

Regular

April 5, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on April 5, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. President Gallo introduced father and son Navy veterans to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mark Riley, a 1977 Ontario High School graduate, was a Petty Officer III Class, aircraft mechanic. He served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and on the crew of the USS Independence. Joe Riley, a 2009 Ontario High School graduate, served aboard the USS Wasp. He was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea with combat duty in Operation Odyssey Lighting and the war on terrorism in Libia.

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, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 15, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Specialist for Richland County Children Services, Mary Stevens, Independent Living Case Worker, and Arlie Nixon, Kinship Navigator, came forward to receive a Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. They distributed handmade blue ribbons that are seen throughout Richland County to bring awareness to this program.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, children in Richland County are our most valuable resource, and they need our support to thrive and grow into healthy, productive adults; and

WHEREAS, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our unwavering commitment to protecting children and responding to child abuse, promoting healthy families, and building a brighter future for all; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves a nurturing family and a safe environment, free from fear, abuse, and neglect; and

WHEREAS, parents, guardians, relatives, and neighbors all share a responsibility to prevent these devastating crimes, and our local government plays a critical role as well; and

WHEREAS, since 1883, the agency has been committed to helping future generations succeed, is focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of all families, and is partnering with local, state and federal agencies to improve the lives of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, I call upon all Ontario residents to join the effort to keep children safe and families strong;

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and I call upon all residents to observe this month with programs and activities that help prevent child abuse and provide for children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set our hand this fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.

Randy Hutchinson, Mayor

Ms. Coles said services were provided to 1,599 alleged victims of abuse in 2022. They took custody of 70 children, 134 children were in custodial care, and 40 children were adopted. Currently, there are 66 foster homes and foster families are always in need. There is a growing number of children involved in potential abuse cases testing positive for drugs. Last year, 22 children, ages of 1 week to 9 ½ years old tested positive for cocaine, 14 tested positive for

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marijuana with some testing positive for both. One 3 ½ year old tested positive for fentanyl. Some children overdosed, but no fatalities. A variety of activities are planned to celebrate this month. April 12th is Wear Blue Day to promote child abuse prevention and Buckeye Bakery will give a free blue ribbon cookie to customers wearing blue.

Next to come before Council was Chris May, Director of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library, and Matt Bachelder, Ontario Branch Manager, to promote the \$3.9 million levy renewal that costs a \$100,000 home, \$118 per year. The levy provides a tremendous impact to the community, by not only checking out books and movies but it supports the Bookmobile service throughout the county that is on track to expand; Career Online High School, for adults, 21 and over to finish their high school diploma, it is not a GED program, and is accepted at OSU Mansfield and North Central State College; Memory Lab, only at the Main Library, digitizes memories from videos, negatives, VHS tapes, or 50 mm slides, to a thumb drive or an SD card; Library of Things: blood pressure cuffs, air quality monitors, Roku streaming devices, sewing machines, cake pans, power tools, games and puzzles can be borrowed. Library managers and staff attend most events around town because they want to be a vital part of the community. The levy is 61% of their revenue. They want to continue providing, and expand, the services they offer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp reported the Parks Committee met this evening to discuss:

- Using the remaining Rescue Funds for sidewalks at the splash pad, more lighting at the park but obtaining quotes has been difficult, adding more lights at the top section of the park with 3 poles and two pedestals before the 4th of July so the Festival can expand, paving Dunlap Drive, and cameras for the city building.
- OYS is discussing a partnership with JABC (Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club) to maintain and improve the Rock Road field.
- Digital signs at the park entrances were considered but the cost is \$40,000 - \$50,000 per sign.
- The Committee unanimously voted against RVs staying overnight at the park during sporting events.
- Discussion was held on replacing the turf in ten years. City Council and OYS will continue to work on a plan.

Mr. Webb scheduled a Utilities Committee meeting for April 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported on the following:

- The Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday started a few minutes early due to the incoming inclement weather.
- Water Department employees and the Engineer were contacted about the Lex-Springmill water tower. The consensus was the tower wouldn't do the city any good, and due to the \$700,000 cost for rehab, the tower will be torn down in the spring.
- A company would like to lease a 50' x 50' piece of property at OCC to put up a cell tower. This will be discussed at the next Economic Development Committee meeting.
- First Energy would like to discuss community grants for electric vehicle charging stations. The city has a limited area and doesn't want charging stations in the parks. Gas stations will probably add charging stations to their facilities.

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Sunderland moved to continue the CRA with Ontario Stumbo I LLC, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, one Abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, and the motion passed.

Ms. Branham moved to continue the CRA with Ontario Hospitality, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Carla Miller, 1660 Victoria Court, came before Council to express her concern about the amount of trash from Meijer, Menards, and Taco Bell that collects in the area across from Doris Carr Park near Spring Village Drive. She would like the city to make the stores accountable for clean-up. Another area that needs attention is the bike trail on the OSU property where there are large sheets of construction material.

- The businesses will be contacted to see if they can help in some manner with clean up.
- This area will be added to the city's spring clean-up with the high school students.

Adrienne Ruhe, 3380 Oakstone Drive, requested something be done about the growing number of deer that are causing a safety issue. Her neighbor feeds the deer buckets of corn at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., and others in the neighborhood also feed the deer. They are bringing in coyotes and there are more deer ticks. The coyotes have been bad this year and they are in the yards and driveways. Last week, early in the morning, the neighbor's small dog was killed by a coyote. A deer was following a resident walking down the street. This same deer was aggressive toward her dog while her children were outside.

- She would like an ordinance against feeding deer in the city.
- Mr. Sapp read code prohibiting the feeding of deer that Alliance put in place last year. He will forward the language to all Council members and the Law Director to prepare legislation for the next meeting.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, thought property owners with 10 acres or more could get a city approved hunting permit and they often use corn as bait to entice the deer.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:48 p.m., the public hearing was opened for amending Zoning Code Chapter 1146 Signs.

At 7:48 p.m., seeing no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 23-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1146 SIGNS, SECTIONS 1146.02 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 1146.03 SIGNS BY NUMBERS, SIZE, AND LOCATION, 1146.08 ILLUMINATION OF SIGNS, AND 1146.11 NON-CONFORMING SIGNS.

Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 23-03 for the first time, by title only.

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-04

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-56, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to table Ordinance No. 23-04 until union negotiations are finalized, second by Mr. Bradley. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-04 was tabled.

At 7:50 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Mr. Webb.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council