

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – April 8, 2024

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

CM Fleck made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Hazel briefly spoke about the eclipse and also touched on the paving that will be at Bryson Park relatively soon if we get the weather we are hoping for and if the asphalt is ready. Mayor Hazel noted there may be some inconveniences that come with the paving but they will be short lived and the project will be helpful long term.

Mayor Hazel also mentioned the spring trash pickup.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:

Scott Sommer who resides at 617 Kingswood Drive spoke about the currently tabled Ordinance and the CRA. Scott spoke about a supposed meeting that took place in 2017 with the City and the Celina school and noted that he can find no record for that meeting even though he believes how the CRA was interpreted was changed during that meeting. Scott wanted to touch on his specific situation with the CRA and what is stated in the ORC about remodeling a home and he believes that his remodeling would and should qualify for an abatement. Scott spoke about the differences between pre and post 94 CRA agreements and noted that he called surrounding communities to see how they apply their CRA and noted that each community that replied noted that additions apply for the abatement in those cities as long as they meet the twenty-five-hundred-dollar threshold.

NEW BUSINESS: (First Reading)

26-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Celina and the Ohio Marshallese Youth for the lease of Bryson Park District and declaring emergency. Mayor Hazel noted that this is a great event for the Marshallese youth group. Michael Capelli who resides at 150 Meyer Road spoke about the Marshallese community members that are in Mercer County and wanted to have an event where all are welcomed to the 45th constitution day celebration. CM Clausen asked about the tournament and events that he mentioned and Michael confirmed that the community leaders will be in charge and that events will be every Saturday in the month of May following their May 4th event that will showcase their culture. CM Sanford made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed

with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

27-24-O: An Ordinance appropriating funds and amending various categories within Ordinance 48-23-O as the Fourth Supplement to the 2024 Annual Appropriations and declaring an emergency. Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Mike Sudman spoke about the dump truck that the money was being appropriated for and why his department needs it. Mike also spoke about why they needed additional funds to upgrade their 1999 dump truck and how it is still used and how it will help get projects for the City done more efficiently. Mike also spoke about how the new dump truck will be at least nine months out. CM Buxton asked about the 1999 dump truck and asked if it was worth putting twenty-five thousand dollars into a truck that is so old and Mike confirmed yes and that with this fix, they are hoping to get another 10 years out of this dump truck. CM Flek noted that this new dump truck was not in the yearly budget and Mike confirmed that was correct because they wanted the budget to be balanced and they went off of anticipated revenue. CM Clausen noted that with a dump truck that old that it could have been discussed about putting more money aside during the budget time since it was an older vehicle and asked if there was money in the budget for this and Mayor Hazel confirmed that there was money in the Water Fund and Auditor Shinn noted that there is slightly more than three million in the Water Fund currently. CM Baltzell noted there are many factors which makes it hard to say if putting money in a dump truck this old will be beneficial but we will find out over time. CM Wolfe asked if the new dump truck was a tandem which was confirmed to be true and also asked about the towing capacity which Mike noted he did not know off the top of his head. CM Sanford thanked Mike because he has noticed that the City department heads always try to repurpose equipment to make sure we got the most use out of them. CM Clausen asked about the increase in insurance and Safety Service Director noted that it is billed from April to April and we guessed low this year which is why we are requesting more money. CM Sanford asked what the insurance is for and covers and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that it is just for property insurance and does not cover any costs of other insurances such as health. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Fleck made amotion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

28-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to accept a grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements Grant Program for the purchase of an extractor washer and firefighter gloves and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about the grant and how it is a matching grant and that they budgeted for the matching part already. Auditor Shinn spoke about why it is an emergency and how we have to issue the checks within a certain number of days after the equipment is purchased. CM Clausen noted that this is the City's due diligence to go after grants and is glad this will help the fire department. CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

29-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a Residential Lease Agreement with St. John Lutheran Church for the purpose of renting the premises with a street address of 1201 N. Main Street, Celina, Ohio 45822, and declaring an emergency. Law Director Moore noted that this was a one-year lease that was subject to yearly renewal periods up to three years and that the annual payment was six thousand dollars split up into five hundred dollars a month. Safety Service Director noted that the previous agreement was with the same church and that it was beneficial to the City and that this is the time to change any terms in the agreement if Council decided to. CM Baltzell noted the current

