

JOURNAL OF COUNCIL

The Council of the City of Conneaut met in regular session on Monday, June 26, 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, Mr. Moisiso 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 given.

Mr. Perkoski moved to approve the Journal of the June 5, 2023 special meeting, seconded by Mrs. Ledford. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

Mr. Moisiso moved to approve the Journal of the June 12, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Journal approved.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Resident Miriam Walton, 860 Sandusky Street. Ms. Walton provided Council with a printed photo copy of the cemetery rules.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hockaday provided updates on the following:

- Mr. Hockaday advised he attended the Madison Street preconstruction meeting this past week. It is a 3-party contract which is typical of CDBG projects. Once the contract is executed by the contractor and the City, it will then go to the County Commissioners for their authorization and execution. We are waiting on the contract from the contractor. Completion deadline is still August 31st.
- OEPA online public hearing on 401WQPC permit for the dredge facility. A permit is required to outfall water out of the dredge facility. A tentative permit has been issued and it goes back to the Army Corps for their final issuance.
- On the Buffalo Street sewer boring project, he advised they are setting bore pits and doing jack and bore on that project. Mr. Hockaday only anticipates that the project will be a couple of weeks in length.
- On the Broad Street reconstruction, Mr. Hockaday spent some time with ODOT to create a tentative updated timeline.

- He advised that the Port Authority did their port master planning project and added that they are planning to demolish the blue building or “fish house building”. They salvaged the windows and some other elements. The building has no water and sewer connections.
- On 518 Madison Street, it is a fire-damaged structure that has been sitting for a while and we are unable to safely perform an asbestos survey. A portion of a wall is starting to collapse. We have been in a holding pattern waiting for additional demo funds from the county and he does not have a firm date on when those funds would be available. Council will need to determine if the City wants to move forward or wait for funding.
- He advised that Public Works has been ditching on South Ridge and completed a good portion of dust control. They are hoping to wrap up dust control before the holiday.
- He stated that the streetsweeper and boom mower are having issues again. Mr. Emery added that he saw the streetsweeper and that it was not doing a good job. Mr. Hockaday added that it is not an appropriate vehicle for the job it needs to do. He is hoping to have an answer on replacing the streetsweeper in the next couple of months.
- They started on the Lake Road Storm repair today and are hoping to wrap up this week.
- Concerning Water Distribution, there is a utilities committee meeting tomorrow (6/27). There is a preliminary citywide lead and copper study and we need to look at the next steps. Currently, we can see every line and tap on the GIS map. The City will need to determine private line composition in the near future.
- He advised that they should be wrapping up on the line break flyer that has been sent out. Primary question is why is it “opt out” and not “opt in”? Mr. Hockaday stated that the City has always eaten the cost of water service line breaks. It is not something we can continue to do at a cost of about \$120,000 per year. The program covers the cost of the break, up to \$1,000. We want people to affirmatively know they are losing that coverage if they choose to opt out. Mr. Emery stated he thinks some people are confused by it and wishes it was worded a little differently based on the calls he has received, but thinks it is a good program. Mr. Hockaday advised to direct any questions to him and he will be happy to answer them.
- On valve turning and hydrant flushing, they are actively working through the valve turning program. Hydrant flushing will begin next week.
- Route 20 culvert repair has been discussed and a contractor has provided some estimates on the area between Dibble and Westwind. The project came in at just under a half million dollars and is a little out of reach. The break is on the south side of the road and it is separated under the road. The City has already relocated the waterline and did a directional bore under Route 20. They will be replacing the hydrant again due to a car hitting it. OPWC feels there will be sufficient funding for the project so he advised he will be completing an application for that.
- Mr. Hockaday provided Ms. Hoover’s quarterly report to Council along with streetlighting information.

Mr. Emery asked if there is a regular maintenance schedule for valve turning, to which Mr. Hockaday stated yes. A valve turning program is required under our drinking water permit now and the schedule was approved by the Ohio EPA. Mr. Emery verified that the City is ready if we have any frozen valves. Mr. Hockaday provided a brief overview of the valve turning machine which has the ability to detect break points.

Mr. Arcaro stated that some hydrants are looking pretty shabby and asked if they maintain them while they are flushing or if they are put on a schedule to be painted or touched up. Mr. Hockaday stated that he would get back to Mr. Arcaro. Mr. Arcaro added that near the intersection of Erie and Wrights, the hydrant valve/top is broken.

Mr. Arcaro also advised that he received a call from a Matt Stevenson at 368 E. Main Road who stated he has attempted to contact the City Manager's Office and Zoning on three different occasions and has not received a response concerning drainage at the prison. Mr. Hockaday stated that he talked to the prison about this about 2 weeks ago and it is on the prison's property. The prison stated they were going to meet in the field and get back with him. Looking at the complaint on the map, it is a private matter. Mr. Arcaro asked if someone could just follow-up with Mr. Stevenson.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Williams provided Council with a Financial Information Form through the Ohio Water Development Authority for the water and sewer funds. We are required to submit the forms by June 30th of each year. They are a snapshot of the funds showing beginning balance, revenue and expenses. They are looking to see if the rates are sufficient to support operations and maintenance and debt service.

