

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

7:08 p.m.

October 15, 2024

Pursuant to Codified Ordinance Chapter 107 and ORC Section 121.22, notice of the following meeting was given on October 11, 2024.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Carr, Garry, Kary, Merhar, Sievers, Tomaselli and Anderson

Others Present: Mayor Fiala, Law Director Lucas, Service Director Palmisano, City Engineer Lannon, Fire Chief Ungar, Patrol Captain Davis, Chief Building & Zoning Inspector Keller, Parks & Recreation Director Keller, Finance Director Hoffman, Clerk Novak

The meeting was led in Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Merhar.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Mr. Tomaselli to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2024.

Roll Call	6 yes	
	0 no	Motion carried 6 to 0
	1 abstain (Sievers)	

STANDING AND REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of Full, Mr. Carr – No report. Mr. Carr stated that as the City’s representative for the Lake County 9-1-1 Review Committee, he attended an organizational meeting last week. He stated currently there are eight PSAP’s in the county and the new state code is recommending that it be reduced to three. The City would like to be one of those three representing western Lake County. He recently met with the Mayor and both the Fire and Police Chiefs to review what transpired at the first meeting. County Commissioner John Hamercheck is chairing the committee and would like to finalize the plan by the end of the year.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Environmental Planning Committee, Mr. Kary – Reported the committee met earlier this evening to discuss EAS #10-7-24(b) and EAS #12-9-24 and recommended passage by Council.

Finance and Audit Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Ms. Sievers – Reported there was a committee meeting this evening updating Council on the master plan for the Euclid Avenue pool.

Personnel Committee, Mr. Anderson – No report.

Safety Committee, Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Service Committee, Dan Anderson – No report.

WPCC Committee, Mr. Garry – No report.

Planning Commission, Mr. Kary – No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Erick Buckland, 5803 Royal Drive, Willoughby – Regarding the master plan for the Euclid Avenue pool, Mr. Buckland stated that there are a number of residents in his neighborhood, Halle Estates, which have expressed concern about the closure of the current pool. He stated he has two children; his daughter who is 16 is a lifeguard at the Osborne pool and can drive but his 11 year old son has a hard time getting to the pool conveniently. (He gave kudos to the City for the sidewalks on Rt. 91.) He stated there are a lot of new families in Halle Estates who would like to have easy access to a pool; driving to the Osborne pool is a 15 minute drive. Mr. Buckland stated he was formerly the team president of the Willoughby Stingers. He stated many families representing the Stingers attended the last meeting which shows the dedication of the families. He stated that the City of Solon updated a pool that had been built in the 1950's.

Brian Katz, 5461 Oakridge Drive, Willoughby – Regarding the decrease in attendance at the Osborne pool this summer, Mr. Katz stated he felt it was a cooler summer and attendance at the pool is weather related. He stated two pools were originally built in the City: one for the north end and one for the south end. He stated the pool at Osborne can have a 10 degree difference from elsewhere in the City due to the wind coming off the lake and the lake in general. He stated that the City got lucky this year that the pool paid for itself; he stated you won't find five pools in the state of Ohio that pay for themselves. Cities pay for recreational experiences for their residents; if it were a money maker, the private industry would be doing it.

Cindy Bernardo, 4524 River Street, Willoughby – Ms. Bernardo asked for better communication regarding the River Street slope stabilization project. She asked when the project will begin and what the road closures will be. She stated she felt the south end of Willoughby needs a pool. Mr. Lannon stated that the City is out to bid currently for the retaining wall and the watermain replacement on River Street. The project should start this winter and wrap up mid-year 2025. ODOT will be resurfacing mid-year. He is expecting full closure of River Street near South Street with local traffic being maintained. The lane closures will be established at a pre-construction meeting later this year or in early 2025.

