



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HIGHWOOD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pecaro called the meeting of the Highwood City Council Committee of the Whole to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri

Absent: Alderman Sepulveda

Also present: C. Pecaro, Mayor; M. Burke, City Clerk; P. Lenzini, City Treasurer; G. Jackson, City Manager; T. Lovejoy, Fire Chief; J. Harding, Director of Community Development & Water Distribution; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; M Zimmerman, D. Blondin and J. Stein, City Attorneys There being a quorum present, Mayor Pecaro announced the meeting to be in session

**3. Executive Session**

At 6:02 pm Alderman Harpster made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending or probable litigation. Alderman Linari seconded. Roll call vote:

Yes: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri

No: ---

Absent: Alderman Sepulveda

The motion passed and the COW was adjourned to be reconvened after the executive session.

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- At 6:52 Mayor Pecaro declared the COW meeting to be back in session.

**4. Any Action Necessary Coming Out of Executive Session**

none

**5. Review of Minutes**

5.1. Committee of the Whole minutes: August 18, 2009

5.2. Regular meeting of the City Council: July 18, 2009

5.3. Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole: August 18, 2009; August 4, 2009; June 2, 2009; July 7, 2009

Deferred to next meeting

**6. Appointments.**

none

Mayor Pecaro requested and received permission from the Council to suspend the agenda to review the items to consider for the Consent Agenda

**7. Items for consideration on Consent Agenda for regular city council meeting**

*All items will be removed from the consent agenda. Council agenda items 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, and 14.6 will be considered individually. Council agenda items 14.4, 14.5, and 14.7 are not ready to be voted on and will be tabled.*

**7.1 Motion to Approve a Supplementary Agreement between the City of Highwood and Highwood Fire Fighters Union, Local 3993 (14.1; COW 11.1)**

The language Alderman Falberg objected to at the last meeting was removed and three new provisions were added that describe wage increases that the city could grant without violating this agreement.

Alderman Falberg read a letter to the editor published in the August 27, 2009 Highland Park News from Firefighter Mohry, president of Local 3993 in which Firefighter Mohry said that the local had agreed to cuts totaling \$100,063 in savings for the city: "We agreed to a salary freeze, a give-back of a 5 percent pay raise included in our current contract and each member forfeited four vacation days, resulting in \$100,063 savings to the city." This was estimated to be about \$12,500 per Local 3993 member.

Mr. Jackson will provide a copy of his calculations to the Clerk to be attached to these minutes.

Alderman Fiore said that he was not voting for anything that was not written down.

**7.2 Motion to Approve Agreement with Houseal and Lavigne for the Updating of the City Comprehensive Land Use Plan. (14.2; COW 10.7 & 11.2)**

It was agreed that the motion would be approved but that the agreement would not be signed until knew whether the city realized the \$100,065 in savings from Local 3993.

**7.3 Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance Amending the Property Maintenance Code of 2006. (14.3; COW 10.1 & 11.3)**

Alderman Linari said that B&F should review this before it is passed.

Alderman Falberg said that there was nothing new in the Ordinance.

Attorney Stein said that he thought that there were things in the code as submitted by the Legislative Committee that were problematic. He said that the last paragraph said that this code shall override all other ordinances so that we would be overriding other codes. This will remain on the agenda as an action item.

**7.4 Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance Placing a Moratorium on the Increase of Impervious Surface. (14.4; COW 10.2 & 11.4)**

Mr. Blondin said that the ordinance is based on prior moratoriums and what was discussed at the previous meeting.

Alderman Linari asked for and received confirmation that this was the first reading and that it would come up for approval at the first council meeting after the Plan Commission has reviewed it.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that this was moving simultaneously through the council and the planning commission.

Mayor Pecaro said that this was then tabled and asked everyone to read it.

**7.5 Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance for a Residential Permit Parking Plan for DeRoo Loop. (14.5; COW 11.5)**

This is the first reading of this ordinance.

**7.6 Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance Approving Council Rules and Procedures. (14.6; COW 10.6 & 11.6)**

This remains on the agenda as an action item.

