

Regular

September 1, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on September 1, 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 Dave Rehfeldt, Chad Wilford, Josh Bradley, Michele Webb, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meetings of August 4, August 18, and the special meeting of August 23, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Executive Director of the Ohio State Trappers Association, Bill Davis, provided information pertaining to coyotes, proper trapping methods, and displayed different types of traps.

- Trapping should not be opened to everyone. There should be a specified number of trappers allowed, an approved questionnaire/application, and trapping experience.
- The State of Ohio offers a trapper's education course that covers the laws, proper ways to set traps, ethics of trapping, fur takers permit, and trapping/hunting seasons.
- Designating no trapping zones near schools and recreation areas could be established, as well as determining trapping seasons.
- Ohio does not specify a coyote season, they can be trapped or hunted all year.
- Traps can't be set closer than 150' from an occupied dwelling without notifying the residents of that land. The city may want to increase that distance to 300'.
- The biggest concern is free roaming pets and who is responsible if a pet is caught, the trapper or pet owner.
- Types of traps include foot hold, snares, and cage traps. Cage traps are the most difficult type of trap to catch a coyote.
- Certain types of animals, such as coyotes, racoons, or skunks, caught in live traps can't be transported from one property to another. This is to prevent the spread of distemper.
- Traps with teeth are illegal in Ohio.
- Trappers are required to check their traps daily. Dispatched animals can't be left on the property, that is considered littering, the animal must be removed. Many trappers sell the fur.
- If a pack of coyotes are removed from an area, other coyotes will move in. The best you can do is just attempt to control them.

Mayor Hutchinson said the minimum acreage for bow hunting deer is 10 acres, which would be easy to add coyotes to that code.

- Mr. Gallo didn't think anything needed changed because someone with a hunting license who received permission to bow hunt within the city would include coyotes because open season for nuisance animals is year-round.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bradley scheduled a combined Parks and Finance Committee meeting on September 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Bradley reported the Parks Committee met this evening to review multiple bids and concepts for the park improvement projects. The committee approved moving forward with three of the four projects. The upcoming meeting is to finalize the lights for the baseball/softball field complex. Final lighting bids should be submitted in the next few days.

Regular

September 1, 2021

Mr. Bradley moved to accept the plans and bids for: (1) Rain Drop for the splash pad, (2) Play and Park Structure for the inclusive playground, and (3) Field Turf for the baseball/softball turf fields. Second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Five members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Sunderland called a Utilities Committee meeting on September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- Approximately six months ago Cindy Hoover requested a blue line painted on Stumbo Road to honor the Police Department. She raised funds to cover all expenses. Now that street paving is finished, she will coordinate this painting project with Richland Sealcoat.
- When a newer bingo machine was donated to the Senior Center the old machine was put in storage. If there are no objections, legislation will be prepared to donate the old machine to Madison Bingo.
 - Mr. Rehfeldt would like to make sure the Ontario Booster's Club does not have use for the machine, before giving the old bingo machine away.
- A resident on Friday Lane has requested to purchase city property adjacent to their land. Council members agreed the city should keep the property.
- Mayor Hutchinson will contact the electric company about hanging military flags on their poles to honor our local veterans. He will also check on costs for the banners.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Gallo requested a moment of silence to honor the service members who perished overseas and for the family of a recent Lexington graduate, who had a positive impact on the community, lost her life last weekend in a traffic accident.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West came forward to ask questions regarding the splash pad, playground, park facilities and retention pond.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 21 – 09

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MICHELE WEBB FOR HER SERVICE OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.

Regular

September 1, 2021

Mr. Gallo read Resolution No. 21-09 in its entirety.

Four members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mrs. Webb, zero Nay, and the motion was approved. Council members and Mayor Hutchinson expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Webb for her dedication to the city over the years and wished her well on her retirement.

At 7:52 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. Bradley, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council