

## Regular

March 17, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 17, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Larry Collins, Dave Rehfeldt, Ken Earhart, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Michele Webb (remote), Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson, Recreation Director Heather Hendrix and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 3, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Rehfeldt reported the Finance Committee met this evening to approve the amendments to the 2021 final budget. The Mayor recommend improvements, for safety reasons, to the soccer concession stand area at Marshall Park and the addition of a maintenance vehicle. There is approximately a \$90,000 deficit but revenue projections are conservative.

Mr. Rehfeldt announced a combined Finance/Parks/Economic Development Committees meeting on April 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., to discuss development plans for the city.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Branham moved for the Mayor to accept the CRA filing with Ontario Hospitality. Second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mr. Bradley, and the motion passed.

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

Mr. Wilson reported:

STUMBO ROAD PAVING: Last week was the bidding for the Stumbo Road re-surfacing project. The winning bid was submitted by Kokosing Construction Co. at an amount of \$302,520.49. This bid was 8.33% below the engineer's estimate, so, once again, by getting our project out for bid early, we benefit with aggressive bids.

We should receive the final specifications and engineer's estimate this week for the Marshall Park road re-location. As soon as we receive them, we will put that project out for bid.

STOWELL PARK TRANSITION: The transition at Stowell Park is coming along nicely. The swings are installed and our crews will finish the mulch base soon. The concession stand has been completely removed. Concrete for the pickle ball courts was poured today. Once the concrete cures, Richland Sealcoat will paint the surface and stripe the courts. Our crews will install all the fencing necessary to complete the project. Removal of the light poles is scheduled.

SPRING CLEAN UP: I'm happy to announce that we will be able to hold our annual Spring Clean Up project this year, after cancelling the event last year due to Covid. We will partner with Ontario High School to bring students out along Lexington-Springmill Road to pick up litter. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be the 7<sup>th</sup> year we've been able to hold this event.

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City-wide limb pick up service begins Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and continues through Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Crews will make at least one pass along all City streets during the two weeks to collect branches and sticks that accumulated through the winter months. Once again, we ask citizens to please limit items to less than 6” in diameter, and ONLY debris from winter conditions; no leaves, yard clippings, or branches resulting from tree/shrub trimming. We will not follow a set schedule, so if you have debris, please place it at the curb by Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

In response to Ms. Branham's questions, Mr. Wilson said the school students are instructed on safety and what not to pick up during Spring Clean Up day. Each student group is supervised. Gloves are provided and Charter Next Generation donates the trash bags. During this two-hour project, 50-75 bags of trash are collected.

**LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report.

**RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Hendrix presented the following report.

CRAFT SHOW

The craft show scheduled for Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was canceled due to COVID.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST

We held a virtual Christmas Lighting Contest. Participants sent in their addresses and judges from the community went around and judged their outdoor Christmas decorations. We had three winners. Steve's Dakota Grill donated \$50 gift certificate to the winner. 2<sup>nd</sup> place received a \$25 gift certificate donated from McDonald's, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner received a \$15 gift card donated by The Cove. A big thank you to our local businesses for their donations.

CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

In partnership with the Ontario Lions Club, we had a virtual coloring contest. Kids submitted their colored pictures via email to the Rec. Dept. and the Lions Club members picked the winners. Arby's donated a free meal to all winners and the Rec. Dept. mailed out their prizes.

PICTURE COLLAGE CONTEST

For Valentine's Day, we held a virtual picture collage contest. Entries were submitted via email and posted on Facebook. We had four age categories- Kdg-5<sup>th</sup> graders, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, and 18+ adults. The winners from each age category that had the most likes on Facebook won a \$20 gift card to O'Charley's or Bob Evans.

JELLYBEAN CONTEST

Having a "Guess the number of jellybean's" the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Winner closest to the actual number will receive a \$20 gift card to The Cove.

EASTER EGG HUNT

We are planning on having our Easter Egg Hunt on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We are busy stuffing eggs. We will spread everyone out this year and have two different times for the egg hunt. Kids under 3 up to Kdg. will start their egg hunt at noon. Then 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders will start their egg hunt at 12:30 pm. We hope this helps with crowding and per state guidelines, masks will be required.

TIN CAN CHANDELIER ART CLASS

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 2 to 4 pm we are offering an art class that will be held at the Tin Can Chandelier in Ashland, Ohio. They will be making home décor wood signs. Cost is \$25.

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SELF DEFENSE CLASS

For High School students wanting to learn about self-defense we are offering a class possibly in May. They must have another family member attend with them to help them practice their skills and they must wear masks. Cost will be \$40. Reneta Music will be the instructor.

LIFEGUARD RECERT CLASS

Hoping to offer a lifeguard recertification class on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5 pm to Ontario students and possibly to students from other schools if the school will allow us to do so.

SCAVENGER HUNT EVENT

Planning a Scavenger Hunt Event on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 pm in Marshall Park. Groups get bar codes that they scan and receive clues to go to the next clue and then find a treasure.

SUMMER RECREATION CAMP

We are waiting to see if the school will open to outside organizations to see what we will be able to do with summer rec this year. If we do have it, we will be limiting the attendance and staff. If we are not able to use the school facilities, we will try to offer some outdoor camps throughout the summer. Work applications are due by March 19<sup>th</sup> for students interested in working the summer rec camp. Interviews are tentatively scheduled from 3 to 6 pm on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If the school approves outside organizations, the dates for Summer Rec are June 7 – 10 and June 14 – 17.

SWIM LESSONS

Hoping to offer swim lessons after summer rec camp but waiting on approval from the school and changes to the guidelines through the Red Cross.

In response to Ms. Branham's question, there is not funding set up for students needing financial assistance to attend summer rec. A suggestion was made to offer scholarships through OYS.

Mayor Hutchinson said pavilion rentals are now available, registration is online. The Community Room remains closed.

**MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Frank Flogger, Chair of the Ontario July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival and Miss Ontario Pageant came forward to provide an update on these two events.

- The Miss Ontario Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2021 at the Middle School.
- The July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival is set for Saturday, July 3, 2021, at the Middle School. They will begin using the facility earlier in the week and clean-up will be on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival Committee is partnering with the school system this year. An announcement will be made soon and a full-page ad will appear in the school newsletter.

Mr. Rehfeldt asked what could be done to expand the Festival. Last year, when the festival was cancelled due to COVID, a group organized some music and activities on Friday evening. They are interested in planning Friday evening events for this year. How could these two groups coordinate plans?

- Mr. Flogger suggested Council and interested groups attend their meetings to brainstorm various ideas.

Mayor Hutchinson commended Mr. Flogger and his family for their involvement and the countless hours they have volunteered over the past seven years to the Festival and their commitment to the Pageant.

Mr. Gallo advised Council they will be reviewing the Rules of Council soon and to send him their suggestions.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Council and Administration responded to questions.

Kim Jones, 144 Hazel Drive.

- Mr. Wilson said they concentrate on the north end of Lex-Springmill Road for the Spring Clean-Up area because it is a high visibility area with a lot of traffic. The students are only available for a couple of hours. They have also collected trash in the area behind Outback and Lowes.
- The Mayor contacted the college and the high school for a large meeting venue but neither location was allowing outside groups to use their facilities at this time.
- Forming a Charter Commission, which will appear on the May ballot, is required by the Ohio Revised Code, to discuss changing from a statutory form of government to a charter form of government. That charter proposal is presented to Council for approval to be placed on the November ballot.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West.

- Ordinance 21-07, amending Business District. R-1 and R-2 are currently permitted uses in a Business District. This change will make them conditional uses and include R-3.
- Ordinance 21-07, Park Regulations. Requests from non-profit organizations to serve alcohol during a special event in the park would require city approval and a special license from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 21-06**

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021, AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2021.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 21-06 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-06, second by Ms. Branham. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-06 was adopted.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 21-07**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1137, STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS BY AMENDING SECTION 1137.05, B BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-07 on three separate days, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 21-07 for the second time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-07, second by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Collins, and Ordinance No. 21-07 was adopted.

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## RESOLUTION NO. 21-04

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD  
MITIGATION PLAN.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 21-04 on three separate days, second by Mr. Earhart. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Resolution No. 21-04 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-04, second by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 21-04 was adopted.

## ORDINANCE NO. 21-09

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS  
DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE ONE (1) UNNEEDED WHITE 2013  
FORD TAURUS TO SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-09 on three separate days, second by Mr. Earhart. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Ordinance No. 21-09 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-09, second by Ms. Branham. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Bradley, and Ordinance No. 21-09 was adopted.

## ORDINANCE NO. 21-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ESTABLISHED REGULATIONS FOR THE  
USE OF ALL CITY PARKS, REPEALING ORDINANCE 18-04.

Hearing no motion to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-12 on three separate days, Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 21-12 for the first time, by title only.

## ORDINANCE NO. 21-11

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO ENTER INTO A  
SEWER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF MANSFIELD AND DIRECTING THE  
MAYOR TO EXECUTE IT ON BEHALF OF THIS CITY, AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to waive the 24-hour rule on Ordinance No. 21-11, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-11 on three separate days, second by Mr. Earhart. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Ordinance No. 21-11 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-11, second by Ms. Branham. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-11 was adopted.

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Mr. Gallo commented on the passage of Ordinance No. 21-11. He thanked Mayor Hutchinson, Director Wilson, Law Director Medwid, Mayor Theaker, Council President Falquette and the Mansfield City Council for all of the diligence put into this effort over numerous years.

Mr. Gallo expressed how proud he was of this body and the scrutiny they have been under lately, but they have always, at every point of this process, looked out for the best interest of the citizens of Ontario. He appreciated those who made their opinions known, because they are a part of this process, as much as anyone else. At times, the city was unfairly viewed as moving forward that ignored some of those concerns. At every point of this process, over the last 3½ years, even though the city was diligent about going forward with the ability to make the best moves possible to build a plant for the benefit of our citizens, proved it could be done, which was a major accomplishment and can still do that at any time in the future, they were still negotiating in good faith with Mansfield. Communication remained open and everything was done in the best interest of both cities. Mr. Gallo said he was glad it came to this decision, but the city was positioned, through great research and diligence, to do what was best for the citizens of Ontario and to move forward. This was a long time coming. Growth is a priority, as well as the protection and service to our citizens. We look forward to a good relationship with Mansfield going forward.

At 7:57 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Branham, and the motion passed.

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Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

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Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council