**7.7 Approval of Lease Renewal for the Highwood Bocce Court, 440 Bank Lane. (14.7; COW 10.4 & 11.7)**

This requires an ordinance stating home rule powers will be exercised to

*The Council then returned to the regular order of the agenda.*

**8. Special Business**

None

**9. New Business**

**9.1. Consideration of Variation Ordinance for 205 Sheridan Avenue, John Gale**

Mr. Harding requested that this be tabled.

**9.2. Discussion of a Code of Conduct**

Mayor Pecaro will present a Code of Conduct to the Council at the next meeting. He explained in detail the standards that he expects to be maintained by both elected officials and employees when conducting city business. His remarks are attached as part of these minutes

**10. Old Business**

**10.1. Discussion of Amendments to the Property Maintenance Code 2006.**

Discussed as part of the Consent Agenda

**10.2. Discussion of Placing a Moratorium on the Increase of Impervious Surface.**

Discussed as part of the Consent Agenda

**10.3. Discussion about Adopting 2006 IAPMO Solar Energy Code of 2006.**

**10.4. Discussion of Bocce Court Lease Renewal.**

Discussed as part of the Consent Agenda

**10.5. Discussion of Draft of Council Rules and Procedures.**

**10.6. Discussion of Engagement of Houseal Lavigne for the Development of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan.**

Discussed as part of the Consent Agenda

**11. Adjournment**

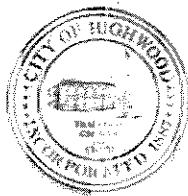
There being no further business, upon a motion made by Alderman Cahnmann, seconded by Alderman Falberg, and passed unanimously by voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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MARCIA BURKE, CITY CLERK

REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED BY THE HIGHWOOD CITY COUNCIL ON: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009



**CITY OF HIGHWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pecaro called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Pecaro; Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda electronically after receiving the consent of the council.

Absent: --

Also present: M. Burke, City Clerk; P. Lenzini, City Treasurer; G. Jackson, City Manager; T. Lovejoy, Fire Chief; J. Harding, Director of Community Development & Water Distribution; A. Marrin, Assistant City Manager; M. Zimmerman, D. Blondin and J. Stein, City Attorneys

There being a quorum physically present, the Mayor announced the meeting to be in session; he requested a motion to allow Alderman Sepulveda to participate electronically. Alderman Murphy-Pieri made the motion; Alderman Falberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone present rose to say the Pledge of Allegiance

**Mayor Pecaro requested and received the permission of the council consider the items listed under the consent agenda out of order.**

**4. Consent Agenda**

*All items were removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately*

**4.1. Motion to Approve a Supplementary Agreement between the City of Highwood and Highwood Fire Fighters Union, Local 3993.**

Motion made by Alderman Harpster and seconded by Alderman Linari

Alderman Falberg explained that he had had concerns about the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the prior draft; that the labor attorney had drafted some changes to which both the city and Local 3993 agreed. Alderman Falberg read the new conditions into the record. He also read a letter from Local 3993 president Dave Mohry to the Highland Park News that had been published on Thursday, August 27, 2009 in which Mr. Mohry stated that the local had agreed to changes that would produce a savings of \$100,065

Alderman Falberg made a motion to amend the Supplementary Agreement to include the Local's commitment to \$100,065 in compensation and benefits cuts. Second Alderman Cahnmann. Vote:

Yeas: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda

Nays: Alderman Linari

Absent:--

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Abstain: --

The amendment passes by a vote of 7 Yeas; 1 Nay; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain

The motion as amended was then voted on. Vote:

Yeas: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri,  
Sepulveda

Nays: --

Absent:--

Abstain: --

The motion as amended passes by a vote of 8 Yeas; 0 Nay; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain

4.2. **Motion to Approve Agreement with Houseal and Lavigne for the Updating of the City Comprehensive Land Use Plan.**

Alderman Linari made a motion to approve this agreement. Seconded by Alderman Harpster.

Alderman Fiore said that there were significant other costs, like staff time, that would be associated with this and that in hard economic times would rather spend the money on tangible things like fixing the streets. He said he supports doing this and agrees that this is an important project. He said he was just questioning the timing.

Mayor Pecaro spoke about the need to figure out who we are and where we want to put things, what we want zoning to accomplish. We need to have a plan in place to know where we want to go and then hold ourselves accountable for getting there. This is the first step in getting there.

