

## Regular

January 3, 2018

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 3, 2018, 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, Eddie Gallo, Dan Zeiter, Mark Weidemyre, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Jim Hellinger, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Treasurer Jim Hairston, 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. Gallo. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 20, 2017 were presented for approval. Mr. Arnold moved to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Earhart. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Weidemyre moved to appoint Mrs. VanAuker as Clerk of Council, second by Mr. Arnold. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Arnold moved to appoint Mr. Weidemyre as Council President Pro Tem, second by Mr. Gallo. Five members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mr. Weidemyre, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Earhart reported on the Utilities Committee meeting held earlier this evening where they discussed options for the water/sewer billing. Administration was asked to obtain additional pricing on monthly costs versus quarterly. The Committee also discussed the economic development advantages of installing a 12" main for the south side of W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Quotes will be obtained for further consideration.

- Mr. Gallo suggested contacting Mt. Gilead and Fredericktown for information about their solar powered plants. Mt. Gilead receives 75% of their power from the solar field and Fredericktown 100%.

Mr. Gallo said the proposed 2018 street paving was compiled and distributed by the Service-Safety Director.

Mr. Zeiter reminded everyone the permanent budget needs completed by the end of March. Less money is being carried-over this year but several purchases were made last year on items that were held back when funding was tight. Since January 2016 the city has increased its finances by \$1 ½ million which could not have been done without the current Administration and Council. Mr. Zeiter thanked everyone and was appreciative of their efforts.

Mr. Zeiter scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on January 17, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

### STATE OF THE CITY

In looking back at 2017, the City of Ontario can be very proud of what was accomplished.

The City was active this year with business grand openings, with a total of 20. Included were the openings of Avita Hospital and Ohio Health Emergency Room. The Altitude Trampoline Park opened, which offers an excellent entertainment location for the area. Zoning reported that there were a 7 new houses and 1 double built. Zoning permit valuations for residential and business permits were in excess of \$7,341,000.00.

## Regular

January 3, 2018

The Ontario Division of Police experienced an increase in calls for service over 2016. Even though calls for service increased, most of the serious crimes reported were down. The Division saw a change in leadership, with Chief Rodney D. Smith retiring after 34 years of service. Chief Tommy D. Hill Jr. took over as Chief on April 12th. Also, due to the increased growth of Ontario, Council approved the addition of two new officers. With the new officers the department was able to increase neighborhood patrol throughout the year. During the holidays there was extra patrol in the business lots and during peak hours officers patrolled in unmarked cars. Due to all of this, parking lot crimes, such as theft from vehicles was reduced.

I want to thank Dan Henige for his 16 years of service to the Civil Service Commission. Dan served on the Commission since its inception in 2001, when Ontario became a City.

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 4th of July Committee is always looking for more volunteers. If anyone wishes to volunteer, please e-mail me at [mayor@ontarioohio.org](mailto:mayor@ontarioohio.org).

This year we welcomed our new Recreation Director, Heather Hendrix. She took over for Janet VanCura, who retired after serving for over 13 years. Heather continued to put on activities all year long for the citizens. Family swim night, Easter egg hunt, summer recreation and honking hauling trucks, are just a few of the great programs she coordinates. A Geo-Caching event was added this year and was held at Marshall Park. I want to thank former City of Ontario appointed Recreation Board Members, Becca Enrico, Liz Bocka, and Melissa Weiler for their many years of dedicated service.

We continued to make improvements to our parks. Trees were planted to help replace the many Ash trees that were lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Updates were done to the Woodsman Disc Golf Course, which included concrete tee pads and signage. Concerts in the Park were continued with the assistance of Ontario Youth Sports. With the increased publicity the crowds were much larger, with the largest crowd drawing approximately 1000 people.

Ontario Youth Sports continued to provide numerous events in Marshall Park. They held two movie nights at the band-shell, hosted the Target Cup Soccer Tournament, along with the Baseball Bash and Summer Slam softball tournaments. These are just a few of the programs and events that OYS provides throughout the year. The Christmas Tree Lighting at Marshall Park had the largest crowd to date, drawing well over 500 people. The event is sponsored by the Ontario Growth Association, The City, and Ontario Youth Sports. Cookies and hot chocolate were provided by OGA and the horse drawn wagon was sponsored by OYS. Photos were taken for free by Diane Bemiller of Race Day Photos. The Ontario High School Jazz Band, Show Choir, Majorettes, Golden Girls, Royal Guard Flag Corps performed in the band-shell. I want to give a special thanks to citizens Gary and Lynn Levelius. They set up a very large light display, which was set to music. The City decorated the soccer pavilion, band-shell and pavilion #2.

In April we held our fourth annual Litter Clean Up day, picking up litter in several areas in the City. This was done with the help of Ontario High School students and staff, along with area churches and citizens.

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 2018. Ontario has a Strong Past and a Bright Future.

Regular

January 3, 2018

## **SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Wilson presented the following report:

2017 Cemetery Report: Last year there were nine burials, three less than the previous year. A total of 11 lots were sold, a decrease of 13 from last year. There are approximately 465 lots remaining for sale.

We had eight requests for foundation lay-outs which is required when someone wants to put up a headstone or make changes to an occupied lot. Eleven old foundations were restored, the same amount as in 2016, but this year's cost was \$400 less.

