

Regular

February 1, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on February 1, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:09 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 18, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Webb announced a Utilities Committee meeting on March 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Branham called an Economic Development Committee meeting on February 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Branham reported the Personnel Committee met earlier this evening to discuss changing the allowable time for employees to report required personal changes from 5 days to 10 days, the request for changing the Deputy Auditor position from part-time to full-time, two individuals preparing to test for the Class 2 Water License, and a post-accident policy will be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. A Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on March 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Feagin said the Streets Committee met this evening, where they made a recommendation to hire a company to assess the city streets and prepare the paving list for about \$4,000 per year. Other discussion topics included sidewalks, and the possibility of receiving approximately \$250,000 in federal funding for an Ontario sign on the St Rt 30 bridge.

Mr. Sunderland said approximately 95% of the residents he spoke with in his Ward expressed their appreciation toward the Streets Department on how well they maintained the streets during the winter weather. Their hard work is being noticed.

At this time, President Gallo changed the order of the agenda to address legislation before Mr. Sunderland needed excused from the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**RESOLUTION NO. 23-05**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE ONTARIO SIDEWALKS PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-05 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 23-05 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-05, second by Ms. Branham. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-05 was adopted.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported:

1. The residential Gas Aggregation contract price is \$0.618, which will begin in May.
2. The Parks Foreman and Supervisor are making a plan to improve the walking path and extend the trail down the hill. They also discussed the lighting in the park, upgrades to the splash pad, mulch, and upgrading the lights for the Christmas Tree lighting.
3. The sidewalk project, Resolution 23-05, is the ODOT approved sidewalk that will go from the school to Pearl Street. The city is required to take care of the additions at the edges of the sidewalk at Pearl Street. This will be a public bid. ODOT has approved 100% of the main sidewalk area.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Zoning Inspector Morton provided the following update:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
New Businesses	29	15
Closed Businesses	11	8
Residential Development		
Single Family	9	15

Revenue was up \$9,000 in 2022, partially due to increased permit fees and the commercial development activity.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Jami Kinton-Sluss, Marketing Director for Sluss Realty, proposed sponsoring an Ontario Kids Festival, June 3, 2023, at Marshall Park. Activities would include a petting zoo, bounce houses, a few kid-friendly rides, DJ, kid-friendly booths, and food trucks. The festival would mainly be free with the exception of a small charge for rides that would benefit the Richland County Humane Society. All funds received will go directly to the Humane Society. Sluss Realty has been supporting the Humane Society for the past several years and make a promotional video with them each month. The festival would set up in the park near the Milligan Road area toward the tennis courts.

- This is not a city event.
- Sluss Realty is responsible for all aspects of the festival.
- If successful, this festival could become an annual event.
- City code specifications already exist for this type of activity.
- Anyone interested in volunteering may contact ontariokidsfestival.com or jsluss@slussrealty.com.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked if the festival will charge for parking since there are some events in the park that charge a parking fee. Festival parking will be free. Mr. Hunt said the festival is for the community, to bring people to our community and go to our restaurants. It is time others are allowed to use the park.

At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Webb moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Second by Mr. Sapp. At roll call, five members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

At 7:43 p.m., Mr. Webb 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 employment. Second by Mr. Sapp. At roll call, five members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

At 8:21 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session upon a motion by Ms. Branham, second by Mr. Sapp.

At 8:22 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