

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
INDIAN HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
December 2, 2019**

An organizational meeting of the Village Council was held on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Village Administration Building.

Officials present:

- Mrs. Melissa S. Cowan, Mayor
- Mr. Donald C. McGraw, Vice-Mayor
- Mr. Richard J. Hidy, Council member
- Mrs. Elizabeth C. Ispording, Council member
- Mr. Stephen H. Krehbiel, Council member
- Mr. Shayne O Manning, Council member
- Mrs. Monique A. Sewell, Council member

  

- Ms. Dina C. Minneci, City Manager
- Mr. Scott D. Phillips, City Solicitor
- Mr. Paul C. Riordan, Clerk/Comptroller

Visitors present:

- Ms. Kathy Wade-Dorman, 6525 Drake Road
- Mr. Scott Gully, 6525 Drake Road
- Mrs. Angie Lovejoy, 6205 S. Clippinger Drive
- Mr. Wally Lovejoy, 6205 S. Clippinger Drive
- Mrs. Alleen Manning, 5825 Given Road
- Mr. Jon West, 6525 Drake Road
- Mrs. Beth Wood, 6525 Drake Road

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Scott Phillips administered the oath of office to Council members elect, Mrs. Melissa S. Cowan, Mr. Richard J. Hidy, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Ispording, Mr. Stephen H. Krehbiel, Mr. Shayne O Manning, Mr. Don C. McGraw and Mrs. Monique A. Sewell.

Council member Cowan entertained a motion for a Council member to be nominated to act as President Pro tem. Council member McGraw made a motion that Vice-Mayor Cowan be nominated to serve as President Pro tem. The nomination was seconded by Council member Krehbiel and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council member Cowan, acting as the President of Council Pro tem, called the meeting to order. Council member Cowan called for nominations for Mayor. Council member McGraw nominated Council member Cowan to be Mayor of the Village of Indian Hill for the next two year term. The motion was seconded by Council member Krehbiel. The nominations were closed and Council member Cowan was elected Mayor by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Cowan called for nominations for Vice Mayor. Mayor Cowan nominated Council member McGraw for the position of Vice Mayor for the next two year term. The motion was seconded by Council member Krehbiel. The nominations were closed and Council member McGraw was elected Vice-Mayor by unanimous voice vote.

Council member Hidy made a motion that the appointments to the standing committees as listed below be approved. The motion was seconded by Council member McGraw and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Finance Committee**

Monique Sewell – Chairperson  
Rich Hidy – Member  
Steve Krehbiel – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West, Paul Riordan & Scott Gully)

**Buildings & Grounds Committee**

Melissa Cowan – Chairperson  
Don McGraw – Member  
Monique Sewell – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West, Kathy Wade-Dorman & Jason Adkins)

**Law Committee**

Rich Hidy – Chairperson  
Don McGraw – Member  
Elizabeth Isphording – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West & Scott Phillips)

**Public Works Committee**

Steve Krehbiel – Chairperson  
Shayne Manning – Member  
Monique Sewell – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West, Kathy Wade-Dorman & Jason Adkins)

**Environmental Stewardship Committee**

Shayne Manning

**Safety Committee**

Don McGraw – Chairperson  
Rich Hidy – Member  
Elizabeth Isphording – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West, Col. Schlie & Chief Oughterson)

**Water Works & Deregulation Committee**

Elizabeth Isphording – Chairperson  
Steve Krehbiel – Member  
Shayne Manning – Member  
(Dina Minneci, Jon West, Kathy Wade-Dorman & Jason Adkins)

**Council Representative to Planning Commission**

Shayne Manning

**Council Representative to Recreation Commission**

Rich Hidy

**Council Representative to MIHJFD Board**

Don McGraw

**Council Representative to OKI**

Steve Krehbiel

**Council Representative to GAAC & Rowe Arboretum**

Melissa Cowan

**Overall Council Assignments**

Mrs. Cowan – Buildings & Grounds Chairperson, (GAAC Representative & Rowe Representative)  
Mr. Hidy – Law Chairperson, Public Safety & Finance (Recreation Commission Representative)  
Mrs. Isphording – Water Works/Deregulation Chairperson, Public Safety & Law  
Mr. Krehbiel – Public Works Chairperson, Water Works/Deregulation & Finance (OKI Representative)  
Mr. Manning - Water Works/Deregulation & Public Works (Planning Commission & Environmental Stewardship Representative)  
Mr. McGraw – Public Safety Chairperson, Law & Buildings and Ground (MIHJFD Representative)  
Mrs. Sewell – Finance Chairperson, Buildings & Grounds & Public Works

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO  
MARK D. KUENNING FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF  
INDIAN HILL** was presented and read.