2017 Contractor's License: We issued 44 renewals and 72 new licenses in 2017. Both numbers are up from 2016 at 40 renewals and 67 new licenses. This is the second year in a row that we've experienced increases in both. Total income generated from the fees was \$9,400, which was an increase of \$700.00 over the previous year.

Christmas Tree Pick-up: We're providing Christmas tree pick up service again this year. Pick-up began yesterday and will continue through Friday, January 19th. All ornaments and tinsel must be removed and the tree placed by the curb.

Mr. Wilson made the following statement addressing the salt in the city's water:

Sometime Sunday (New Year's Eve Day) one of the salt injectors failed, causing salt to be continually added to one of our four softeners.

Calls about salty water started coming in to the Ontario Police Department Monday morning (New Year's Day). OPD contacted the water plant supervisor. When he arrived at the plant he discovered the problem and was able to repair the injector.

At that time we had no way of knowing how much salt was added to the water but with one injector malfunctioning we estimated that possibly 20% of the water was over-treated.

We drained a portion of our water towers and added fresh water from the plant.

Tuesday morning, people were still experiencing salty water, so the process was repeated and hydrants were opened at four locations. A lot of the problem was solved but this morning there were still a few calls so that process of draining the tower and adding fresh water was repeated and eight hydrants were opened this afternoon. Hopefully, with all of this effort the problem has been resolved and they'll work toward eliminating this from happening in the future.

Mayor Hutchinson said the Director is working on an alert list, for any future incidents, so hospitals and restaurants can be notified and an announcement for the media. The water was safe to drink.

## **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Medwid had no report.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hairston referred to his year-end report that was distributed then explained the 2017 revenue was up from last year, tax revenue was down due to state changes, occupancy tax collection was up, interest was up, sewer was up, water was down but water/sewer combined was slightly down which was due to a change in billing at the end of last year.

- The criteria used to investing money was to keep the principle safe, provide liquidity that's needed in case of an extraordinary expense, while at the same time maximizing the return by getting as much interest as possible.

## Regular

January 3, 2018

- A change was made from the last three years of holding money in cd's and a checking account by utilizing Star Ohio, a state sponsored managed fund for public entities that offers a much higher interest rate. Money was also moved to our long-time investment advisor to invest in the federal bonds and federal securities that provide a higher return. Local banks can't compete right now because they don't want more money so they aren't giving as much on cd rates. This change averaged a gain in interest of \$35,000 more a year. There is still \$1.7 million in local cd's.
- The tax revenue chart indicated a steady growth from 2009 at \$3.2 million to 2017 at over \$5 million, which is about 48% of our budget.

Mr. Weidemyre asked if there was a total amount defined that has been set aside from the Occupancy Tax for economic development. Mr. Hairston said at the end of the year any remaining funds roll into the 408 Capital Improvement Fund.

**MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Auditor Mary Ann Hellinger commented the Year To Date Fund Report shows a one-time entry in the 602 Fund for 2016 of \$831,000 for 2016 third party health expenses to claims and where the premiums go. If that is backed out of the revenue and the expenses it brings down the 2017 expenses to just over \$11 million and the revenue down to \$11.3 million. It was a necessary paperwork entry requested by the state auditor to catch up when the city became self-funded.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, said he has a 4-wheeler with a 5' plow and he wanted to know if there was anything owners of this type of vehicle could do to be allowed to ride on the side of the road. Perhaps require insurance, lights, reflectors, slow moving vehicle tag, two wheels off the road, or come to some agreement. This could also include golf carts to use the same safety requirements to ride on the streets. Crestline has an ordinance for golf carts.

- Mr. Gallo said an Ohio code took effect January 2017 that allows slow moving vehicles on public roads less than 35 mph. There are some stipulations but local municipalities can modify to fit their community. They will have a Safety Committee meeting to continue discussion.

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS****RESOLUTION NO. 18-01**

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 2018.

Mr. Arnold moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 18-01 on three separate days, seconded by Mr. Earhart. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Resolution No. 18-01 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-01, seconded by Mr. Weidemyre. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 18-01 was adopted.

Regular

January 3, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 18-02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE FOUR (4) UNNEEDED AND SLATED FOR AUCTION POLICE CRUISER GUN VAULTS TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

Mr. Gallo moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 18-02 on three separate days, seconded by Mr. Zeiter. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Arnold read Resolution No. 18-02 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Arnold moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-02, seconded by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 18-02 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-01

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTORS, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JON K. BURTON, JOHN D. STUDENMUND, AND ANDREW J. BURTON TO THESE POSITIONS, ESTABLISHING THEIR COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Gallo moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 18-01 on three separate days, seconded by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Gallo read Ordinance No. 18-01 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Gallo moved to adopt Ordinance No. 18-01, seconded by Mr. Arnold. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 18-01 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-02

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY INCOME TAX CODE TO ADOPT SECTIONS 718.80 THROUGH 718.95 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Hearing no motion to suspend the rules, Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 18-02 for the first time, by title only.

At 7:44 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Weidemyre, seconded by Mr. Arnold, and the motion passed unanimously.

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James A. Hellinger, President of Council

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Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council