

## Regular

May 6, 2020

Ontario City Council met in regular session on May 6, 2020, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Jim Hellinger presiding. Due to the coronavirus emergency declared by the Governor, the meeting was not open to the public but was accessible by Facebook Live. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Gallo moved to amend the Rules of Council that are necessary to be amended so as to comply with the Federal Government's Social Distancing Guidelines and/or the Governor's State of Emergency while those orders are in effect. Second by Mrs. Webb. At roll call six members voted Aye, zero Nay and the motion passed.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 4, 2020 were presented for approval. Mr. Rehfeldt moved to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Gallo. Five members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mrs. Webb, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

The minutes of the special Council meeting of March 25, 2020 were presented for approval. Mr. Sunderland moved to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Five members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mrs. Webb, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

The minutes of the special Council meeting of April 15, 2020 were presented for approval. Mr. Sunderland moved to approve the minutes, second by Mrs. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt reported on the Finance Committee meeting held earlier this evening to discuss the potential impact to Ontario's economy. Treasurer Jim Hairston discussed the potential revenue loss given the limited information available because the full impact of the city's finances aren't known. Currently, there is a projected \$600,000 - \$1,000,000 revenue loss. They will monitor revenue on a regular basis, probably weekly, there will be a loss, but at this time it's just not known how much. The Mayor implemented a freeze on expenditures to ensure nothing new affects the budget. The goal is to make sure we are aware of the expenses and stay on top of the circumstances that are happening right now because we're not sure how this is going to affect us. We need to be able to minimize the gap as much as possible between the loss of revenue and the offset of expenses.

Mr. Sunderland, Parks Committee Chair, presented the report submitted by Recreation Director Heather Hendrix.

OPEN SWIM. We had great turn outs at all open swim sessions. For all sessions we averaged about 50 kids and families. The two sessions in March were canceled due to COVID-19.

SWIM LESSONS. The first and second week of March we had swim lessons. Debby Henry ran the lessons and we were able to complete them before COVID-19 closures. Twenty-six students participated and eight high school students worked with the kids. The class went well and it was great to see all of the progress students made over the two weeks.

EASTER EGG HUNT. The Egg Hunt was canceled due to COVID-19. However, since we had over 5,000 eggs stuffed, we are planning on having an egg hunt whenever we are allowed to have large gatherings again. I ran an Easter Egg coloring contest and then delivered Easter baskets with candy and prizes to the top four winners.

## Regular

May 6, 2020

SUMMER REC. As most of you know, we canceled Summer Rec this year due to COVID-19. We had 50 kids apply to work and we were getting that all set up when we had to cancel.

GEOCACHE EVENT/TREASURE HUNT. A geocache scavenger hunt was scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> but has been rescheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 pm at Marshall Park. A Treasure Hunt with barcode scanning for clues is being planned as well. The date will be determined by state restrictions but hopefully sometime this summer.

LIFEGUARDING. Lifeguarding classes have been canceled due to closures of pools. The Red Cross has extended certificates for 120 days. At that point we will re-evaluate guidelines for recertification classes. CPR can be done online but water training is difficult to do 6 ft. apart, so we are waiting on the Red Cross to see what they recommend. We will also have to wait until next year to offer a new lifeguard class unless state restrictions are lifted.

ART CLASS. Allison Pence will be conducting an art class, hopefully this summer or fall. The art project will be a canvas painting. She will provide instruction and all materials. Only for adults and students ages 13 and up. Cost will be \$25. I will provide drinks and snacks.

CRAFT SHOW. The craft show is scheduled for Dec. 5, 2020. Registrations will go out in June, payments will be delayed until the end of September/beginning of October to make sure we will be able to have it and not have to prepare refunds.

VIRTUAL REC DEPT. I have created a virtual Recreation Department for the new website. It is broken down by categories, such as Adults, Older Adults, Teens, and Kids. In each category I have found educational sites, exercise sites, and online games, etc. to give everyone ideas on things to do while at home.

I also have been posting scavenger hunts and other inside activities to do with kids while at home on my Facebook page. Please like or follow my Facebook page to see what all is going on and check out the new website and my links.

Also, in Shawna's absence I have been taking care of her voicemail, email and the cancellations of the pavilions and community room.