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has served as Mayor of Indian Hill from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019; and a member of Council from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has served as a member of the Finance committee from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2013 and Chairperson of the Finance committee from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning, as a Finance committee representative, instituted the annual income tax analysis spreadsheet and led a state-wide effort to preserve Indian Hill's way of taxation by incorporating supporting language into the 2016 passage of House Bill 5;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has served as a committee member on the Public Works committee from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2015 and as a committee member on the Buildings and Grounds committee from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has served as a member of the Water Works & Deregulation committee from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2017 and as its Chairperson from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning, as a Public Works and Water Works representative, has assisted in the implementation of a progressive capital improvement plan in order to ensure the safety and longevity of Indian Hill's significant infrastructure system;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has served as the Council representative to Planning Commission December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2013 where he reviewed various Zoning Ordinance cases on a monthly basis;

**WHEREAS**, Mark D. Kuenning has retired from Council, and it is appropriate to recognize his valued and selfless service to Indian Hill;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, STATE OF  
OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That there be spread upon the records of the City of the Village of Indian Hill this Resolution of special thanks and sincere appreciation to Mark D. Kuenning for his passionate, genuine, dedicated and valuable service as a Council Member of the City of the Village of Indian Hill during the eight years from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2019.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this Resolution be given to Mark D. Kuenning in recognition of his contribution of his tireless efforts, time and leadership in the best interest of the City of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member McGraw, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Cowan declared Resolution **24-19** adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO  
ABBOT A. THAYER FOR HIS SERVICE TO  
THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN  
HILL** was presented and read.

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer has served as a member of Council from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer has served as a committee member of the Law committee from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2019 where he provided invaluable legal expertise and forethought on matters involving, but not limited to, ordinance review, contracts and litigation;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer has served as a committee member of the Public Works committee from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer served as the Council representative to Planning Commission December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2019 where he thoroughly reviewed various Zoning Ordinance cases on a monthly basis in addition to enduring long hours on a few cases;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer has served as a committee member of the Public Safety committee December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2019 where he monitored the construction of two new fire stations in addition to the transition of a new Fire Chief;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer informally has been designated as the initiator of all council motions throughout his council terms;

**WHEREAS**, Abbot A. Thayer has retired from Council, and it is appropriate to recognize his valued and selfless service to Indian Hill;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, STATE OF  
OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That there be spread upon the records of the City of the Village of Indian Hill this Resolution of special thanks and sincere appreciation to Abbot A. Thayer for his passionate, genuine, dedicated and valuable service as a Council Member of the City of the Village of Indian Hill during the six years from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2019.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this Resolution be given to Abbot A. Thayer in recognition of his contribution of tireless efforts, time and leadership in the best interest of the City of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Krehbiel, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Cowan declared Resolution **25-19** adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO  
JOHN B. ARMSTRONG FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF  
INDIAN HILL** was presented and read.

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has served as a member of Council from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has served as the chairperson of the Law committee from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2019 while providing invaluable legal expertise and forethought on matters involving ordinance review, contracts and litigation;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has served as a committee member on the Buildings and Grounds committee and the Water Works & Deregulation committee from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2017;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has served a committee member of the Public Works committee from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong, as a Public Works and Water Works representative, has assisted in the implementation of a progressive capital improvement plan in order to ensure the safety and longevity of Indian Hill's significant infrastructure system;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has served as a committee member of the Public Safety committee December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019 where he worked diligently to ensure a safe community, including working closely with residents to highlight traffic enforcement;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong served as the Council representative to the Recreation Commission December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2019 and reinforced effective communications between the Commission and staff by actively participating in monthly meetings;

