

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 8, 2021

### MINUTES

The Regular Council Meeting of the Village of Moreland Hills was called to order by Mayor Fritz at 7:01pm, in the Village Council Chambers.

PRESENT AT ROLL CALL: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

ABSENT: Mr. Emerman

Also Present: William Hanna, Law Director, Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council; Bill Janke, Councilman-Elect; Tom Fish, Councilman-Elect; Courtney Guzy, Hiram House Camp Director

Mayor Fritz asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to last month's meeting minutes. Mr. Richman stated that on page 14, second paragraph, add the phrase "and two members for a one-year term" after "two members for two-year terms." Mr. Richman stated that "Ms. Sturgis" needed to be removed on one of the roll call votes, as she was not at that meeting. Mr. Stanard stated that under BZA and Planning Commission Reports, it should be changed to "Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart gave a report..." and not his name. Mr. Spencer stated that on the bottom of page 6, last paragraph the word should be "advance" not "advanced." At the top of page 13, add "be" after "would" and change "standardized" to "standardize."

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 10, 2021, as amended.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED

### **Resident Comments**

There were no residents present wishing to speak.

### **Reports from the Mayor and Other Municipal Officials**

Mayor Fritz informed Council of police presence at a home today through this evening, on

Hiram Trail. If anyone is asked about it, they are to say that it is under investigation and there is no immediate threat or violent acts involved.

He reported that he had the meeting with Ms. Guzy and Dr. Campbell regarding the Hiram Camp access drive; Mr. Spencer and Mr. Richman were also in attendance. This meeting came about because of a petition he received from residents on Hiram Trail who are concerned about increased bus traffic and the use of an access drive by Orange Schools. They had a very productive conversation at the meeting and discussed how to define various ingress and egress issues and both Ms. Guzy and Dr. Campbell expressed an interest to work with us to help mitigate the residents' concerns. There will be something more formalized coming before the Planning Commission in the form of a slight alteration of the Conditional Use Certificate, in March. The Police Department will continue to monitor the situation and we will look at the data they present and see if there are any other suggestions that we can present to Ms. Guzy to take into consideration when she makes a request for the amended Conditional Use Certificate.

Mayor Fritz stated that after some discussion and looking at legal ramifications associated with it, and taking the guidance of our Law Director, he has made the administrative decision that new hires will need to be vaccinated. As you know, he has been hesitant on mandating it for current employees. We are currently at 70% of employees who are vaccinated and are still using protocols that are stricter than those of the CDC. If someone is vaccinated and has an exposure for 15 minutes, the CDC now says they do not have to quarantine, but we are still requiring it here. Currently, if an employee has been exposed, it is reported to a supervisor and falls under a protocol that requires a 7/10 quarantine time (7 days if they get a PCR test within 48 hours of the end of the 7 days, or 10 days without a test, but asymptomatic 24 hours before the end of that time frame). He did decide that moving forward the mandate for new hires is a little easier and less fraught with legal issues for the Village.

They are currently interviewing for a position for the Service Department and a Police Officer. Service lost their newest employee to Kirtland for better pay. They are now down to 10 employees, including Mr. DeWater. The Police Department has 18 officers, including three part-timers. Laura Park will be leaving at the end of January and last month Council passed an ordinance that will allow us to hire someone to take her place now, who will be required to be vaccinated. Mayor Fritz told Council that they can reach out to him with any questions or concerns related to that decision.

The three administrative contracts have been discussed and submitted to Mr. Shah for inclusion

into our budget; the three contracts are for Walter|Haverfield (Bill Hanna and Todd Hunt), Santo Incorvaia, and Chagrin Valley Engineering (Jeff Filarski). Legislation for those contracts will be on the agenda for the Organizational Meeting in January.

Mayor Fritz took this time to thank everyone for being supportive during this difficult time for him and his family. He greatly appreciates it.

He stated that he has some updated numbers for the COVID dashboard. There are a total of three members of Service who have had COVID; one has it currently. There are two newly defined exposures that are requiring quarantine in the Police Department.

