

Regular

January 5, 2022

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 5, 2022, in the Municipal Building, with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members, Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Chad Wilford, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Jeff Wilson, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

Mr. Gallo welcomed new Council member, Mr. Sapp.

Mr. Rehfeldt nominated Mr. Sunderland for President Pro Tempore, second by Ms. Branham. Hearing no other nominations, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Sunderland, and the nomination was approved.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 15, 2021 and the special meeting of December 20, 2021 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bradley announced an Economic Development Committee meeting on January 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wilford scheduled a Parks Committee meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Safety Committee, on February 2, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson reported:

- The Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Richland County COVID-19 Food and Beverage Entertainment Venue, Lodging and Tourism Grant for businesses that were affected by the pandemic. The Chamber has advertised on their website and reached out to businesses. The deadline is tomorrow.

State of the City

In looking back at 2021, the City of Ontario can be very proud of what was accomplished.

We are very fortunate to have continued business growth in Ontario. Charter Next Generation Films opened their trash bag operation in the spring. We are excited to announce that Charter Next Generation Films is expanding their operation by doing an addition to their existing building. We will continue to maintain and clean up the property, while working directly with Industrial Commercial Properties. Avita will be opening their newly built second floor, which has a maternity department and additional beds in Spring 2022.

In 2020 the City received a beautification grant from the Richland County Foundation. We used the grant money to update the landscaping at City Hall. In 2021 the City was recognized by the Men's Garden Club for the project. Bill Flanagan and his wife, Tonya, attended the award ceremony and received the award. The sign was installed in the landscaping, near the sidewalk to the Community Room. The plants attracted many butterflies. The 2020 Census results were released in 2021. The City of Ontario population grew by over 400 people in the last decade. This growth can be attributed to our excellent Ontario Local Schools, City Parks, and our business growth.

Regular

January 5, 2022

We are very excited about the improvements that are being made to our parks. We added playground equipment and two Pickle Ball Courts at Stowell Park. We are making significant improvements to Marshall Park. On Milligan Road we are adding a Splash Pad and an inclusive playground. To support these projects, we are adding extra parking, sidewalks, and a new pavilion. We are installing artificial turf and lights at our baseball/softball complex. These projects are scheduled to be completed and open by Memorial Day weekend. The Police Department had a very active year. With the use of the COVID Cruisers, sanitizing equipment, and COVID safety protocols the police department was able to keep COVID related sickness to a minimum. The department continued their high standard of training in 2021. Each officer received yearly training updates on topics such as use of force, diversity training, and de-escalation-based simulator training. They also continued with their multi-agency training with Hostage Negotiation/ASORT training, along with active shooter/rescue task force training with Springfield Fire and other law enforcement agencies.

The Toy Waiver program was an even bigger event this year, due to the large amounts of toys that were donated. Springfield Township Fire Department and Ontario Police worked together on this project. They were able to provide toys to over 138 children from 42 families from Ontario and Springfield Township. Each child received at least 6 toys. The response from the community and local businesses was overwhelming. Even more special this year, there were toys left over. These toys were taken to Kentucky, so they could be passed out to children that were victims of the deadly tornado. Ontario Police and Springfield Township Fire Department are very proud to be able to provide a wonderful Christmas to local families.

We were very excited that we were able to have the Fourth of July Festival in 2021. The festival was held both at the middle school and Marshall Park. We had great weather and a very large crowd. Our best fireworks ever were donated by the Niss Family and were enjoyed by all. Ontario Youth Sports held the first annual Land Regatta on Friday July 2nd. The event featured races down Dunlap Drive in Marshall Park in non-motorized homemade vehicles. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Miss Ontario Pageant was not held. We look forward to continuing the 4th of July Celebration and Miss Ontario Pageant in 2022. The 4th of July Festival is being moved to Marshall Park. The extra space will allow the festival to continue to grow each year. The City invested in electric and water hook ups to ensure the festival will continue to grow. The Festival wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers and community sponsors. If anyone wishes to volunteer for the Fourth of July Committee or the Miss Ontario Committee, please e-mail me at mayor@ontarioohio.org.

The Recreation Department had a very successful year. Director Heather Hendrix continued to put on activities all year long. She continued to offer long standing activities, which she received great reviews. We were able to have Summer Recreation and we had an excellent turnout. Summer Recreation is the most popular event, which is enjoyed by all participants. The Haunted Trail at Marshall Park had to be cancelled due to heavy rains and we look forward to next year. The Ontario Craft show had an excellent turnout.

Concerts in the Park were held again and enjoyed by everyone that attended. The partnership with Ontario Youth Sports will continue in 2022. We will continue to provide a wide variety of music. With food vendors available at the concerts and the play scape, the free concerts are a true family event. I want to thank all the community sponsors. Without the community sponsors and Ontario Youth Sports, Director Kenn Spencer, these free concerts wouldn't be possible.

We were unable to have our annual Litter Clean Up day in April due to the snowy weather. We look forward to doing it again 2022. A huge thank you goes out to members of the 179th Air Guard for doing litter pick up on Lexington Springmill Road. They have done this for several years. This was even more important this year, since we couldn't do our spring clean-up.

