

Regular

November 17, 2021

Ontario City Council met in regular session on November 17, 2021, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members, Dave Rehfeldt, Chad Wilford, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Rose Feagin, 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 meeting of November 3, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt reported the Finance Committee met earlier this evening to discuss the 2022 temporary budget. There will be no increase in staff next year. Appropriations included \$1.1 million for street projects, \$2.1 million in park improvements, and \$650,000 for HVAC and a generator, two additional cruisers, a new salt storage bin, a backhoe, and \$450,000 to repair the Shangri-La waterline. Due to new jobs within the city, tax revenue was up substantially in 2021 compared to 2020.

Ms. Branham said the Personnel Committee met this evening in executive session.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said the recycling containers were removed from Stowell Park and are now located on Elliott Way. The Township is keeping their recycling containers.

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson provided the following update:

Rt. 309 Paving Project: The Rt. 309 resurfacing project is completed. The Mayor and I met with Kokosing last week to discuss some concerns that we had, particularly the seam in the center of both lanes. We were shown by Kokosing the ODOT specs that require that type of finish. We were also assured by Kokosing that if the condition of the re-surfaced road is compromised this winter, they will take care of it.

2022 Street Paving: We have submitted our list for streets to be resurfaced in 2022 to our engineers. Once they complete the specifications, we will get the project out for bid quickly in order to get the best price that we can.

This year's list is:

- Rock Road from Rt. 309 north to W. 4th Street
- Lexington-Ontario Road from Park Avenue south to the City limits
- Bemiller Lane
- Cal Miller Lane from Milligan Road to Dunlap Drive

Park Projects: Start dates for all four park projects are on hold pending product availability. Only the baseball complex light project has the potential to be completed this year, pending weather conditions, but even that is questionable at this point. The splash pad, playscape, and turf projects most likely will not start until next spring.

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Leaf Pick-Up: Our leaf pick-up program was advertised to continue through Friday, November 19th. We will continue this service as long as weather permits. We had two crews out earlier this week picking up snow covered leaves that had been raked to the curb. We will make every effort possible to make as many passes through the City as needed. Crews have made one complete pass around the city.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to allow a privately funded and maintained religious display to be displayed on a conditional public forum inside the City of Ontario between November 28th – December 12th for a holiday for which there is no public involvement. Second by Mr. Sunderland. Five members voted Aye, one Nay by Mr. Bradley, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, preferred the previous motion was after public commentary so he could speak on the issue in case of lawsuits. When he asked if the Christmas tree was going to be up the same dates, Law Director Medwid said the request was from one specific group.

- Mr. Bradley said he voted no because he wanted clarity on boundaries and the restrictions of future requests. Mr. Bradley explained to Mr. Mutti that he respects him and what he wants to do, his vote had nothing to do with him.
- Mr. Gallo said the Christmas Tree celebration is unrelated because it is done by the city and this request was by a private group for a specific purpose.
- Mr. Rehfeldt said the city is not the first to do this and these are legality issues being debated everywhere. This is for one event but more information and discussion is needed in creating the rules.
- Ms. Branham added that she honors everyone's religion and felt it was the right thing to do. She would not approve of something that would harm or put the residents at risk, then she would vote no.
- Mr. Gallo said he respects Mr. Bradley's position and Law Director Medwid's due diligence in looking out for the city. We need to look out for the best interest of our community.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**ORDINANCE NO. 21-38**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A 2022
COMPETITIVE GRANT FROM THE RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-38 on three separate days, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 21-38 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-38, second by Mr. Bradley. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-38 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 21-39

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

Mr. Wilford moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 21-39 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bradley. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 21-39 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-39, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 21-39 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-40

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 21-40 for the first time, by title only.

At 7:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Branham, and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council