Mayor Fritz stated that this would be the last Council meeting for Councilman Stanard and Councilwoman Sturgis.

At this time, he presented Mr. Stanard with a proclamation. He stated that Mr. Stanard has given a lot of hard work to this Village. Mr. Standard took a dedication and steadfast approach to the BZA/Planning Commission and he has improved the process and increased its efficiency, always with an heir of decorum and civility. It is a model that we need to emulate moving forward with anyone that takes that chair. He will miss it as he has depended on him heavily and stated that Mr. Stanard has been a guiding force to him, as Mayor, and in his capacity as a member of the BZA/Planning Commissioner. Mayor Fritz stated that he would have been lost without Mr. Stanard's leadership. He stated that he has been an outstanding member to work with in all facets of his tenure on Council and thanked him for his many years of service.

At this time, Mayor Fritz presented Ms. Sturgis with a proclamation. He stated that one of the things he has enjoyed about working with Ms. Sturgis for so many years is that she brings a different perspective on certain issues. He stated that he also likes how Ms. Sturgis often times has made him take pause and question his application and approach to certain things. At the beginning of COVID, Ms. Sturgis was someone who was asking about messaging and how we could improve that. It was a difficult time for everyone but Ms. Sturgis had some great suggestions, from an HR standpoint, which he took to heart and they were a great help. Out of all the things on this proclamation, the thing he is most proud of, as Ms. Sturgis should be too, is the last line, which reads, "Councilwoman Sturgis's attention to equality and concern for all will be a long-standing legacy for generations to follow." What he likes so much about that line is that it is sincere and accurate because for generations to follow in Moreland Hills, that day that she called him after the George Floyd verdict asking what we could do to improve Moreland Hills in terms

of inclusion and messaging and overall application of acknowledging different ethnicities, and all things inclusion, is going to be such an advancement for this Village and it has Ms. Sturgis' name on it, and it will always have her name on it. Mayor Fritz thanked Ms. Sturgis for all her dedication to this Village and her wonderful efforts leading to what is the second reading of the Inclusion Commission legislation tonight. It would not have been discussed if Ms. Sturgis had not taken the reins and made it happen. He thanked her for all that she has done and congratulated her on all her years of service.

Mr. Richman stated that it has been an honor and privilege to work with Ms. Sturgis and Mr. Stanard. He has seen that their dedication, compassion and commitment to this Council, administration, and the Village and its residents was always present and always above and beyond the norm. They have not only set a fine example for those they have served with but will absolutely set an example of how to become an effective and caring Council person for many years to come.

At this time, Mr. Richman presented Ms. Sturgis and Mr. Stanard with a Certificate of Meritorious Service for Distinguished and Outstanding Achievement in the performance of their duties.

Mayor Fritz stated that they could talk at length about some funny issues that came up over their tenure, as well as some challenging and difficult times. They have been through quite a lot together over the years. For those filling their shoes, they have some big shoes to fill. The message overwhelmingly has been civility and respect with the approach between administration and Council, and we know that Mr. Fish and Mr. Janke are going to move forward with that same light. He stated that they are eager to have them but sad for Mr. Stanard and Ms. Sturgis to leave.

There were no reports from other municipal officials as no Department Heads were present.

### **Roads & Safety Committee**

The Roads and Safety Committee met on November 30, 2021 and Mr. Spencer gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 1, 2022.

### **Facilities Committee**

The Facilities Committee met on November 30, 2021. Mr. Emerman was not present at the Council meeting and Ms. Sturgis did not attend the Facilities Committee meeting, therefore no report was given. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 1, 2022.

**Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission met on December 6, 2021. They met a 5:00pm for a Special Meeting before the regular meeting to discuss the status of how the commission is doing and what they can be doing better. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached for both the special and regular meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 7, 2022.

**BZA**

The Board of Zoning Appeals met on December 6, 2021, immediately after the Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 7, 2022.

**Parks Commission**

The Parks Commission met on November 16, 2021. Mr. Stanard gave a report based on the meeting minutes, which are attached. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 18, 2022.

