

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – March 11, 2024

Council President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, Sanford, and Wolfe were present. Also present were Mayor Hazel, Safety Service Director Hitchcock, Law Director Moore, and Auditor Shinn.

CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President King discussed the Committee of the Whole that took place on February 26th, 2024 to discuss the smoke testing of the pipes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:

Liam Stewart, who attends Celina middle school and is working towards his citizenship badge introduced himself to Council and stated the reason as to why he was attending the meeting.

Nick, who attends Celina middle school and is working towards his citizenship badge introduced himself to Council and stated the reason as to why he was attending the meeting.

Mayor Hazel welcomed the two boy scouts.

President King explained some of the Council rules and what they are reading and why.

NEW BUSINESS: (First Reading)

21-24-O: An Ordinance (1) approving the Tentative Agreement and authorizing the Mayor and the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract with Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. representing the Dispatchers, (2) repealing Ordinance 19-24-O, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel explained that there was a verbal agreement to the TA with the dispatchers before the last meeting but they did not sign it until the day after council passed it at the previous meeting, so this is just fixing that and everything that was discussed and agreed to with the TA is exactly the same. CM Clausen noted that was exactly what we heard in the executive session. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

22-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Mercer County Commissioners for Indigent Defense Services in Municipal Court and declaring an emergency. CM Fleck noted that we do not use this often and Law Director Moore acknowledged that as a correct statement. CM Clausen noted that it is a line item in case it is needed but there never seems to be any funds in there.

CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

23-24-O: An Ordinance appropriating funds for the payment of conversion to sit/stand desks for the Celina Municipal Court, and declaring an emergency. Auditor Shinn explained that they have about \$665,000 in their funds to spend but none was appropriated this year which is why we are doing that now. It was explained that these funds are from fees that are paid to the courts. CM Fleck asked about how many desks were purchased and it was confirmed to be about 7 desks with shipping and set up. CM Sanford asked about the money and total costs and Mayor Hazel noted that this was with the court order and receipt and seems to cover all funds needed. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

5-24-R: A Resolution appointing a representative and an alternate from the City of Celina to the Ohio Public Works Integrating District 13 Board. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted this is an Ordinance that is done every three years. CM Fleck made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

OLD BUSINESS (Second Reading):

None.

OLD BUSINESS (Third Reading):

8-24-O: An Ordinance to vacate a portion of Holly Street between East Wayne Street and Johnson Avenue situated in the City of Celina, Ohio; and declaring an effective date. CM Buxton asked if anyone has heard anything negative about this and CM Gray noted he heard some but when he showed them the map that seemed to quell any concerns. Mayor Hazel noted that this will be a new building and structure and that it is not locked off permanently. CM Clausen noted that the traffic will now come off Wayne Street which is a street that is able to handle the traffic better and is supposed to be safer. CM Gray also noted that we will be going from three schools to two schools in that area, which should also help calm some of the traffic. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0-1 Aye.

9-24-O: An Ordinance to accept the petition for the annexation of 3.96 acres more or less in Jefferson Township to the City of Celina; to be known as the Casey's Marketing Company annexation. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

10-24-O: An Ordinance to prohibit recreational adult use cannabis operators within the City of Celina, and declaring an emergency. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

14-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and Celina Lake Festival for the lease of the Bryson Park District. **(Amended 2/12/2024)**. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

4-24-R: A Resolution amending City of Celina Council Rules. (**Exhibit A Amended**). CM Buxton spoke about pre-registration and the possibility of limiting someone who did not pre-register and Law Director Moore read off a passage that was believed to cover that specific question. Law Director Moore noted that the presiding officer or majority rule of Council can limit the talking if deemed necessary. CM Buxton noted he just wanted to make sure everyone had a right to speak even if they did not pre-register. CM Gray noted that two paragraphs above it stated that they are not guaranteed to speak if they did not pre-register and CM Baltzell noted that in a situation where 200 people attend the meeting there may be need to implement time limits or not allow everyone to speak. CM Baltzell noted that 99% of the time this probably would never come into play, and he appreciates the way the Council President has handled similar situations in the past and giving some flexibility to the Council President can be helpful when people are saying the same thing over and over. CM Gray noted how a couple of paragraphs speak about instances where that may be imposed.

CM Buxton asked about the slips or sheets of paper and noted how they are still subject to a public records request and if they could be requested that night and Law Director Moore noted that they would no longer be administratively necessary, and he is leaning toward a no when considering if someone is able to request those slips that night. President King noted that the council clerk will put that information into the records and the Law Director confirmed that those minutes are subject to public record, and he can look more into the sunshine law for an answer. Mayor Hazel also noted that the council clerk once the meeting is over is no longer on the clock and would not be required to make them copies immediately upon their request. Law Director Moore noted that if you receive a public record request you should reply and let them know you received the request and contact the Law Director. CM Fleck mentioned that when you receive one it usually does say within a reasonable amount of time. CM Buxton noted that he is against this because he believes they are able to contact council members outside of meetings if they do not want to say their address at a meeting and also believes there is no problem with the way the City currently handles audience communication. CM Gray mentioned that these changes came to light because previous audience members were being doxed online and people can still find out others addresses but gives it an extra step to receive the address instead of being publicly broadcasted. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-1 Aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayor Hazel discussed how the tabled 1-24-O still needed further discussion and should remain tabled. CM Clausen noted he is still reviewing it and would like some more time before un-tabling the Ordinance. CM Sanford asked how many open lots we currently have in the City of Celina and it was confirmed that there are 68 available slots.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

CM Wolfe asked Chief Wale about a semi-truck sitting on Hierholzer Street about three or four days a week and once it was confirmed that was a residential only parking Chief Wale noted he would investigate it.

CM Sanford asked about the animal restrictions in the codified Ordinance and where to find it and Law Director Moore noted he would have it by the end of the meeting.

President King asked about the lighting by the pickleball court and Mayor Hazel confirmed they would like to add four more courts and reconnect and reestablish the lights.

President King asked if there was a way to download the map and see where the holes are, and Safety Service Director Hitchcock mentioned where hole one is and noted there was discussion about a QR code to make it easier for everyone to find the holes and they will look into that.

Law Director Moore noted which animals are not allowed in the city limits as pets and CM Sanford asked if that has been revisited and Mayor Hazel noted that some nearby City's do allow three birds but no roosters.

CM Clausen noted that he received a complaint about someone letting their dog out in East View Park to let them use the restroom and do not even get out of the car. Chief Wale noted that minor misdemeanors must be witnessed by the police officer to enforce and if someone video tapes it that might start a conversation. Mayor Hazel noted that people can walk their dogs in our park, but they need to be cleaned up after going to the restroom.

CM Gray noted that the track by the school is fenced in, and some people are letting their dogs out there and Mayor Hazel noted that is school property and they could contact the police department if they think that is needed.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. DiDonato, Clerk of Council



Michael F. DiDonato, Council Clerk



Jason D. King, Council President

I, Michael F. DiDonato, Clerk of Council of the City of Celina, Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of 3/11/2024, and were approved by Council 3/25/2024.

_____ Council Clerk