MOTHER'S DAY PICTURES. OYS and the Rec Dept. are teaming up to offer free Mother's Day pictures in Marshall Park on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We have a google sheet sign up list on our Facebook pages. We are limiting it to ten people per hour and families must stay in cars until we call or text them to line up 6 ft. apart. We are using the trail so they will enter through one way and exit the other. When we are done with the pictures, we are emailing them to the families. Moms and kids only. No large groups.

SPORTSPALOOZA. Kenn Spencer (OYS), the Mayor and I have been meeting on a weekly basis in April and May. OYS and I are partnering to offer an outdoor sports camp the end of June, pending state restrictions. The camp will have tennis, baseball/softball, frisbee disc golf, sand volleyball, and track or basketball. We are working on getting high school coaches involved and plan on 9 a.m.-12 p.m, June 22-26<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$25.

CONTESTS. The Rec Dept. will be having different virtual contests in spring/summer. The first contest was the egg coloring contest for Easter. Some others are: Mother's Day pictures, Quarantine graduation pictures, and a sidewalk chalk obstacle course. Participants names will be put into a drawing and the top two winners will receive gift cards.

Comments:

Mr. Sunderland thanked Mrs. Hendrix for providing this detailed report.

Mr. Rehfeldt was pleased to see the Rec Department and OYS organizations working so well together and coming up with new ideas.

## Regular

May 6, 2020

Mayor Hutchinson stated:

- Concerts in the Parks are still scheduled but will depend on what restrictions are in place at the time of the first concert.
- A private donation was made to fund fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The display will be much larger than previous years. Funding will go through OYS, a non-profit organization. Once again, it will depend on the restrictions that are in place at the time. Mr. Rehfeldt added, they are having an organizational meeting soon to discuss other ideas that could be included with this event.
- The city is trying to find things for people to do this summer.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- Community Housing Impact Preservation Program (CHIP Program). The City of Ontario qualifies this year. Anyone in the city with low to moderate income, who has housing needs and is interested in this program, should email Scott Hillis, Ohio Regional Development Corporation, [scott@ordevelopment.com](mailto:scott@ordevelopment.com).
- The EPA will hold a public hearing pertaining to Pan-Glo Mansfield on their permit for coating lines. Check the EPA website for more information.
- Installing a crosswalk from the east side of Shelby-Ontario Road to Pearl for students has been discussed. The cost of doing the work in-house is less than \$5,000 but with COVID-19, right now isn't a good time to move forward with this project.
- Due to the modified Council meetings, residents are able to email questions to the Mayor and he will present them during the Council meeting.
  - One question from a resident asking if they could have 4 - 6 chickens and rabbits on their 1.8 acre property. Section 505.15 of the city codified ordinances require three acres, this code has been in place for many years. If Council wishes, they may send this to Planning Commission for further review.
  - One School Board member responded through the Finance Committee Facebook Live meeting that they would like to discuss topics from that meeting with Council. A meeting will be arranged.
- Mayor Hutchinson requested a Utilities/Finance Committee meeting on May 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- The city is working on a Contingency Connection Plan. Mansfield faced a situation where they weren't able to provide water. Plans are being worked on to install a connection along Home Road, so if something happened to our water plant a valve could be opened and Mansfield could supply us water and vice versa. When Crestline is ready, after completion of installing their new water line, a shared connection could be installed at St Rt 314.

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

Mr. Wilson presented the following update.

ANNUAL SPRING LIMB PICK-UP: The Annual Limb Pick-up was conducted April 13<sup>th</sup> thru April 24<sup>th</sup>. Crews made numerous rounds through the entire City during the two weeks. We took a total of 26 loads of debris to the Cairns Road Compost facility.

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May 6, 2020

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP: The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Clean-up (High School students participate in this event) was scheduled for Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> but had to be cancelled for this year due to the pandemic. We have been contacted by a few other organizations asking about community projects, so there still may be a chance for some of the areas to be cleaned up.

PARKS: In compliance with Governor DeWine's orders, all facilities at our parks will remain closed until further notice. The restrooms are locked, pavilion rentals are being cancelled or stopped, and all sports fields are closed. We are prepared to open all facilities the day the closure order is lifted.

EMPLOYEES: I've been asked by the City employees to pass along to Council their gratitude for how the past six weeks were managed regarding their jobs and pay. Nearly all have asked me to share their appreciation with Council.

#### **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Medwid had no report.

At 7:27 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Rehfeldt, second by Mr. Gallo and the motion passed.

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James A. Hellinger, President of Council

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Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council