**APPROVAL OF BONDS, CONTRACTS, PLATS, ETC.**

**Hiram House Camp**

33775 Hiram Trail

Conditional Use Certificate –

Construction of a new Aquatic Center in U-4

Residential Open Space Conservation District

(Schedule 1177.07 and Schedule 1153.07(e)(3)(A))

Mr. Stanard stated that this request has generated a lot of interest from the residents along Hiram Trail. Because of that, he feels it is vital that he goes through the process. The existing pool is no good anymore and the site location is not good either because the same issues happening with the existing pool will happen with the new one in terms of environmental location; it is in a low area that gets flooded, soils are not stable, and it is not easy for emergency vehicles to access. They looked at four different sites and the new proposed location is along Hiram Trail, where an existing ball field currently is with a cut through access drive with a gate.

In the process of this request, first the Building Commissioner had to check the location and see how that fits into our code correctly, which he did a tremendous job with. Because it is in a U-4

Residential Open Space Conservation District, Section 1153 speaks to Permitted Uses, and the listed use that the camp falls under is Community Facilities/Institutions/Other. There is also a section called Recreational Space and Associated Facilities, which is what this aquatic center would be, and it is a permitted use, conditionally per the Code. A Conditional Use triggers two things: under Section 1129 Certificates, specifically Section 1129.07 Conditional Use Certificates. This application satisfies those conditions; and Chapter 1177 Conditional Use Regulations, specifically Section 1177.03 General Criteria, Section 1177.05 Specific Conditions, Section 1177.07 provides for lot size and setback requirements, and Section 1177.11 adds Supplemental Regulations. On top of all those conditions being met, the Planning Commission added, with input from all the neighbors who were present at the meeting, four more conditions which are:

- No public use – camp members and visitors only
- Landscaping plan required that will include additional buffering on Hiram Trail and the south side of the facility to better visibility and noise, which has to be approved by the Planning Commission
- Pool hours would be limited from 9am-5pm and 7pm-9pm daily
- Lights out at 9pm (not including security lighting)

Mr. Stanard stated that this was a difficult decision for some of the Planning Commission members because there was a room full of residents but what the commission was asking to do is centered on achieving a balance between the residents that do not want it and the property rights of the owner. In Section 1177.07 Purpose, it lays out why we have Conditional Uses in the first place and it is because if something generally fits in the zoning district, but it is classified because you need to adequately monitor a proposal to ensure that it does fit throughout time. He stated that he felt that this was really important in terms of what the Planning Commission's difficulty was; Section 1177.01 Purpose, "these regulations are intended to ensure that Conditional Uses are reviewed in a reasonable and equitable manner, while safeguarding the property rights of all individuals, and the health, safety and general welfare of the community." The driving issue to make that decision was safety, first and foremost. The location of the new pool would be close to Hiram Trail allowing emergency vehicles to get in quickly. The existing pool has no considerations for handicap accessibility, but the new one will. Another factor to be considered was that this facility would only be used 10 weeks out of the year. If this location was not chosen, another location would be chosen that would require trees to be cut down, which is something no one wants. Another item that weighed heavily is that this is a lateral move since the camp already has a pool, they are just changing locations.

The applicant demonstrated that they were willing to make changes based on the Planning Commission requirements and from requests from the neighbors in attendance. They have moved the structure a little further away, are willing to add buffering/trees, etc. It goes a long way that the applicant worked with the Planning Commission. The location they are proposing is already being used by children who yelling and screaming so there is no difference there. Those things all coming together helped the applicant being successful in their request from the Planning Commission.

Mr. Stanard went over the time line of the Planning Commission; the applicant came before them for a preliminary discussion in July; they presented their requested at the November meeting, and in December came before them again with the requested changes, and are now in front of Council because the Planning Commission made the recommendation for approval to Council. The Planning Commission was to determine whether it is appropriate and in conformance with the review criteria and if so, they shall recommend approval to the Village Council, which is what they did.

