

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, Conneaut, Ohio. Council President Mr. Arcaro called the regular meeting to order. Answering roll call: Councilpersons: Mr. Arcaro, Mr. Emery, Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Kozesky, Mrs. Ledford and Mr. Perkoski; City Manager Mr. Hockaday, Finance Director Mr. Williams and Law Director John Lewis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Ledford moved to approve the Journal of the November 13, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Jennifer Hoover was recognized as the Employee of the Month for November. The award was presented by Mr. Gaugh and Mr. Kozesky.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Taylor Cleveland was present to express his support of proposed legislation presented by Senator O'Brien to allow Ashtabula County to construct a new jail facility. Mr. Cleveland added that he is a supporter of the tourism industry, referring to it as "the lifeblood of our county", but believes it is a secondary function to government, behind the primary function of public safety. Mr. Cleveland called on Council to pass a resolution in support of Senator O'Brien's legislation, encouraging the county to get on board to use tax dollars to fund a county jail.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- Mr. Hockaday provided a letter from the U.S. Coast Guard and Congressman Joyce' office stating that the seasonal placement of the Ashtabula Coast Guard facility is being withdrawn and will no longer be staffed. The facility was formerly staffed from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The City's response will come from Erie, PA. He encouraged members to reach out to express their dissatisfaction with this decision.
- OPWC integrating committee – our final application was accepted and we should be receiving a grant agreement in July 2024.
- Also had a call with ODOT concerning Broad Street reconstruction project
- Army Corps of Engineers Right of Entry Agreement is on the agenda for tonight. Allows them access to the dredge facility on an annual basis and we will be required to pass every year.
- Buffalo Street is wrapped up.

- On Madison Street, he received notification that the City will receive the lighting structures on February 14th.
- He met with the Land Bank concerning funds available for demolitions for both residential and commercial structures. These grant funds would allow property owners to retain ownership of their property. For residential properties, the property owner would be responsible for 20% or \$2,500, whichever is less. There is a slightly different calculation for commercial properties. Funds are statewide and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis.
- We are anticipating snow. There is a snowban on parking.
- Skip Ensmen has been doing a great job working through the water filtration backflow surveys and hydrant replacements. They are also continuing to prep for the lead and copper survey which will go out in the December mailings.

Mr. Hockaday further responded to Mr. Cleveland's previous comments. He stated that several items were inaccurate and added that tourism is more than willing to have a discussion with public safety and law enforcement. He added that playing a surprise game in legislature is not good governance. Mr. Hockaday stated that he has been a strong supporter of a new jail since 2009. Mr. Hockaday suggested Council encourage a conversation within the County as to how to move forward. A conversation concerning the excessive and long overdue need for a new jail needs to happen. Mr. Hockaday added that we all play a role in public safety and it is not one industry's problem.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis provided Council with a written report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

LIASION REPORTS

Mrs. Ledford advised that the CCVB met on November 14th at 5:00PM at Port Authority office. There will be a Santa event at the Conneaut Human Resource Center on December 10th from 2-4PM. They are sponsoring a coloring contest and pages are available at the library. Snowflakes downtown have been maintained and repaired. Additionally, Dolly Sherman resigned as administrative assistant and Jennifer Bosley resigned from the board. Dolly Sherman was then appointed to the board and Jennifer Bosley was appointed as the administrative assistant. Their next meeting is January 9th at the Port Authority office.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 131-23 entitled An Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to execute a Department of the Army Right of Entry for Construction, and declaring an emergency was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Perkoski to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gaugh. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mrs. Ledford to act on Ordinance No. 131-23. Roll call:

Mr. Arcaro	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Kozesky	Yea
Mrs. Ledford	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS


None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Gaugh thanked City employees Jennifer Hoover, Jessica Obhof, Jennifer McConnell and Angelina Vazquez for their efforts during the Christmas parade. Council provided coffee, hot chocolate and popcorn and great fun was had by all.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to excuse the absence of Mr. Moisiso. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Absence excused.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Meeting adjourned at 7:28PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council