

RESOLUTION NO. 18-24

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE CITY MANAGER JIM HOCKADAY FOR HIS DEDICATED AND UNRELENTING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CONNEAUT.

WHEREAS, Jim Hockaday served as Conneaut City Manager from 2015 to 2024 as one of the City's longest serving city managers, patiently enduring (and sometimes creating) endless hours of Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hockaday, during his tenure as City Manager, relentlessly searched for grant money behind every tree, in every crevice and under every rock – securing more than \$50 Million dollars in grant funds to launch and sustain record levels of much needed infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hockaday initiated and substantially completed an unmatched, full press comprehensive plan to bring economic development to Conneaut including Truck World and its supporting infrastructure at the I-90 interchange, the Port Connector Project using a \$20 Million federal grant to connect I-90 to the Conneaut Port, tie-ins to allow industry to tap into the Risberg gas pipeline, the multimillion dollar Conneaut Creek Dredge Facility, O'Reilly Auto Parts, the deep-water marina, improvements to Naylor Drive and the harbor district, improvements and new leases Industrial Park, clearing Lakeview Park of dilapidated trailers and developing preliminary plans for a destination boutique hotel, more than \$3 Million in improvements to the water plant and distribution projects at least \$3 Million in sewer plant and Headworks improvements, (including a land transfer to correct an earlier misplacement of the Digester on private land), partitioning and platting the Conneaut harbor to facilitate new development, the Conneaut Creek ODNr Paddle project and the eastside land acquisition partnership with the Metroparks and Nature Conservancy.

WHEREAS, Jim Hockaday routinely referred to obsolete movies nobody had ever seen, introduced the City to new versions of alphabet soup including NOPEC, ODNr, ARPA, EMA, EPA, BWC, ODOD, CDBG, ODOT, OWDA, TIF, CRA, ESID, etc., and routinely created hitherto unknown verbs from common nouns – often in mid-sentence and without pause; and

WHEREAS, Jim Hockaday aggressively pursued dilapidated and blighted residential and commercial buildings, tearing down nearly 100 such buildings, generally without cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, a new phrase, "to be Hockaday-ed" came into existence to describe the moment when Council's eyes glazed over listening to Hockaday's detailed City Manager's dissertations (aka reports); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Conneaut, County of Ashtabula and State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. On behalf of the residents of the City of Conneaut, this Council wishes to express its deepest appreciation to Jim Hockaday for his vision and perseverance to advance citywide economic development through the use of grants and other leveraging tools, for sacrificing his family and personal time to benefit residents of the City of Conneaut, for reminding all of us of the benefits of professional city management, for his willingness to back and support those he worked with, and for his patience in listening to a lifetime's worth of pothole and backed up sewer complaints.

Passed this 12 day of February, 2024.


Terry Moisio, President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council
Chris Castrilla, Council

Mariana Branch, Council

Nicholas J. Church, Council

Oakey Emery, Council

Richard Gaugh, Council

Nicholas Perkowski, Council