

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:53 p.m. by Steve Michniak, Council President.

PRESENT: Anthony Lombardo, Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Lisa McDaniel, Steve Michniak, Marianne Glenn

ABSENT: Jennifer Wagner

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
David Nott, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Matt Coffman, IT Network Administrator
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MS. WAGNER.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

None.

Reports/Communications from Depts/Boards/Commissions

Chief Reinholz said they had performed a baby duck rescue from the storm sewer by Walmart; every spring and summer there were a couple baby duck rescues. The Fire Department participated in the recent Safety Town with Parks and Recreation. The National Insurance Agency rates fire departments every five years and Streetsboro recently got their results from the March evaluation and maintained a 2 rating (1 is best, 10 is worst). The department was still testing/evaluating different "jaws of life" extrication equipment and would make a purchase soon. The equipment was budgeted for 2024. They preferred electric over hydraulic which was limited by the length of the air hose, especially for cars in a ditch, etc. The new engine was on schedule to be delivered in October 2024.

Chief Wain said the new officer sworn in earlier tonight, Nicholas Newland, was from Boardman and had about 9.5 years of experience. He also had instructor level training in a few different areas. He had an interesting day today because he had come from Boardman where they chase gunfire to Streetsboro where he had to chase goats and cats. All the goats and cats were recovered. Officer Newland was excited for a new opportunity with a chance to work more directly with the community and the department was excited to have him on the force.

Mr. Czekaj reported that they had started paving at the City Center, the bathroom was about 50% completed, and they had started the underground work for the Splashpad. Finally, after 6.5

months, he had heard back from the Ohio Department of Development and learned that Streetsboro was not awarded a grant for the Arrowhead Trail waterline project. Streetsboro had turned down a grant for the waterline extensions and applied for the Arrowhead Trail waterline project instead, but Streetsboro was not selected. The City would still move forward with the project doing one-half at a time and hoped to start the back half this fall, and hopefully finish the other half next year (depending on fund availability) and other potential projects too. The Page Road, Bartlett Road and Elliman Road paving project would have a preconstruction meeting this week and probably start work after July 1, 2024.

Introduction of Legislation Containing Statement of Emergency

MOTION: TO SUSPEND THE RULE OF THREE READINGS FOR T-7620, T-7621, T-7622, AND T-7623.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried unanimously.**

T-7620 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-156, THE 2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. [#7]

Clerk read by title as directed.

MOTION: TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-93 AS AMENDED IN TONIGHT'S FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Ring. Upon roll call, **motion carried unanimously.**

T-7621 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN ORDER TO ACCEPT AN H2OHIO DIRECT ASSISTANCE PWS GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00, WHICH WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW THE IMMEDIATE EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT.

Clerk read by title as directed.

MOTION: TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-94.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon roll call, **motion carried unanimously.**

T-7622 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING WITH SHORKEY AUTO GROUP, HALL PUBLIC SAFETY AND LAAD SIGN & LIGHTING & GRAPHIC EXPRESSIONS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE, UPFITTING AND VEHICLE GRAPHICS OF NOT TO EXCEED THREE (3) NEW 2023 DODGE DURANGOS FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO ACCEPT TIME-SENSITIVE PROPOSALS.

Clerk read by title as directed.

MOTION: TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-95.

Moved by Mrs. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon roll call, **motion carried unanimously.**

T-7623 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM GREAT LAKES HYUNDAI OF A 2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON, WHICH WILL BE USED BY THE NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW IMMEDIATE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION.

Clerk read by title as directed.

MOTION: TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-96.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon roll call, **motion carried unanimously.**

First Reading

None.

Second Reading

None.

Third Reading

None.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Broska reported that on Thursday and Friday this week he and Matt Miller would be traveling to Chicago to meet with S&P to present the City's case to improve the City's rating. If successful, it would result in a better bond rating. It would take a couple of weeks to get the results, but it would be in time to go out to market for the City Hall bond; that's why they were doing it now.

President of Council's Comments

Mr. Michniak thanked Great Lake Hyundai for the generous donation of a 2019 Tucson. He understood they were giving up money they could have made by selling the used car but decided to be altruistic and donate the car to Streetsboro to help the School Resource Officer to help keep the kids safe.

Mr. Michniak wanted to address some of the things Mrs. Field brought up in her comments at tonight's Finance Committee meeting. He agreed with her that Council should not make fun of or belittle people that have different opinions about anything and all try to hear each other out and listen to the arguments that we each have to make. He said where he differs with Mrs. Field was that at some point someone had to make a decision and the City had to go in a certain direction; we can't all continue to go in our own directions. He said the City sets policy and the Council Members try to do what they feel is in the best interests of the City. Council's job was not just to fight for the residents, but to fight for the residents by making choices that were wise and in the best interests of the City.

