

## Regular

October 6, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on October 6, 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 Ken Earhart, Dave Rehfeldt, Chad Wilford, Josh Bradley, 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 meeting of September 15, 2021 and the special meeting of September 20, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Rick Evans, Emergency Management Agency, and Sarah Humphrey, Richland County Health Commissioner, came forward to express their appreciation during the pandemic when they needed storage space for PPE supplies. Their building was the drop site for the Strategic National Stockpile but due to renovations it couldn't be used. A building must meet certain criteria to be a drop site for the Stockpile. During the past 1½ years they received 43 weekly shipments of PPE, gloves, face shields, masks, and gowns. The equipment was delivered by semi-trucks on pallets and needed offloaded. City workers used the front loader to unload the pallets and stored the PPE equipment until they could get to it.

Mr. Evans presented a plaque to Street/Parks Department Head Evan Hellinger, and for the Service Department's personnel, in sincere appreciation and gratitude for their outstanding service and support during the COVID-19 pandemic 2020-2021.

Ms. Humphrey echoed the sentiments of Mr. Evans. The supplies came not only to help the City of Ontario but every city and resident in Richland County. Without the city's collaboration they would have struggled more throughout the pandemic than what they did. She extended her heartfelt gratitude for their willingness to be a very vital community partner and protect the health of all Richland County residents.

Next to come before Council was Melissa Wilson, representing the Area Agency on Aging, to present information on the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Services are provided for people in nursing homes, assisted living, group homes or in their own homes. Volunteers are needed to work once or twice a month, after completing a 16-hour training program. They also report concerns from those receiving services, such as food and care complaints. Informational pamphlets about the Ombudsman program were left for distribution.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Wilford announced a Streets Committee meeting for October 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

## SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson provided the following update:

St. Rt. 309 Paving Project: The resurfacing project is starting to show signs of progress. One lane in both directions is completely paved. The project was slowed down this week due to the rainy weather. No updates were provided regarding a timeline for a finish date, but would estimate not more than one week's worth of work remains until completion.

2022 Street Paving: We will soon begin our street evaluation efforts for roads to be considered for resurfacing next year. I would like to ask each Council person to tour your ward, or any area, and submit streets that you feel should be considered for 2022. Once we have the list, we will prioritize the streets and submit the list to the engineers.

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- Mr. Gallo suggested the Police Department submit streets in need of repair since they are on the streets more than anyone.

Park Projects: All four park projects are scheduled to begin in the near future. Only the baseball complex light project will be completed this year, pending weather conditions. The splash pad, playscape, and turf projects will begin this year, primarily with excavation and site preparation, and are scheduled to be completed next spring.

Leaf Pick-up: Leaf pick up service is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. This service will extend through Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, as long as weather permits. We can only guarantee one pass through the entire City. We will make every effort possible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> pass in all neighborhoods, and are usually able to do so. Residents are asked to have their leaves raked to the curb, and not placed in the street. Please do not include any limbs, sticks, grass clipping, or yard debris, as we will not be able to remove those items at this time.

Mr. Wilson said he will not be able to attend the next Council meeting so he wanted to recognize Evan Hellinger, Streets/Parks Department Head, who is retiring at the end of the month with over 40 years of service to the city. He is a huge part of the growth of the city and his passion to serve this community is second to none. Mr. Wilson said it was his honor and privilege to work with Evan over the last eight years and to be able to call him a friend.

Mayor Hutchinson thought a grand opening ceremony for the new Marshall Park facilities could take place close to the Memorial Day weekend.

- At Mr. Rehfeldt's suggestion, a schedule that includes all activities with the Recreation Department, OYS, and park events will be compiled by February and displayed on the website.

#### **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

The Millsboro Road annexation documents were approved by County Commissioners and returned to the Clerk. Council members agreed the Law Director should proceed in preparing legislation to vote on accepting the annexation. Per ORC, voting can't be prior to 60 days or later than 120 days from receiving the County documents. If nothing is done in 120 days, the annexation is automatically rejected.

Mr. Gallo announced the Recreation Department and Middle School are holding a Senior Citizen's Prom, Dance The Night Away, at the Ontario Middle School on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The prom is open to citizens 65 and over in Ontario and the surrounding area. There will be a live band, dancing, snacks, games, and a photo booth.

- RSVP to the Recreation Department is required.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

No legislation.

At 7:29 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Mr. Wilford, and the motion passed.

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Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

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Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council