

Regular

February 3, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on February 3, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:15 p.m.

Present during roll call were Council members Larry Collins, Dave Rehfeldt, Ken Earhart, Josh Bradley, Michele Webb, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson, Zoning Inspector Michael Morton and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

Mr. Gallo welcomed Mr. Collins to City Council.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 20, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt reported the Finance Committee discussed the preparation for the completion of the permanent budget.

Mr. Bradley scheduled a Parks Committee meeting on February 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Webb said the Personnel Committee discussed elected officials' salaries, the position at Ontario Commerce Park, and changes to the Policy and Procedure Manual.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said, due to the continued COVID restrictions, he is trying to reduce the number of people entering the hallway in the office area, therefore, visitors are asked to remain in the lobby.

The potential buyer for the old cell tower at the OCP property said the tower was not the proper height for most companies. The cost to take the tower down and move it would be more than to purchase a new tower. An auction may be scheduled at a later date to remove the tower.

A company will be hired to clear the brush on the other side of the fence, south of Charter Next Generation. Removal of the brush requires special equipment and would make the property look nicer.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson had no report.

Mr. Earhart applauded Streets Department Head Evan Hellinger and the street crews for the excellent job they did plowing during the recent snow. Mr. Gallo concurred, and said the employees put in long hours maintaining the streets.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid had no report.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Morton distributed copies of his Annual Zoning Report that detailed comparisons between 2019 and 2020 for permits, fees and valuations, as well as a listing of 2020 new businesses and closures.

- 2019 was an exceptional year, but overall, 2020 was not a bad year.

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- 15 new businesses opened and 5 closed.
- Meijer and Walmart made major improvements at their locations.
- Charter Next Generation should be operational in a few months.
- Throughout the city there was over \$19 million of improvements in 2020, compared to \$12.8 million in 2019.
- The \$17,000 collected in fees during 2020 was down 67% from 2019.

Businesses that are closing don't normally notify Mr. Morton in advance. Mr. Sunderland asked Mr. Morton to notify Council members when he is aware of any closings to see if they could help the business attract more customers.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- The Division of Liquor Control submitted a notice of change in ownership for Buffalo Wild Wings. Council members did not wish to request a hearing and the notice will be returned to the Ohio Division of Liquor control.
- Mr. Gallo read the notice of public hearing that will be held on March 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., at the Municipal Building, to amend Section 1137.05 Business District (b)(1) Permitted Uses and (c) Conditional Uses, and Section 913.09 Road Impact Fee Schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

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

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-03

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH THE CITY OF MANSFIELD TO PAVE HOME ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Hearing no motion to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-03 on three separate days, Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 21-03 for the second time, by title only.

At 7:34 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Mrs. Webb, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council