

Regular

April 3, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on April 3, 2024, 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, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of March 20, 2024, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Brigitte Coles, Community Engagement Specialist for Richland County Children Services, Arlillian Nixon, Kinship Navigator, and Paula Caldwell, HR Assistant, came forward to receive a Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. They distributed handmade blue ribbons that are seen throughout Richland County to bring awareness to this program.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

WHEREAS, children in Richland County are our most valuable resource, and they need our support to thrive and grow into healthy, productive adults; and

WHEREAS, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we renew our unwavering commitment to protecting children and responding to child abuse, promoting healthy families, and building a brighter future for all; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves a nurturing family and a safe environment, free from fear, abuse, and neglect; and

WHEREAS, parents, guardians, relatives, and neighbors all share a responsibility to prevent these devastating crimes, and our local government plays a critical role as well; and

WHEREAS, since 1883, the agency has been committed to helping future generations succeed, is focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of all families, and is partnering with local, state and federal agencies to improve the lives of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, I call upon all Ontario residents to join the effort to keep children safe and families strong;

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Randy Hutchinson, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and I call upon all residents to observe this month with programs and activities that help prevent child abuse and provide for children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set our hand this third day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

Randy Hutchinson, Mayor

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp moved to take from the table Ordinance 23-27, the agreement between the city and the Johnny Appleseed Baseball Club (JABC), second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Webb reported on the Utilities Committee meeting held this evening:

- Engineering is being worked on for the required emergency water connection with the City of Mansfield at Home Road and PAW.
- Campus District waterline connection. OSU has provided a 25-year easement, for a \$20,000 upfront fee, that would help with development to the north.
- Bids will go out for the Spring Village water project that could be installed this summer.
- The current waterline project on Lex-Springmill is going well and a new lane closure was set up for the valve replacement in front of Walmart.

Ms. Feagin said the Streets Committee met earlier to discuss:

- Street paving projects include Willowood and the Service Department parking lot.
- Culver's Grand Opening is scheduled for April 15th. The committee agreed to grant an extension on the traffic study to determine if a turn lane is needed.
- A roundabout was discussed for the intersection of W. 4th Street and Rock Road.
- More information is needed from the Law Director on renaming Allen Drive to Paone Drive.

Ms. Feagin moved to grant Culvers additional time to complete their traffic study after their Grand Opening, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson said the Director visited the Menards site and spoke with some of the neighbors. The wet weather is causing a delay in completing the work.

All of the military banners are ordered and will be displayed before Memorial Day.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo said the May 15, 2024 Council meeting will be held at the school auditorium at 8:30 a.m.

Several upcoming events include:

- Sluss Kids Festival on June 1st
- 4th of July Festival on June 29th. Friday night before the festival is the car show and the 5K run on Saturday morning.
- The Little and Junior Miss Ontario on June 20th, and Miss Ontario on June 22nd.
- April 8th is the Eclipse. 200,000 - 400,000 people are expected in Richland County and the surrounding counties. The total eclipse is 3:10 - 3:20 p.m. The partial eclipse begins at 1:57 p.m.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control submitted a request to transfer the liquor license from Papas Gondola to KD Pizza. Hearing no objections, a hearing will not be requested.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Seeing no one who wished to speak, the Public Commentary portion of the meeting was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

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 second time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-27

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 read Ordinance No. 23-27 for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-27, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 23-27 was adopted.

At 7:22 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Branham-Fonner, second by Mr. Webb.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council