

Special

April 15, 2020

Ontario City Council met in special session on April 15, 2020, in the Municipal Building. Councilman Gallo opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the coronavirus emergency declared by the Governor, the meeting was not open to the public but was accessible by Facebook Live.

Present during roll call were Council members Ken Earhart, Dave Rehfeldt, Eddie Gallo, Nathan Sunderland, via teleconference Sherry Branham and Michele Webb. Also present were Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

Mr. Sunderland moved to excuse Mr. Hellinger from this evening's meeting, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mrs. VanAuker opened the floor to nominations for President Pro Tempore. Mr. Earhart nominated Mr. Gallo, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. At roll call, five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Gallo, and the nomination to elect Mr. Gallo as President Pro Tempore passed.

Mr. Gallo requested a moment of silence in observance of the recent passing of Councilman Dan Zeiter. There will be a more formal tribute once the full Council is able to meet together.

Mr. Gallo extended appreciation to the front line workers throughout Richland County and the State of Ohio. We are grateful for the health care workers, first responders, police and firemen, who are facing this crisis we are in, as we continue to support them. Everyone is encouraged to support our local businesses open for services to the community and please continue to support businesses throughout Richland County in Ohio.

Mr. Gallo and Ms. Branham would like to remind the community if anyone has a need for assistance due to depression or anxiety they can contact the Richland Mental Health website at www.richlandmentalhealth.com for resources linked to the site for services that are available throughout this crisis and continue once it is over. This is a wonderful organization doing great work.

Mayor Hutchinson explained when the city has a CRA (Community Reinvestment Act), which we have with the Hospitality Group, they must file an annual report that is handled by the local Regional Planning Tax Incentive Review Council. An Ontario resident is required to be appointed to the Board, along with the Mayor.

Mr. Earhart moved to appoint Kim Miers to the Tax Incentive Review Council, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 20-08

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 20-08 on three separate days, second by Mr. Earhart. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Resolution No. 20-08 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Resolution No. 20-08, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Hearing no discussion, at roll call, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 20-08 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 20-12

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (THE CHIEF OF POLICE), TO APPLY FOR A DONATION OF A CANINE BULLET PROOF VEST BY VESTED INTEREST K9 FOR THE CITY'S K9 PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 20-12 on three separate days, second by Mr. Earhart. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 20-12 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-12, second by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, at roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 20-12 was adopted.

At 6:12 p.m., Mr. Rehfeldt moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider compensation of a public employee and ORC 121.22 (G)(8) to consider confidential information related to marketing plans and specific business strategy of an applicant for economic development assistance and the information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance, second by Mr. Earhart. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

At 6:57 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session.

At 6:58 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Mr. Earhart and the motion passed.

Eddie Gallo, President Pro Tempore

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council