

Regular

March 20, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 20, 2024, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

President Gallo introduced Ben Leighty to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Leighty graduated from Ontario High School, Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, and in 1993 enlisted in the Air Force. He was stationed in Alaska with the 90th Fighter Squadron, was deployed to Germany, Korea, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Uzbekistan and Antarctica, and was a Crew Chief for F-15s and C-130s at the 179th Air Wing.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham-Fonner, 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 March 6, 2024, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Webb scheduled a Utilities Committee meeting on April 3, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner said the Personnel Committee met this evening in executive session.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said the Comprehensive Plan is on the website and Facebook. There is a QR code that can be scanned. They would like as many people as possible to take this second survey.

On April 8th, for the Eclipse, the Police Department is working 12-hour shifts, the Service Department will work regular hours, and the Administration Offices will be at minimum staffing. The Richland County Emergency Management Agency is predicting congested traffic, and there could be interruptions in cell service and internet accessibility due to the increased demand.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported that Menards contracted engineers to redraw the site's stormwater runoff and there should be an update next week to approve. The buildings are complete but will not open until they receive city approval. The debris is cleaned up in that area.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Sunderland moved that the Mayor continue the CRA for Hospitality Management, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Six members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved that the Mayor continue the CRA for CNG, second by Mr. Webb. Five members cast their votes aye, zero nay, one abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, and the motion passed.

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Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to change the regular City of Ontario Council meeting on May 15, 2024 to 8:30 a.m. at the Ontario High School/Jr. High Auditorium, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

President Gallo said the Miss Ontario events will be held at the school auditorium on Thursday, June 20th for Little and Junior Miss Ontario, and Saturday, June 22nd, for the Miss Ontario Pageant.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Ben Leighty, 3668 Ganges Five Point Road, requested changing the name of Allen Drive after his late father-in-law, David Paone. Mr. Paone opened his business on Allen Drive in the early 1990's and he knew a lot of people in the community. His daughter lives across the street from the family home.

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 moved to postpone indefinitely Ordinance No. 24-04, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion was approved.

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. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 24-06 on three separate days, second by Mr. Rehfeldt. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 24-06, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 24-06, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 24-06 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 24 – 03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AND VASU COMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO LEASE SPACE FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES ON THE CITY WATER TOWER LOCATED ON PARK AVENUE WEST.

Mr. Webb read Resolution No. 24-03, for the first time, by title only.

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RESOLUTION NO. 24-04

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RICHLAND COUNTY FINAL 9-1-1
PLAN.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 24-04 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bradley. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 24-04, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-04, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 24-04 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-07

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF
THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, REPEALING
ORDINANCE NO. 23-26, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 24-07 on three separate days, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 24-07, for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 24-07, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 24-07 was adopted.

At 7:26 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Mr. Webb

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council