

Regular

January 2, 2019

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 2, 2019, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Jim Hellinger presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Ken Earhart, Larry Arnold, Dan Zeiter, Mark Weidemyre, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Jim Hellinger, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

Mr. Weidemyre moved to excuse Mrs. Webb from this evening's meeting, second by Mr. Earhart. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay and the motion passed.

Mr. Sunderland moved to excuse Mr. Gallo from this evening's meeting, second by Mr. Arnold. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay and the motion passed.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 19, 2018 were presented for approval. Mr. Sunderland moved to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Zeiter. Four members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mr. Arnold, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Earhart scheduled a Utilities Committee meeting on January 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson commended Gary and Lynn Levelius for volunteering their time and expenses for the Christmas light display at Marshall Park. Unfortunately, their new addition to the display, Rudolf, was stolen. The display will return next year.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson had no report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid presented his annual report for 2018.

<u>2018 MAYOR'S COURT</u>	<u>CHANGE FROM 2017</u>
TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS/SUMMONS ISSUED – 1,436	13% decrease from 1,652
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARGES ISSUED – 1,822	7.6% decrease from 1,972
TOTAL NUMBER OF OVI CHARGES – 16	27% decrease from 22
TOTAL CHARGES HEARD IN MAYORS COURT – 1,879	9.4% decrease from 2,074
WAIVERS PAID AT CLERKS OFFICE – 678	21.6% decrease from 865
OPEN WARRANTS - 513	

Ontario handles a limited jurisdiction so many cases are automatically transferred to Mansfield Municipal Court, such as a second OVI within 10 years.

<u>2018 MANSFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT TOTALS</u>	<u>CHANGE FROM 2017</u>
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES – 166	24.2% decrease from 219
TOTAL OVI CHARGES – 43	47.6% decrease from 82

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TOTAL CRA FELONY CASES – 11	7.5% increase from 8
OTHER TRAFFIC – 45	33.8% decrease from 68
TOTAL CRIMINAL – 67	9.8% increase from 61

The number of individuals requesting a court appointed attorney in 2018 was 2. If an individual is facing the possibility of jail time, they are allowed a court appointed attorney for a \$25 fee. Ontario would still try to work with them in order to keep the case and are often successful.

The decline of revenue in the Mayor's Court Report shows a decrease of issued citations but more individuals did not pay their fines last year and were held in jail. Appropriations for the jail fees were increased by \$30,000 to cover expenses, this equates to 375 additional jail days paid to Richland County, which was more than one additional offender per day. Individuals are also sitting out their jail time so they don't have to pay their fines but the city still pays the jail.

Mayor Hutchinson said Mr. Medwid does a great job of keeping cases in Ontario and keeping the bill from the assistant prosecutor down. Unfortunately, people aren't paying their fines. Tickets are down because caseloads are up in other areas.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Hellinger said they will wait to vote on the suggested changes to the 2019 Council schedule during the next meeting when everyone is present.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Mike Stallings, 1915 Walker Lake Road, asked if the city has plans to clean-up the Ontario Commerce Park property this year.

- Mayor Hutchinson said they are getting appraisals for clean-up and would run water and sewer to get the site ready. He was getting estimates to fill in one basement.
- When the weather breaks there would definitely be activity cleaning up along the property line, removing trees and shrubs. The clean-up would be done in stages.

Mr. Stallings asked if the city was considering building a wastewater treatment plant. Residents are now paying in one month what they used to pay for three months.

- Mayor Hutchinson said they were moving forward and getting prices, it has become feasible to build our own plant.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 19-01

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTION\SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2019.

Mr. Arnold read Resolution No. 19-01 for the first time, by title only.

At 7:13 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Weidemyre, second by Mr. Sunderland and the motion passed unanimously.

James A. Hellinger, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council