

Regular

September 16, 2020

Ontario City Council met in regular session on September 16, 2020, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Pro Tempore Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 2, 2020 were presented for approval. Mr. Sunderland moved to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Branham. At roll call, five members voted Aye, one Abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on October 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Gallo said the executive session held this evening during Caucus was for the purpose of discussing economic development. An Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on October 7, 2020, following the Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Webb reported the motion for executive session during Caucus included a personnel discussion.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson introduced Jodie Perry, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, to answer questions about the processing of the \$25,000 CARES funding for small businesses.

- Council members expressed thanks to Ms. Perry and everyone at the Chamber of Commerce for organizing the distribution of funds for Richland County.
- Ms. Perry said there has been a strong response to the grant application process. There are currently more grant applications county wide than can be fulfilled. Additional contributions are coming in that will be a great help. Approximately, 17 Ontario businesses applied, the final numbers should be known next week.

During a previous meeting, the question was raised about the procedure to initiate a Charter form of government. The Board of Elections supplied the appropriate information that included the timing requirement for the primary election and establishing the Charter Commission. Council needs to decide if they want a Charter.

- Advantages of a Charter would allow the city to establish their structure by home rule. Ontario is statutory and must follow the Ohio Revised Code, which is the same for any size of community and often code isn't up to date. A Charter allows decisions on which positions are elected or hired. Some cities have all appointed positions with a City Manager. The Police Department and Administration would be involved in preparing the Charter.
- Mr. Medwid explained a Charter would have more home rule than what the ORC provides. As an example, a Charter could give the Mayor the power to declare a state of emergency, such as during COVID. The ORC doesn't address giving that power to the Mayor, so we had to wait until Council could pass legislation, granting that authority to the Mayor. Most cities allow their Mayor to declare an emergency.

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- A lot of the same ORC powers are in a Charter, but they can be amended to be more specific.
- A Charter gives the city flexibility instead of the state regulations deciding what you can and can't do.
- A Charter could require qualifications for the positions of Auditor and Treasurer.
- The Charter Commission consists of 15 elected members, they hold public meetings and provide minutes.

Recycle bins were to be delivered at Stowell Park last week. The Mayor will follow up.

A survey about Stowell Park may be placed on the city's Facebook page. The feedback has been positive to have everything located at Marshall Park.

- Ms. Branham asked residents along Ferguson Road for their opinion. They like the green space of the park and were concerned what could replace the park. Some would like to see tax money go into developing Stowell Park.
- Mr. Rehfeldt would like to see a plan for Stowell because it has lost its impact and OYS no longer has any interest in using it.
- The city has the financial responsibility to resolve the safety issue of the ballfield lights.

In response to Mrs. Webb's question about the property at Home and PAW, Mayor Hutchinson said the lot was sold and the city would be reimbursed for the lien on the demolition of the building. The taxes are still being paid on the lot at Maple and PAW. The status of the unfinished church on PAW has not changed.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson had no report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Seeing no one who wished to speak, Public Commentary was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**RESOLUTION NO. 20-12**

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Resolution 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. Earhart read Resolution No. 20-12 for the first time, by title only.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 20-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CITY OF ONTARIO CARES ACTS FUND IN THE GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 20-22 on three separate days, second by Mrs. Webb. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 20-22 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-22, second by Mr. Sunderland. Hearing no discussion, at roll call six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 20-22 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-08 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2020 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND AND THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FUND.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 20-23 on three separate days, second by Mrs. Webb. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 20-23 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-23, second by Mrs. Webb. Hearing no discussion, at roll call six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 20-23 was adopted.

At 7:34 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.

Edward J. Gallo, Council President Pro Tem

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council