

Regular

March 1, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 1, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. President Gallo introduced Ohio Army National Guard Veteran Chris Smith, who served seven years in the 13 Bravo Company Field Artillery, is currently the Ontario High School principal and was previously an assistant principal and science teacher, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, 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 February 15, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Jeff Martin, Sr. Vice President Development for Industrial Commercial Properties, provided an update on the Ontario Commerce Park property.

- As part of the company's marketing rebranding strategy, the name of the property was changed to Ontario Commerce Center. A new sign displaying the OCC logo is located at the corner of W. 4th Street and Stumbo Road.
- Last fall ICP retained brokers with JLL in Cleveland and Columbus to combine ideas for rebranding.
- A site visit from a Team Neo lead was held on Monday.
- The OSIP Grant received last year from Jobs Ohio was intended for the construction of a spec building at the beginning of this year, however, the project financing wasn't in place prior to the movement in the debt market, causing increased costs. ICP is working with Team Neo for an extension on the OSIP Grant that would give them until the end of 2024 to complete the building.
- The CNG expansion has all available electricity at capacity.
- The cost to reactivate the former substation is approximately \$2.5 million, which would be a 60/40 partnership with the developer and First Energy. Transformers take between one and two years to receive.
- Rail improvements will be made when an end user is ready to receive rail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp announced a Parks Committee meeting on April 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Rehfeldt reported on the Finance Committee meeting held this evening. Over the last three years fund balances improved in almost all areas. Although revenue is higher it is not keeping up with the inflationary effects of costs. The budget will be closely reviewed for realistic changes without affecting services to the city.

The Finance Committee will meet on March 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the budget revisions.

Mr. Webb reported on this evening's Utilities Committee meeting.

- The EPA suggested an emergency hook-up for our water supply. Following discussions with Mansfield, a hook-up at Home Road is being engineered that will connect the two systems.
- The valve replacement by the Water Plant will move forward, it is not in the roadway.
- The Shangri-La water line project will begin soon. Norfolk Southern is being contacted to ensure the proper pipe is used.
- Discussions are taking place with OSU on installing a sewer line that would allow future development north of Meijer.
- There has been enough rain to obtain good measurements on the inflow for the water usage study.

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- Each year the city allocates funds toward improving Inflow/Infiltration in the older areas of the city that have ground water entering the sewer system. Other possibilities are being considered to reduce the amount of flow because it is difficult to keep up with the current process.
- Mansfield is considering demolishing their water tower in Ontario that served General Motors. The cost for Ontario to rehab the tower is between \$600,000 - \$700,000.

Ms. Branham said the Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting is on March 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said a full solar eclipse is forecasted on April 8, 2024. Ontario will be one of the best viewing areas for the eclipse due to the higher elevation. Because the park is expected to be very busy, plans are already being discussed in preparation of crowds and traffic congestion.

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported on the following items:

- Marshall Park opened March 1st, restrooms are open and tennis court nets are up. The splash pad won't open until warmer weather. Stowell and Doris Carr Parks will open in the next couple of weeks.
- Brush pick-up is March 20th – 24th.
- The 6'-7' width walking path is being dug out going down the hill along the tree line. The existing walking path was rolled to smooth the walking surface.
- The Police Department's UTV arrived. A thank you to the Trent Walter family for donating the snowplow.
- The Junior Achievement Inspired to Hired event was a huge success last week. Over 700 Richland County students attended.
- New rugs were placed in the lobby.
- The valve exercise program will soon begin again. All of the equipment arrived, and all of the valve exercise equipment is working.
- All Street Department employees now have a CDL.
- One employee recently passed the Class II Water Operator's License on the first attempt, and another employee will take the test soon. The EPA also requires time in service before someone is authorized to run a plant and that will take another year.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo announced on August 5, 2023, there will be an Airport Day event that will include a drone show and festival. Sponsors are needed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

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

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CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 23-02

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT 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. Bradley read Ordinance No. 23-02 for the second time, by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINAL RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM A CULVERT REPAIR UNDER HOME ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-06 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham read Resolution No. 23-06 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-06, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-06 was adopted.

Mr. Webb moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the valve replacement project. Second by Ms. Branham, all aye.

At 8:03 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 employment. Second by Ms. Branham. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

At 8:17 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session upon a motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Mr. Sapp.

At 8:18 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mr. Sapp.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council