoke in opposition to Downtown Phase II Project, spraying chemicals on public greens, and deer hunting. He also urged Council to consider use of in-house staff instead of contracted workers for maintenance of the greens and to be better stewards of the environment. He commented that term limits should be considered in the City's Charter. Finally, he urged that Council consider a senior citizen center, additional park land, and a recycling drop-off center in downtown. He also expressed opposition to the City's broadband operations.

Ms. Lydia Braunstein, 5845 Nicholson Drive, agreed with neighbors and expressed frustration about the proposed trail project. She acknowledged that state funding requires accessibility, which can considerably affect a project's scope. She expressed safety concerns, and she urged Council to consider the consequences of development and the management of problems that are likely to arise, as well as the impact of tree removal on the abutting neighbors.

Ms. Howington respectfully requested that staff be permitted to provide a report, addressing the stated concerns and providing options, effectively delaying trail construction and providing for Council discussion at a future meeting. Mr. DeSaussure expressed support.

Mr. Paul Gorman, said that area residents are not against the trail project but would like to have input.

In response to earlier resident comments, Mr. DeSaussure stated that there are other paved paths in the City. He also noted that the original plan for the Spine Trail was changed due to objections by the railroad. He asked that residents keep an open mind about a multi-purpose trail. Mr. Wooldredge agreed with City Manager's proposal to delay the project, suggesting that discussion be held at the next workshop. Discussion followed concerning scheduling citizen input sessions.

Mr. Michael Walker, 101 Bard Drive, commented regarding Veterans Way Park and spoke of the importance of history, service, and education of citizenry. He urged the City to consider options for recognizing veterans within the park to show respect for those who have served. He also asked for the City to consider a veterans advisory committee.

Mayor Shubert suggested Council act on a motion for a moratorium on the cutting of trees and the construction of this trail until such time as there has been citizen input and a compromise resolution has been put in place.

Mrs. Bigham and Ms. Schlademan thanked residents for their comments. Mr. Foster agreed with the concerns of area residents and said that Council will further consider the proposed project. Dr. Williams was sympathetic to resident concerns, promising to consider alternatives.

Dr. Williams moved, and Mr. DeSaussure seconded, that the City postpone further discussion until the next Council meeting to allow for citizen and staff feedback, thus holding off cutting of trees this week, relative to the Veterans Trail Phase 3 Project.

Aye: 7 - Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

6. Correspondence and Council Comments

Mr. Foster spoke regarding Phase III and IV of the Veterans Trail Project and said that he will be visiting affected citizens. He commented concerning the use of emergency clauses in legislation and the use of executive sessions, noting that this Council will use these only as needed. He also acknowledged the need to recognize veterans.

Mr. DeSaussure acknowledged that Hudson has a new Council and agreed that Council should revisit the Veterans Trail Project. He noted that there was much citizen input regarding the Connectivity Plan. Addressing Mr. Janik's previous comments, he said that City Council considered deer hunting for at least two years and had much citizen input. He said that we are killing fewer deer bow hunting than we were historically with our cars prior to implementation of the deer hunting program.

Mr. Sutton was strongly in favor of revisiting the Connectivity Plan, noting that Ward 3 has no connectivity. He said that the City should focus on bringing connectivity to areas that don't have it.

Addressing Mr. Janik's previous comments, Dr. Williams said that the City has a television station at the High School, which is alive and well. As Council's Liaison to the Community Television Advisory Committee, he said that he is very proud of HCTV.

7. Report of Manager

Addressing Mr. Janik's earlier comments, Ms. Howington said that the City uses 100% organic fertilizers on the greens, and the City has analysed the cost of contract versus staffing and has determined that it is more cost-effective to use contractors to maintain the greens.

8. Discussion Item

- A. [20-0007](#) **Departmental Overview: Finance and Human Resources**
Brief Description: This departmental overview provides an opportunity for elected officials to review City operations.

Attachments: [Finance and Human Resources Organizational Chart](#)

Mr. Knoblauch and Mr. Griffith provided an overview of the Finance and Human Resource Departments. Mr. Griffith reviewed the departmental organizational charts, shared that the City's focus on backup training has enabled the Finance Department to downsize by one position, and reported on a transition to new software in Utility Billing, noting that other current projects include review of human resources software solutions and contracting with a firm for e-checks and checks. Mr. Knoblauch reviewed the monthly financial report contents, the City's AAA credit rating and clean audits, the services of the Regional Income Tax Agency, and debt ratios. He noted that some long-term projects will be paid off within the next 5 years, and he reviewed 5-Year Plan projections, spoke of the fleet replacement program, and reported a 1.28% interest rate on the notes passed in December 2019, the lowest rate of any community in the state.

This matter was presented and discussed.

9. Appointments

- A. [19-0134](#) A motion that the 2020 Charter Review Commission consist of nine (9) members.
Brief Description: See attached proposal, submitted by Mrs. Bigham.
Attachments: [Proposed Motions Concerning Selection of Charter Review Commission](#)

Ms. Bigham recalled Motion No. 19-0134, with no objection from Council, and Mayor Shubert declared the motion withdrawn.

