

Regular

January 19

2012

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 19, 2012, in the City Offices, with Council President Daniel Zeiter presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following persons were in attendance when roll was called: Council members Paul Williams, Larry Arnold, Charlotte Hellinger, Jim Hairston, Mark Weidemyre, Michele Webb, Pamela Drake, Mr. Zeiter, Mayor Larry Collins, Law Director Allan Sowash, Auditor Jane Hammond, Treasurer Linda Stoodt, Service-Safety Director Roger Heston, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker. A number of interested employees and citizens were also in the audience.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 5, 2012 were presented for approval. Mr. Arnold made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Hairston seconded the motion. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Kelly Stamper, 3670 Snodgrass Road, came forward to ask Council to put the Substance Abuse Coordinator line item back into the budget. Several concerned residents were in the audience to show their support. The drug problem is horrible and the Substance Abuse Program is a community effort. Mrs. Stamper has organized a support group at church, HOPE, that continually receives new members. The children desperately need this program in the schools to educate them and teach them the benefits of being drug free.

Jeff Kent, 3955 Kings Pointe Drive, was next to come before Council to emphasize the need for the program. He has worked with the programs for the last five years and applauded the Substance Abuse and HOPE programs because the problem continues to get worse in all of the schools. The Substance Abuse Program is an investment in our community.

Substance Abuse Coordinator Veronica Cain, 4852 W. Smiley, stood before Council to address a couple of items. In December a comment was made pertaining to money the City gave to the schools. Mr. Harvey explained to her the \$136,903 was from the tax abatement program and the City was merely returning the tax money to the school; the tax money would have gone directly to the school if the TIF program wasn't in place. The school has not decreased their funding to the Substance Abuse Program, they have increased. In 1989 when the program began, the goal was to reduce substance abuse through a community effort. After some time the churches were no longer able to continue contributing toward the expenses and the school and City then equally shared the expenses. In 2009 the City reduced their contribution to one-third of the expenses and then nothing in 2010 and 2011. Consequently, because of the monetary reduction, the position is now part-time and programs and activities have been reduced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Arnold scheduled a Personnel Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at 1:00 p.m., to discuss health insurance options.

Mr. Heston responded to a question pertaining to the Rock Road bridge and said they expected to hear from the Norfolk-Southern Railroad representative between January 15th and the end of the month. To date, he has not heard from them. Mr. Arnold added that the bridge would not be opened this winter. A study was conducted by an outside firm and presented to railroad representative who also performed their own study.

Mr. Hairston thanked everyone in attendance tonight for showing their support of the Substance Abuse Program.

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Mr. Weidemyre reported there have been two Finance Committee meetings held to discuss the 2012 permanent budget. He thanked everyone for their hard work in finishing 2011 in the black but now they must incorporate the 34% increase in health insurance which adds \$250,000 to the budget.

Mr. Weidemyre called a Finance Committee meeting for February 2, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. to continue working on the permanent budget which must be passed by March 31, 2012.

Mr. Williams, Mrs. Hellinger, Mrs. Webb and Ms. Drake had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Collins presented his Ontario State of the City report:

2011 was a good year and a successful year for the City. The City is very fortunate to have excellent leadership and very skilled and competent employees. We can well be proud of the team of people who work hard to serve the citizens of Ontario across the various departments. It was a combined effort of Council, the Administration and the employees that we were able to live within our means and still provide the services to the citizens of Ontario, which is the only reason we exist.

The 2011 budget of \$7,787,868.00 was balanced with receipts of \$8,172,346.79 and expenditures of \$7,617,705.99 and a carry-over of \$554,640.70 added to our beginning balance of \$8,940,012.80 for a total year end balance of \$9,494,653.50.

2011 Income Tax receipts came from 557 Business Accounts total of \$432,112.61, 3672 Residential Accounts total of \$1,006,250.76, 3774 Withholding Accounts total of \$2,821,296.63 for a grand total of 8003 Accounts totaling \$4,259,660.00. Included in this total is \$1,419,886.67 Safety Tax and \$618,188.66 1% from citizens who live in Ontario but work elsewhere.

We had receipts in the Water Department for \$849,818.90 and expenditures of \$699,627.22. There were 27 water main breaks in 2011 for a total cost of \$13000.00. This does not include labor. The total number of gallons of water pumped in 2011 was 245,261,084, which is an average of 672,000 gallons per day. The Sewer Department had receipts of \$899,286.86 and expenditures of \$1,012,089.89. The cost from Mansfield for receiving our sewer was \$707,899.00. We had 5,132,147 gallons of Sanitary Sewer overflow at the Rock Road Lift Station.

Mayor's Court had 1,329 cases heard for total year end receipts of \$276,915.88. The majority of the cases were heard on Thursday Court Day by Magistrate Amy Skropits. I do hear individual cases on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Since March of 2010 we have collected \$230,241.34 of the past due fines of \$477,000.00.

The Police Department had 10,857 calls for service in 2011. I am attaching the Crime Total details from Chief Smith to this report.

The Zoning Department issued 44 residential permits with fees of \$2,085.00 and a valuation of \$647,040.00 in 2011. The department also issued 16 commercial permits with fees of \$1,425.00 and a total valuation of \$1,940,000.00. There were 93 sign permits with fees of \$6,688.50 and 8 miscellaneous permits. Total permits for the year was 161 with fees of \$10,554.50 and valuation of \$2,587,940.00. There are numerous violations the Zoning Inspector sends out letters to the violators.

Aldi and Texas Roadhouse were new business constructions and are included in a total of 24 new businesses coming to Ontario in 2011. There were also 11 businesses that closed or left Ontario for a net gain of 13.

