

Regular

May 15, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on May 15, 2024, in the Ontario High School Auditorium with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 8:33 a.m. with Nate Spencer leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Gallo recognized the Middle School FCCLA team that qualified for Nationals in Parliamentary Procedure and will be competing in Seattle, Washington.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, 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.

A map of Ontario's four Wards was explained, then Council and Administration introduced themselves, followed by the history of how Ontario originated. The zoning map was displayed and the building districts were described.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 1, 2024 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hutchinson presented Certificates of Achievement to:

- Sixth grader Steliana Kruer for her honesty and integrity by turning in a diamond ring she found at Marshall Park.
- Teachers Jordyn Eckert and Doug Basham for administering the Heimlich Maneuver and Lifepak to save a child from choking.

Culver's owner Chanse Meylan awarded each of them certificates for free custard for a year.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knapp reported:

- Appreciation was expressed for the high school students who participated in picking up trash along Lex-Springmill and to Culver's for providing them with free custard.
- Friday is Ride Your Bike To Work Day. Weather permitting, police officers will be at the school zone that morning for students who ride their bicycles.
- Menards submitted updated plans that should solve stormwater concerns. The city engineer is reviewing the plans and once they are approved there will be a pre-construction meeting in June about the work on the hillside. A drain will be installed to alleviate the water behind the buildings.
- May 20th is the bid opening for street paving in the Mary Lou Lane and Rosewood areas, and S. Lex-Springmill where the new waterline was installed.
- May 30th is the sewer bid opening for the Spring Village Lane area.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

Regular

May 15, 2024

ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT

Chief Hill reported:

2023 Review

- 75 Gun Related Calls in 2023, only 43 in 2022
The Criminal Division Bureau is looking into reasons for the increase.
- 71 Felony Cases / 125 Charges
- Domestic Violence Incidents increased by 10%
- Mental Health Related Incidents increased by 50%
- Felony Theft up 40%
- Felony Drug Cases up 15%

2023 Crash Data

- Ontario has five of the most dangerous intersections in Richland County
- Private Property Crashes have reduced by 7%
- Injury Crashes have reduced by 25%
- Non-Injury Crashes reduced by 10%
- Major factors for crashes are speed, distracted driving and improper lane changes or turning.

2024

- The development of the new operating CAD system took over a year and was installed this year. The design is multi-functional. Collaborating with the Sheriff's Office and sharing a portion of the cost saved money.
- Chief Hill thanked Council and Administration for their support and providing the funds to purchase the most up to date technology.
- This is National Police Week. National Peace Officers Memorial Day is May 15th. Chief Hill requested a moment of silence for the 23-year-old Euclid police officer killed in the line of duty on Saturday.

OYS REPORT

Kenn Spencer, Recreation Department Administrator, presented the report for Ontario Youth Sports.

- Mr. Spencer introduced Craig Hunt, the 1975 Ontario High Jump State Champion.

Amy Hiner and Superintendent Strickler reported on events.

- Paint & Mingle. Approximately 45 people attended. An artist led the group in painting, 8th grade art students assisted, and snacks were provided by the Ontario Community Events Family Engagement Committee.
- Senior Citizen Prom. The 3rd annual prom was attended by 102 senior citizens with close to 50 students wearing tuxedo t-shirts serving food and assisting on the dance floor to live music. The prom was a very successful event with a lot of positive feedback.
- There are six Concerts in the Park scheduled this summer. One concert will be held on Friday night during the 4th of July Festival.
- Summer Rec will offer some unique classes, such as photography and automotive, for the 250 students expected to register this year.
- The 4th of July Festival is the city's largest event. The festivities begin the week before with the Miss Ontario pageant. The Sorelle Sisters will return this year to sing the National Anthem.

Regular

May 15, 2024

- A Rock-Paper-Scissor Contest will start today and end at the 4th of July Festival, attempting to break the existing record. The event will end with a bracket of 16 at the Festival. The winner will receive \$1,000, sponsored by Spitzer Automotive.
- The Ontario Rocks Scavenger Hunt will begin in June with lots of prizes to win. Summer Rec children will paint rocks that will be hidden in all city parks. The scavenger hunt concludes at the 4th of July Festival.
- Mr. Spencer thanked the Parks Department employees Corey Cardwell and Daniel Thomspson for how amazing the parks look every day.
- This summer there will be a soccer boot camp, baseball camp, and a basketball camp.

President Gallo announced:

- During the annual Destination Mansfield Award Banquet, Ontario received a 2024 Tourism Award of Excellence for the Park and Sports Facilities Expansion improvements at Marshall Park.
- The Army Disposition Division has signed conditional ownership to the City of Ontario to move the military tank from the VFW on Park Avenue West to the Marshall Park entrance on Shelby-Ontario Road. The tank will be used as a centerpiece to create a military memorial to recognize veterans, military service personnel, and all branches of service. Bricks will be available for purchase for the memorial as recognition of service.
 - The paint on the tank tested negative for any safety concerns.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

The deadline for the Miss Ontario Pageant has been extended. Gianna Gallo, 2018 Miss Ontario, is the Program Director for this event. Contestants can receive financial awards to use for their future plans. Miss Ontario attends events throughout the county.

Culver's owner Chanse Meylan thanked Ontario for the warm welcome to the community and setting the Culver's record for sales in an opening week. When the students leave this meeting they will receive a token for a free scoop of custard.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, shared his family history connection to Ontario that extended to his great grandparents, and in the past 15 years he has attended all but one Council meeting. Mr. Hunt encouraged students to use public commentary as an opportunity to ask questions before Council.

Council and Administration responded to questions from thirteen students on topics specific to: benefits of economic development, potential hazards within the community, businesses needed to make Ontario better, venue for students to socialize, services to help citizens in the community, safety and finance laws, utilities, preparing the budget, street concerns specifically Lex-Springmill Road, how values are reflected in day to day operations, plans for Richland Mall, if Raising Canes is coming to Ontario, promoting mental health awareness for students, and what is Ontario doing to make it an attractive place to live.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ROAD SALT

Regular

May 15, 2024

PROGRAM FOR THE AWARD OF ROAD SALT NEEDED DURING 2024 AND 2025,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 24-05, for the third time, by title only.
Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-05, second by Mr. Sapp.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 24-05 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN
ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 24-08, for the third time, by title only.
Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 24-08, second by Mr. Sunderland.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 24-08 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-09

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING THE RICHLAND COUNTY GROWTH
CORPORATION TO SIGN A REAL ESTATE SALES AGREEMENT AS THE CITY'S
AGENT WITH ONTARIO STUMBO III, LLC FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY
THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR CITY PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 24-09, for the first time, by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PAINT
CITY FIRE HYDRANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 24-07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE
NAMED MAYOR FOR THE DAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mr. Webb moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-07, second by Mr. Sapp.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 24-07 was adopted.

At 10:20 a.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a
motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Feagin.

/s/ Nathan Sunderland
President of Council Pro Tem

/s/ Cathy VanAuker
Clerk of Council