Alderman Murphy-Pieri noted that we won't be spending these consulting dollars very soon because we had a lot of work to do first. She spoke of the need to get the Planning Commission vacancies filled and for it to get up and running. She also said that we needed to get the public involved before we write a plan.

Alderman Harpster informed the council that Public Works had submitted a report that projects \$22 million in infrastructure improvements over the next 15 years. He said we need to have a plan to prioritize those infrastructure improvements.

Alderman Fiore stated that he does not think we have the money for this now.

Alderman Harpster noted that there may be grant monies available to municipalities that have plans.

Mr. Jackson pointed out that because of expenses, the total cost was projected to be \$70,200. Signing the agreement will be contingent on having the funds available to pay for it.

Alderman Harpster made a motion to amend this motion to specify that the cost is not to exceed \$70,200; Alderman Falberg seconded. Vote:

Yeas: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri,  
Sepulveda

Nays: Alderman Fiore

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Amendment passes 7 Yeas, 1 Nay

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Vote to approve motion to approve the agreement with Houseal and Lavigne for the updating of the City comprehensive land use plan for a cost not to exceed \$70,200:

Yeas: Aldermen Cahnmann, Falberg, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda

Nays: Fiore, Bruni

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Motion passes as amended: 6 Yeas, 2 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

4.3. **Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance Amending the Property Maintenance Code of 2006.**

Motion to approve ordinance amending the Property Maintenance Code of 2006 by Alderman Falberg, second by Alderman Murphy-Pieri.

It was noted that Attorney Stein has expressed some concerns with the ordinance as presented and feels that it should be reviewed by B&F.

Alderman Linari made a motion to table this and refer it to B&F for review; second inaudible. Attorney Blondin said that further debate was allowed because it was a compound motion.

Alderman Falberg said that this ordinance is to fix past errors, that it contains nothing new, and that it should be passed as is. It's a living document that can always be altered. Not having it has caused Highwood a lot of problems. He recommends not sending it to B&F prior to passage. Vote:

Yeas: Aldermen Harpster, Fiore, Bruni, Linari

Nays: Aldermen Sepulveda, Falberg, Murphy-Pieri, Cahnmann

Absent: --

Abstain: --

Vote is 4 Yeas, 4 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain. Mayor Pecaro votes Yea to table.

Ordinance is tabled pending review by B&F.

4.4. **Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance Placing a Moratorium on the Increase of Impervious Surface.**

Mr. Blondin noted that this was the first reading of this ordinance and that action on it was tabled until the next meeting.

4.5. **Ordinance No. 2009-\_\_\_\_\_ : An Ordinance for a Residential Permit Parking Plan for DeRoo Loop.**

Mr. Blondin noted that this was the first reading of this ordinance and that action on it was tabled until the next meeting.

4.6. **Ordinance No. 2009-32: An Ordinance Approving Council Rules and Procedures**

Motion made by Alderman Linari and seconded by Alderman Harpster to adopt an ordinance approving Council Rules and Procedures. Alderman Murphy-Pieri explained that this ordinance is in response to all those community members who didn't feel like they had an opportunity to have their voices heard. The biggest change to the current Council Rules and Procedures is that this ordinance allows members of the public to request to be heard on any item on the agenda when it comes up for consideration, in addition to the opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

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Alderman Fiore made a motion to table consideration of the ordinance because he thought that the council should hold public hearings on it. Seconded by Alderman Linari. Vote:

Ayes: Aldermen Bruni, Fiore, Harpster, Linari

Nays: Aldermen Murphy-Pieri, Falberg, Cahnmann, Sepulveda

Vote is 4 Yeas, 4 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain. Mayor Pecaro votes Nay to table. The main motion is back on the floor.

The Mayor asked that staff make copies of the rules available to the public. Alderman Falberg asked people to come participate in committee night, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, which is where most of the work really gets done. Vote:

Yeas: Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri, Sepulveda

Nays: --

Absent: --

Abstain: --

The motion as amended passes by a vote of 8 Yeas; 0 Nay; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain

**4.7. Approval of Lease Renewal for the Highwood Bocce Court, 440 Bank Lane.**

Mr. Blondin noted that this was the first reading of this ordinance and that action on it was tabled until the next meeting.

