

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 8/20/2024

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Council members present at Roll call: President Barry Keller, At Large Members Katie Logan-Hedges, Sheri Theis, and Tom Klitzka, First Ward Jeff Hallinin, Second Ward John Moats, Third Ward Zack Brooks, Fourth Ward Tom Duvall, and Clerk Melissa Burns. Invited guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, and Law Director Kendra Kinney.

President Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and invocation was given by all.

Hallinin motioned to approve City Council minutes with that amendment from August 6, 2024. Brooks seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hedges reported she had a Finance meeting on August 6, 2024. There is one piece of legislation on the Agenda from that meeting.

Hallinin announced he will have a Safety Committee meeting on September 3, 2024, at 6:15pm.

Theis reported she had a Strategic Planning meeting on August 13, 2024. There are three pieces of legislation on the Agenda from that meeting. Theis also announced there is an opening on the Tree Commission and if anyone is interested, applications are available on the City's website. The Tree Commission will accept applications through the end of the month.

Keller reported he had a Committee of the Whole meeting on August 6, 2024. There is one piece of legislation on the Agenda from that meeting.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Law Director Kinney stated on Thursday she will be attending the SPBR seminar. This seminar will aid her in her ability to advise the City in negotiations with civil service employees. Kinney's office continues to handle the municipal docket and was successful at the initial hearing arguing for no bond, for the defendant accused of murder. Kinney's office is working on various employment issues and the continued development of the Comp plan.

Mayor Blanton stated she had a records retention meeting last week with the Law Director, the Auditor, and a citizen. She will begin the process of meeting with all the departments to go over the records retention schedule. The Mayor stated the Police Chief's assessment is now completed and they are moving on to the panel portion of the hiring process. Mayor Blanton swore in the new Director of Public Safety, Rob Ware.

Public Safety Director Ware stated he is excited to take on the challenge and has already been meeting with people. He is focused on improving the safety force team. Ware stated he has worked with Paul Pride in the past and he believes Pride's recommendations will validate the steps Ware will begin initiating.

NO QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Dave Horning, address 565 Plaza Drive, spoke about the recent ask for basketballs courts at Ted Lewis Park. Horning suggested the City could negotiate with the home developers to include playground equipment in their PUD.

Josh Ford, 1151 N. court St., spoke to state as president of the Ted Lewis Museum, he would like to see basketball courts at Ted Lewis Park for older kids.

Erica Morgan, address 521 N. Court St., spoke to state she would like to see basketball courts added to Ted Lewis Park for the older kids. Morgan stated when the City lost the four schools they also lost the playgrounds.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Resignation letter received from Roman Cline from the Circleville Tree Commission. Mr. Cline has found his time on the Circleville Tree Commission to be rewarding and fulfilling. Mr. Cline states that due to personal commitments he needs to step back from his volunteer duties at this time but will ensure a smooth transition of his duties. He wishes the Tree Commission continued growth and success moving forward.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Theis motioned to accept the correspondence and place it on file. Hedges seconded. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

a) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PAUL PRIDE TO PREPARE AN ANALYSIS FOR THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Discussion: Keller stated this Ordinance is to allow himself as President of Council, the ability to hire retired OSHP Colonel Paul Pride. Mr. Pride will do an assessment of the CPD, and the scope of his services will be laid out in his contract with the City.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to suspend the rules. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #08-57-2024.

b) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE STATE OF OHIO, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT), AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF RELATED AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges stated this Ordinance is to purchase the ODOT property in the north part of the City. Duvall stated the property is worth \$4.3 million dollars and the City is getting the property for \$800,000. Duvall believes this is a great deal and meets the needs of the City. Klitzka asked from an environmental standpoint if there would be a lot of cleanups needed. Duvall stated he asked the same question and there is no remediation needed.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hallinin motioned to suspend the rules. Duvall seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Duvall motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Moats seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #08-58-2024.

c) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OHIO THE GREEN CIRCLEVILLE INITIATIVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA, FOREST SERVICE EASTERN REGION, STATE, PRIVATE AND TRIBAL FORESTRY TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO CREATE TREE EQUITY AND IMPROVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Theis stated this allows the Service Director the ability to sign the legislation to accept the Inflation Reduction Act Grant that will be received over the next five years.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Theis motioned to suspend the rules. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Brooks motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Moats seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #08-59-2024.

d) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE AND FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Theis stated this authorizes the Public Service Director to apply for grant funding to purchase two different properties. One property is the greenspace on Pickaway St. and the other is on N. Court St. near the PUD. If the City only receives partial funding, then the Director will prioritize the property located on Pickaway St.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Brooks motioned to suspend the rules. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Brooks motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #08-60-2024.

e) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 AND SAFETY FORCES .5% INCOME TAX FUND 227 OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE

Discussion: Keller stated the Ordinances appropriates the funding to hire Paul Pride and for software training for the Auditor's office.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hallinin motioned to suspend the rules. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Duvall motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #08-61-2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Application of Gary Dean to the DRD Board.

Discussion: Theis stated Mr. Dean was interviewed at the Strategic Planning meeting and his application comes to Council with a recommendation for appointment.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Theis motioned to approve Gary Dean's application to be appointed to the DRD Board. Hallinin seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay)

2. Application of Riche Verito for reappointment to serve on the Historic Review Board.

Discussion: Theis stated Mr. Verito's term is coming to an end in September, and he would like to continue serving on the HRB.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hallinin motioned to approve Richie Verito's application to be reappointed to the HRB Board. Duvall seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay)

3. Executive Session.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to go into Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee or official, pursuant to O.R.C. §121.22(G)(1). Hedges would like to include all of Council, The Law director, The Safety Director and Rob Ware. Hallinin seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay).

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hallinin motioned to adjourn Executive Session. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nay).

Motion to adjourn City Council by Hallinin. Theis seconded. Council is adjourned at 8:13p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk