

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, City Hall, Conneaut, Ohio. Council President Mr. Moisio called the regular meeting to order. Answering roll call: Councilpersons: Ms. Branch, Mr. Castrilla, Mr. Church, Mr. Emery, Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Moisio and Mr. Perkoski; City Manager Mr. Hockaday, Finance Director Mr. Williams and Law Director Mr. Lewis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Perkoski moved to approve the Journal of the January 22, 2024 meeting, seconded by Mr. Church. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

Mr. Church moved to approve the Journal of the January 29, 2024 special meeting, seconded by Mr. Castrilla. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

Mr. Emery moved to approve the Journal of the February 8, 2024 special meeting, seconded by Ms. Branch. Roll call: Yea – Ms. Branch, Mr. Church, Mr. Emery, Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Moisio, Mr. Perkoski. Nay – None. Abstain – Mr. Castrilla. Journal approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Kline, Chairman of the Conneaut Port Authority, was present to answer any questions Council may have concerning Ordinance no. 16-24.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- He participated in the 2024 Dredge call with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- He attended meetings with the Ashtabula County Land Bank for the development of Hayward Park. The Land Bank was awarded a \$600,000 grant – Mr. Hockaday congratulated Mr. Alex Iarocci. The plan is to develop 4 - \$300,000 residential homes. He also indicated that there would be special financing to make the homes affordable for the average homebuyer in Conneaut.
- In the process of wrapping up the ODNR grant portion of the dredge project. Goal is to have it finalized by the end of the first quarter.
- 2024 road paving excel sheet was emailed to Council. This can be discussed at the retreat or the March work session.
- The Broad Street ODOT SIB Loan is on for Council consideration tonight

- Old Main Bridge scored poorly on its last inspection. At the request of ODOT, the bridge was restricted to single lane and has new load limits.
- USDOT Port Connector preliminary environmental assessment has been submitted. Waiting on the outcome of the Appalachian Grant application.
- Have not heard from the County Land Bank on the demolition grant. 2023 Year End Report was also provided to Council. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Hoover.
- The Ashtabula County Department of Community Development received a \$900,000 Lead Safe Ohio Grant to address lead hazards in homes. They would like to have 50% of that under contract by the end of March. Grant is available to homeowners and the flyer lists income limitations.
- Concerning the Water Department, the onsite EPA inspections are complete. He briefly discussed the valve turning program and the lead survey form. All water customers will receive the flyer in their water bill in an attempt to obtain records on private sides of lines to comply with EPA requirements. Customers can respond with the postage prepaid postcard or scan the QR code. Response within 1-45 days will receive \$20 off a bill, 46-90 days will receive \$10 off a bill. Call the water office with any questions.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

Ariann Barile-Smith from Congressman David Joyce's office presented Mr. Hockaday with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition and Achievement.

Council presented Mr. Hockaday with Resolution No. 18-24 for his dedicated and unrelenting service to the City of Conneaut. Mrs. Hoover read the resolution into the record.

Council recognized Mr. Williams for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

LIASION REPORTS

Ms. Branch provided an overview of the Cable Advisory Meeting on January 26th. They had their election of officers and provided a summary of programs. She added that they broadcast 12 hours of programming, 7 days a week and further that each minute shown takes 20 times longer to produce. The Vimeo link is on the City's website and she added that there were 506 views on Vimeo in December.

Mr. Castrilla added that he also attended the meeting and stated it was an eye-opening experience. He thanked Mr. Shackle and Mr. Drew for all of their hard work. The members of the board are not compensated, with the exception of the cable coordinator.

Mr. Castrilla added that he held a Public Works Committee Meeting with Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Church, Mr. Hockaday, Mr. Bidwell, Mr. DiBell and Mr. Dalrymple. He added that they currently have 10 employees and that he has a whole new appreciation for the department. They are responsible for cemeteries, parks, roads snowplowing and preparing for events. He thanked them and stated they would try to meet every four (4) months.

Mr. Castrilla also attended the January Planning Commission meeting where they discussed some zoning issues. He also thanked them for their hard work.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 05-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 111.01 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for third reading.

