

Regular

September 6, 2023

Ontario City Council met in regular session on September 6, 2023, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Rose Feagin, 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 August 16, 2023 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Kathryn Semo, Regional Liaison with Ohio Auditor of State Keith Fabor, came before Council to present the Auditor of State Award to Auditor Mary Ann Hellinger and to the City of Ontario. Auditor of State Awards are very difficult to get and very few of their 6,000 clients throughout the state receive the award. She thanked Auditor Hellinger and the City for all of the hard work everyone does to make this possible.

Joe Trolian, Executive Director, Richland County Mental Health and Recover Services, came forward to receive a Proclamation for Recovery Month. Mayor Hutchinson read the Proclamation in its entirety.

- Mr. Trolian thanked the city for their continuing support and announced several of their upcoming community events.

Rebecca Owens, Director, Emergency Management Agency, came forward to receive a Proclamation for National Preparedness Month. Mayor Hutchinson read the Proclamation in its entirety.

- Ms. Owens said she appreciates the partnership with the city. There will be an open house at the EMA office, 597 PAE to share what they do, and they will be at the Area Agency on Aging, September 28, at 1:00 p.m., for a panel discussion on preparedness.

Jean Taddie, Transit Development Manager for Richland County Transit, provided a presentation on the updated route changes that included a new route, the Ontario Circulator. RCT is primarily funded by the Federal Transit Administration but need to raise 1/3 of their funds through local match and state support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt reported the Finance Committee met this evening where they discussed the progress of the Auditor, Treasurer, and Income Tax Departments. Additional topics included: legislation for the 2023 budget appropriations will be prepared for the next meeting, security issues for the finance and income tax department systems, investment strategies and forecasting 2024 revenues. The Income Tax Department added an employee two years ago to follow-up on non-filers and have increased revenue over \$300,000.

Mr. Bradley said the Economic Development Committee discussed the proposed cell tower location, a company that would like to lease 5 acres at OCC at \$1,500 per month for 12 months with an option to extend 12 months, the Moment Development Walker Lake Road Development incentive proposal, ideas for a new city logo, a city-wide CRA, and medical marijuana dispensaries.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

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SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Brad Wentz, 154 Sunset, came before Council in reference of the proposed PAW rezone and asked if artist concepts for the abandoned church property were submitted. Mr. Wentz was concerned about losing the green barrier behind the homes on Sunset and was hopeful Mr. Niss would incorporate some of the woods into his plans.

- Law Director Medwid explained the zoning code requires green belts between residential and business properties. Conceptual drawings for the property wouldn't be prepared until the decision is made on the rezone.
- Attorney Bud Vetter said Mr. Niss is very community minded and he would inform Mr. Niss of his concerns. The existing building was over-built, it is structurally sound, and will be restored to be more aesthetically acceptable.

Marc Vanerio came forward to read a letter on behalf of Ashland and Irene Butcher of 1815 Walker Lake Road. They own 6.42 acres east of Menards. They informed Council of the high muddy water that overflows into their wooded area and front lawn from the Menards high dirt piles. The Service-Safety Director was notified and took pictures of the run-off. Menards has not put in the seeded mounds behind their property as shown in the picture they presented.

- Director Knapp took pictures and met with the Engineer and Zoning Inspector. The Engineer will detail what Menards can and cannot do. A meeting with Menards is scheduled for September 12th at the Butcher's property.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, commented on the water line break on PAW and the amount of water that covered his front yard and driveway. He commended the Director and city crews for their late-night work during the water line break.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 23-11

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

Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 23-11 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-11, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-11 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-14

(SECOND READING) AN ORDINANCE REZONING TWELVE (12) PARCELS, LOCATED AT 1943-2103 PARK AVENUE WEST FROM OS- OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT TO B- BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Mr. Sap moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 23-14 on three separate days, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.
Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 23-14 for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-14, second by Ms. Branham.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-14 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED
BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX
LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 23-11 on three separate days, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.
Ms. Branham read Resolution No. 23-11 for the second time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-11, second by Mr. Sapp.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 23-11 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-15

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN
ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 23-15 on three separate days, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.
Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 23-15 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-15, second by Mr. Bradley.
Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, and Ordinance No. 23-15 was adopted.

At 7:49 p.m., Ms. Branham moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(5), to consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statues, second by Mr. Webb. At roll call, six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

At 8:32 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session upon a motion by Ms. Branham, second by Mr. Sapp.

At 8:33 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Branham , second by Mr. Webb.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council