amount and asked aloud if this should be changed and CM Clausen asked about the living situation and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted he believes it will be a family of four. CM Buxton asked about the voting process since he will be abstaining from the vote on passage and was curious is that affected the voting process to suspend the rules as well and Law Director Moore noted he does not believe it is substantive and wonders if it is technically a conflict of interest but also noted that he would be able to vote to suspend the rules but not vote during the possible passage of the legislation. CM Clausen asked if it needs to be suspended and it was confirmed that the current lease goes through June so it does not need to be suspended. CM Sanford asked for the new members of council what is the purpose of this lease agreement and Safety Service Director noted that when we received the cemetery it came with the house and Council at the time decided to lease the house out. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted we can see what was spent on the house over the three years and projections for anticipated cost and Mayor Hazel noted that the option was to either tear the house down or rent what was the caretakers house and also noted the work that was originally put into the house in order make it livable. CM Wolfe noted that the costs on that house over the years have been pretty minimal after the initial fixes. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that we can look around at other rental options for comparable and Council noted that prices have risen a lot but this is not for profit but it should at least breakeven as well with the money being put into it. It was noted that the cemetery is a part of the house and the money received from housing helps offset some of the losses at the cemetery. President King noted that we had no choice in inheriting the cemetery. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0-1 Aye.

OLD BUSINESS (Second Reading):

25-24-O: An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Celina and Celina Concert Series for the Lease of the Bryson Park District. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass a third reading, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

OLD BUSINESS (Third Reading):

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. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

OLD BUSINESS (Tabled):

1-24-O: An Ordinance amending Ordinance 28-81-O to include Tax Exemption for the construction of residential structures and declaring an emergency. CM Clausen made a motion to remove Ordinance 1-24-O from being tabled, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to postpone indefinitely, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayor Hazel asked two of the tree commission members to speak to Council about where they are at and speak about Arbor Day.

Tree Commission members spoke about the three meetings that they have had and what was discussed and spoke about the Arbor Day celebration as well as the event that will take place on April 27th, 2024 at 10 am at the Celina Library. The Tree Commission also spoke about a possible coloring contest that may offer prizes and handing out seedlings to children attending the events. The Tree Commission noted that

they would like to plant a tree at East View Park and noted that they need money to plant the tree and for the prizes and also mentioned the grant that the tree commission was awarded and that they have until next June to spend that money. Mayor Hazel noted that because the Tree Commission is a subcommittee that they do not have a budget but he would be willing to use his discretionary funds to help plant a tree and noted that they will have to look into the prizes because that is not normally how tax money is used. Mayor Hazel noted that they will not normally come up to Council but will work closer with administration and will also be able to develop Ordinances that may make it to Council. Mayor Hazel spoke about the reimbursement grant and that it is specific about what it can be used for. Mayor Hazel noted that these are important steps and he appreciates what the commission members have done up to this point. CM Fleck mentioned that planting different kinds of trees in different areas are beneficial. CM Buxton asked to confirm that when we do reconstruction if we take out a tree, we offer to replace the tree to those residents and Mayor Hazel confirmed that we do but the majority of them have said no lately. Mayor Hazel noted that the gas lines and water lines are challenging when it comes to placing trees and where they cannot be planted. Mayor Hazel noted that the trees that would be replaced are most likely going to be replaced behind the sidewalk and that we now have them sign documentation stating they did not want their tree replaced. CM Sanford noted that maybe we can look into placing trees in the park for the trees that do not get replaced during reconstructions and Mayor Hazel noted that we have planted some but it is something they can look into. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that as with all grants Council will receive and Ordinance accepting it and noted that the signing documents stating they do not want a tree replaced was during the last street reconstruction project.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

CM Buxton spoke about the light at Walnut and Market and asked if the cameras are working properly to change the light because he sat on Walnut for quite a long time and has had other complaints about that light when going South. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that they will look into it.


CM Sanford noted that boy scouts have reached out to try to do more work and help within the community and noted that if anyone has any ideas, they are open to appropriate activities. CM Wolfe noted that they can start putting flags up at the North Grove Cemetery like they use to and CM Sanford noted he would look into that.

At 8:04 pm, CM Buxton made a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and also conferences with an attorney for the public concerning disputes involving the City that are subject to pending or imminent court action, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

The meeting convened in Executive Session at 8:48 pm. Attendees of the Executive Session were President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Sanford, and Wolfe; Mayor Hazel, Safety Service Director Hitchcock, Auditor Shinn, and Law Director Moore.

President King adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council



Jason D. King, Council President



Michael F. DiDonato, Council Clerk

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 4/8/2024, and were approved by Council 4/22/2024.

Council Clerk