

Regular

January 17, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on January 17, 2024, in the Municipal Building with Council President Pro Tem Nathan Sunderland 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-Fonner, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, 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 January 3, 2024 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp scheduled a Parks Committee of the Whole meeting on February 21, 2024 at 5:45 p.m., to review the Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club contract.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner announced a Personnel Committee meeting on February 7, 2024 at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Sunderland reported the Safety Committee met this evening. Chief Hill and Captain Griefenstine presented the 2023 statistics and the overall incidents were significantly below previous years. The FLOCK camera system license plate reader has helped immensely. Plans are in place to update computers in some offices and cruisers to accommodate the multi-agency radio communication system, MARCS.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson provided updates:

- First Energy has a program to prepare for outages and offer financial assistance.
- The Veteran Banner form will be on the city's website. Initially 41 banners will be displayed between PAW and St Rt 309 on Lex-Springmill Road. A street sign will be mounted naming this section of the road Veterans Way. Banners will go up early spring until fall, then the family will receive the banner.
- Suggested changes to the Personnel Manual were distributed that match the union contracts on CDL employees post-accident testing and Service Department personnel wearing city provided uniforms and safety apparel. The Personnel Manual will be sent to a professional company to review and make recommendations for compliance with current standards.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported:

- Christmas trees will be picked up until Friday.
- The S. Lex-Springmill water line project will start at Mercer and Kingston and go north to the Park Avenue West/Lex-Springmill intersection. The east lanes will be torn up beginning February 5th, and work will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Completion of the project is planned for June, but contractors believe they will be done by April.
- A valve will be installed south of August Drive on the east side of the Home Depot entrance off Lex-Springmill.

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- A shed was purchased to store the recently purchased Hagerman's Christmas light display. The Parks Department photographed each piece, tagged and created a laminated file on how to assemble/disassemble each piece of the display. Volunteers will be needed to put up the display in November.
- The Service Department employees did an outstanding job working on the water break during this bitter cold weather.
- Director Knapp thanked Council for allowing the purchase of portable traffic lights last year that were used during the recent water line repair instead of employees standing in the cold weather directing traffic.
- Menards has not responded to phone calls or emails about attending this evening.
- Council members should email him tomorrow on any streets they would like to submit for resurfacing.
- The Community Room could be opened as a warming center this weekend if the temperatures fall again.

ONTARIO YOUTH SPORTS REPORT

Kenn Spencer, Community Events Director, presented the quarterly OYS financial report, the list of upcoming community events and summer concerts.

- The 4th of July Festival will be held June 28th and 29th.
- The overall 2024 events theme is to connect the city, school, and community.
- Due to inclement weather the Haunted Trails lost money this year. A change in venue is being discussed for next year.
- The Craft Show was a success with 127 vendors and over 4,000 participants.
- In April, a long standing Regional High School Softball Tournament will be held in Ontario for the first time.
- A farmers market is being considered this summer and a fall festival.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Benjamin Mutti, 38 Avon Drive, Lexington, came before Council to ask they pass a resolution prohibiting recreational marijuana. He emailed several documents pertaining to this topic for them to review.

Tony Viero, Richland County Commissioner, was available to answer questions pertaining to the County.

- Ohio ranks low nationwide for recycling. Can mandatory recycling be implemented? Commissioner Viero will contact the Richland County Solid Waste Authority.
- The County Commissioners do not run the Richland County Park District. The Commissioners can let the Park District know Ontario is interested in discussing connecting the bike trail to Marshall Park. The Commissioners support active transportation.
- The recycling containers are heavily used and could be emptied three times a week. Because there is a charge each time the bins are emptied the goal is to get them as full as possible. A solution is to add a bin. The enforcement officer set up cameras and has been successful identifying those who leave items on the ground by the bins and they receive citations for illegally dumping.
- A major broadband expansion project is going to run the entire State of Ohio along Route 30 that would create a point of presence for the Cyber Wing. High speed fiber in this area would offer significant economic development in Richland County.

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PUBLIC HEARING

At 8:00 p.m., the public hearing was opened for adding Section 1139.03, Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Floating Overlay District and amending various Sections in Chapter 11. Calling twice and seeing no names on the sign-in sheet, the public hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONORDINANCE NO. 23-27

(THIRD READING) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHNNY APPLESEED BASEBALL CLUB AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AND USE OF A BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELD AT MARSHALL PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sapp moved to table Ordinance 23-27 until after the Parks Committee meeting on February 21, 2024, second by Mr. Webb. Seven members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO TO SELL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES THROUGH AN INTERNET AUCTION\SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2024.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 24-01 on three separate days, second by Mr. Webb. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Rehfeldt read Resolution No. 24-01, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-01, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 24-01 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-01

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING RULES OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO, REPEALING ORDINANCE 22-39, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 24-01 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 24-01, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Ordinance No. 24-01, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 24-01 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 24-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 11 –
PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO CODIFIED
ORDINANCES.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 24-02 for the first time, by title only.

At 8:05 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Webb, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner.

/s/ Nathan Sunderland
President of Council Pro Tem

/s/ Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council