***Return to the regular agenda. Alderman Sepulveda left the meeting at 8:25 pm.***

**5. Executive Session**

None

**6. Any Action Necessary Coming Out of Executive Session**

N.A.

**7. Approval of Minutes**

7.1. Committee of the Whole minutes: August 18, 2009

7.2. Regular meeting of the City Council: August 18, 2009

7.3. Executive Session of the Committee of the Whole: June 2, July 7, August 4, 2009, and August 18, 2009

Alderman Fiore moved that review and acceptance of the minutes be tabled. Alderman Harpster seconded. Vote:

Aye: Aldermen Aldermen Bruni, Cahnmann, Falberg, Fiore, Harpster, Linari, Murphy-Pieri

Nay: --

Absent: Alderman Sepulveda

The motion to table consideration of the minutes until the next meeting passed by a vote of 7 Aye; 0 Nay; 1 Absent

**8. Appointments.**

None

**9. Special Business**

None

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**10. Public Input**

**Mr. Chuck Wixom, Highwood:** Mr. Wixom, a past member of the Plan Commission, spoke about the proposal and the role of the Commission. He said that he has studied the Houseal & Lavigne proposal and has discussed it with experts in the field. He thinks that it is a good proposal and urged the Council to support it. He suggested that the Plan Commission could develop the background against which to go forward with the Long Term Plan as it represents the various views within the city and said he thought that they should be charged with reviewing the proposal and starting to work on developing context for it.

**11. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor noted that we were fortunate to live in a community rich in diversity – and that our diversity had to be respected. He apologized for the comment made at the previous COW meeting by an alderman that was offensive to the members of our constituents of the Jewish faith. He said that he would present a Code of Conduct at the next meeting that will deal with such behavior and its consequences.

**12. Committee Reports.**

**Long Term Planning** – Alderman Harpster, Chair. There was a special meeting on August 25 with two items on the agenda.

1. Report on status of Public Works Department presented by department head Jeff Ponsi. The report provides a capital infrastructure plan thru 2023-2024. Alderman Harpster directed that copies of the report be made available at City Hall
2. Bond issue to address some major infrastructure issues: there will be a joint meeting of the Finance and Long Term Planning Committees on Tuesday, September 8 at 5 pm in Council Chambers to discuss how we move forward on securing a bond to properly address some major infrastructure issues. Alderman Falberg explained that Highwood would not seek to get \$30 million all at once, but we would seek the ability to do it and then do it in segments as we had projects ready to go.

Alderman Harpster also gave an update on the rain barrel program. 175 rain barrels will be ready at the end of this month. For anyone who is interested, can sign up at City Hall. Rain barrels can be obtained now but not hooked up until the spring.

**Public Outreach** - Alderman Murphy-Pieri, Chair and **Mayor's Committee on Special Events** – Alderman Falberg, Chair. Alderman Falberg reported that the joint committee was working to bring Highwood to the attention of the outside community in a very positive light. He described a 3-phased process:

- 1 Arts Council; will be working on assessing possibility of development on north side of town to promote the arts
- 2 Setting up 501(c)(3) – work has already started on this, have legal and accounting support; research and get grants to build up arts in this community.
- 3 Grass roots arts efforts being lead by Paul Martinez. Street stories, murals

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The goal is to make Highwood into a destination. Alderman Falberg invited anyone who wants to be on the Arts Council to give their name to Anne Marrin.

Alderman Falberg also announced that the 21<sup>st</sup> of October would be a prelude to the pumpkin fest planned for next year. The goal this year will be to light up 1,000 jack-o-lanterns at one time as practice for trying for the world record of 32,000 next year.

The next meeting of the joint committee will be on Tuesday at 7pm.

**Parks and Recreation** – Alderman Fiore, Chair

The ordinance on the use of the park is being worked on by staff. Staff is also looking at the possible conversion of the Recreation Center into a Park District.

**Finance** - Alderman Inari, Chair, reported that copies of the enabling ordinance and the Bocce Club lease were available for review at the Library and at City Hall. She said this was the first reading on both and that they would be up for approval at the next meeting.

**13. Unfinished Business.**

none

**14. New Business.**

none

**15. Adjournment.** As there was no further business, Mayor Pecaro requested a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Falberg so moved, seconded by Alderman Harpster. The motion was passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marcia Burke, City Clerk

Accepted by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2009