

Regular

October 2, 2024

Ontario City Council met in regular session on October 2, 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, Dave Rehfeldt, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Kris Knapp, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Adam Gongwer, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

David Kiefer was invited forward to provide information on railroad infrastructure. Last year he attended the DC High-Speed Rail meeting, additional funding was added this year. Transporting parcels will be a large part of a high-speed rail that he would like to see connect Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Mr. Kiefer will submit a summary of discussion topics to the Director that will be reviewed in determining if another meeting is needed.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of September 18, 2024 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Webb called a Personnel Committee meeting for October 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Sunderland scheduled a Safety Committee meeting on November 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp reported:

- Monday was the first day at work for the newly appointed Zoning Inspector, Benji Hall.
- After November 11th the Veteran banners will be taken down and those who requested their banners can pick them up. Applications for new banners will be taken after the first of the year.
- The Business Leaders meeting presented information for business leaders retiring and/or closing their businesses. Mayor Knapp spoke with business leaders on how the city can be involved and assist them in keeping their business in the community.
- The Mayors of Mansfield, Shelby, and Ontario presented updates on their cities at the Richland Community Development Group (RCDG) meeting. Many business leaders and mayors attended.
- This morning at the Chamber's Small Business meeting they discussed November 30th as Small Business Saturday to support local small businesses.
- The Christmas Tree lighting will be December 5th. The Hagerman Christmas Lights will be displayed throughout the park.
- The Richland County Lank Bank is aware of the city's request for a parcel.
- Council members are to communicate their committee's goals and priorities for next year's budget.
- Moment Development exceeded some timeframes and need to resubmit documents to start the project process on Walker Lake Road.
- The Grocery Outlet on Lex-Springmill is scheduled to open early November. There are six locations in Ohio.
- Outdated signs at the entrance to Ontario need replaced or removed. An example are the signs at Home Road/PAW.
- The technology upgrade quote for the Council Chambers and Conference Room was over \$17,000. Contact Mr. Webb for details.
- Mayor's Court 3rd quarter increased to \$19,258.79. This could not have happened without the efforts of Clerk of Courts Janet Yeager.

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- The Mayor and Director decided hiring an HR firm would be more advantageous than hiring a full time employee. The Mayor requested hiring this firm for approximately \$3,000 to finish the year, and to add funds in next year's budget. Possibly, in 2025 a part-time HR Manager will be hired.
- Amounts are needed to put in the budget for updating the military tank. President Gallo asked for names of Veterans interested in participating on the steering committee for the military memorial at the Marshall Park tank.
- Officer Roose has been very involved in organizing 27 advanced specialized training sessions with a variety of agencies. Attendees come from across the country and our officers can attend at no charge.
- After 32 years, Sewer Department Head Paul Gleisinger is retiring December 31st. Using accrued vacation, his last day at work will be October 31st.

Director Gongwer said several HR firms were contacted and the pricing was similar. This firm has a body of attorney's and HR experts from different regions in Ohio. At \$250 per month, they allow unlimited phone calls from key people in the city who would contact one person at the firm. If additional information is needed they would contact someone else in their firm. They would review documents from the city and answer phone calls. Most calls would go through the Director, but any of the employees could call.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer provided an update:

- Leaf pick-up is October 21st – November 22nd. This service is for leaf pick-up only, no sticks, tree limbs or other yard debris. Pick-up for sticks, tree limbs and other yard debris will be in the spring.

Mr. Sunderland said there are getting to be more people at store fronts holding signs and asking for money.

- Chief Hill said it is legal under certain circumstances, people can't be kept out of the right-of-way, but it is illegal if they walk into the street. Several years ago Panhandling laws were put into place.

When Mr. Bradley asked for an update on the fire hydrant in front of Stingel Elementary, Director Gongwer said the Water Department checked it and it is operational.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

When Mr. Bradley asked about the procedure to decrease a speed limit, Law Director Medwid said Council could change a speed limit by ordinance.

- This will be sent to the Safety Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo said Haunted Hallways, sponsored by Ontario Community Events, is on October 26th at the school. The session for kids is at 6:30 p.m. and adults at 8:00 p.m. This replaces the Haunted Trail because the weather is usually a concern.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control sent notification that O'Charley's Restaurant is changing a stockholder. Hearing not objections, a hearing is not requested, and the form will be completed and returned.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Matthew Burrage, 85 Clare Road, came forward to say he has lived there for 45 years. Drivers are going 60 mph on Clare and Vivan. It's very dangerous and they are on their phones. The weekend speed bumps Mansfield uses on PAW slows cars down or they will cause damage. These can't be the only streets people speed on. Also, during the 4th of July firecrackers are going off until 3-4 a.m. then it takes him two days to clean up the debris that lands in his yard, gutters, raised garden beds, and field. That activity should not have been permitted with this year's dry spell.

- Chief Hill said he understands his concern. The portable speed sign can be placed there and officers will continue to be in the area.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, inquired:

- Which road are they considering changing the speed limit.
 - Mr. Bradley would like to reduce the speed limit on Mabee Road from 35 mph to 25 mph.
- Why Council no longer votes to excuse members from meetings. Some members may be taking advantage of not attending and if Council is talking about raises, he wouldn't like to see those missing meetings get a raise.
 - The Rules of Council were changed a few years ago to no longer vote to excuse absences but to contact the President of Council or Clerk of absences prior to the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 24-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 24-13 on three separate days, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sapp read Resolution No. 24-13, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-13, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 24-13 was adopted.

At 7:55 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mr. Sapp.

/s/ Eddie J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council