

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 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: Council President Mr. Arcaro, Councilpersons: Mr. Emery, Mr. Gaugh, Mr. Kozesky, Mrs. Ledford and Mr. Moisio; City Manager Mr. Hockaday, Finance Director Mr. Williams and Law Director Mr. Lewis.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Invocation was given.

Mr. Moisio moved to approve the Journal of the May 8, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Ledford. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Xander Rich was recognized as the Spartan of the Month. The certificate was presented by Mr. Emery and Mr. Gaugh. Mr. Rich was present with his father.

Officer Daniel Pinkett was recognized as the Employee of the Month. The certificate was presented by Mr. Moisio and Mr. Kozesky. Police Chief Michael Colby was present with Officer Pinkett.

Police Chief Michael Colby then introduced to Council recently hired Officers Keasling and Chiacchiero.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident Sonny Heinonen, 380 Lake Road. Mr. Heinonen advised that he previously appeared before Council on February 1st and presented a petition with over 500 signatures protesting the Port Authority's decision to enter into agreement with Oasis Marinas allowing complete management of the City's marina. Mr. Heinonen added that Council had not addressed his concerns. Mr. Heinonen advised that he had received hundreds of messages in support from residents in the community. Mr. Heinonen added that he was not entirely sure of the contents of the agreement and its meaning. Mr. Heinonen expressed his concern with the fees paid by the Port Authority to compensate Oasis and listed several fees listed in the agreement. He added that Oasis has substantially increased rental fees this year. Mr. Heinonen suggested exercising the \$25,000 buyout clause in the agreement. Mr. Heinonen further provided information regarding the revenue and operating costs of the charter industry. He added that there are 694 Ohio-based licensed charter captains and listed ways that charters aid the City and the fees associated with running a charter. Mr. Heinonen added that the City Manager, Council and Port Authority have done many positive things for the City, but he does not believe this is one of those. He urged Council to take action and exercise the \$25,000 buyout clause and have the Port Authority take control of the marina.

Mr. Heinonen also stated that he was also asked to ask Council why the Ukrainian flag was flying on public property at the public dock.

Resident Ken DiNino, 16 Angela Drive. Mr. DiNino stated that he had a conversation with men on the dock, men who live here. He stated that the men were fishing from shore when he spoke with them. Mr. DiNino stated that Oasis had decided to not give out season passes for the boat

launch. He also referenced a retired friend of his who can no longer afford to launch his boat; he formerly launched his boat at least 20 times per month. He stated that there is a reduction in the standard of living for the residents of Conneaut. Mr. DeNino added that tourists can choose any port to fish from. Mr. DiNino asked Council to make the request to Oasis to issue seasonal passes, at least for people in Conneaut.

Resident David Schuller, 1025 Harbor Street. Mr. Schuller started by addressing the price of fuel in the marina. He stated that it was always the agreement that fuel was \$1.00 more per gallon than at a gas station; they are now up to \$2.00 more per gallon. Mr. Schuller further expressed his concerns about the truck traffic on Broad Street and their speeds through town and over the hill. Mr. Arcaro suggested that anyone call the police department if they see the trucks speeding. Mr. Moisio further added that they will be working on dust mitigation. Another citizen in the audience added that she witnessed a truck drive through a red light at the Love's intersection. A brief discussion was held on the matter.

Resident Kathie McBride, 705 Lake Road. Ms. McBride advised that she lives near the curve near Township Park and she grew up in the house. She addressed the numerous accidents that have occurred at or near the curve. She asked that Council consider preventive measures such as rumble strips like they use in Pennsylvania.

Resident Carol Tinney, 123 S. Ridge Road East. She stated that she has lived on S. Ridge Road for 33 years. Traffic was infrequent but the number of homes on the road has since increased and traffic has increased. More houses, more people, more cars than ever. She advised that she called Public Works regarding dust control and was told that maybe they would get dust control twice this year due to costs. Ms. Tinney made reference to an article in the Courier concerning dirt roads. She expressed her frustrations about the dust and asked to make the roads safer and healthier.

