

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 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 and the invocation was given.

Mrs. Ledford moved to approve the Journal of the October 23, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Daniel Simonsen was recognized as the Spartan of the Month for November. Daniel was present with his mother and sister. The award was presented by Mr. Gaugh and Mr. Perkoski.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- He expressed his appreciation to Council and the Public Works Department for the passage of the road levy.
- He thanked everyone who attended the Dredge Facility ribbon cutting on October 31st. It was a great showcase of just how powerful collaboration can be and added it was a great win for the community.
- On Buffalo Street, there is one remaining change order on the agenda that was overlooked.
- 2023 paving is substantially complete
- On Madison Street, there is a substantial lead time on the electrical components. Pedestals for the decorative street lights have been installed. Electrical panel was sent back to First Energy for corrections. Once approved, the final panel will be set and installed. Project is substantially complete. Post office box is back in place.
- Moving into finalization of Broad Street project. He had a phone call with ODOT last week concerning some final items. There are 3-4 temporary construction easements and one permanent easement involved. There were also some questions about Phase II of the project.
- USDOT project. This item should be discussed in an economic development committee

- 518 Madison Street has been demolished. He thanked the Ashtabula County Land Bank for their funding. He added that he and the zoning department met with the land bank concerning some demolitions in 2024.
- Trucks are loaded and ready for snow.
- Salt pricing is mid-high 50s. The City has used the same salt plan for the last 20 years. There is a defined scope of those which are salted and those that are not. Typically order 1,000 tons of salt every year.
- One downtown streetlight was repaired and replaced. Still working on those on the viaduct bridge and should be discussed at a work session.
- Water department has been working on hydrant replacements – they have replaced about 20 this year, which is more than we have done in a long time.
- OPWC emergency application submitted.
- Two Appalachian grants will be submitted this week.
- Received ODNR NatureWorks grant for \$16,629 for the Liberty Street Park. Controlling board has to approve the grant agreement – expect to have in about 30 days.

Mr. Arcaro asked about the Appalachian Grant –Naylor and Park and Day. The Land Bank is the lead applicant for all of the communities in Ashtabula County. \$425 Million statewide. The second grant app is partnered with Growth Partnership for the port connector project.

Mr. Arcaro asked about the Broad Street project. Project will go to the north side of the bridge and will include those basins at the bottom.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Williams advised that he had a meeting with Sedgwick, our managed care organization for Worker’s Comp claims, where they discussed some projections for next year. Projections are always based on a 4-year lookback period. Mr. Williams provided a detailed explanation and handout to Council. He added that the projected trend looks good. Additionally, he stated that the City did have some larger claims in 2023, which will impact us in a couple years.

LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

LIASION REPORTS

Mrs. Ledford advised that the Cable Advisory Board met on Thursday, October 26th at 11:00AM at the Conneaut Public Library. Under programming, the Vimeo site received 880 views in the last 30 days (640 from Ohio, 100 from PA, 14 from NY, 13 from Florida, 12 from Georgia and 20 from Michigan). Homecoming parade, Ashtabula Arts Center Seuss-ical, Inside the Spartans, D-Day footage were all highly rated. They are changing the name from Cable Advisory to Conneaut Access Television. Their budget will be discussed at the November 30th meeting.

Coverage of events was also discussed. Christmas parade, fall sports banquet and basketball season will be covered.

Mrs. Ledford added that the CCVB will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 5:00PM.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 120-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT AN ARPA FIRST RESPONDER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, RESILIENCY AND WELLNESS GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for third reading.

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. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 120-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 124-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE BUFFALO STREET SANITARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, ATTACHED HERETO, 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. Rule suspended. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mrs. Ledford to act on Ordinance No. 124-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 125-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR WATER BILLING CUSTOMERS RESPONDING TO THE LEAD AND COPPER LINE SURVEY, AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 1 BELOW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday provided a brief explanation. He added that the EPA is now requiring reports on the private side of lines and the City cannot inspect all 5,000 connections. A notice will be mailed prior to the mailing of the actual survey.

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. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Emery, to act on Ordinance No. 125-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 126-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CITY'S MEDICAL INSURANCE WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday added that the increase is just under 10% and that the City has had some larger claims. He also states there was a slight decrease in vision and dental.

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. 126-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 127-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 105.01 OF THE CITY OF CONNEAUT CODIFIED ORDINANCES GOVERNING CONTRACTS AND PURCHASING, AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Lewis provided a brief overview of the changes in Ordinance 127 and 128-23.

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. 127-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 128-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY'S PURCHASING POLICY TO REFLECT AN INCREASE IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING THRESHOLDS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 9.17 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND NOT 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, seconded by Mr. Emery to act on Ordinance No. 128-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 129-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO REJECT AND READVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE COMMODITIES LISTED IN SECTION 1 BELOW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday advised that the City has only had to do this within the last couple of years. The bid for trash hauling was substantially higher than last year's bid.

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. Gaugh, to act on Ordinance No. 129-23. Roll call:

Mr. Arcaro	Yea
Mr. Emery	Yea
Mr. Gaugh	Yea
Mr. Kozesky	Yea

Mrs. Ledford	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 130-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO READVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE ITEMS LISTED IN SECTION 1 BELOW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Hockaday added that the City did not receive any bids for diesel and mowing.

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. Gaugh. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Emergency declared. Moved by Mr. Perkoski, seconded by Mr. Gaugh to act on Ordinance No. 130-23. 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 stated that he would like to have coffee and tea before and during the Christmas parade and make it a yearly event to appreciate the citizens. They will provide cups with lids and watch the temperature. Mr. Gaugh moved to spend \$250.00 on supplies for the parade. Ms. Mariana Branch spoke up and advised she does have a popcorn machine available for use. Mrs. Ledford seconded the motion. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Motion passed.

Mr. Gaugh stated there was an incident at Mill Street. There was a stopped train and kids were crawling under it. He suggested some literature at the crossings and that we need to try to do something. Mr. Emery added the N&S safety program could come into the schools. It will also be mentioned at the joint school board meeting. It was suggested that Mr. Lewis send a strongly worded letter from the law office to not stop their trains during school dismissal.

Mr. Kozesky also extended condolences from Conneaut City Council to the family of Bob Zimmerman, who was a Lieutenant with the Conneaut Police Department.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Perkoski, to excuse the absence of Mr. Moio. 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 7:51PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council