

## **JOURNAL OF COUNCIL**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Invocation was given.

Mr. Perkoski moved to approve the Journal of the August 28, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

See below.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **REPORTS**

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- He advised that the dredge facility is nearing completion and trucking is done. We have started removing the traffic control devices (i.e. barricades and signals). At the conclusion of the paving project, we will also be paving Broad Street, north of Lake Road.
- Buffalo Street is largely completed. There are a couple imperfections that are being repaired before acceptance.
- On Madison Street, waterline is installed and they are working on subbase grading and compaction. They will start pouring concrete in the next week.
- They started milling this week as part of the street paving project. They will be moving relatively quickly.
- Captain Gardner of the Conneaut Fire Department provided a hydrant flushing report that shows the maintenance and repair items. There are a handful that need to be replaced and it was discussed during the utilities committee meeting. Mr. Emery asked if all of the problems in the report had been addressed. Mr. Hockaday advised they have not all been addressed but they will continue to work on them. Many are repaired annually but some are part of a larger repair. Any that are labeled “Eddy” are 100 years old. Only 82/750 of the City’s hydrants are “Eddy”.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Williams provided a copy of a letter from the Ohio Department of Taxation that estimated the local government fund for Ashtabula County to be \$3,037,000, of which the City will receive approx. \$429,000. Mr. Williams provided a history of the local government fund dating back to 2000. Prior to the estate tax and personal property tax being eliminated, the City collected over \$1 Million between those two sources and the local government fund. In 2000, the City received \$742,000 from local government, and that has dropped to below \$500,000. He explained that if an inflationary factor was applied to that \$742,000 from 2000, it would be over \$1.5 Million today.

Mrs. Ledford asked if there was any explanation as to why the estate and personal property tax were not replaced, Mr. Williams advised that it just never happened.

He also provided a copy of the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources. Total certification is \$23 Million.

### LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Kozesky advised there was a public safety committee meeting preceding this meeting with Councilmen Gaugh, Arcaro and himself, along with Mr. Hockaday, Mr. Williams and Fire Chief Lee. They discussed the purchase of a new ambulance, planning for a new fire engine and the MARCS radio system.

Mrs. Ledford attending the Utility Committee meeting on Thursday where they discussed water, water distribution and dredging. There are a lot of things that need to be done and it was a very sobering meeting.

1. They discussed the lead and copper study and the proposal from 120 Water. The consensus was for 120 Water to give a presentation at the next work session and that some incentive should be a part of the response to encourage participation. A tiered response system was also suggested.
2. On water meters, the City has 300 dead meters which are not able to report water usage. Costs have gone up 50-75% per meter. The City has received 150 meters this year and we are still backlogged. Meters are starting to come in and this will need to be discussed at future budget meetings. There was discussion regarding software updates. Would be \$90,000 to purchase all 300 meters and there may be a bulk purchase discount.  
Mr. Emery asked if a company upgraded all of the meters. Mr. Hockaday stated that Neptune came through in 2009-2010 to upgrade the mechanical meters. Approximately 6% of the 5,000 meters in the City are out of service. Mr. Hockaday advised that we are starting to receive meters and make repairs.
3. Concerning backflow reporting, there are 400 businesses in the City required to submit backflow reports to the City. Business owners are responsible for an annual inspection and providing paperwork to the City. We are identifying those who are not in compliance and addressing those violations. We are technically in violation of the EPA regulations now. There are 9 employees trained on backflow preventers and what needs to be done to be in compliance with the EPA.  
They also discussed using the iWorQ system to track, which would sync with other departments in the City. About \$4,000 to do so.

4. On the Old Main Bridge and Pump Station, they have contracted GeoTech to check the line. They discussed moving the bridge a little to the south and lane widths will need to be widened prior to use. All of the utilities are bunched in the north shoulder. The headwall will need to be removed. We currently have \$2 Million in grant funding for the project under the municipal bridge program.
5. The capital budget will include meters, Clark Street tower, activated carbon system updates, hydrants.
6. Concerning hydrants, Mr. Arcaro commented that there are 23 out of service and asked if that number was more or less than average. Mr. Hockaday advised it is about the same number – we usually replaced 10-15 hydrants per year and it is usually a budgetary constraint issue. That budget will need to be increased due to the increased cost per unit.
7. On the sewer, they discussed the 4-5 components of the NFA. They also discussed biosolids and the option of purchasing a press or continuing to contract. PFAS are within the materials that we spread and may become an issue. The City pays \$150,000-180,000 annually for sludge pressing.
8. On the dredge facility, the City is waiting to hear from the Army Corps for a contractor.
9. Will need to discuss water and sewer rates and asked everyone to come in with an open mind. Mrs. Ledford stated that we have not keep up with water, water distribution and sewer department infrastructure.

Members of Council thanked Mrs. Ledford for her report. Mr. Arcaro added that a lot of these are mandates that we will have to comply with.