He also provided a fund transfer report to Council. Perpetual trust funds have been transferred to the cemetery operations department. Those funds are available for capital expenditures or whatever Council decides. Funds will need to be re-appropriated. Mr. Williams advised the bank account can now be closed.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lewis provided Council with a written Law Director Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Ledford added there is a Utilities Committee meeting tomorrow (6/27/2023) at 10:00AM in Council chambers.

LIASION REPORTS

Mrs. Ledford attended the Cable Advisory Board meeting on June 22nd. There are no issues with the equipment and they are keeping up with software updates. They are updating battery backups and possibly purchasing some cameras. She added that some shows are repeated in the lineup because there are no school events being aired. They will have a golf cart at D-Day. She stated that only Greatwave app customers will have access to Sunrise Live. There is no meeting in July and their next meeting is August 10, 2023 at 11:00AM at the Conneaut Public Library.

Mrs. Ledford provided an update on the Conneaut Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The MS bike event was a great success. The CCVB had a welcome table at the Pollinator Festival, which was also a success. They will also be in charge of the welcome booth at D-Day. The membership drive is happening for businesses or individuals. New event signs will be ordered to replace any missing.

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.

Mr. Moisisio moved to permanently table the ordinance and remove it from the agenda, seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Ordinance No. 10-23 permanently tabled.

ORDINANCE NO. 70-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE THE FOLLOWING STREETS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 6:30PM FOR THE CONNEAUT HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Arcaro stated it was well enough in advance that there was no need to pass as an emergency measure.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Moisisio, 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. 70-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 71-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY RESTRICT TRAFFIC TO ONE WAY WESTBOUND ON LAKE ROAD, FROM CHESTNUT STREET TO WRIGHTS AVENUE, FROM THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023 THROUGH SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 FROM 8:00AM TO 6:00PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING TRAFFIC FLOW DURING THE D-DAY REENACTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was placed for first reading.

Mr. Arcaro stated there was no need to pass as an emergency measure.

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. Emery, to act on Ordinance No. 71-23. Roll call:

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

Mr. Moisio	Yea
Mr. Perkoski	Yea

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-23 entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO CLOSE THE HUNTINGTON BANK PERPETUAL TRUST ACCOUNT AND TRANSFER ALL FUNDS TO THE HUNTINGTON BANK GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT, 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 Mr. Moisio, to act on Ordinance No. 72-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-23 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 stated this was just for a cost overrun and that a purchase order was obtained for \$20,000.00.

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. Gaugh, 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. 73-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

ORDINANCE NO. 74-23 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 first reading.

Mr. Hockaday advised Council that this was briefly discussed at a work session and that the grant agreement is due back by the end of the month. The grant pays for a fulltime code enforcement officer and provides COVID bonus dollars for police officers. Mr. Hockaday further stated that it would pay for an officer for two (2) years and they have a tentative job description and an interested candidate. Mr. Arcaro asked if this candidate was aware of the expiration, Mr. Hockaday advised yes.

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. Gaugh, 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. 74-23. Roll call:

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

PASSED.

UNFINISHED / OLD BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Moisio addressed the cemetery rules. He asked Mr. Hockaday if the rules and regulations were posted on the website and asked if we could post them. He stated that based on the rules, the planting of flowers is only permitted after May 15th. Mr. Perkoski added that if we are permitting the planting of flowers, why is the City spraying? Mr. Hockaday stated that this was discussed at a parks committee meeting several years ago. Due to staffing and the ability to mow, the City licensed multiple people and changed the collective bargaining agreement to get to this juncture. Mr. Gaugh stated that something just didn't go quite right this year. Mr. Moisio asked if there were issues in the past, to which Mr. Gaugh responded he was not aware of any. Mr. Moisio suggested updating to state spraying will occur on a certain date and planting could occur afterward. Mr. Perkoski added that they are spraying a good radius around the graves and it does look bad. Mr. Hockaday asked if they wanted to have a public works committee meeting to discuss it. They will schedule at the next work session on July 3rd. Mr. Arcaro asked to have the cemetery sexton and public works director present for the committee meeting.

Mr. Moisio wanted to recognize the dive team. He attended a recognition dinner at June 19th. He thanked Lori McLaughlin for the hors d'oeuvres.

He also added that the City has a fireworks ordinance and Mr. Arcaro added that they did opt out of the state law allowing fireworks throughout the year. They are still not legal in the city limits.

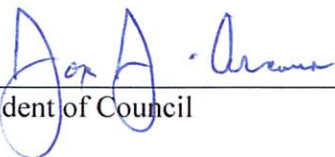
Mr. Gaugh added that he received a complaint of tires/rubbish on CN property off of Furnace Road and stated there are a couple spots. He also received a letter from a State Senator about grade crossings and will give to Mr. Hockaday.

Mr. Arcaro followed up on the Lake Road guardrail. Mr. Hockaday stated they will be out there all week, weather permitting, and that they installed one section of pipe today. Additional pipe has been ordered. Mr. Arcaro was concerned with the proximity of the cement blocks to the roadway.

Mr. Emery moved to excuse the absence of Mr. Kozesky, seconded by Mr. Moasio. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Motion passed.

Mr. Arcaro moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3358171 to conference with the public body's attorney concerning pending or imminent court action in accordance with Section 121.22(G)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code. Court action is pending or imminent The motion was seconded by Mr. Emery. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Executive Session entered at 7:51PM.

Moved by Mrs. Ledford, seconded by Mr. Perkoski, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council. Roll call: Yea – All. Nay – None. Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council