Mr. Spencer stated that Mr. Stanard did a thorough job in his explanation and stated that he wanted to share a few points with the residents that he thought would be here tonight. He stated that on November 1, he received a thoughtful email from a resident on that street, which raised many concerns that have been discussed (aesthetics, light, noise and preservation). He stated that he responded to that email informing that resident that Council would investigate those issues, and address and understand those issues before they vote. After Monday's Planning Commission meeting he learned much more information so his conclusion is with the additional conditions that the Planning Commission is imposing, they have addressed all the issues that he had. As far as preservation, he has heard Mayor Fritz and all Council members state that preserving the semi-rural character of this Village is of the utmost importance to them and most of the residents. Hiram House Camp is a very important contributor to that goal. It is a gem in our community, having 172 acres of property, the majority of which is forested land. That is a key element to preserving that semi-rural character of this Village, of SOM Center Road and Hiram Trail. Mr. Spencer stated that to him, preserving the camp and ensuring that it stays here for the long run, is in best interest of all of our residents including those on Hiram Trail.

Mr. Spencer stated that there are other uses for U-4 and he believes that this one will serve our goals much better now and in the future, more than these other potential uses of a U-4 District. He stated that a pool is what makes a camp a real summer camp; how can a summer camp exist without a safe and modern pool. It is essential to the purpose of the camp and his vote tonight is going to

be in support of this Conditional Use Certificate.

Mr. Richman stated that he was impressed with the way the members of the Planning Commission looked at each of those concerns and discussed them and brought the residents comments and concerns to the discussion. The Planning Commission's evaluation of all of the factors was thorough and makes Council's job easier. He was equally impressed with what Hiram House Camp has done in order to continue to be an excellent neighbor and steward of their land as well as the programming at their camp. They have always been one of the few, before the words diversity and inclusion were used, who have been practicing it which will hopefully spread out to others and achieve what we all want to happen. He stated that his kids and Mr. Spencer's kids attended camp there, and they have carried those values with them to this day and have carried them out into the world. Mr. Richman stated that he is wholeheartedly behind approving this project. Council has the ability to impose more conditions, however, he does not see more that are needed.

Mayor Fritz stated that he is not a voting member of Council but was as part of the Planning Commission. There are multiple neighbors involved in this issue, and Hiram House Camp is one of them. They have been a long-time productive member of the community and their willingness to work with us on this issue shows that as well. He is very confident that questions that were raised by the residents were legitimate and deserved some scrutiny. Hiram House Camp could have been defensive and not listened to those concerns, but instead they were civil and had the desire to work to mitigate some of those concerns. Ultimately, what was borne out of the process were some changes that address the legitimate concerns of the residents. He thanked everyone for their civil discourse and thanked Ms. Guzy for her willingness to work with the Village.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stated that she echoes what everyone else had said. The process was good and she feels that the Planning Commission did their due diligence for both members of the community and stated that she is in favor of the Conditional Use.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Spencer to approve the Conditional Use Certificate for Hiram House Camp located at 33775 Hiram Trail, to construct and operate an aquatic facility in the location indicated as site #2 on the supplied application materials (preferred site location along Hiram Trail and next to the emergency access drive) if they satisfy all requirements stated in Code Section 1177.11(b) and the following additional conditions: 1) There shall be no public use of the facility; 2) A landscaping plan will be required that would include more robust and additional buffering at Hiram Trail and at the south side of the facility, to be evaluated and

approved by the Planning Commission; (3) The hours of the pool operation will be limited to 9 am-5 pm and 7 pm - 9 pm; 4) The facility lighting will be turned off at 9 pm.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Courtney Guzy thanked Council and stated that she appreciated the great words, as it means a lot to her. Mayor Fritz thanked her for taking the time to look into the residents' concerns and make some changes.

Ms. Guzy left the meeting at 8:03pm

**Ordinance 2021-59 - Introduced by Mr. Stanard**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 153.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, "PAID HOLIDAYS," TO MODIFY THE SCHEDULE OF PAID HOLIDAYS WHEN CHRISTMAS DAY FALLS ON SATURDAY OR MONDAY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO MODIFY THAT SCHEDULE WHEN NEW YEAR'S DAY FALLS ON SATURDAY.