Resident Mike Nappi, 19 C Drive. Mr. Nappi discussed the issue at the curve on Lake Road. He has lived there for 5 years and there have been 3 major accidents. They have replaced a lot of bushes, fixed grass and also cleaned up a lot of auto parts. He asked that the City consider looking at something to help those residents near the curve. He advised that very few people are driving the speed limit when they go around the curve.

Resident Darlene Goodiel, 645 Lake Road. Ms. Goodiel stated that she has lived there for 5 years and has been witness to the same 3 accidents and asked that Council come up with a solution.

Resident Joseph Morris, 28 B Drive. Mr. Morris stated that he purchased the house 5 years ago. He was inside his home during the most recent accident. Mr. Morris advised that he was first on the scene and witnessed a small child who was in the accident. Mr. Morris asked who his councilman was, to which Mr. Emery responded.

Mr. Arcaro added that all Council members' phone numbers are listed on the City website.

Resident Telisa Cross, 28 B Drive. Ms. Cross stated it is traumatic to see vehicles crash through your yard. She was in her home for the first accident, and stated it sounded like a bomb had gone off. The vehicle landed upside down in her driveway. She stated that the sound is something that she cannot get out of her head. She asked that something be done to slow drivers down and protect the homes near the curve.

Ms. McBride added that people do not stay on the right side of the road when they go around the curve.

Mr. Arcaro added that, as a retired Chief of Police, he is aware of their concerns and the solution is a combination of making the area safer and enforcement. They have previously added lights and signage and will look into

Mr. Kozesky suggested that Mr. Hockaday talk to Chief Colby about periodic stationary patrol in the area. He suggested staggering the times to have an officer there and create a halo effect.

Mr. Hockaday addressed the dust on the southern roads and advised that he had driven out there recently. He also added that he would talk to the Chief regarding stricter enforcement. Mr. Hockaday mentioned that almost every wreck on Lake Road involved alcohol or the driver was otherwise impaired. Mr. Hockaday stated that he does have a meeting with ODOT Capital Improvements and will bring those issues to them. He also advised that ODOT has previously declined the City's request to install. He added that he will attempt to get a safety device in that area and that any safety device must be approved by ODOT. More discussion was held concerning rumble strips and traffic signals. Mr. Hockaday explained the process for traffic signals.

Concerning dust control, the process is the same, and is somewhat weather dependent. Mr. Hockaday advised that it is generally applied during the 1st week of June and again in August. The City has to grade the road, and then apply dust control. The only thing that has changed is the price of the materials purchased. The price has increased approx. 25-30%. Mr. Hockaday explained there is a needs gap in what needs to be done and what the City can pay for. He added that the road levy will be discussed at the next work session – if the levy does not pass, there will be no road levy dollars and no dust control next year. There was a brief discussion about the dust. There was also discussion about the resources needed to maintain the roads. Mr. Hockaday added that they have not seen the response from the community that is needed to be able to keep up with the increasing costs.

Mr. Moisio addressed Mr. Williams concerning the 12 roads they chose to repair. Mr. Williams advised that there was \$75,000 appropriated for gravel roads. Mr. Hockaday added that that \$75,000 covers dust control, grits and gravel. The substrata application will be outside of the \$75,000.00. Mr. Moisio stated that they would find the money, any they may need to have a Public Works Committee meeting soon. Mr. Hockaday advised that Perma-Zyme quoted \$22,000 for materials, plus \$60,000 to prep the road. Mr. Hockaday explained the process for the polymer application. Grading will be done in-house to save money and will take Public Works 1-1.5 months to complete.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- He thanked the volunteers who attended the downtown cleanup, specifically the City employees Ryan Harco and Brian Bidwell to operate machines. There was a smaller group so the remaining mulch will be done this week.
- He attended the monthly county visitor's bureau meeting
- Attended the quarterly Growth Partnership meeting
- On the Dredge project, he attended a weekly construction meeting but advised that they talk several times per day. The project continues to move forward. They are working on dust control caused by clay hauling. They are talking about how to control the dust. The final operations agreement is in Council's packet for their review. He added that Kurtz Bros. submitted their bid and it was selected. Insurance company provided some guidance on the contract. There are several items to be agreed upon later which are not in the agreement – street sweeping and the office location.
- 2023 paving bids are due May 26th
- Pump control sensors waiting to be installed. Complete with the exception of those items.
- He provided the Madison Street project bid results from CT Consultants. Base bid was originally \$330,000 but has increased to \$580,000. The lowest bid came in at \$637,000. This item will need to be discussed at the next work session. Project costs have doubled.
- Broad Street reconstruction, now at \$3.7 Million. Several discussions with ODOT on how we can make the project affordable.
- He was pleased with the Public Works guardrail install on Chestnut Street. City crews performed the work and guardrails were secondhand from Fireland Supply.