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The Mayor's 19 member Ontario Vision Team completed their work in 2011 and Mark Romanchuk presented the "City of Ontario Economic and Community Development Plan" to council on June 16. It was received by council and passed on to the Economic Development Committee. Out of this study is coming a new city website, concerts in the park and a feasibility study for a swimming pool and turf facility for Marshall Park. The development of the Beer Road Industrial Park and the possible acquisition of adjacent property were also considered.

We are indebted to Dave Rehfeldt and Jim Henry for their dedicated leadership and the host of volunteers who spend countless hours to make the ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION such a huge success for not only Ontario, but for the entire area.

The Recreation Department has activities planned throughout the entire year for many age groups and especially for children and youth in the summer. The swim programs, the summer rec program, the Honkin, Haulin, Hands On Trucks event, the Craft Show, Zumba classes, Easter Egg Hunt are some of the activities. The Parks are used heavily by Ontario Youth Sports for baseball, soccer and softball. The park pavilions and ball fields are rented to a number of people for various occasions. The Senior Center is used on a regular basis for a variety of weekly activities as well.

The Street Department was able to purchase a new crack seal machine, a new International Snow Plow truck and a new John Deere 15' rotary mower. A 70HP pump was rebuilt as a spare for the Rock Road Lift Station. A spare pump was also purchased for the Home Road Lift Station. Energy efficient lighting was installed at the City Administration Building as well as the Service Department Building. The department picked up 1,175 cubic yards of leaves and recycled them to various locations. A pump at the Shangri-La Lift Station was replaced. A water proof membrane was installed on the Friday Lane Bridge. A total of 140 Storm Water Repairs were made, including ditching, pipe replacement and catch basin repairs. 121 Detention Basins and 98 Storm Water Outfalls were inspected. A new parking lot was built at Stowell Park.

The Deer Damage Control Ordinance was changed by Council to include Geese. There were 19 permits given for Deer Hunting.

The City owned Cemetery had 13 burials, 9 Foundation Layout Requests and 3 Lots sold in 2011.

With the rains of 2011(wettest on record), Ontario was not without water issues.

- . Over 50 homes had flooding issues from the rains last March and were forwarded to FEMA for assistance.

- . A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was implemented at the Service Building for the material storage yard.

- . The City adopted an ordinance in association with the DNR to establish a Flood Plain area within the City and also ensure that every citizen that chooses to purchase flood insurance has that opportunity.

- . The Lexington Springmill Safety Study has been turned into a 5 Million dollar grant application through ODOT and the Federal Government. This will include traffic signals and traffic patterns regarding ingress and egress. Early start dates suggest 2013/2014.

- . The 80%/20% grant process has been started on the W. 4th Street Paving Project. Early indications this will be a 1.2 Million dollar grant share project and should begin in 2013/2014.

There are several Boards and Commissions, who are appointed, who serve the City on a regular basis. The list includes: Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission, Shade Tree Commission, City Records Commission, Tax Board of Review, Recreation Board and the Board of Health. We are indebted to these individuals who give most valuable service to the City.

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I continue to strongly urge all citizens and businesses to use Ontario 44906, 44903 or 44862 as your mailing address and encourage those who send you mail to do the same.

There were Neighborhood Watches and Town Hall meetings held throughout the City in 2011. They were attended by the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the Springfield Township Fire Department.

I urge all of our citizens to attend City Council meetings the first and third Thursdays of each month with caucus at 6:15 P.M. and Council at 7:00 P.M. here at City Hall.

Ontario has had a Strong Past and we look forward to a Bright Future as 2012 unfolds. We are actively working to find a tenant with jobs for the former GM plant, along with the Racer Trust, who owns the building. We look forward to the opening of the road where the Rock Road Bridge has been closed. The challenge for the City is to keep pace with increases costs and still serve the citizens. Our employees have not had a pay raise in the last several years, but they continue to work hard knowing they make a good wage and benefit package.

As Mayor, it has been my honor and privilege to serve this community and to represent the City of Ontario at many gatherings around our area, including, but not limited to, the Mayor's Association of Richland County, the Richland County Regional Planning Commission, the Richland Community Growth Corporation, the Richland County Development Group and as a Foundation Trustee for North Central State College.

May God continue to bless and show His favor on the City of Ontario.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Heston had no report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sowash had no report.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Weidemyre made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to enter into contract with DRS to process accounts that were previously placed with them. Mrs. Hellinger seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 12-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 191.12, ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THIS CITY TO REVISE THE ALLOCATION OF INCOME TAX REVENUE AMONG FUNDS AND TO DEPOSIT MONEY DIRECTLY INTO THE FUND FROM WHICH IT SHALL BE EXPENDED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Weidemyre made a motion to suspend the rules requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 12-01 on three separate days. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to suspend the rules passed. Mr. Weidemyre read Ordinance No. 12-01 for the first time, by title only.

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Mr. Weidemyre made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 12-01. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 12-01 was adopted.

At 7:40 p.m., per Ohio Revised Code, Title 1, Chapter 121.22, Section G, Number 1, Mr. Arnold made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee compensation and wages of a public employee. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. At 8:15 p.m., Mrs. Hellinger left the meeting.

At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Williams made a motion to reconvene into regular session. Ms. Drake seconded the motion. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Arnold made a motion to notify ADP to terminate the contract and enter into an agreement with Willis, Osmond & Beilstein, and authorize the Auditor to sign and execute that agreement. Mr. Weidemyre seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion was approved.

At 10:03 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Weidemyre and a second by Mr. Arnold. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to adjourn passed.

Daniel J. Zeiter, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council