

Regular

March 6, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 6, 2024, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:06 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, 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 February 21, 2024, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp reported the JABC contract was updated. A stipulation was added that once the contract is signed improvements need to begin immediately. After one year, if the improvements are not completed, the contract will be reviewed.

Mr. Sapp moved to accept the tank from the VFW on Park Avenue West and move it to the entrance at Marshall Park on Shelby-Ontario Road, second by Mr. Sunderland.

- A committee will be formed to contact Veteran organizations to request their assistance, by donating funds, to support creating a military memorial near the tank.
- There is no cost to the city for moving the tank, but the city will pay for the concrete pad.
- The tentative date for moving the tank is June 21, 2024.

Seven members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Rehfeldt said the Finance Committee met this evening to review the 2024 permanent budget, fund balances, revenues, and expenses. Modifications will be provided by the Mayor and Director so the final budget can be considered for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Bradley said the Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan met with Reville to discuss project updates, public participation, community and student surveys. Questions for the third community survey were reviewed. The 4.8% participation response from Ontario and Springfield Township is an average response from most communities.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner scheduled a Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting on March 20, 2024 at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Feagin announced a Streets Committee meeting on March 20, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Sunderland extended his gratitude to the Police Department for what they do on a daily basis for our community.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30th at noon. The location has changed to the turf ballfields. The Lions Club will host a visually impaired Easter Egg Hunt at the tennis courts on March 30th at noon.

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SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported:

- Spring clean-up for winter debris is March 25th thru April 12th. Branches should be cut to fit in the back of a dump truck.
- Brightspeed is installing internet service in the Rosewood and Spring Village Lane neighborhoods.
- The Lex-Springmill waterline project has 1,360' of the 1,900' - 12" waterline installed. The main line is complete to the intersection. Four of the five fire hydrants are set. Service for each business and house is attached to the main line but is not yet connected.
 - Tonight the 8" service line will be installed to Hawkins Center, which is a fire service line. Work is done at night so as not to interfere with traffic.
 - Beginning at 8:00 p.m., Monday night, March 11th, the Lex-Springmill line will be connected to the tap that is located in the middle of the intersection for the Park Avenue line. Traffic will be reduced to one lane. The work will take six to seven hours to complete.
- Menards hired an engineer to redesign the storm water flow away from the neighboring properties. Construction debris is being cleaned up. They are in the process of getting quotes from qualified excavators to move the dirt. Menards will submit plans by the end of the week to the city engineer, who will work with them to ensure the project meets city approval.
- Culver's plans to open mid-April, weather permitting.

When Mr. Sunderland asked who is responsible for fixing the potholes in the drive between Culver's and the Belle Stores, Director Knapp said he would ask the Zoning Inspector to contact the property owners.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- Tentatively, the May 15, 2024 Council meeting will be held at the Ontario High School Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. Middle school and high school students will attend and participate at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked questions pertaining to the tax abatement on the mixed use Community Reinvestment Area legislation. Council would approve all requests and the school has the right to refuse.

Marc Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, thanked those involved for getting some of the main problems they were experiencing from the Menards project corrected. The light is gone, and the wall is up. The storm water remains a concern.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 24-04

AN ORDINANCE EXPANDING AND MODIFYING THE TERMS AND TAX EXEMPTIONS OF THE MIXED USE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 24-04, for the second time, by title only.

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ORDINANCE NO. 24-05

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SIX (6) MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSIDERATION AND/OR GRANTING OF ANY APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL LICENSING APPROVAL, AND/OR ANY ZONING, OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER PERMITS RELATING TO CULTIVATORS, PROCESSORS OR RETAIL DISPENSARIES OF MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 24-05 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 24-05, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 24-05, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 24-05 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-06

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 24-06, for the first time, by title only.

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

Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council