

Regular

January 2, 2020

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 2, 2020, 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, Eddie Gallo, Dan Zeiter, Michele Webb, Council President Jim Hellinger, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

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

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 18, 2019 were presented for approval. Mr. Zeiter moved to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Earhart. Four members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Hellinger opened the floor to nominations for Council President Pro Tempore. Mr. Gallo nominated Mr. Zeiter. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Three members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Zeiter, and the nomination for Mr. Zeiter to be the Council President Pro Tempore passed.

Mr. Hellinger said a Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020 at 5:45 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson presented the State of the City Address.

STATE OF THE CITY

Ontario, Ohio
Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson
January 2, 2020

In looking back at 2019, the City of Ontario can be very proud of what was accomplished.

With the acquisition of the former GM property, the City has worked hard this year making necessary improvements to the property, making the property more appealing to businesses. The property is now being marketed as the Ontario Commerce Park. Crews have worked on cleaning the property up and cutting down all the overgrowth. We have also invested in some major infrastructure improvements. We have added a water line to the east side of the property, along with connecting power to the former press prep building.

The property has a lot to offer a business, such as rail access and access to major highways. Council and Administration have been working together to market the property and bring jobs to Ontario and Richland County. Councilman Mark Weidemyre and I attended the Select USA Investment Summit in Washington DC in June. Investors from all over the world that are looking at investing in the United States attended the conference. We marketed the property and have had several investors tour the property.

In November Emerson Actuation Technologies held a ground breaking at their facility at 2500 Park Avenue West. They are adding manufacturing space, which will add approximately 30 jobs. Barrett Thomas of Richland Community Development Group and I worked with Emerson management for almost a year on this retention and expansion project. Emerson has been a great asset for our community for over 60 years. I wish to thank Barrett Thomas for his hard work on this project. He worked with Jobs Ohio to obtain infrastructure assistance that helped bring the project to fruition.

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The City was active this year with business grand openings. Zoning reported that several new homes and businesses were built. With the growth, numerous businesses moved into existing store fronts. One project that has generated a lot of excitement is the Panda Express complex, which will also feature a Five Guys. Panda Express is holding their grand opening on January 10th, with Five Guys and the other businesses opening at a later date.

The Police Department had a very active year, handling over 14,794 calls for service. The staff completed over 1,600 hours of in house training, which includes the simulator. These training hours do not cover the additional schools we sent our employees to. We sent approximately 15 officers to over 23 schools as well. They also launched an employee wellness program, which incorporates the fitness center, with a mental wellness piece. The mental wellness piece offers a sit down session twice a year with our Chaplain, who is a trained counselor. This program also offers outreach for employees needing it and gives them information on where to receive any needed services.

Our Toy Waiver program was once again a huge success, which provided over 88 children with toys, assisting 31 Ontario families in need. Springfield Township Fire Department assisted this year purchasing toys and 8 new winter coats. The department continued to be very active during the year participating in public relations events, such as shop with a cop, Law Enforcement appreciation day and Spread the Light. We hired 1 new female office Megan Thomas who is on her own and doing very good.

The 4th of July Celebration was a success and I want to thank all of the citizens that worked on the committee. To keep the event evolving, new games and contests were added, the event continues to grow. This year's event will be held on July 4th, which makes this year extra special. We also had a successful Miss Ontario Pageant in 2019. Miss Ontario Maria Caporini has been very active this year attending numerous events around the County. This year's Miss Ontario Pageant will be held Saturday June 27th. This event along with the Fourth of July Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers and community sponsors. If anyone wishes to volunteer for the Fourth of July Committee or the Miss Ontario Committee, please e-mail me at mayor@ontarioohio.org.

The Recreation Department had a very successful year. Director Heather Hendrix continued to put on activities all year long for the citizens. She continued to offer the long standing activities and she added a baby-sitting class, which received great reviews. This year the weather cooperated and we were able to have the Haunted Trail at Marshall Park. There was a very large turnout. The trail conducted two sessions, the first was when it was still light out, which was kid friendly and then a scarier version after dark. The haunted trail was a success due to the school groups and citizens that helped out donating their time and supplying props for the displays.

Concerts in the Park were continued with the assistance of Ontario Youth Sports. With the increased publicity the crowds were much larger. The partnership with Ontario Youth Sports will continue this year. We will continue to provide a wide variety of music. With food vendors available at the concerts and the play scape, the free concerts are a true family event. I want to thank all of the community sponsors. Without the community sponsors and Ontario Youth Sports, these free concerts wouldn't be possible.

The Christmas Tree Lighting at Marshall Park was a success again this year. The event is made possible by the Ontario Growth Association, Ontario Youth Sports and Community Sponsors. The Ontario Lions Club sponsored the coloring contest. Free hot chocolate and cookies are provided to everyone. Entertainment was provided by the Ontario High School Jazz Band, Show Choir, Majorettes, and Golden Girls. We were fortunate to have nice weather this year. As always, the children enjoyed their visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. A special thanks goes out to Gary and Lynn Levelius and Diane Bemiller. Each year Gary and Lynn set up a large light display, which is set to music. Each year Diane donates her time to take photos for everyone with Santa Claus.

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In April we held our sixth annual Litter Clean Up day, picking up litter in several areas throughout the City. This event wouldn't be possible without the help of Amy Nagel and the Ontario High School students and staff, along with area churches and citizens. The City and the Ontario Schools have a great community partnership.

I would like to recognize all of the employees that work for the City. We have a quality work force, which keeps our City running smoothly, safe, and clean.

My Service Safety Director, Jeff Wilson, and I look forward to working with council in 2020.

At the end of 2019 we had two long serving Councilman retire from the positions. I want to thank Councilmen Mark Weidemyre and Larry Arnold for their many years of service to Ontario City Council. It's been an honor to work with both of you, I wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Ontario has a Strong Past and a Bright Future.

Respectfully,
Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson had no report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid had no report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Gallo read the Public Hearing announcement:

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before Council of the City of Ontario, during the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 North Stumbo Road, upon a proposal to amend Section 1145.11 Fences and Walls.

All persons interested in these issues are invited to attend and express their views.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Hearing no one who wished to speak, the Public Commentary portion of the meeting was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 20-01

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (THE CHIEF OF POLICE), TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM THE RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION TO BE USED FOR SETTING UP THE CITY'S K-9 PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 20-01 on three separate days, second by Mr. Gallo. Four members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mrs. Webb read Ordinance No. 20-01 for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-01, second by Mr. Gallo. Hearing no discussion, four members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 20-01 was adopted.

At 7:15 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Gallo, second by Mr. Earhart and the motion passed unanimously.

James A. Hellinger, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council