

# CIRCLEVILLE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

## 11/12/2024

Circleville Committee of The Whole convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH. Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Present at Roll Call: President Barry Keller and Council Members Tom Duvall, Sheri Theis, Jeff Hallinin, Tom Klitzka, Zack Brooks, John Moats and Clerk Melissa Burns. Absent members: Katie Logan Hedges. Invited Guest present: Law Director Kendra Kinney, Safety Director Rob Ware and Consultant Paul Pride.

Keller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Hallinin motioned to approve the September 3, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Moats. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

a) AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING A CLERK OF CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Discussion:** Keller stated there were three applicants who applied for the vacant Clerk of Council position. With the help of Thies and Moats applications were reviewed. Interviews were conducted by Keller, Moats and the HR Director. The candidate who had the highest score was Assistant Clerk Melissa Burns. This Ordinance is to appoint Melissa Burns as the Clerk of Council.

### **MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE**

Klitzka motioned to forward this Ordinance to the next Council meeting on November 19, 2024, with a recommendation for appointment/passage. Brooks seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried.

b) Police Department Consultant Report by Paul Pride.

**Discussion:** Keller stated Paul Pride was hired as a law enforcement expert to help review the Circleville Police Department and assist in creating a Comprehensive Action Plan.

Paul Pride stated his qualifications include being a marine combat veteran; he has 30 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol; 20 of those years with command level experience; he served as superintendent of the Highway Patrol; and attended the FBI National Academy. Mr. Pride stated he was presented with a scope of work for the consultation for the City. Mr. Pride stated he has already implemented some changes along the way of creating the Comprehensive Action Plan for the Police Department. Mr. Pride stated he started his plan by determining where the Police Department is currently at; then setting goals for where they want to be; and outlining the path to get there. Mr. Pride stated he didn't focus on past leadership but is confident the City has rid itself of the toxicity that was in the Police Department. Instead, Mr. Pride focused on plugging leadership into the current leaders and making sure they had the proper resources they need to succeed. Mr. Pride stated Chief Fisher is working to rebrand the image of the Police Department as a Department of the highest standard of leadership, professionalism, and judgement. Mr. Pride's Comprehensive Action Plan consist of setting several goals for the Department and making sure they have the resources needed to accomplish those goals. Those goals consist of: a commitment to professionalism and accountability; enhancing public trust; operational improvements; risk reduction; improving employee morale; and seeking access to all resources. Other major areas of focus Mr. Pride highlighted are the need to revamp the organizational composition of the Police Department; training for all personnel; and the needs of the facility. Mr. Pride stated there is a need for better supervisor management/involvement, and policy/procedure updates. Mr. Pride stated Officers need to be aware of themselves in both a professional image and personal image. Mr. Pride stated the Department needs to speak words of encouragement and recognize people when they do something good and on a regular basis.

Keller stated the key takeaways from his briefing with Mr. Pride is the Police Department needs lots of training; the Law Director, Safety Director and Chief of Police need to work together to get policies and procedures updated; restructuring the Police Department; and building improvements. Keller stated he spoke to the Mayor and she will have some major decisions and recommendations regarding the budget due to the Levy not passing.

Mr. Pride added that the City has a great resource in Safety Director Rob Ware. Pride stated Ware has been a Chief of Police in two different cities with over 25 years' experience and he is confident he will be a great mentor for Chief Fisher.

**Old or and Other Business: Executive Session**

**MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE**

Theis motioned to go into Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee or official, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1). This session would include all Council members including the president, Law Director, and the Safety Director. Duvall seconded. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried.

**MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE**

Moats Motioned to adjourn executive session. Hallinin seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nay).

Moats motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., Seconded by Hallinin. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk