

Regular

April 21, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on April 21, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Larry Collins, Dave Rehfeldt, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Michele Webb, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 7, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bradley reported the Parks Committee met in a combined meeting this evening with the Economic Development and Finance Committees. A proposed list of updates and improvement projects for Marshall Park was distributed. Members were asked to bring any suggestions to the Parks Committee meeting on May 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Branham summarized the Economic Development Committee portion of the meeting held with the Parks and Finance Committees, where they learned of many improvements planned for the Ontario Commerce Park. The former Press Prep Building has been restored and improved to accommodate Charter Next Generations equipment, with production beginning this month. Phase 2, which should be completed by year end, includes an 86,000 sf expansion to the original building, resulting in a total size of 135,000 sf, and Norfolk Southern will have the railroad track operational. A second facility is in the planning stages for a 200,000 sf building that will be situated to utilize the rail that will run between the two buildings. Phase 3 will focus on the potential for the rest of the site and options for the pit and concrete pad.

Mr. Rehfeldt said the Finance Committee recommended financing the proposed projects that included items for the city building and Marshall Park with a ten-year loan with very low interest rates.

Mrs. Webb scheduled a Personnel Committee meeting on May 5, 2021 at 6:15 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- A ribbon cutting will take place at the Disc Golf Course on May 10, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. New tees and signage have been added. Volunteers held fund raisers and they did a lot of work on the course.
- The anticipated American Rescue money has not been received. The Ohio Municipal League and Office of Budget and Management are each holding seminars on appropriate spending guidelines.
- The Charter is on the May ballot. A general information sheet explaining the framing of a Charter will be completed soon, then sent to Council members in case they receive questions. The media will receive a copy and it will be posted on Facebook.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson reported:

- The limb pick-up program is almost done. Two passes were made through the city and 28 loads of limbs were taken to Cairns Road Recycling Facility.

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- The painting of the exterior of the water tower near Denny's was completed on Monday. Since 2015, all water tower exteriors have been painted. Per the contract, in 2023 the contractors will paint the interior of the Park Avenue water tower that is near the Senior Center, and in 2024 the interior of the Denny's tower. The ten-year contract is working very well, the company also maintains the safety inspections and reporting to the EPA.
- The spring clean-up scheduled for tomorrow with the high school students has been cancelled, due to weather. Tentatively, the rescheduled date is May 5, depending on the student's availability. This project wasn't done last year due to COVID. Evan Hellinger assigned two crews to clean up a couple of areas yesterday, before the snow, and they collected 33 bags of trash.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Gallo read the Notice of Public Hearing:

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Council of the City of Ontario during a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, upon a proposal to amend the City Zoning Ordinances:

1. Chapter 1146.03 Signs, Section (e)(3) Wall Signs
2. Rezone ten parcels on Park Avenue West between 2903 PAW and the railroad overpass, from Business to General Industry.

The City of Ontario Planning Commission has recommended in favor of these changes. All persons interested in these issues are invited to attend and express their views.

Mr. Gallo said this is the last meeting prior to the May primary and he encouraged everyone to be part of the process.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Larry Collins, 130 Hazel Drive, read a prepared letter opposing Ordinance 21-12, amending City Park Regulations by allowing alcohol to be sold during special events by vendors who received approval from the City and the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

Edward Akinyemi, 281 W. Main Street, Lucas, came before Council to advocate for Senate Bill 1, which requires students who enter ninth grade, for the first time on or after July 1, 2021, to complete at least one academic unit of instruction in financial literacy as part of the required high school curriculum. He encouraged everyone to support this bill because financial literacy is important for students to learn. Twenty-five other states, and the District of Columbia, have similar bills before their House/Senate.

Kenn Spencer, 3654 Shangri-La Avenue East, thanked Council for their plan to move forward with the proposed park improvements. The relationship the community, the Mayor, the Service-Safety Director and Council have with the youth groups is as good as it has ever been, and he is thankful for a community that is always looking forward. The improvements planned for the parks are diversified for all age groups, not just the children. The disc golf, pickleball courts and concerts are adult events.

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CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-12

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

Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 21-12 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-12, second by Mr. Bradley. Hearing no discussion, five members cast their votes Aye, one Nay by Mr. Collins, and Ordinance No. 21-12 was adopted.

Mr. Gallo stated that he is not a voting member but understands their decision. He has concerns and advised everyone to be very careful about the execution of this regulation and to be cognizant as to what could potentially happen if not handled correctly.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-16

(SECOND READING) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1119 IMPROVEMENTS, BY AMENDING SECTION 1119.03 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS, SUBPARAGRAPH (j) WATER SUPPLY, SUBPARAGRAPH (4) VALVES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 21-16 for the second time, by title only.

At 7:33 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Webb, second by Mr. Bradley, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council