### **LIASION REPORTS**

Mrs. Ledford advised the annual meeting of the CCVB will be at Buccia at 6:00PM on September 12, 2023.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 104-23** entitled A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR was placed for third 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. Gaugh to act on Resolution No. 104-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 105-23 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.

Mr. Williams provided an explanation of the items listed on the amendment.

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, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 105-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 106-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE FUND “267 WORKFORCE GRANT 23” FOR PURPOSES OF ACCOUNTING FOR REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES RELATED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE GRANT AWARDED TO THE CONNEAUT HEALTH DEPARTMENT was placed for first reading.

Moved by Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 106-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 107-23 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. Hockaday added that these are payments for various projects over the last couple of years that had cost increases over \$3,000 and that a majority of the payments were covered by grant funding.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, 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. Gaugh. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to act on Ordinance No 107-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 108-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CERTIFY A LIST OF DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER BILLS TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AUDITOR FOR REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT, 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. Moved by Mr. Perkoski to declare an emergency, seconded by Mrs. Ledford. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Emery, to act on Ordinance No 108-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 109-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CERTIFY A LIST OF DELINQUENT STREETLIGHTING BILLS TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AUDITOR FOR REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Williams added that streetlighting bills are placed on water bills, but for those who do receive a water bill, they receive a separate bill for streetlights. He advised that numerous letters have gone out.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford to declare an emergency, seconded by Mrs. Ledford. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to act on Ordinance No 109-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 110-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 958.01 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CITY PARKS, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No 110-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 111-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SECTION 958.08 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING LAKEVIEW PARK AND TRAILER PARK AND CAMPGROUND, AND NOT 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. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No 111-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 112-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 521.11 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING JUNK AND UNLICENSED VEHICLES, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Kozesky, to suspend the three-reading rule. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Emery, seconded by Mr. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No 112-23. Roll call:

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

September 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

- Council President Mr. Arcaro
- Mr. Emery
- Mr. Gaugh
- Mr. Kozesky
- Mrs. Ledford
- Mr. Moisio
- Mr. Perkoski
- City Manager Mr. Hockaday
- Finance Director Mr. Williams
- Law Director Mr. Lewis

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. INVOCATION (Please remain standing)

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 11, 2023

- Moved by Ledford; second Emery
- ~~Mr. Arcaro~~
  - 2 Mr. Emery
  - Mr. Gaugh
  - Mr. Kozesky
  - 1 Mrs. Ledford
  - A Mr. Moisio
  - Mr. Perkoski

6. AWARDS PRESENTATION

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

8. COMMUNICATIONS

9. REPORTS

- A. City Manager
- B. Finance Director *none*
- C. Law Director *none*

10. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES *none*

11. REPORTS OF BOARD LIAISONS

12. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

13. THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

14. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

15. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

113-23 An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager of the City of Conneaut to submit an application for an Ohio Public Works Commission Grant and loan and to execute contracts as required, for zone 6 in the Buffalo Street Improvement Project, and declaring an emergency.

Three-reading

- Mr. Arcaro
- Mr. Emery
- 2 Mr. Gaugh
- Mr. Kozesky
- Mrs. Ledford
- Mr. Moisiso
- 1 Mr. Perkoski

Emergency

- Mr. Arcaro
- Mr. Emery
- Mr. Gaugh
- Mr. Kozesky
- 2 Mrs. Ledford
- Mr. Moisiso
- 1 Mr. Perkoski

Act

- Mr. Arcaro
- Mr. Emery
- Mr. Gaugh
- 2 Mr. Kozesky
- Mrs. Ledford
- Mr. Moisiso
- 1 Mr. Perkoski



17. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

18. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. Any miscellaneous business to be brought before Council

19. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Arcaro
- Mr. Emery
- Mr. Gaugh
- Mr. Kozesky
- Mrs. Ledford
- Mr. Moisiso
- Mr. Perkoski

Excuse Arcaro

7:21 PM then \_\_\_\_\_



PASSED.

**UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS**

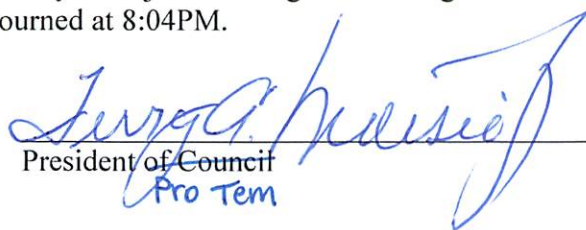
None.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Mr. Arcaro was advised by Mr. Bidwell that the new grills have arrived and will be installed at Lakeview Park soon to go along with the six picnic tables that are there.

Mr. Emery moved to excuse the absence of Mr. Moisiso, seconded by Mr. Gaugh. 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 8:04PM.

  
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President of Council  
Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council