

CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Council of the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 for the purpose of conducting a REGULAR MEETING. President of Council David Bortolotto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Matthew Castelli	Mayor
David Bortolotto	President of Council
Dan Sage	Councilman At Large
Bill Meany	Councilman Ward 1
Matthew McGregor	Councilman Ward 2
Michael Ference	Councilman Ward 3
John Grech	Councilman Ward 4
Mary Ann Meola	Clerk of Council

STAFF

ATTENDING:

Santo Incorvaia	Law Director
Jason Stewart	Finance Director
Jim Herron	Service Director
Chuck Bichara	Economic Development Director
Mark Elliott	Recreation Director
Bob Downey	Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Councilman Tim Ali, out of town

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bortolotto asked for a moment of silence for a friend, Brian Driscoll, who was a Planning Commission member from 2006-2010 that passed away last week.

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Grech to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2023 and executive session of February 14, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

MINUTES
APPROVED

ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, MINUTES APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS

Memorandum from Planning Commission dated February 23, 2023 advising members granted preliminary approval of the proposed subdivision submitted by Ruggiero Construction subject to engineer approval. Further action needed by Council.

FILE AS
RECORD

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

None.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

CITY PARKS, RECREATION & SERVICES COMMITTEE – MR. ALL CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

FINANCE, TAXATION & ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE – MR. BORTOLOTTI, CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

LEGISLATION & RULES COMMITTEE – MR. FERENCE, CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
PAGE 2

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & RELIEF COMMITTEE – MR. MCGREGOR,
CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE – MR. SAGE, CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

STREETS, UTILITIES & RAILROAD COMMITTEE – MR. MEANY,
CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

ZONING & BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE – MR. GRECH, CHAIRMAN

Mr. Grech made a motion to grant preliminary approval to Ruggiero Construction for the Benedict Drive and Interstate 71 new subdivision as approved by the Planning Commission on February 22, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

Mr. Grech said this project includes 16 homes. He said a variance was needed for three of the homes because of the angle of the wall on I-71, moving three of the houses up five feet to give the homeowner a little more backyard.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, MOTION APPROVED

MOTION 2023-9
GRANT PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL -
RUGGIERO
CONSTRUCTION

Mayor Castelli introduced ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20, An Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District for the transfer by deed of gift a vacant lot at 18880 East Bagley adjacent to the Big Creek Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks and moved to adopt. On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. McGregor.

Mayor Castelli said this is a two acre parcel off of Bagley Road, next to where the current Vitalia project is proposed, which is a separate parcel. He said as we look at our trails and trees initiative, that has been supported by city council, this is another opportunity to preserve greenspace in the community. Mayor Castelli said they would like to ultimately transfer this property to the Metroparks. He said this property will connect into the Lake to Lake Trail. Mayor Castelli said this property will also provide an opportunity over the next several years, to put a trail head in off of Bagley Road, which will ultimately create these additional arteries that lead into our Metroparks areas including the Lake to Lake Trail. He said our Law Director, Santo Incorvaia, worked on this with the Metroparks.

Mr. Incorvaia said the only thing he would also like council to know is that there is a commitment from the Metroparks to put a trail in within five years.

Mr. Bortolotto assumed that they own the property to the east of this.

Mr. Incorvaia said yes, it is adjacent to Big Creek Reservation.

Mr. Bortolotto asked if they reached out to the city, or if the city reached out to them.

Mayor Castelli said we reached out to them. He said they have had conversations with the Metroparks about a variety of areas throughout the city. Mayor Castelli said if you look at a lot of our trails, they tend to be very linear throughout the community. Mayor Castelli said the Metroparks has an interest, as well as we do as a community, to create these other arteries to allow for additional connections into our larger park areas.

Mr. Sage confirmed that this trail head would connect from off of Bagley Road back to the Lake to Lake Trail.

Mayor Castelli said yes, this will create a more visible trail head for that side of the Lake to Lake Trail.

Mr. Sage said Vitalia would be right next to this.

