

Regular

July 12, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on July 12, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:12 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Gallo introduced Tony Shafer, a 23-year veteran who served 9 years in the Marines and 14 years with the Coast Guard. Starting in the Marine Corps Reserves as an anti-tank assaultman, assigned to Weapons Company 124, he was activated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After transferring to the Coast Guard Reserve, he was activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving in Kuwait, providing security for US ships at Port Shuaiba, and retiring from the US Coast Guard at the rank of Senior Chief, E8.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, 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 June 21, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp reported the Parks Committee met this evening in executive session, then made a motion for the Law Director to prepare legislation for the appointment of the Ontario Recreation Director position.

Mr. Rehfeldt scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on August 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Webb stated the Utilities Committee is meeting on August 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Branham said the Personnel Committee met in executive session this evening. There was an incident, and an intense investigation cleared Service-Safety Director Kris Knapp of any wrongdoing. The Personnel Committee has talked to the Chief of Police to investigate if there were any violations of policy by any other employee. If any violations are found, the appropriate discipline shall be administered, up to and including termination.

Mr. Sunderland called a Safety Committee meeting for August 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson provided updates:

- There was a new committee this year for the 4th of July Festival. Ontario Youth Sports had several people on the committee and many people volunteered their time. There was a fantastic crowd and good weather. Police reported very few problems.
- A new county-wide branding program went through the Chamber. There is a new brand and logo for Ontario that will be displayed on the city website.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo said he appreciated all of the efforts by the committee and volunteers for the 4th of July Festival, it was a wonderful event. Also, to the Police Force and Springfield Fire Department for their support and assistance in maneuvering traffic at the end of the event. Thank you to everyone involved.

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President Gallo read a Notice of Public Hearing that will be held on August 16, 2023, to rezone 12 parcels located at 1943 thru 2103 Park Avenue West from Office Services to Business. Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this rezone. All persons interested in this rezone are invited to attend and express their views.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Several residents came before Council to express their views pertaining to Ordinance 23-05, prohibiting the feeding of deer.

In favor of the legislation was Adrienne Ruhe, 3380 Oakstone Drive, and Mike Taylor 3388 Oakstone Drive.

- Wild animals are being drawn into neighborhoods.
- Richland County is #2 in the State for deer strikes.
- Deer are here rather being fed or not, but it's putting people and property at risk when purposely drawing them to neighborhoods.

Not in favor of the legislation was Kim Jones 144 Haxel Drive, Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, and Pauline and Eric Meyer, 20 S. Rock Road

- The police have more things to enforce than someone feeding deer on their property.
- A fence could be installed.
- One instance shouldn't take away everyone's rights.
- Deer have been fed for years, they come and go with no problems.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:34 p.m., the public hearing for the 2024 Tax Budget was opened.

Seeing no signatures on the sign-in sheet or anyone in the audience who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m.

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

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

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

Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-05, second by Mr. Sunderland.

One Aye by Mr. Sapp, five Nays by Mr. Rehfeldt, Mr. Webb, Mr. Bradley, Ms. Branham and Mr. Sunderland, and Ordinance No. 23-05 failed.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-09

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-09 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Rehfeldt read Resolution No. 23-09 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-09, second by Mr. Sapp.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-09 was adopted.

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RESOLUTION NO. 23-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT(S) WITH REVEILLE TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-10 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Webb read Resolution No. 23-10 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-10, second by Mr. Bradley.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-10 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 333 OVI; WILLFUL MISCONDUCT; SPEED, BY ADDING SECTION 333.021- TEXTING WHILE DRIVING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 23-10 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 23-10 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-10, second by Mr. Sunderland.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-10 was adopted.

At 7:38 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Branham.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council