Mr. Stanard stated that this ordinance is an effort to give the employees the appropriate amount of holidays when it becomes convoluted when holidays fall on the weekend. This ordinance will give the Mayor the ability to sort it out and make it work for the Village.

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to place Ordinance 2021-59 on Second Reading.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stepped away from the meeting at 8:09pm.

**Ordinance 2021-60 (As Amended) - Introduced by Ms. Sturgis**

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 161, "DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION," OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS TO ESTABLISH THE MORELAND HILLS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Sturgis stated Council had a great discussion around this ordinance. There is a lot to be said about where we have been in the past, where we are presently and not knowing where we will be in the future. This commission is aligned to give residents an active voice and participation in ensuring that we welcome individuals of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, cultural beliefs and experiences so that they can continue to make recommendations to Council. When things are presented in a society where we do not know what the future will look like, they will have an active voice to work in partnership with Council. She stated that one of the things she has appreciated about living in this Village is that when it was founded over 90 years ago, it was founded in representation of individuals who actively had a voice and said what they wanted in their community. It was set out in a way that we are following. She wants to make sure that this commission continues to lead by example. As a black woman who has lived here since 2004, she is proud to say that she has always felt welcomed and wants others to feel that way as well. When reading over the document, Ms. Sturgis stated that she could not help but remember a quote she read when she was younger, from Martin Luther King who said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." She thinks this commission will help us not have silence.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart returned to the meeting at 8:12pm

Ms. Sturgis made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to place Ordinance 2021-60 on Second Reading.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-64 - Introduced by Mr. Richman**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 WITH TERRACE CONSTRUCTION CO. FOR THE 2021 DRAINAGE PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richman stated that this change order would close out this program for a net decrease amount of \$1,836.00

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-64.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2021-64.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-65 - Introduced by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH C. CRUMP, INC., FOR THE VILLAGE COMPLEX STREAM EROSION CONTROL PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stated that four bids were received ranging from \$49,950.00 to \$55,900.00. This ordinance will authorize the Mayor to award the contract to the lowest bidder (\$49,500.00), C. Crump, Inc., which was recommended by the Village Engineer.

Mr. Kozminski-VanderHart made a motion seconded by Mr. Spencer to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-65.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2021-65.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-66 - Introduced by Ms. Sturgis**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNITED SURVEY, INC. FOR THE 2021 SEWER REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Sturgis stated that bids were received on November 30 ranging from \$120,730.00 to \$190,890.50. This ordinance will allow the Mayor to enter into a contract with the lowest bidder (\$120,730.00) United Survey, Inc., which was recommended by the Village Engineer.

Ms. Sturgis made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-66.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Sturgis made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart for passage of Ordinance 2021-66.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-67 - Introduced by Mr. Richman**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS OF SHERRI ARRIETTA AS CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR A TERM BEGINNING AT THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE JANUARY 2022 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND ENDING AT THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE JANUARY 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richman stated that he is happy to introduce this ordinance to renew the appointment of Mrs. Arrietta as the Council Clerk. Clerk of Council does not accurately describe her position,

unofficially it should be changed to “amazing Clerk of Council and assistant to whatever Council needs whenever they need it, outstanding assistant to the Mayor, and president of doing anything else needed for and to ensure the Village and its residents have anything they need whenever they need it.” He stated that Mrs. Arrietta is so much more than just the Clerk of Council so when he thinks of those three words, he also thinks of the other duties listed above. He stated that Mrs. Arrietta’s demeanor, work product, compassion, and dedication to this Village is unsurpassed. He has been on Council for 18 years, and no other Clerk of Council can come near what she does for Council, and he appreciates all she does.

Mayor Fritz stated that he would add that Mrs. Arrietta is valued, appreciated, and her work is outstanding. Most importantly, she makes it fun to come to work. Mrs. Arrietta thanked Mr. Richman for the kind words, as well as Mayor Fritz and all of Council.

