

Regular

November 2, 2022

Ontario City Council met in regular session on November 2, 2022, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:11 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Kris Knapp, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 19, 2022 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp scheduled a Parks Committee of the Whole meeting on November 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Kenn Spencer from OYS will present an update.

Mr. Rehfeldt said the Finance Committee met earlier today to discuss the city's revenue and how it fluctuated over the last few years. Revenue is up \$300,000 this year and the city is on target to reach the first revenue forecast of \$7 million. The income tax department is able to work on tax collection due to hiring a second employee in the tax department.

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

Mr. Sunderland reported the Safety Committee discussed moving funds to support the upgrades requested by the Chief. Appropriation changes are on this the agenda.

Mr. Gallo highly commended the Service Department on the numerous hours they worked during the multiple water line breaks, the Administrative personnel for providing food and making phone calls to local businesses, and the Police Department for their involvement. This was a tremendous effort by the city coming together during a tough time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- The Haunted Trail was successful. Legislation is on this evening's agenda to distribute the money collected during this fundraiser to the groups that participated.

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Knapp provided the following updates:

- Leaf pick-up is scheduled until November 18th, then they will review the progress. There isn't a specific route for leaf pick-up.
- Navigate Power is used for the city buildings and street lights at a rate of \$.79. When the community aggregation was removed, residents went back to Ohio Edison, which is expected to increase rates in June 2023 to approximately \$.12 from the current rate of \$.08 - .10.
 - Gas aggregation is currently \$.72.
 - A Utilities Committee meeting was scheduled on November 16th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the rates.

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- The HVAC system should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
 - The generator will be installed next year. The concrete pad was poured and the connections are ready.
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- Due to the lead service copper line the city received a \$30,000 grant from the EPA for a study on lead service. Ontario is one of the few municipalities to receive this grant.
 - On Sunday, there were five water breaks. Mr. Knapp thanked all of the employees who were there, beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday morning until the last worker left at 3:30 a.m. the following morning. A tremendous job from Springfield Township, retired employees came to help, food donations, and the Tsavaris family of Brown Derby Roadhouse and Steve's Dakota Grill. All businesses were very cooperative during this time.
 - Lifting a boil advisory requires several samples of water from throughout the city that must sit for 24 hours and if one sample tests positive the process starts over. All of the samples came back negative, and the boil advisory was lifted in 24 hours.
 - On Monday, the staff was back at 7 a.m. and continued working on the additional water breaks until 9 p.m.
 - The road repair work on Lex-Springmill will be completed before winter.

The suggestion was made to research if the Mayor's authority could be expanded to call a state of emergency instead of requiring a vote by Council. Currently, the Mayor's power to call a state of emergency is only for civil unrest.

- The Mayor suggested combing the authority with the approval of the Law Director and Council President, therefore, not giving complete control to one person.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Gallo read a Notice of Public Hearing at the Ontario Municipal Building for the proposed Planned Unit Development, to be located at 2577 Walker Lake Road, on November 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, came forward to ask if there were funds available for the pistol range previously discussed for the Police Department.

- Mr. Sunderland said this was discussed at the last Safety Committee meeting. They aren't moving forward with the range right now, but it is still under consideration.

When Mr. Hunt asked who supplied the water for the fire this weekend, Mr. Bradley said there were two fill sights, one at the entrance of the college on Route 39 (Mansfield) and one in front of Buckeye Village (Ontario).

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

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ORDINANCE NO. 22-46

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 22-17 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2022.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-46 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 22-46 for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-46 as amended, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-46 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-15

A RESOLUTION OPTING-IN TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS, PID NO. 117554, AUTHORIZING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSPECT ALL CITY BRIDGES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 22-15 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham Resolution No. 22-15 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-15, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 22-15 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-47

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (RECREATION DIRECTOR) TO DONATE FUNDS TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT VOLUNTEERED FOR THE HAUNTED TRAIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-47 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 22-47 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-47, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-47 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-48

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 22-04, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-48 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 22-48 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-48, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-48 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 22-49

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-38, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-49 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 22-49 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-49, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-49 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-50

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 22-50 for the first time, by title only.

At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Bradley moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(4), preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employments, second by Mr. Sunderland. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Chief Hill was invited into executive session.

At 9:04 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session, with a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Mr. Webb.

At 9:05 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. Sapp.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council