He said he found it a little puzzling that Mrs. Field suggested the reasons the residents wanted to opt out of the new water meter installation should be irrelevant and not looked at, but the reasons why the City wanted to move forward should be looked at. Taking that logic, you could say it was irrelevant why the City wanted to do what they chose to do. He said Council should let it play out through the process. The folks who were filing their case had taken the right legal steps to make an argument to the court, and we would all live with the results whatever the results might be and he thought we could do it without belittling each other (as Mrs. Field had suggested we not do) or trying to portray people as being “wack jobs” or Council as being mean spirited, or trying to personalize this in a way that it was just not.

Mr. Michniak said he made the decision to support the program because, as strongly as some residents may feel there was some danger to these meters, he felt there was not. If there was something dangerous he would not have voted for it. He thought it was highly likely that they were probably not going to succeed on the merits of their lawsuit because there was no danger from these meters to be heard, listened to, privacy, safety, or health, at least he had not seen anything that would cause him concern as a Council Member.

He was concerned that this would set a precedent where residents decided how their services would be delivered, i.e. if they would decide to have no utility meters at all or they would decide how their taxes would be counted. Mr. Michniak disagreed with the language they were using. They wanted to “opt out” but there was no such thing as an “opt out.” The citizens get their water provided to the home and they get a bill, and the City quantified the amount of water used via the tools the City decided it was going to use; there was no opt out to give anyone. The City can’t give free water, or not count their water, or use a system that nobody else has to use. He felt this situation needed to use language that was more appropriate. An opt out made it sound like the City was forcing them to do something. They had an option to “opt out.” If they didn’t want City water they could move if they felt that strongly that it was dangerous, but the City could not allow every individual resident to dictate how they received their services. He said he could not opt out of the police and fire protection if he felt the radios they were carrying were too dangerous when they came around. He couldn’t opt out of being pulled over by a police officer if his license tag was expired and he happened to not think people should have to pay the government to have a license plate to travel roads that were naturally there. He said he wasn’t able to opt out of the laws of the State of Ohio. He felt the characterization that Streetsboro wasn’t providing an “opt out” was a Jedi mind trick to try to get people to use language to get them to think the City wasn’t providing them a chance at something.

Mr. Michniak said the Council Members tried to make the best decision they could. Mr. Michniak thought there were lots of “opt outs” people could do: they could move, they could try to go to a different system, they could go to a different city, or go to an area in Streetsboro where they could get well water, but that was not for the city government to provide for them. He used the Amish as an example. The Amish didn’t want to use electricity so they lived in a place and built a life where they used a minimal amount of electricity; they didn’t force the rest of the town they lived in to not use electricity. He didn’t think Streetsboro should be forced through guilt or shame or use of word language that tried to guilt the Council Members into giving them an “opt out” so Council felt better and felt they were fighting for the residents. He said a uniform policy across the City would save the City money, and it was fair. It was not fair to the rest of the residents who had the new meters installed if a few people got to make a decision that the other families didn’t. It was a uniform policy and it should be applied uniformly; it’s fair, it’s safe, it’s just and he felt the City should stick to that and avoid attacking each other personally. He said everyone should leave the personalities out of it because this is the way the City was going and the City was not forcing anyone to stay here, but this is what the City was doing. If they proved in court that it was a danger to them and a court ordered the City to allow them to not use this system, then so be it; that was the proper channel (to file and prove your case), but he just didn’t think they were going to be able to do that. He thought they were doing a two-pronged attack: file in court and attack Council from a legislative standpoint to try to guilt Council into providing an “opt out.” He felt that was a dangerous precedent to set. If Council gave an “opt out” for this,

the City would have to give an “opt out” for everything else we do when residents just don’t want to do what they don’t want to do. There was a remedy they could do themselves if they didn’t enjoy having the meter in the house, they could always go somewhere where they were more comfortable living.

Council Members’ Comments

Mrs. Glenn commented that she had a new water meter in her house and she certainly would not have voted for it or put one in her house if she thought it was unsafe.

Mr. Hannan offered congratulations to Jennifer Wagner and her family who welcomed a new grandbaby; Ms. Wagner’s daughter had a healthy baby girl over the weekend. Mr. Hannan noted the Community Center held its first wedding rental this weekend and it went very well, except the air conditioning that had five of the six fuses for the two units blow on Saturday morning. One unit was working for the event and all the fuses have been replaced so it was all working well this afternoon. Mr. Hannan was glad the event went well and he hoped to see more family/community events at the new Community Center.

Mrs. McDaniel wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day. She asked everyone to think about our country’s history, our founding, our principles and values during this holiday.

Mr. Lombardo also thanked Great Lakes Hyundai for their generous donation to the Police Department. He reminded everyone to stay cool during the next heat wave.

Mr. Ring also wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day while celebrating all the freedoms it allows us to have and remember why we have those freedoms.

Announcements

City Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024 for Independence Day. There will be a Safety Committee, a Service Committee and a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024, starting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

There being no further business to come before this Council, and upon motion by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mr. Hannan, this meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Steve Michniak, Council President