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-67.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Mr. Spencer for passage of Ordinance 2021-67.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-68 - Introduced by Mr. Spencer**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERRING ITEMS ALREADY APPROPRIATED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Spencer stated that this transfer ordinance has a few more transfers than normal because being that it is the end of the year, we are trying to settle up the funds. He stated that he would highlight a few of the larger ones. Under Amendments to Current Appropriations, \$300,000.00 will be added to the Village Reserves. We can add a maximum of 5% of the previous year’s revenue to the reserves. This will bring the total to 2.5 million in our General Fund reserves, which is

outstanding and is a reflection of the good management of the Village's finances. Another large amendment is for the WWTP Capital for \$130,000.00; this will support the money for Ordinance 2021-66.

Under Return of Advances, there was an advance from the General Fund to the Sewer Maintenance Fund for \$20,000.00 and to the Water Maintenance Fund for \$5,000.00. This money is advanced to these funds when the money is not there, but will be reimbursed later. There were a few transfers from the General Fund to other funds to ensure that our revenues will be in line with our expenditures; one being \$150,000.00 to the Street Construction and Maintenance Fund. Another transfer was from the Police and Fire Levy to the Equipment Replacement Fund for \$40,000.00, which saves for vehicle purchases in the future. Lastly, there was an advance from the General Fund to the House on the Hill fund for \$10,000.00, which will eventually be paid back with grant funds. Mayor Fritz informed Council that the Village applied for an extension for that grant. Typically, when you apply for an extension for a Clean Ohio grant, we would get points marked off, but they are waiving all penalties due to COVID.

Mr. Spencer made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-68.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Spencer made a motion seconded by Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart for passage of Ordinance 2021-68.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-69 - Introduced by Mr. Spencer**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2022 FOR THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Spencer stated that every year, Council passes a budget in March. Without this ordinance, our

Treasurer is not permitted to spend any money on January 1, therefore this acts as a temporary placeholder until our regular budget is passed.

Mr. Spencer made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-69.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Spencer made a motion seconded by Mr. Stanard for passage of Ordinance 2021-69.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

**Ordinance 2021-70 - Introduced by Mr. Spencer**

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF VARIOUS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORELAND HILLS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Spencer stated that the Mayor mentioned previously that adjustments needed to be made to certain positions, particularly in the Service Department because compensation levels were not competitive and are hindering our ability to hire proper staff. There are only seven positions that are changing in this ordinance, and they are focused on the Service Department. Most of the high end of the ranges were moved to provide flexibility.

Mayor Fritz stated that he worked with Mr. DeWater on making changes to these numbers. He stated that as they know, he has concerns about lateral pirating maneuvers from other municipalities and the new dynamic of employment in light of COVID. Mr. Shah was a good guiding force to have a more realistic approach. This will help the Village to be more competitive and postures us better to hire better skilled and experienced employees.

Mr. Spencer made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to suspend the rules for Ordinance 2021-70.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis  
NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Spencer made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis for passage of Ordinance 2021-70.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis  
NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED

### **Employee Raises**

Mayor Fritz stated that Council will need to make a motion regarding pay raises for employees for 2022. There was a discussion at Committee of the Whole about it and he is open to discussion about it tonight.

Mr. Richman asked for consensus from Council on a percentage for the raise.

Mr. Spencer stated that there was discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding employees being the most important things we have in the Village, and we need to be on par with other communities, if not better. He is agreement with 2.5% but would prefer a higher number within the bounds of our ability to pay and stated that he is willing to support 3% as well.

Mr. Richman stated that Mr. Shah's email stated that he would be comfortable with 2.5%, and asked if Mr. Shah would be uncomfortable with something higher. Mayor Fritz stated that when Mr. Shah is giving guidance, if he does have that concern, he would say it. Mr. Shah is recommending 2.5%, but if this body chooses to go a little higher, he feels that Mr. Shah would be okay with that.

