

Regular

October 20, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on October 20, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Ken Earhart, Chad Wilford, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

Mr. Gallo welcomed Ms. Feagin as the newly appointed 2nd Ward Councilwoman, replacing retired member Michele Webb.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 6, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Wilford reported on the Streets Committee meeting held earlier this evening:

- Christmas lights will be placed on the east side of Lex-Springmill from Park Avenue West to the campus. Next year, Veteran banners will be exhibited on the same poles from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day, then Christmas lights will be displayed.
- Sidewalks were discussed for the parks and schools.
- Regional Planning will be asked to look into possible solutions to reduce the twice-a-day highly congested St. Rt. 309/Lex-Ontario intersection.
- Parking at Marshall Park was reviewed. Asphalt grindings will replace some of the grassy areas to expand parking.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson provided an update:

- The Senior Citizen's Prom is tomorrow night at the Ontario Middle School Commons. If interested in attending, email Recreation Director Heather Hendrix for reservations.
- The Haunted Trail is October 30th, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. is the family friendly version and 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. is the scarier version. Under age 18 is \$5 and adults \$10. There was a great turnout last year. This event is successful due to the many volunteers and participants from a variety of organizations.
- Trick-or-Treat is Sunday, October 31st from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Turn porch lights on to participate.
- The recycling container at Stowell Park will be moved to Elliott Way and a second recycling container will be added. This recycling area and will be monitored.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

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At this time, Evan Hellinger, Streets/Parks Department Head, came forward to address Council and Administration on his upcoming retirement after serving the residents of Ontario for 41 years. A copy of his farewell is attached to these minutes. Council, Administration and those in the audience showed their gratitude with a standing ovation.

- Mr. Gallo said Mr. Hellinger is a valuable employee to the city, and then expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hellinger for his dedication and service to the community.
- Mayor Hutchinson said Mr. Hellinger has been a great asset to the city and he will be a great loss for the community. Mr. Hellinger trained his staff well and he will be missed with having almost 41 years of service.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

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

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-36

AN ORDINANCE AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO VALLEY TRUCK CENTERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2020 CHEVROLET 5500 4X2 DUMP TRUCK (LOW PRO) FOR THE SUM OF (INCLUDING CREDITS) \$54,344.00 THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-36 on three separate days, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Earhart read Ordinance No. 21-36 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Earhart moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-36, second by Mr. Bradley. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-36 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-37

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 21-06 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2021 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, THE 10% CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-37 on three separate days, second by Mr. Wilford. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Wilford read Ordinance No. 21-37 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Wilford moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-37, second by Mr. Earhart. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-37 was adopted.

At 7:18 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Earhart, second by Mr. Bradley, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council

Mayor Hutchinson and distinguished members of Council:

I want to thank this council and so many past council members over the years for their generosity, fairness and loyalty to the Service Departments and ... especially me. You have provided me with more than a fair wage and benefit package that allowed me to provide for my family through the years. Thank you.

I want to make special mention of my uncle Charles Hellinger, who back in 1980, gave a scrawny long haired kid a job. He told me to "get a haircut" and that he expected me to be a responsible employee. Uncle Charles, I gave it my best to be a good employee for the citizens of my home town.

Ontario has had 13 elected Mayors. I have worked for 11 of them: Mayors Hellinger, Henry, Sowash, Urwin, Jones, Kreisher, Regula, Durbin, Bender, Collins and Hutchinson. Thank you all for your service to the City of Ontario, and for trusting in me.

Ontario has been the best in the county for snow removal, emergency water main breaks and whatever else was thrown at us. Within a 4 hour time frame, every road in this town was plowed at least one time. This is including the 4 and 5 lane roads on Lex Springmill, St Rt 309, and West 4th St. Not to mention the water main breaks that are repaired within a 2-4 hour period. This all comes from men that are loyal to this town and that take pride in their work.

In the past few years we have had a substantial turn over and lots of new faces in the Service Departments. It is my hope that the work habits from us old timers have rubbed off on the new generation of men and I hope the dedication and pride continues in years to come. Thank you to all the guys past and present for their hard work and the respect you have shown me.

I cannot say enough good about our present administration. I want to thank Mayor Hutchinson and Service-Safety Director Wilson for always wanting to improve our city. We made all city buildings and grounds, and roadway sidewalks ADA compliant. We have planted approximately 100 trees throughout our park systems. You were faced with the Ash trees that became diseased everywhere and we worked as a team and disposed of 250 trees. As a team, we worked hard in purchasing new equipment anywhere from plow trucks, zero turn mowers, and backhoes to chain saws. All our equipment is the best in the business and I thank

you, Jeff, and council for this. Our relationship with Ontario Youth Sports, Ontario Schools, and especially the Ontario Police Department have been excellent. The atmosphere here at work has become so refreshing with this administration. It has been a joy to come to work most days.

As well as the skills and qualifications that I have gained along the way, I have gained something way more important. I found and developed great friendships, some that will stay with me for many, many years to come. I have also gained a feeling of belonging, and enjoyment in the job that I did.

Leaving the department in the hands of someone as capable as Jody Orewiler makes leaving that much easier. I will always care about the City of Ontario and know that Jody will keep the bar set high.

To close, for the past 8 years I have worked very closely with Jeff Wilson. His position requires him to handle demanding and sometimes delicate situations. I want to thank him for his every day professionalism. He always showed respect for me and I for him. He is honest, shows compassion, and is the true definition of a leader and friend.

President Gallo, thank you for letting me take of moment of your time.