

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 12-19-2023

Circleville City Council convened in City Council Chambers Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Roll call, Council members present: President Barry Keller; Katie Logan Hedges, At Large; Tom Duvall, At Large; Michelle Blanton, At Large; Caryn Koch-Esterline, Second Ward; Todd Brady, Third Ward; Sheri Theis, Fourth Ward. Clerks Linda Chancey and Melissa Burns. Absent: Jeff Hallinin, First Ward. Invited guests City Auditor Mark Bidwell, and Law Director Gary Kenworthy.

President Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and invocation was given by all. Brady motioned to approve 12-05-2023 City Council Minutes. Koch-Esterline seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Keller reported that prior to Council meeting there was a Cmte Of Whole meeting, the discussion was the use and balance for ARPA funds and to appoint a new term for 2024-2025 Council Clerk.

NO REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS.

NO QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Ericka Morgan, 521 N. Court St voiced concerns regarding legislation to place basketball or pickleball courts or a skateboard in the new Ted Lewis Park. Also, Morgan asked the incoming Third Ward Council members regarding the issue of a handicap parking permit sign behind her home for her parents. Morgan asked Theis about the new survey for Ted Lewis Park and the 2024 funds in the budget for the park also. Richard Gerhart, Design Committee UpTown Circleville updated Council members on the newly hired Executive Director Darin Simms.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A Letter dated December 13, 2023, from the Mayor's Office reappointing Dorcas Morrow to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Morrow's term will end December 31, 2029.
- The Circleville City Council will hold a Public Hearing Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. at City Hall Building, Council Chambers. This is in reference to a request by Planning & Zoning for:
 - Various Amendments to the City of Circleville Official Zoning Code Text.
 - An Amendment to the City of Circleville Official Zoning Map to include the 2015 rezoning (Ord. #12-95-2015) of the property owned by DK Wolfe Family Investments LLC, parcel #A0511430002600 from AG (Agricultural District) to LDR (Low Density Single-Unit Residential District) amending the existing City of Circleville Official Zoning Map.

Blanton motioned to accept the correspondence and place them on file. Koch-Esterline seconded. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE FOR THIRD READING.

An Ordinance To Provide For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Circleville, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024. This was reviewed in the Finance Cmte and is the third and final reading of this ordinance. This is the 2024 City Budget from all departments.

MOTION – ROLL - CALL VOTE. Hedges motioned for passage. Blanton seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Ordinance passes and assigned #01-01-2024. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

An Ordinance Authorizing The Use Of Opioid Funds To Pickaway Area Recovery Services (PARS) And Declaring An Emergency. This was reviewed in the Finance Cmte. Blanton stated at the last Council meeting it was requested that this ordinance be amended for reporting in Section III renumbering thru Section IV to say, "that all three organizations will report annually."

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Theis stated there were email conversations about specific included in the amendment as well, such as the required report, a description of program, how the funds were spent, the number of citizens that participated in served in the program, to continue the program in the following year or major changes planned and to request for funding for the following year.

Blanton stated my response to that, that information is stated in RFP attachment and if we said the funds for the program are spending the funds and if the funds are available for them every year, why would you need it requested, again? Theis said it is for such a long term and the program could potentially change during that time and if they saw a need to be changed, but if the program remained the same then they could explain how they spent the funds. Hedges asked, so are you asking them to reapply every year? Theis stated "No, not reapply," just to confirm that Yes, we are going carry into the next year. Hedges stated I am all for giving an update, but not reapply every year. Theis stated it's not a reapplication just a report that everything is fine, no more legislation necessary and to report the Finance Committee.

Keller asked Theis, "Do you want that language placed in the ordinance for great detail. Theis stated this language needs to be in the ordinance, so the recipients of grants know what is expected of them. Blanton stated all these organizations have grants given to them so they will know what they are reporting and how to use the funds and know what to report on and how they are using the money. Theis stated, there is no information stating they will pass that information back to council as it currently states. Hedges stated why don't we just ask them before coming to a council meeting to bring the report. Theis asked, then whose responsibility is to ask them to bring the report to Council. This needs to be placed in the ordinance to be a good steward of the money, need to ask how the money was spent. It needs to be part of the ordinance.

Keller asked Theis do you have the language you want added, Theis stated the language is in an email, but the Law Director needs to write the language up.

Hedges stated I am completely supportive of Theis but not part of the ordinance, Council can ask them as an expectation before they come to Council to bring pertinent information in the coming year and hold them accountable.

MOTION – ROLL CALL – VOTE

Blanton motioned to amend the ordinance with added language "that all three organizations will report annually." Koch-Esterline seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas – 0 Nays). Motion carried to amend the ordinance with an annual report.

MOTION – ROLL CALL – VOTE - Theis motioned that the report in Section III include 1. a description of the program, 2. how the money was spent, 3. the number of citizens that were served, 4. if the program will change plans in the following year, and 5. the request for funding continues. Koch-Esterline seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried. Ordinance amended.

MOTION – ROLL CALL – VOTE - Brady motioned to suspend the rules. Duvall seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 0 Nays – 1 Abstained. Blanton). Rules are not suspended.

Ordinance will be held until January 2, 2024, for a third and final reading.

Ordinances for First Reading

An Ordinance Authorizing The Director Of Public Service To Enter Into A Land Lease Agreement With New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC Granting The Right To Install, Maintain And Operate Communication Equipment, Including A New Tower On The Premises Of The City Located At 151 East Franklin Street. This was reviewed in the Judicial Cmte with a recommendation for passage. This is to enter into a lease agreement with Cingular Wireless to replace the cell tower that sits behind the Police Station.

Richie Verito, Chair of HRB explained that HRB supports this, no changes except shorter in height.

Brady asked will this support the Police or the Fire department. Verito explained this will support them by moving the equipment from the current tower to the new tower.

Theis asked about the tower termination agreement, regarding the terms, the city does not have any rights and no language to get terminate this agreement.

MOTION – ROLL - CALL VOTE. - Brady motioned to hold for a second reading. Koch-Esterline seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Ordinance will be held until January 2, 2024 for a second reading.

An Ordinance Levying Assessment For Fines Due To Violations Of The Vacant Building Enforcement Program On Certain City Lots. This was reviewed in the Judicial Committee regarding the vacant buildings in the city. This has ten properties listed for fines.

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MOTION – ROLL - CALL VOTE. - Brady motioned to suspend the rules. Blanton seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Rules are Suspended. Blanton motioned for passage. Duvall seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried. Ordinance passes and assigned #12-84-2023.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth Furniss, Director Visitor Center, spoke on economic development within Pickaway County for marketing and tourism. We continue to use our App, social media, photo base and marketing to add to articles. (Visitor Center books were distributed and explained). The grant funding that we applied for was declined, We are asking for the City's support or grant funding, or the City can apply for grants too. There is a price quote in the packet of information for improvements. Keller asked Furniss to speak to the administration.

Blanton motioned to excuse Jeff Hallinin from tonight's Council meeting. Brady seconded. All Yeas.

Brady motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:37 p.m. Theis seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Chancey, Clerk