Mr. Richman stated that one of the concerns from October last year to this year, was a 6.2% increase in CPI (Consumer Price Index) and right now, the overall private sector average raise is 3.9%. So, factoring that in with everything they have discussed, his thought is that they should look at 3% as well as 2.5% and even perhaps consider in an amount in between which would be 2.75%. He asked Council members to pick one of those three choices.

Mr. Spencer stated he would be in favor of 3%.

Mr. Stanard said 3% for the same reasons he stated at Committee of the Whole; current job market, COVID, more cash now than we will ever have from the Government, and our best investment is in our personnel.

Mr. Richman stated that he is in favor of 3%.

Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart stated that she missed the discussion last week, but spoke with Mayor Fritz about it. She stated that she puts a lot of stock in what Mr. Shah says, but Council has made a lot of good points which she agrees with. She stated that she is going to go with 2.75% because she feels that Mr. Shah knows the budget better but she would like to strike a balance.

Ms. Sturgis stated that she also was not part of the discussion last week but as a professional, she is going to support 3%. Her reasons are that the CPI is the highest we have seen in a while so we will have to assume that cost to continue to employee people and to continue to keep good talent. She stated that she wished she could give more.

Mayor Fritz stated that he appreciated everyone's opinion. He is confident of one thing, everyone was taking into consideration the economy and the importance of maintaining and taking care of our employees.

Mr. Richman made a motion seconded by Ms. Sturgis to approve a 3% salary increase for 2022 for the Village officers and employees.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

### **Miscellaneous**

Mr. Richman asked if Mayor Fritz had a chance to look at the commission make-up of Parks and Green to figure out who appoints members. Mayor Fritz stated that he did look into it and it is the Mayor. The way we have been doing it, Council talks about it ahead of time, so we have been playing a little loose with it, which he is still okay with. He stated that Councilmembers who may have an interest can also approach him and talk about it before hand. Mr. Richman encourage any Council members interested in serving on the Green or Parks Commission to let the Mayor know.

Mr. Stanard thanked everyone and stated that it has been a pleasure and privilege to serve on this Council, and the members are the largest reason. Along with the Department Heads and their staff, the Professional Staff and partners, the awesome Police Department, the amazing administration, Mayor Fritz and the amazing Clerk. Your dedication and effort, and tireless work has made this public service so valuable to him. He stated that he is not leaving the Village; call him if you need him.

Ms. Sturgis stated that she will miss each and every one of them. She and her husband will be transitioning out of Village, but she will say that she thanks Council and the residents for the trust and confidence that they gave her 12 years ago. After serving on the Parks Commission and Charter Review Commission, she had the opportunity to sit in this seat for 12 years. She stated that back in Mississippi she had the desire to serve her community, which was planted by her parents and her community there. She is happy that she landed here and had the opportunity to fulfill that dream. So many people have contributed to her success in sitting here and their partnership. From her fellow Council members that she has served with, she has learned a tremendous amount about humility, responsiveness, and responsibility. Ms. Sturgis stated that is what this Council is about, and as Mr. Fish and Mr. Janke step in and fill her and Mr. Stanard's chairs, she wished them much continued success. She sincerely thanked those who she has served with in the past and those who she is currently serving with; it has truly been a pleasure. Ms. Sturgis stated that she asked the residents, four terms ago, for a couple of things and said that she wanted to preserve and protect the Village's character, to continue to build on the proven record of the fiscal responsibilities of the Village, and to support the highest quality services provided by the Village. As an HR professional and a person of service, she wanted to listen to the residents' concerns and represent them fairly. She hopes that she has done that humbly in partnership with her friends and neighbors as she served on this Council. Ms. Sturgis wished Council much success as they carry on. She would also like to thank each and every one of the staff members, because she has learned from them and partnered with them and she takes their respect in her professional journeys. If there is anything anyone ever needs, she is only a phone call away.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Stanard made a motion seconded by Mr. Richman to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:52pm

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Kozminski-VanderHart, Mr. Richman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Stanard, Ms. Sturgis

NAYS: NONE  
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Attest:

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Sherri Arrietta, Clerk of Council

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Steve Richman, Council President