Mr. Gaugh asked about the start date for the Buffalo Street sewer. Mr. Hockaday responded that they had not given an exact date yet.

Mr. Emery thanked Mr. Hockaday for the guardrail and said it looks great. Mr. Hockaday advised he would pass it onto Mr. DiBell.

Mr. Arcaro asked if there was an update on the guardrail project in the 1400 block of Lake Road. Mr. Hockaday advised that they are waiting on the excavator work to be done by a contractor.

Mr. Arcaro mentioned the police and fire reports. He asked that streetlights that have been reported be included in the packet. Mr. Hockaday stated that list is with Jessica in his office and will have her send it out.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Williams provided Council with a quarterly income tax report and explained the year-to-year differences and collections from the Attorney General. He added that not all income tax returns have been processed.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

LIASION REPORTS

Mr. Moisiso advised that he attended the Port Authority meeting on May 18th:

- New board member Kristina Showalter was welcomed
- Vehicles are in good working order
- Sandbar preparation for Memorial Day weekend
- 222 slips have been rented, 3 pending. 73% occupancy rate out of 330 spaces. 4 jet docks available.
- Boater's lounge is 99% complete
- Snack shack at sandbar
- Fuel dock is open
- 24% of Conneaut residents rent boats slips and 51% are out of the State of Ohio. Unsure of the remaining 25%.
- Lengthy discussion was held concerning the dust and ideas were proposed.
- They did discuss season passes but unsure of how that will end up.

Mrs. Ledford advised that there is a Cable Advisory Meeting at the Conneaut Public Library at 11:00AM on Thursday (May 25)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 10-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE FUND 789-CEMETERY PERPETUAL TRUST, AS IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance remains tabled.

ORDINANCE NO. 54-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KURTZ BROS., INC. FOR FACILITY OPERATIONS MANAGER AT THE CONNEAUT CREEK DREDGE RECLAMATION FACILITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for second reading.

Mr. Hockaday advised that this is the final agreement for operation of the dredge facility. He added that Kurtz also operates in Cleveland and Fairport Harbor and he looks forward to working with them.

Moved by Mr. Moisiso, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Moved by Mr. Moisiso, seconded by Mrs. Ledford, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None.

Emergency declared. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 54-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 60-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSING OF BROAD STREET FROM STATE STREET TO JACKSON STREET FOR THE CONNEAUT SOAP BOX DERBY FROM 12:00PM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023 THROUGH 6:00PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Kozesky asked about the truck traffic if the road will be closed. Mr. Hockaday advised that he had previously given the contractor blackout dates for the soapbox derby and the MS bike ride so they will not be operating during those times.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 60-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 61-23 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.

Mr. Williams advised that this was a liability incurred prior to issuing a purchase order. Mr. Hockaday provided an explanation about this specific vendor. Mr. Williams suggested they obtain a blanket purchase order if this vendor is used frequently.

Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mrs. Ledford, to declare an emergency. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Moisio, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 61-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Moisio thanked Mr. Gaugh and the City Manager for also being present at the downtown cleanup. He also thanked Wendy Zele of First Energy for the installation of the streetlight at Parrish Road. Mr. Moisio added that the Blessing of the Fleet is this Saturday (May 27) at 1:00PM at the Public Dock. He has also been in contact with Kori Marcy who would like to have a dive team recognition on June 19th at 6:00PM at Biscotti's.

Mr. Emery asked Mr. Moisio if there was any discussion of economic development coming up in the future at the Port Authority. Mr. Moisio responded no. Mr. Emery addressed Mr. Hockaday and stated that he saw we were working on some businesses with the Port Authority and asked if we knew what was on the table. Mr. Hockaday advised that those aren't publicly consumable items and that's why they aren't discussed at open sessions at the Port Authority. Mr. Emery stated that he understood and wanted to follow-up and added that his words were incorrectly identified in the minutes and that he would like to have them correctly identified from now on.

Mr. Emery added that he received a phone call from the residents at the end of Lakeview Avenue who stated that they (he was unsure of the company) dumped boulders down over the bank but that it has caused damage to property at the end of the drive. Mr. Emery was unsure whether the resident had called Mr. Hockaday yet. Mr. Hockaday advised that she had not and further stated that there is an authorization to use Lakeview for the placement of stones along the embankment. That agreement was before Council and approved. Mr. Emery advised that they dumped 800 tons down there and the neighbor west of the original caller advised Mr. Emery that the ground was cracked around her property and he made reference to pictures. Mr. Emery stated that the cracks went to the front of her cottage and the other was two (2) feet from her cottage. He also looked at the end of Millard Avenue where they have their heavy equipment access. He stated that he can't believe a company that is in the business of saving banks would just throw all of that down there. He was told that those trucks dumped one right after another and further added they also plugged up the storm drain. Mr. Hockaday advised he would have someone go down and take a look. He advised that the company has insurance and bond filed with the City. Mr. Emery stated he did advise her to call Mr. Hockaday and that he did explain to her it was an independent contractor that was doing the work. Mr. Arcaro added that he also received that call and advising her that they would follow-up. Mr. Emery added that he found an article in the Beacon Journal about the erosion on the banks in Conneaut – "Receding Bluffs Threaten Houses" dated April 30, 2023. Mr. Arcaro asked Mr. Emery to provide her contact information to Mr. Hockaday and advised Mr. Hockaday to contact her. Mr. Arcaro stated that he advised her to document. Mr. Emery stated it was a serious concern and that he wouldn't take it lightly.

Mr. Gaugh thanked everyone who participated in the downtown clean-up, with a special thanks to the City employees who helped. He also thanked Mr. Moisio for his contribution and added that there were volunteers of all ages. Mr. Moisio added his thanks to Mr. Bidwell.


Mr. Kozesky addressed Mr. Hockaday concerning the trucks driving through the City and stated that they are not being tarped. Mr. Hockaday added that they have been advised of the requirement. He stated that the contractor has issued memos to its subcontractors and they have been warned with traffic citations. Mr. Hockaday added that they have been pulled over and ticketed. Mr. Arcaro asked for a tally of how many citations have been issued at the next meeting. Mr. Kozesky added that nothing would happen until they started some type of enforcement.

Mr. Emery commented about the area on Broad Street near Russell that was repaired. He advised it has a huge dip. Mr. Hockaday added that it is not completely from the truck traffic. The manhole was set lower than usual. Mr. Hockaday advised that they should have paved over the manhole then come back later to cut it out and put a concrete collar on it. He stated they have more road patches to come back to and they will put another 1 1/2 – 2 inches on that area.

Concerning the trucks, Mr. Arcaro added that it is a City project and they need to be cited. Mr. Hockaday stated they have been told and have been cited. Mrs. Ledford added they did improve a little but there are still quite a few trucks that are not tarped. Law enforcement options were discussed amongst councilmembers.

Moved by Mr. Arcaro, seconded by Mr. Moisio to excuse the absence of Mr. Perkoski. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisio, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council