

Regular

January 4, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 4, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Rose Feagin, 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 December 14, 2022 and the special Council meeting of December 19, 2022 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp scheduled a Parks Committee meeting on January 18, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Webb announced a Utilities Committee meeting of the Whole on January 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Branham set a Personnel Committee meeting on February 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Feagin called a Streets Committee meeting for February 1, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT**STATE OF THE CITY**

In looking back at 2022, the City of Ontario can be very proud of what was accomplished.

2022 was a very busy year in the City. We saw big changes in Marshall Park with several updates to our facilities. With the support of Council artificial turf infields and lights were added to the baseball/softball complex on Dunlap Drive. Ontario Youth Sports hosted numerous tournaments throughout the year. These tournaments brought people from all over the State of Ohio and other states, which benefited our local businesses. We added a walking path in the area of the baseball/softball complex. We continued to plant more trees this year, with the planting of 60 pine trees in the area of the new walking path. We also added a spray park and all-inclusive playground to Marshall Park. These two new facilities are a big asset for Marshall Park and this area of the park has been enjoyed by many.

We are very fortunate to have continued business growth in Ontario. Charter Next Generation Films is nearing completion of their addition and plan on being in full operation soon. The City and the Richland Community Development Group continues to work closely with Industrial Commercial Properties (ICP). Industrial Commercial Properties Received an Ohio Site Inventory Grant (OSIP) from Jobs Ohio. The OSIP Grant will assist in the building of a 215,000 square foot plus building at the Ontario Commerce Park. ICP is planning on starting construction in Spring 2023. We will continue to maintain and clean up the property, while working directly with Industrial Commercial Properties. Avita is remodeling the top floor of the former Sear's building. The space will have a walk-in clinic, lab, and clinics. The pharmacy will also be moved to the new facility and will offer a drive thru. They plan on being opened by late January.

2022 was a great year for the Ontario Division of Police. Fortunately, we were able to maintain adequate staffing, despite a nationwide shortage of Law Enforcement Officers. Our Officers and Dispatchers are working diligently, around the clock to help keep the community safe. Three (3) Officers received Life Saving Awards this year, in three (3) separate incidents a life was saved as a direct result of our Officers' actions. The Toy Drive was another huge success this year

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helping 109 kids. Springfield Township Fire was once again a tremendous partner in the program. We are grateful to all the Toy donors that made this possible. Patrols in Marshall Park have increased and will continue to increase in 2023 as events and amenities continue to grow. Traffic Enforcement numbers have increased which has led to a corresponding reduction in Traffic Crashes. The number of Calls for Service is still trending up and the Division of Police remains dedicated to providing the highest level of service to the Community in 2023.

We were able to have the Miss Ontario Pageant again and it was a great success. Congratulations to Miss Ontario Abigail Kern. Abigail has been doing a great job representing Ontario at events in the City and County wide. This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of our volunteers, including Council President Eddie Gallo and Recreation Director Heather Hendrix.

We were very excited of the success of the Fourth of July Festival. With the addition of electric and water, the festival was held in the area of the baseball/softball complex in Marshall Park. We had great weather and an extremely large crowd. Our best fireworks ever were donated by the Niss Family and were enjoyed by all. With the extra space we were able to have more vendors and activities. The raffle was expanded, and the top prize was a car that was donated by Underwood Motors. Ontario Youth Sports held a Land Regatta on Friday July 1st. The event featured races down Dunlap Drive in Marshall Park in non-motorized homemade vehicles. The Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers, Kenn Spencer of Ontario Youth Sports and our and community sponsors. The Festival Committee was co-chaired by Councilperson Dave Rehfeldt and Citizen Jim Henry If anyone wishes to volunteer for the Fourth of July Committee, please e-mail kspencer.oys@gmail.com.

The Recreation Department had a very successful year. Director Heather Hendrix continued to put on activities all year long. We were able to have Summer Recreation and we had an excellent turnout. Summer Recreation is the most popular event, which is enjoyed by all participants. This year we had great weather for the Haunted Trail at Marshall Park, and we had a record crowd. This event wouldn't be possible without the help of school groups and local citizens. The Ontario Craft show had an excellent turnout. Heather was also involved with our Annual Litter Pick Up Day and coordinated numerous events with the School and City.

Concerts in the Park were held again and enjoyed by everyone that attended. The partnership with Ontario Youth Sports will continue in 2023. We will continue to provide a wide variety of music. With the new spray park and playgrounds, the free concerts are a true family event. I want to thank all the community sponsors. Without the community sponsors, Ontario Youth Sports, and Director Kenn Spencer, these free concerts wouldn't be possible.

