

Regular

August 2, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on August 2, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:09 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Gallo introduced Mike and Lisa Mullins. Lisa is a life-long Ontario resident, served in the US Army Reserve for six years, has a nursing degree from Ashland University, and earned an acute care adult and geriatric nurse practitioner degree from Walton University. Mike is an Ontario graduate, was a Dispatcher for the Ontario Police Department, obtained his Fire Fighter II certification and Advanced EMT certification for his career at Springfield Township Fire Department. Captain Mullins will retire from the Fire Department this month, and then he will spend time as a school bus driver.

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 July 12, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Rehfeldt reported on the Finance Committee meeting held this evening where they discussed a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) for the local hotel development on Walker Lake Road and approved moving forward with a city-wide CRA.

Mr. Webb said the Utilities Committee will meet August 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Branham called a Personnel Committee meeting for August 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Feagin reported the Streets Committee met this evening and discussed the possibility of tar and chipping two alleys off Shelby-Ontario Road. Next year's paving plan will include an evaluation of all city streets. Banners for veterans were discussed. Committee members will consider solutions for sidewalks in need of repair.

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

Comments:

- Contracts were signed today with Revelle for the Comprehensive Plan that will begin soon.
- The city and Springfield Township Fire Department will schedule a combined meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

Director Knapp will get quotes for paving the walking trail at Marshall Park.

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LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Sapp moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Ontario and AFSCME, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO and authorize the Administration and Law Director to legally enter into that contract and ratify it, effective through December 31, 2025. Second by Mr. Bradley. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, referenced several topics and received responses from Council.

- The Bill Brown Cross County meet will be held in the park.
- The electricity pedestal that was going to be installed near the Splash Pad will now go at the top of the hill with the other pedestals used for the 4th of July Festival because it is difficult getting vendors for a 2-hour concert and many of the food wagons are self-contained.
- Mr. Hunt said parking is a concern during large events. Hosting fewer teams would be preferable than adding more parking and overusing what we have.
 - OYS is not responsible for the illegally parked vehicles, it is up to the city and the police department to enforce the rules. An option could be to negotiate using the school parking lot during the summer.
 - The park belongs to Ontario. OYS, Ontario Community events, and what another entity does, is designed to benefit Ontario. The city will intervene if it becomes something different.

Auditor Mary Ann Hellinger came forward with questions about the OYS agreement because she was not included in any of the discussions.

- The OYS agreement is extremely vague. The only thing that is clear, is if OYS runs out of money the city will pay. There are no duties or obligations, which are normally in an agreement, and would make it difficult to perform the one-year probationary review.
- Clarification is needed in Article II that states the money is for the duties of only the director. Will the city continue to purchase supplies for the Recreation Department?
 - The city will pay a one-time fee, OYS will handle everything.
- The goal over the past ten years has been for the Rec Department to be a self-sufficient as possible. The General Fund subsidy has been reduced from \$30,000 to \$10,000. This agreement increases the subsidy of the General Fund from \$10,000 to \$100,000.
- The previous Recreation Director brought in revenue to run programs. The city put in \$10,000. The money OYS makes on their events does not come back to the city.
- There isn't enough money in the fund if the contract is signed during August. She will not sign the Auditor's Certificate until it is fixed.
- When Mayor Hutchinson asked if the city was to continue purchasing snacks for the Senior Center or will this be part of the agreement, Mr. Sapp said it would fall under OYS.

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Kenn Spencer, OYS Director, addressed Council by stating OYS is at the service of Council and anything OYS does is for the betterment of the community. They don't own a park or are responsible for the park, they are responsible for the most valuable entity, which is our community. Most of the children they interact with are 4 – 12 years of age.

- When events were booked for this first year it was difficult to know what to expect, there's a learning curve, but now they have a plan in place.
- OYS has the opportunity to do something great for the community and look to enhance the programs.
- There are costs involved for some of the activities, such as the craft show, that need worked out.

President Gallo said the committee did their due diligence based on the applications and inquiries they received, then were presented with a proposal by a community organization, and the committee chose to pursue that opportunity. Due to more specific information needed in the agreement, he suggested not voting on the agreement until all of Mrs. Hellinger's and Mr. Rehfeldt's concerns are met.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:56 p.m., the public hearing to amend Zoning Section 1145.18 Off-Street Parking Requirements was opened. Seeing no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 7:57 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 23-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1145- GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 18- OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, SUBPARAGRAPH (G), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 23-11 for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-12

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE IMPROVEMENT TO CERTAIN PARCELS IN THE CITY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND EXEMPT FROM TAXATION PURSUANT TO ORC 5709.40(B); AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND DEPOSIT OF SERVICE PAYMENTS AND SPECIFYING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THOSE SERVICE PAYMENTS MAY BE EXPENDED.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 23-12 for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-13

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN ONTARIO YOUTH SPORTS, INC. AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Mr. Sapp moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 23-13 on three separate days, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Three members cast their votes Aye, four Nays by Mr. Webb, Mr. Bradley, Ms. Branham and Ms. Feagin, and the motion failed. Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 23-13 for the first time, by title only.

At 7:59 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council