Moved by Mr. Castrilla, seconded by Mr. Church, to act on Ordinance No. 05-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO APPOINT BRIAN BIDWELL AS INTERIM CITY MANAGER FOR A PERIOD OF NINETY (90) DAYS, BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Castrilla, 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. Church. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Emery to act on Ordinance No. 08-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 09-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN OFFICE TRAILER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH KURTZ BROS., INC., AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday added that the trailer is owned by the City and that Mr. Bidwell will also maintain an office in it. The agreement provides for an annual payment over 10 years. Ordinance moved to second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2024 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Church, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Emery to declare an emergency, seconded by Ms. Branch. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Castrilla to act on Ordinance No. 10-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CERTIFY A LIST OF DELINQUENT GRASS CUTTING BILLS TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 731.54 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND SECTION 1377.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday added that this is a list of properties that were mowed and billed in 2023 and those property owners who did not pay their bill and those will be assessed to their property taxes.

Moved by Ms. Branch, seconded by Mr. Church, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Ms. Branch to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Castrilla. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Ms. Branch, seconded by Mr. Church to act on Ordinance No. 11-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea

Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2024 BUDGET THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS AND FUND AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS, ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED EXHIBIT “A” was placed for first reading.

Mr. Williams stated the amendment is for several employees who are leaving – approximately \$66,000.

Moved by Mr. Castrilla, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Castrilla, seconded by Mr. Church to act on Ordinance No. 12-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT TO THE FOLLOWING VENDOR IN THE AMOUNTS 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.

Mr. Williams stated OPWC grant funds were not available when purchase orders were closed and the purchase order was inadvertently closed.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Castrilla, 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. Church. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Castrilla to act on Ordinance No. 13-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 14-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND “231 – JAG GRANT” FOR PURPOSES OF ACCOUNTING FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES RELATED TO THE OHIO OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES EDWARD BRYNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARDED TO THE CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday expressed his appreciation for Judge Iarocci’s efforts in obtaining this grant for approx. \$30,000.

Moved by Ms. Branch, seconded by Mr. Perkoski, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Ms. Branch, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 14-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moasio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR AN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$753,919.94 FOR THE BROAD STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday advised this application is for Broad Street/Route 7 for the intersection of Broad and State to the underpass. It will be a full, curb-to-curb reconstruction including sidewalks and streetlights. It also ties into the Madison Street project. We have obtained half a million dollars in OPWC grant funds for design – Stage III plans are complete. Mr. Hockaday added the \$753,000 loan application represents approx. 20% of the project – 80% of the project is grant funded. Road widths will remain the same but it will be changed to three (3) lane.

Moved by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Church to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Castrilla to act on Ordinance No. 15-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea

Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moisis	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TO EXECUTE A CERTIFICATION TO ALLOW SMOKE ON THE WATER BBQ & SEAFOOD LLC TO OBTAIN A LIQUOR LICENSE ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF CONNEAUT AND LEASED TO THE CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Castrilla, 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. Church. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Ms. Branch to act on Ordinance No. 16-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moisis	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF CONNEAUT CITY COUNCIL TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED CITY MANAGER AGREEMENT WITH JAMES HOCKADAY ATTACHED HERETO AND MARKED “EXHIBIT A”, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Church, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Emery to declare an emergency, seconded by Mr. Gaugh. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 17-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moisis	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-24 entitled A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE CITY MANAGER JIM HOCKADAY FOR HIS DEDICATED AND UNRELENTING SERVICE TO THE CITY OF CONNEAUT was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Emery, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Church, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Resolution No. 18-24. Roll call:

Ms. Branch	Yea
Mr. Castrilla	Yea
Mr. Church	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Moisis	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

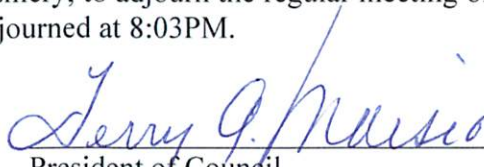
Mr. Church asked Mr. Hockaday about the corner of State and Mill – there are 2-foot ruts at the corner. Mr. Hockaday advised that the curb is an open warranty item that will be corrected.

Mr. Church advised that he would be hosting a Valentine’s Day event for seniors at the Human Resource Center on 2/14/2024 with flowers and chocolates.

Mr. Castrilla stated that he met with Chief Colby and toured the department. He thanked Chief Colby and his officers.

Mr. Hockaday thanked Council and prior Councils, Kathy Zappitello of the Conneaut Public Library and Conneaut Foundation and Bill Kline of the Port Authority. He added that he deeply appreciates everyone. Council members thanked Mr. Hockaday for his service.

Moved by Ms. Branch, seconded by Mr. Emery, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council