

Regular

May 17, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on May 17, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. President Gallo introduced Ontario High School Senior Kylie Snow to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Kylie is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, and earned a 4-year Varsity Letter in softball as a catcher and shortstop. In January 2022, at the age of 17, she enlisted in the Army National Guard Split Training Option, fulfilled the basic training obligation last summer and will leave in July for AIT Training, MOS 88M Motor Transport Operator. She earned an Associate Degree in Business from NC State through the College NOW Program. In the fall she will attend Heidelberg University, majoring in Education, and will participate on the college softball team.

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, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 3, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp scheduled a Parks Committee meeting on June 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Webb announced a Utilities Committee meeting for June 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Bradley reported the Economic Development Committee met this evening to discuss a city-wide CRA, Shambaugh Cleaning requesting a 10 year, 50% tax abatement, possible rezones in the Walker Lake Road/Home Road area and at the unfinished church on PAW, a request to place a cell tower near the city building, then the remainder of the meeting was in executive session. A motion was approved for legislation to be prepared for Moment Development's request of a 15 year, 100% CRA.

Mr. Sunderland said Chief Porch, Mansfield Police Department, attended the Safety Committee meeting to request a donation toward the purchase of replacing the 14-year-old BearCat, an armored vehicle used by the SWAT Team. Requests for contributions were made to all surrounding communities.

- The request was for a \$50,000 contribution.
- The Committee approved a motion to donate \$50,000 that will be in next year's budget unless the financial obligation is required sooner.
- The Springfield Township Trustees will meet with Council once it is confirmed the meeting does not create a conflict of interest for the members of these two entities.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo said there are 12 contestants for Miss Ontario, 14 contestants for Junior Miss Ontario, and 7 contestants for Little Miss Ontario. Additional donations and sponsorships are needed. Financial awards are given to Miss Ontario contestants to use toward college or future endeavors. The pageants take place on June 23rd and 24th.

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Ben Mutti came before Council to provide additional information on his request for a Proclamation recognizing the 75TH Anniversary of the Statehood of Israel. Surrounding communities are also showing their support with the Proclamation that will be forwarded to the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. and the State of Israel.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, came forward asking for more information on the legislation prohibiting the feeding of deer. People also feed squirrels. There are a lot of deer in the area and some might need help getting food in the winter or if they are injured.

Mr. Hunt also commented on the gap in the fence at the ballfield that could create issues. President Gallo said he noticed the backstop fence is curling, which they will discuss with Mr. Spencer. Netting is going to be placed at the backstops.

- The legislation was proposed because of the safety issue in that area. This legislation is used by another municipality, and it will have three readings to receive as much public input as possible.
- Ontario has a lot of wildlife. Coyotes are also an issue.

Tom Wilson, Oakstone Drive, came before Council to say there have always been deer in the neighborhood because they live near the woods and the deer have eaten a lot of his landscaping over the years. The number of deer increased several years ago when families started feeding the deer and putting out salt licks. He has witnessed three incidents of people walking their dogs and wild animals have approached them. Mr. Wilson said he fully supports the legislation against feeding deer.

Mr. Rehfeldt commented he has lived in this neighborhood for twenty years and the deer have always been in his backyard. This is a rural area and the animals come through to eat whether someone feeds them or not. He doesn't like seeing it stopped, it's too many restrictions. There was one complaint. He agrees coyotes are an issue.

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

(SECOND READING) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 ANIMALS AND FOWL, BY ADDING SECTION 505.17 FEEDING OF DEER PROHIBITED.

Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 23-05 for the second time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 921 WATER, SECTION 921.17 MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-06, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-06 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 23-03 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2023.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 23-07 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 23-07 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-07, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-07 was adopted.

At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Bradley moved to enter into executive session per 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 7:31 p.m., Mr. Bradley moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment, dismissal, discipline, of a public employee or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Second by Ms. Branham. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

At 8:44 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mr. Webb.

At 8:45 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mr. Webb.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council