We were able to hold our annual Litter Clean Up Day in April in cooperation with the Ontario Schools. 40 High School Students, school staff and City workers did litter pick up on Lexington Springmill Road, North of US30. This is done every year in cooperation with the Richland County Earth Stewardship Steering Committee.

I would like to recognize all the employees that work for the City. We have a quality work force, which keeps our City running smoothly, safe, and clean. I would like to recognize Kris Knapp my new Service Safety Director for everything he did all year.

We had several changes on City Council in 2022. In January Councilperson Troy Sapp filled the vacant seat for Council At Large. At Large Councilperson Kyle Webb replaced Councilperson Chad Wilford. Chad Wilford had to step down, since he moved outside the City. Kyle Webb is following in his mother Michele Webb's footsteps, as she was a previous member of City Council. We also had a change in our Civil Service Commission, Herb Homan replaced the late Eric Grove.

My Service Safety Director, Kris Knapp, and I look forward to working with council in 2023.

As I say each year, Ontario has a Strong Past and a Bright Future.

Respectfully,
Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson

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Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- Regional Planning received ODOT funding to conduct a 4th Street Corridor Study from Home Road to SR 314. The 4th Street/Rock Road intersection will be reviewed due to the severity of the crashes at that intersection. Ontario's portion of the study is \$10,336.20 that will be paid from Permissive Sales Tax.

Ms. Branham moved to approve the funds for the ODOT 4th Street Corridor Study, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

- Mayor Hutchinson was contacted by several citizens wanting to recognize the hard work by the street crews during the recent frigid temperatures and snow storm. They did a fantastic job and worked a lot of hours during the Christmas holiday.
- Christmas Tree pick-up will end January 20th, all ornaments and tree stands need removed.
- The property owner of Park Avenue West and Home Road (previous East of Chicago site) asked if the city is interested in purchasing this lot for a "Welcome to Ontario" sign. This will be discussed during an Economic Development meeting.

Mr. Gallo extended his appreciation to the Service Department employees who were working during the Christmas weekend storm. Also, to the Police Department for their assistance with Mansfield and corresponding agencies during yesterday's situation.

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, came forward to ask:

- (1) if the pipes sticking out of the ground at the former Wilson Garage site will be removed.
 - They are test wells. After the ground water testing is completed the pipes will be removed, the site graded and seeded.
- (2) if straightening Walker Lake Road in front of the new development is being considered.
 - The traffic study will determine if anything needs done. The road wouldn't be straightened, but possibly widened.

Ms. Branham wanted to acknowledge the Police Department for their role in yesterday's situation. She was contacted by the Chief which enabled her to notify some of her neighbors who are considering organizing a Watch and a Community Directory within their neighborhood.

Bob Stout, 2393 Whitney Avenue, questioned a new gas station on Lex-Springmill when Ontario has seven gas stations, and getting a new hotel on Walker Lake Road when another hotel on Walker Lake Road is closing.

- The property on Lex-Springmill was privately owned and the restaurant could not reach a new contract with the property owner. The gas station met zoning requirements and all conditions set forth by the Planning Commission.
- The hotel on Walker Lake Road has been inspected by the health department, as well as other local agencies, for quite some time.
- The new hotel planned for Walker Lake Road is part of a larger scale development that has satisfied all zoning codes.

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CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 22-55

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 22-55 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-55, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-55 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-56

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-49, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 22-56 for the third time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-56, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-56 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-53

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO TO CHANGE ZONING OF CERTAIN LAND FROM B-BUSINESS TO PUD- PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (2577 WALKER LAKE ROAD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 22-53 for the third time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-53, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-53 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-01

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTION SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2023.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-01 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Bradley read Resolution No. 23-01 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-01, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-01 was adopted.

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Mr. Bradley moved to take from the table Ordinance 22-51, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Bradley moved to take from the table Ordinance 22-52, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-51

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1343, LICENSING OF CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS, REPEALING ORDINANCES 06-13 AND 21-15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 22-51 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-51, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-51 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22 – 52

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1349, UNFIT OR ABANDONED DWELLINGS, UNITS, BUILDINGS, AND STRUCTURES; REPEALING ORDINANCES 87-69, 06-14, AND 07-23; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 22-52 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-52, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-52 was adopted.

At 7:33 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Ms. Branham.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council