**WHEREAS**, John B. Armstrong has retired from Council, and it is appropriate to recognize his valued and selfless service to Indian Hill;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, STATE OF  
OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That there be spread upon the records of the City of the Village of Indian Hill this Resolution of special thanks and sincere appreciation to John B. Armstrong for his passionate, genuine, dedicated and valuable service as a Council Member of the City of the Village of Indian Hill during the four years from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2019.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this Resolution be given to John B. Armstrong in recognition of his contribution of tireless efforts, time and leadership in the best interest of the City of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member McGraw, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Cowan declared Resolution **26-19** adopted.

Council member McGraw made a motion confirming the appointment of Council member Shayne Manning to the City of the Village of Indian Hill Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council member Krehbiel and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council member Krehbiel made a motion naming Council member Don McGraw as Council representative to the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District Board. The motion was seconded by Council member Ispording and was carried unanimous voice vote.

Council member McGraw made a motion naming Council member Steve Krehbiel as Council representative to the Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Government's Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Council member Hidy and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council member McGraw made a motion naming Mayor Melissa Cowan as Council representative to the Green Areas Advisory Committee and Rowe Arboretum Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Council member McGraw and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council member McGraw made a motion naming Council member Richard Hidy as Council representative to the Indian Hill Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Council member Isphording and was carried unanimous voice vote.

Council member McGraw made a motion naming Council member Shayne Manning as Council representative to the Environmental Stewardship Committee. The motion was seconded by Council member Isphording and was carried unanimous voice vote.

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JOHN KRUSE, MR. PAUL RIORDAN AND MR. MICHAEL SEWELL TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW** was presented and read.

Every two years this Resolution has to be passed and the purpose is for these individuals to be on board to review income tax determinations.

Upon motion by Council member McGraw, seconded by Council member Krehbiel, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Cowan declared Resolution **27-19** adopted.

The 2020 Council Goal Session was set for January 13, 2020 at 7:30 am in Council Chambers.

Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. was set as the New Residents' Party.

Mr. Phillips explained that a memo had been distributed to Council members explaining their obligations with respect to keeping records and information including a section on how to meet with other Council members and the City Manager. He explained that Council sets the policies and Ms. Minneci carries out the operations, therefore, any discussions with Village staff must go through the City Manager. He also explained that e-mails should not be replied to "all" and if it is confidential place "confidential" on the heading and if it is legal matter make certain Mr. Phillips is copied. Mr. Phillips also said that there are strict ethical standards that Council members have to follow and to not do such things as voting on any matter which will be of a financial benefit to themselves or anything of a nature that could be questioned. He and Ms. Minneci work closely together and they take a conservative approach and Council should also be conservative in their decisions. Mr. Phillips said if Council has any doubts or concerns at all they should contact Ms. Minneci and she will contact him and they will provide an extremely conservative recommendation.

Mr. Phillips explained that Ms. Minneci is considered an "agent" of his and therefore a reply to Ms. Minneci for an e-mail marked, "confidential" would retain client/attorney privilege.

He requested that as a precaution to copy him when sending an e-mail to Ms. Minneci in reference to a legal matter.

Ms. Minneci explained to Council that they will be receiving a memo today on setting up their e-mail address.

Mayor Cowan explained to Council that Ms. Zenni was filing the campaign finance report which were signed this past summer.

Mayor Cowan also requested Council members to forward e-mails to her that are received from residents so that she could make certain that all seven Council members have received the e-mail and Ms. Minneci will reply to the e-mail.

Mayor Cowan said that advice was given to her, by a previous Council member, which she agrees with, that all Council members compromise on issues.

Council member McGraw made a motion for Council to enter into Executive Session for purpose of discussing pending litigation and property acquisition and/or sale of property including real, personal, tangible and intangible. The motion was seconded by Council member Krehbiel and was carried by unanimous roll call vote. Council entered into Executive Session.

Council returned from Executive Session, there being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Cowan declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Melissa S. Cowan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Paul C. Riordan, Clerk