

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, December 11, 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, Mr. Moisio and Mr. Perkoski; City Manager Mr. Hockaday, Finance Director Mr. Williams and Law Director Mr. Lewis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and invocation was provided.

Mrs. Ledford moved to approve the Journal of the November 27, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – Mr. Arcaro, Mr. Emery, Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Kozesky, Mrs. Ledford, and Mr. Perkoski. Nay – None. Abstain – Mr. Moisio. Journal approved.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Aurelia Huya was recognized as the Spartan of the Month for November. The award was presented by Mr. Moisio and Mr. Perkoski.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- Mr. Hockaday advised he had a meeting today concerning the closure of the Ashtabula Coast Guard station. They are seeing difficulty in staffing all facilities. Erie and Cleveland are our current response stations – west of Saybrook Twp. Park will be covered by Cleveland and east of the park will be covered by Erie. He added that Fairport Harbor will be staffed 40 hours/week and that the Ashtabula station may be staffed during large events such as D-Day.
- He attended an I-90 corridor operations meeting with ODOT, PennDOT and NYDOT in an effort to understand each department's protocols. PennDOT formerly routed vehicles through Conneaut's downtown and that traffic will now be rerouted through Routes 84/226.
- The demolition program application was submitted by the landbank last week.
- Water and sewer grant series round 4 was submitted. Also working on the All Ohio Fund – the notice of funding opportunity came out last week.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Williams provided members of Council with a Public Works Department report which categorized revenue and expenses for the department back to 1997. He provided an explanation of

the auto, permissive and state highway funds. Mr. Williams further advised that there was a \$122,000 deficit in the department in 2022 which was covered by the general fund. He added that personnel makes up approximately 75% of the department's expenses, although they are down to 13 employees. He also provided a printout showing the department's debt.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Hockaday added that gas tax is an allocation from the state based on population, and not based on the number of gallons of fuel sold in the City.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

LIASION REPORTS

Mrs. Ledford received a report from the Cable Advisory Board. The Board voted to change their name to the Conneaut Access Television Board. Their logo and acronym will remain the same. She added that in the last 30 days, they saw viewers from Australia, the Netherlands and Japan. Their next meeting will be on January 25, 2024 at 11:00AM at the Conneaut Public Library. Mrs. Ledford added that it was a pleasure to work with the board and serve as the liaison. They are a group of hard-working volunteers and she is proud of the work they do. Mrs. Ledford also added that it was a pleasure to serve as the liaison to the CCVB and that they should be recognized for their volunteer work.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 132-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$422,000 NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY, (A) ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF A TRANSIENT MARINA, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, (B) CONSTRUCTION OF SELF-STORAGE UNITS ON DAY STREET WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND (C) ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF DEEP WATER SLIPS, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, AND APPROVING A FIFTH ADDENDUM TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Williams provided a brief explanation.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Moasio. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Perkoksi to act on Ordinance No. 132-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 133-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 BUDGET THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS AND FUND AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS, ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED “EXHIBIT A” was placed for first reading.

Ordinance moved to second reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 134-23 entitled A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED AND HAZARDOUS STRUCTURES WITHIN THE CITY OF CONNEAUT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday stated this Ordinance will be submitted to the land bank to accompany their demolition application. Owners of the home are deceased and heirs are not probating.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Perkoski to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Moasio. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Resolution No. 134-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 135-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 110.09 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING SEWERAGE SYSTEM CHARGES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Williams stated that this rate increase was discussed at work session. It reflects an approximate 4.79% increase for administrative and OM&R. Mr. Arcaro added that these increases are important so as to not saddle residents with a large increase when needed. Mr. Williams added that the increase will equate to a \$1.70/month increase for the average user.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery to act on Ordinance No. 135-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 136-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 107-11 ESTABLISHING MONTHLY REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES FOR USE OF THEIR PERSONAL CELLULAR TELEPHONE FOR CITY-RELATED MATTERS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday stated that the rates have not been adjusted since 2012 and cell usage has changed. The change also removes the City Manager and the Public Service Assistant, and amends to Zoning “Manager”. There was a brief discussion concerning whether detectives should be listed in the ordinance and it was determined that they should not be included in this ordinance.

Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Emery, to amend the ordinance to exclude detectives. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Motion passed. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule on the ordinance, as amended. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Moisio to declare an emergency on the ordinance, as amended, seconded by Mr. Gaugh. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 136-23, as amended. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 137-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO THE FOLLOWING VENDOR IN THE AMOUNT LISTED IN SECTION 1 BELOW, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.41(D)(1) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mrs. Ledford to act on Ordinance No. 137-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 138-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE NO. 133-07, ESTABLISHING THE MAXIMUM RATES OF PAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PART-TIME POSITIONS AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1 BELOW, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday stated that 138 and 139 are companion ordinances and reflect 2% cost of living raises for unclassified employees.

Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mrs. Ledford, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Emery to act on Ordinance No. 138-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 139-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE NO. 21-04, TO SET THE MAXIMUM RATES OF PAY EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023 FOR SAID POSITIONS, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1 BELOW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 139-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 140-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF CONNEAUT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, AS ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED “EXHIBIT A”, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday advised this is the first significant change made to the employee handbook since it was adopted in 2016.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio to act on Ordinance No. 140-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 141-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT, OHIO (LPA), TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PID NO. 119471, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED BELOW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 141-23. Roll call:

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

Mr. Moisio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 142-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PROJECT YEAR 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday stated this agreement was originally approved by Council in June, but the state asked for revisions to the agreement. Those changes do not change anything of substance in the agreement. The law department has also reviewed the new agreement. Mr. Hockaday provided a brief overview of the CHIP program.

Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Emery, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 142-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS

None.


MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Moisio asked Mr. Hockaday if sending a letter to the Coast Guard would have any affect on their decision. Mr. Hockaday stated that it would typically have an affect, but in this case, they have already made their decision. Federal legislators are aware of the challenges and Mr. Moisio encouraged citizens to reach out to express their dissatisfaction. Mr. Hockaday also added that the Coast Guard indicated they planned to provide a weekly schedule of their staffing. He also added that the City was not notified, nor was the County. The only notification was sent to Ashtabula City.

Mr. Arcaro moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3358:17-1-04.2 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual in accordance with

Section 121.22(G)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ledford. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Executive Session entered at 8:06PM.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Perkoski, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council