B. Appointment of 2020 Charter Review Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Wooldredge, seconded by Mr. Foster, to appoint the following residents to serve on the 2020 Charter Review Commission: Lisa Radigan, Brett Shriver, Robert Kagler, Andrew Duff, Kerri Keller, Sherif Mansour, David Schweighofer, Melissa Jones, and Allen Wass. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

Abstain: 1 - Mrs. Bigham

10. Suspension of the Rules for the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Dr. Williams, to suspend the rule requiring three readings to allow for passage of the Consent Agenda, except for Resolution No. 20-5. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams, Mr. Wooldredge, Mrs. Bigham and Mr. DeSaussure

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Wooldredge, seconded by Mr. DeSaussure, to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Resolution No. 20-5. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams, Mr. Wooldredge, Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure and Mr. Foster

- A. [20-0005](#) A Motion to Acknowledge the Timely Receipt of the December 2019 Monthly Financial Report
Brief Description: Financial summaries are provided each month for Council's review.
Attachments: [December 2019 Financial Report](#)

Motion No. 20-0005 was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- B.** [20-4](#) **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
- Brief Description:*** This Ordinance authorizes revisions to Hudson’s Codified Ordinances to incorporate various ordinances and resolutions of a general and permanent nature that have been passed by Council since the date of the last updating through October 15, 2019, and to include changes reflecting current State law through July 30, 2019.
- Attachments:*** [Ordinance No. 20-4](#)

Ordinance No. 20-4 was approved on the Consent Agenda.

- D.** [20-6](#) **A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE CITY MANAGER’S DESIGNEE TO THE HUDSON ROTARY FOUNDATION FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF HUDSON COMMUNITY TELEVISION.**
- Brief Description:*** The Hudson Rotary Foundation facilitates charitable & community projects of The Rotary Club of Hudson. Hudson Community Television is seeking \$1,606.50 for the purchase of a drone. No match is required.
- Attachments:*** [Resolution No. 20-6](#)

Resolution No. 20-6 was approved on the Consent Agenda.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- C.** [20-5](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GRINDLINE SKATEPARKS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SKATEPARK AT VETERANS WAY PARK.**
- Brief Description:*** After determining that the existing above ground wooden skatepark features were not salvageable at Veterans Way Park, the Park Board decided to invest in a new all concrete and steel skatepark. A new skatepark was designed with resident and skater input from multiple public meetings. The current design encompasses all those ideas.
- Attachments:*** [Bid Tabulation](#)
 [Plans](#)
 [Resolution No. 20-5](#)

Mr. Sutton requested that Resolution No. 20-5 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Mr. Wooldredge, to suspend the rule requiring three readings to allow for passage of Resolution No. 20-5. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams, Mr. Wooldredge, Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster and Ms. Schlademan

Mr. Sutton expressed opposition to expansion of the Skateboard Park. Discussion followed, with Mr. Foster, Mrs. Bigham, and Mayor Shubert also opposing; and Mr. Wooldredge, Mr. DeSaussure, Dr. Williams, and Ms. Schlademan expressing support.

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Mr. Wooldredge, to pass Resolution No. 20-5. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Dr. Williams, Mr. Wooldredge, Mr. DeSaussure and Ms. Schlademan

Nay: 3 - Mrs. Bigham, Mr. Foster and Mr. Sutton

11. Legislation

- A. [20-7](#) **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 19-153, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF HUDSON DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, BY MAKING ADDITIONAL AND/OR AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS.**

Brief Description: This Ordinance amends the budget for 2020 by adding \$1,150,000 in appropriations for the City's concrete overlay program. The source of the funding is better than projected General Fund 2019 carryover balance.

Attachments: [Ordinance No. 20-7](#)

Mayor Shubert read the title of Ordinance No. 20-7, which constituted its first reading.

- B. [20-8](#) **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH PREMIER COMMERCIAL REALTY, LLC, FOR THE SALE OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT WEST EXECUTIVE PARKWAY (PARCEL NUMBER: 32-03767) IN THE CITY OF HUDSON, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (As Amended 1-21-2020)**

Brief Description: This resolution authorizes the sale of approximately 45 acres of land located at Executive Parkway and Boston Mills Road that was purchased by the City through the Summit County Land Bank. The City purchased the land in 2018 for \$70,800 and is selling it for \$1,100,000.

Attachments: [Resolution No. 20-8 \(As Amended 1-21-2020\)](#)

Mayor Shubert read the title of Resolution No. 20-8, which constituted its first reading.

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Mr. Wooldredge, to suspend the rule requiring three readings to allow for passage of Resolution No. 20-8. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mr. Wooldredge, Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton and Dr. Williams

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Mr. Wooldredge, to pass Resolution No. 20-8.

A subsidiary motion was made by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Wooldredge, to amend Resolution No. 20-8 by adding the following recital: WHEREAS, this Council intends to designate the funds derived from the sale of the Property for future public road improvement projects within the City of Hudson as later appropriated by Council. The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mrs. Bigham, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

Mr. DeSaussure explained that the City obtained this parcel through a County program, and the sale is very favorable for the City. Discussion followed regarding the property's value, developable land due to wetlands, and fair price.

A main motion to pass Resolution No. 20-8, as amended, carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Foster, Ms. Schlademan, Mr. Sutton, Dr. Williams, Mr. Wooldredge and Mrs. Bigham

12. Executive Session

None.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Shubert adjourned the Council meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Craig A. Shubert, Mayor

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council

Upon approval by City Council, this official written summary of the meeting minutes shall become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio and video recording, excluding executive sessions, in accordance with Codified Ordinances, Section 220.03(d), Rules.