Sarah Jasinski, 4594 River Street, Willoughby – Ms. Jasinski stated she moved to Willoughby 12 years ago and one of the reasons she chose Willoughby was because it was walkable. She said Willoughby has been a great fit for her family but she stated they have lost access to a lot of things with the pool being the biggest. Her children were able to bike to the Euclid Avenue pool independently. She stated the basketball courts and swings were taken away when the senior center moved out of Browning. She stated there is a lot of new housing being built downtown but the City isn't adding any new amenities. She stated her family is part of the swim team and they have been using the Osborne pool but not as much if a pool was closer.

Michael Ross, 4735 Wood Street, Willoughby – Mr. Ross stated this was the first year he didn't renew his pool pass because of the distance to the Osborne pool. He did state he was

at the pool every Saturday and it was cold often. Mr. Ross sells homes in the community for a good price and taking away amenities will not continue to achieve the higher sale prices. He stated that \$13 million to \$17 million is a lot of money (referencing the price of a new pool), but it would continue to bring in new people and keep people in the community.

Michelle Echevarria, 38501 N. Beachview, Willoughby – Ms. Echevarria stated she doesn't believe it's fair to assume that those who previously attended the Euclid Avenue pool would attend the Osborne pool. She stated that if the City wants to increase the amount of families in the community, not having a pool on Euclid Avenue would be contrary to that goal. She stated she is concerned about the increase in traffic if the Osborne pool is the only pool in the community on top of the added amenities being added to the park.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Sievers that all ordinances and resolutions be read by caption only and that as to legislation not containing an emergency clause, the rules requiring that ordinances and resolutions be read on three separate days be waived.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7m , to 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-105

A resolution approving EAS #10-7-24(b) for the construction of thirty (30) townhomes (five (5) buildings) located at 32801 Euclid Avenue (Village Park West).

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-105.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-106

A resolution approving EAS #12-9-24 for construction of an oil change facility located at 35901 Euclid Avenue (formerly Mr. Chicken).

Motion made by Mr. Kary and seconded by Mr. Merhar to adopt Resolution No. 2024-106.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-107

A resolution expressing an intent to sell unneeded, obsolete, or unfit property by internet auction, establishing a procedure for conducting the sale, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Anderson that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-107 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Merhar and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 2024-107.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-108

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Ohio Department of Development Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Program Grant to implement the Nason Basin to Grove Avenue Storm Sewer Phase 1 Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Ms. Sievers that the rules of Council requiring three separate readings be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-108 be declared an emergency measure.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

Motion made by Mr. Garry and seconded by Ms. Sievers to adopt Resolution No. 2024-108.

Roll Call 7 yes
 0 no

Motion carried 7 to 0

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Fiala reported that the City is in the final phase of the new Police Station design documents. He requested a Safety Committee meeting on November 5th to review the costs; the next step is to go out to bid.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

Law Director Lucas – No report.

Service Director Palmisano – Mr. Palmisano stated the new lights (downtown) are going up and should be completed within the week. Mr. Anderson asked when the leaf pick up begins. Mr. Palmisano stated it will begin the last week of October and last through the first week of December. Bagged leaves will be picked up through December 15th.

City Engineer Lannon – Mr. Lannon reported there are new sidewalks on SOM Center Road after talking about it for 25 years. He stated the road program is ongoing; they are preparing for the final surface course which will start next week.

Fire Chief Ungar – No report.

Patrol Captain Davis – No report.

Chief Building and Zoning Inspector Keller – No report. Mr. Tomaselli asked how close it is to issuing occupancy permits at the new apartment at Riverwalk. Mr. Keller believes it would be about 90 days.

Parks & Recreation Director Keller – Ms. Keller stated there was a recent groundbreaking for the Chagrin River Floodplain and Restoration and Trail Project. The outside fence is complete at the Osborne Park pickleball courts; she is working on a ribbon cutting day. Interior fencing and wind screens need to go up.

Finance Director Hoffman – No report.

COUNCILMEN REPORTS

Ms. Sievers – No report.

Mr. Kary – No report.

Mr. Tomaselli – No report.

Mr. Merhar – No report.

Mr. Garry – No report.

Mr. Anderson – No report.

Mr. Carr – No report.

The Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Date approved 11/5/24



Robert E. Carr, President



Clerk of Council

Robert A. Fiala, Mayor