ORD. 2023-20
ADOPTED
AGREEMENT:
BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS -
GIFT VACANT LOT
(18880 BAGLEY RD)

CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
PAGE 3

1 Mayor Castelli said if that project moves forward, then yes it would be right next
2 to this parcel.

3 Mr. Sage asked if Vitalia had an interest in purchasing this parcel.

4 Mayor Castelli said no, this parcel has a lot of wetlands on it. He said we felt it
5 made sense to keep in green.

6 Mr. Ference said the connector for Lake to Lake is kind of along the sidewalk on
7 Hepburn, and asked if this would be a replacement.

8 Mayor Castelli said it won't replace it, but it certainly creates an additional
9 entrance back there with easier access.

10 Mr. Ference inquired on the width of the parcel, and asked if it is big enough to
11 put parking.

12 Mayor Castelli said it is big enough to have parking.

13 Mr. Ference said if you want to do the Lake to Lake Trail you could park at the
14 old movie theater, but there really isn't any parking.

15 ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20 ADOPTED

16 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

17 City Parks, Recreation & Services Committee – Mr. Ali, Chairman

18 No report.

19 Finance, Taxation & Assessments Committee – Mr. Bortolotto, Chairman

20 No report.

21 Legislation & Rules Committee – Mr. Ference, Chairman

22 No report.

23 Public Health, Safety & Relief Committee – Mr. McGregor, Chairman

24 No report.

25 Public Improvements Committee – Mr. Sage, Chairman

26 No report.

27 Streets, Utilities & Railroad Committee – Mr. Meany, Chairman

28 Mr. Meany said the Board of Health will be at the April 10th committee meeting.

29 Zoning & Building Code Committee – Mr. Grech, Chairman

30 Mr. Grech said last Thursday, Woodvale Cemetery held their quarterly meeting.
31 He said the policies at Woodvale were reviewed and changes were made. Mr.

32 Grech said they also discussed private mausoleums. He said next Monday there
33 will be a zoning committee meeting, right after the finance committee meeting.

34 Mr. Grech asked the mayor for that party to bring their renderings to the zoning
35 committee meeting.

36 MAYOR'S REPORT

37 Mayor Castelli said he wanted to let council know that tomorrow, himself, along
38 with the team here at city hall and our engineers for the Southland Redevelopment
39 Streetscape Proposal, will be out on site at Southland to go over the final changes,
40 moves and decisions. He said ultimately a plan will be put together for city
41 council approval to see if you are comfortable with ultimately the look of what we
42 are going for.

43 Mr. Grech asked when this was going to start.

CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
PAGE 4

Mayor Castelli said they are hoping the engineering is done and the proposals for the streetscape within the next month of two. He said they would be coming to council shortly to review the final engineering for the Smith Road streetscape. Mr. Grech asked how this will impact Summer in the City. Mayor Castelli said this year it will not impact Summer in the City. He said right now, they would ultimately be looking at doing work in 2024.

LAW DIRECTOR

No report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

No report.

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Elliott mentioned that many of the spring and summer programs continue to register. He said this past Monday, two new scoreboards in the main gymnasium were installed. Mr. Elliott said they will turn their focus to the three scoreboards outside in another month or two.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

No report.

SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Herron reminded council that they will be starting the tree clearing on basin three next Monday, March 6th. He said he will have a draft tomorrow for the mayor. Mr. Herron said since Northeast Regional Sewer District is a partner, they have to approve the signage. Mr. Herron said there will be big signs on Pearl Road and the parkway, so residents know this is part of the basin project. He said there was a resident that came to a council meeting a couple months ago about his fence on Bagley Road, and thanked Mike Nadeo and the crew for taking out three sections of the fence.

Mr. Bortolotto said residents called him in regards to the clearing of the trees, getting ready for the basins. He said they were very grateful, that we as a city have kept our eyes on the ball for a long time to get to this place. Mr. Bortolotto again thanked Mayor Castelli for his efforts.

Mr. McGregor asked Mr. Herron to thank the gentleman that went out to Grant Boulevard last week. He said with the excessive rains, he wasn't expecting anyone to come out until the next day, but someone came out within 20 minutes. Mr. McGregor said the residents were very grateful and thankful.

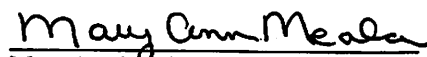
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

No report.

There being no further business, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Ference. Mr. Bortolotto adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.



David Bortolotto
President of Council



Mary Ann Meola
Clerk of Council