

Regular

May 5, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on May 5, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Dave Rehfeldt, Ken Earhart, 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 21, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Joe Trolan, Executive Director of Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services, was invited forward to receive a Proclamation for Mental Health Month.

Mental Health Month

The theme for May is Mental Health Month 2021 in Richland County is one simple word “RESILIENCE.” In the wake of COVID-19 the County has demonstrated the four principals of Resilience: Perseverance, Adaptability, increasing knowledge, and the strength to move forward.

WHEREAS: The behavioral health system “**Persevered.**” Despite COVID-19 restrictions including stay at home orders, limits to travel and in-person meetings, the publicly funded agencies still provided services to over 8000 Richland County youth and adults for treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders. Critical services such as withdrawal management, crisis stabilization and residential care remained open and active, and outreach programs such as the Opiate Response Team continued to make visits and provide supports to our friends and neighbors to access treatment.

WHEREAS: The behavioral health system “**Adapted.**” Agencies quickly developed new ways to deliver essential services to people in need, through telephone services, video chats and sanitized face-to-face meetings. The Board provided 10s of 1000s of pieces of Personal Protective Equipment. Also, through a grant provided by the County Commissioners through relief funds, six agencies were given equipment to provide or enhance the provision of full tele-services.

WHEREAS: The behavioral health system “**Increased Knowledge.**” During this time of transition to electronic communication and greater reliance on media, The Board partnered with Mid State Multi-Media, United Way, First Call 211, 33 Forever and NAMI to further enhance the “Know It Before You Need It” initiative. This program is designed to increase community knowledge of services before people need them. We will be building on this initiative with the “Good Neighbor” movement, encouraging the community to begin “safely” expanding their social circles and sense of community as we emerge from the pandemic.

WHEREAS: We are “**Moving Forward.**” As individuals begin to deal with the impact of the COVID epidemic, we find our services in greater demand. Access to care is the key. To that end We will be piloting up to two Behavioral Health Urgent Cares. These will allow access to Initial Assessments and brief, solution-focused counseling 6 days a week and up to 4 evenings per week on a walk-in basis. We know that when someone decides they need help it is essential that they can access care quickly and conveniently. We are still in the development stages but hope to have the doors open on these Behavioral Health Urgent Cares on August 2, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Randy Hutchinson, Mayor of Ontario, along with the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021, as “Mental Health Month” and call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps citizens can take to protect their mental health and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal this Fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Randy Hutchinson, Mayor

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Mr. Trolan said they want to get people back into the community, which is why they are offering several activities during the month of May. One event beginning May 17th at Marshall Park, Community Stretch, starts a 12-week program from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Focus will be on light stretching, guided meditation and mental health specific presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on May 19, 2021, at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Bradley reported on the Parks Committee meeting where they discussed the proposed project list and created a recommendation to present for Council's approval: City Hall – HVAC and generator, splash pad, play station, baseball and soccer turf, field changes and asphalt. The Committee discussed financing the projects with a construction loan. The safety changes to the parking area near the soccer fields were also discussed.

Mrs. Webb said the Personnel Committee discussed changes suggested by the Mayor to Ordinance No. 20-10 Wage Ordinance and Ordinance No. 20-03 Working Ordinance. The Committee approved changes that will be presented to Council for approval.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- Acknowledgement was extended to the Richland County Foundation, Director Brady Groves, and the \$4,700 donation from Merris and Jean Welge, to be used for police training. The Welge's make their contributions through the Foundation, where they made a previous donation for the police monument located at the front of the municipal building. Their generosity is very much appreciated.
- Money was added to the budget this year for winter decorations on the Lex-Springmill light poles. Electric decorations aren't priced much higher than non-electric but the cost to run electricity per pole is \$500. The 5' x 5' colorful star snowflakes being considered are \$367 each. There are a variety of options available, such as snowmen, candy canes and wreaths, with heights of 6', and prices ranging up to \$500 per decoration. City crews can hang the ornaments. The decorations will be staggered on 50 – 60 light poles from Park Avenue West to the Meijer area.
- A resident on Homewood Drive is asking the city to vacate the paved stub that was put in the right-of-way, over fifty years ago, and extends a couple hundred feet into the wood. Possibly, the stub was there so one day Homewood could connect to Mercer, but that will probably never be done. The city must maintain part of the resident's driveway on Homewood Drive because it's in the right-of-way. The property owner is requesting the city vacate the unused stub, then he will maintain everything out of the right-of-way. The city has repaired the driveway three times. The berm is very wide that goes into his driveway.
 - Council had no objections to vacating the stub on Homewood Drive. Since the property owner initiated the request, legislation will be prepared to complete the process.
- The city owns property on the former Railroad Street that is now Elliott Way, between Rudy Road and Lex-Ontario Road. This was the location of the village maintenance garage in the 1950's, but there hasn't been anything there in over 30 years. The city pays taxes on this property. The Prunner family on Rudy Road sold the property to the village and they believe the deed specified if the village was going to sell the property it would go back to the Prunner family. The Law Director is researching the deed.
 - The family is going to sell the farm and would like the property back.
 - The deed should specify if the property is given or sold back to the family.

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SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Gallo addressed the following:

Division of Liquor Control

The Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, sent notification that all liquor permits within the city expire July 1, 2021. A hearing may be requested if there are objections to any business currently holding a liquor permit. All businesses must file a renewal application with the Division of Liquor Control. Council did not express any objections.

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before Council of the City of Ontario, during the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at the Ontario Municipal Building, 555 North Stumbo Road, upon a proposal to amend Section 1145.01 Accessory Buildings, Porches, Patios and Uses.

All persons interested in this issue are invited to attend and express their views.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, referenced the proposed code pertaining to shipping containers. He lives in a Business District and questioned if a business could have a shipping container next to a residence or, as a residential property in a Business District, if he could have a shipping container on his property.

- Mr. Gallo responded, the new code would specify that shipping containers in a Business District are to be utilized for their intended use. For example, Meijer has several shipping containers on their property that are being used during their remodeling project.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-16

(THIRD 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 third time, by title only.

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Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-16, second by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-16 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-17

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS ISSUED TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 15-24, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-17 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bradley. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mrs. Webb read Ordinance No. 21-17 for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-17, second by Mr. Earhart. Hearing no discussion, five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-17 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 513, DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, BY ADDING SECTION 513.12, SALE, DISTRIBUTION, OR POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUG, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-18 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bradley. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 21-18 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-18, second by Mr. Sunderland. Hearing no discussion, five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-18 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-05

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE "LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND" AND AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER AND AUDITOR TO ACCEPT ALL FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AND TO DEPOSIT THEM IN SAID FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Webb moved to suspend the 24-hour notification rule, second by Mr. Earhart. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Earhart moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 21-05 on three separate days, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Resolution No. 21-05 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-05, second by Mr. Sunderland. Hearing no discussion, five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 21-05 was adopted.

At 7:29 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. Earhart, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council