Regular

January 5, 2022

I would like to recognize all the employees that work for the City. We have a quality work force, which keeps our City running smoothly, safe, and clean. Streets Department Head Evan Hellinger and Water Department Head Marc Henke retired after many years of dedicated service. Their knowledge will be greatly missed. Jody Orewiler has replaced Evan Hellinger as the Streets Department Head and Tom Hickman has replaced Marc Henke as the Water Department Head.

I would like to recognize my Service Safety Director, Jeff Wilson, who is retiring effective January 15th. He brought professionalism to the position. He was a team player and lead with excellence. I've had the distinct pleasure and honor of working alongside Jeff for the last 8 years. He has been a great asset to the City of Ontario and the community, he will be missed.

We had several changes on City Council in 2021 and going into 2022. Second Ward Councilperson Michele Webb and At-Large Councilperson Ken Earhart retired from Council. Michele Webb and Ken Earhart each served over 9 years on Council. We had the addition of two new Councilpersons in 2021, Chad Wilford replaced Eddie Gallo for the At-Large seat and Rose Feagin replaced Michele Webb for the Second Ward Councilperson seat. Eddie Gallo moved to the President of Council seat. On January 1st Troy Sapp filled Councilperson Ken Earhart's at-large seat.

My Service Safety Director, Kris Knapp, and I look forward to working with council in 2022.

Ontario has a Strong Past and a Bright Future.

Respectfully,
Mayor Randy E. Hutchinson

SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

Ms. Branham said a resident contacted her about unusual odors that she has noticed and wondered if it was emitting from the new business at Ontario Commerce Park.

- Mr. Wilson said that same topic was discussed with the business owners and they assured the city there would not be an issue. Mr. Wilson was not aware of any emissions from the site.
- Mr. Bradley said there was a mint scent inside the building.

Mr. Gallo thanked Mr. Wilson for his follow-up when a resident said the light signal sequencing near Pep Boys wasn't working properly. The Police Department and the Street Department investigated the sequencing, checked the switch panel, and the intersection light is working properly.

Mr. Gallo expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wilson, thanked him for his dedication on doing an incredible job, and wished him the best in retirement.

- Mr. Wilson said it was an honor and pleasure to serve during Mayor Hutchinson's administration. For eight years it was nice to work with Council, helping to make Ontario a better place to live and raise a family.

Regular

January 5, 2022

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid presented his annual report.

LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT OF CASES AS OF 12-31-21

2021 MAYOR’S COURT TOTALS

2021 TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS / SUMMONS ISSUED = 1080
2021 TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARGES ISSUED = 1355
2021 TOTAL OVI CHARGES = 8
2021 TOTAL CHARGES HEARD IN MAYORS COURT = 1400
2021 TOTAL WAIVERS PAID AT CLERKS OFFICE = 587
2021 OPEN ARREST WARRANTS = 403

2021 MANSFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT TOTALS

2021 TOTAL TRAFFIC = 56
2021 TOTAL CRIMINAL =71

2021 MAYOR’S COURT REVENUE

\$269,150.34

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- The Ohio Division of Liquor Control sent notification that Ace & West Investment is applying for a liquor permit at 2016 W. 4th Street. Council made no objections and will not request a hearing with the State.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, thanked Mr. Wilson for his job well done for Ontario.

Don Daugherty introduced himself as a newly elected Springfield Township Trustee. He looks forward to becoming involved by attending some Council meetings and working with the Mayor to make Ontario and the Township a better community.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:30 p.m., the public hearing was opened for amending Chapter 1137, Standard Zoning District 1137.06, IP Industrial Park District.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked if storage units could only go in Industrial Park areas.

- Currently, they are only allowed in General Industry, which are the units on Stumbo Road. This change would allow them in an Industrial Park District.

At 7:32 p.m. the public hearing was closed.

Regular

January 5, 2022

At 7:32 p.m., the public hearing was opened for amending Chapter 1145, General Provisions, by adding Section 1145.38, Concession Stands.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked if they determined the amount of insurance concession stands were required to carry. Also, he would like different parking arrangements for concession stands at the park because they take up several prime spaces.

- \$100,000 is the minimum amount of coverage.
- The event organizers determine where concession stands park.

At 7:38 p.m. the public hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-41

(SECOND READING) AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO THE ANNEXATION OF A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND KNOW AS THE ROE/VENTRE/YARMAN ANNEXATION IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO, TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO.

Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 21-41 for the second time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1137, STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS 1137.06, IP INDUSTRIAL PARK DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-01 on three separate days, second by Mr. Wilford. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 22-01 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-01, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-01 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1145, GENERAL PROVISIONS, BY ADDING SECTION 1145.38-CONCESSION STANDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Wilford read Ordinance No. 22-02 for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-03

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, REPEALING ORDINANCE 21-28, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Branham moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-03 on three separate days, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 22-03 for the first time, by title only.

Regular

January 5, 2022

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-03, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-03 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-04

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 21-20, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Wilford moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-04 on three separate days, second by Ms. Branham. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Branham read Ordinance No. 22-04 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Branham moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-04, second by Mr. Wilford. Six members cast their votes Aye, one Nay by Mr. Rehfeldt, and Ordinance No. 22-04 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-05

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTORS, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JON K. BURTON, JOHN D. STUDENMUND, AND ANDREW J. BURTON TO THESE POSITIONS, ESTABLISHING THEIR COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 22-05 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 22-05 for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 22-05, second by Mr. Wilford. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 22-05 was adopted.

At 7:42 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Branham and the motion passed.

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council