

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – May 20, 2024**

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Council President King called the Special Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 5:30 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 Baltzell made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

### **AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS: (First Reading)**

**38-24-O:** An Ordinance approving and authorizing the Mayor and Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc., representing the Sergeants, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about the executive summary that was handed out to Council and mentioned how some of the issues that were updated was the gym memberships, providing body armor instead of limiting it to a certain dollar amount to replace the body armor, and wages increases that matched the patrolman with a retroactive pay rate date as of February 11, 2024. Mayor Hazel spoke about the 2023 actual expenses for police and what 2026 projected payroll would be, and the increase would be estimated to be \$400,000. Mayor Hazel also spoke about how half percent can only be spent on streets and police and fire capitol and not payroll. Mayor Hazel spoke about the increases in everything since the pandemic from wages to insurance and how it affects the City and noted these rates are about trying to stay competitive while mentioning how important it is to have officers and that they are needed. CM Baltzell noted that he is glad that the contracts will be competitive with the current environment and noted the public was in support of making sure our police rates were competitive but that the budget gets harder to do when you give a 20% increase and all these additional costs and how sustainable that is without possibly increasing revenue. CM Gray asked about the payroll only and total costs on the spreadsheet they were given, and it was explained that the total cost included in the contract increases over the three years. CM Gray asked about that factfinder and if that reset the clock on the payments and it was explained that is not the case for a fact finder report, but the next step would have frozen the rates and awarded any rate increase the following year. CM Fleck noted that the streets are third in line and that the surplus would be eaten up at some point and noted there are still many streets that need done. CM Clausen noted that when the public came out and supported the police and the way the public handled it was not appreciated because it was before Council was even able to negotiate the contracts and hopefully they now understand it is a process that takes time and that they passed 1.6 million dollars in increases over the next three years because the public was in support of it and wonders if it is safe to assume the public would be in support of a tax increase so we can afford the increases that we just gave out. CM Clausen asked about the body armor, and it was noted that it is a cost that we pay yearly because the officers are staggered

and that the body armor needs to be ordered every four years. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**10-24-R:** A Resolution authorizing the City of Celina Police Department to submit a grant application to the FY2024 COPS Hiring Program for a School Resource Officer and declaring an emergency. Chief Wale spoke about how this would help supplement the cost of the SRO and make it easier for the parties to afford. Chief Wale noted that they are still in talks with the school about how to fund the remainder of the costs that the grant does not cover. CM Gray confirmed how the payments of the grant would work over the three-year period. CM Clausen asked if the 75% was because they would be in the school for nine months and on the streets the other three and Chief Wale noted he does not know how they came up with the number and asked if the County should be involved because some kids live outside the City limits and Mayor Hazel spoke about how the school would like the SRO for more than the nine months and in that case they may have to hire their own officer and noted that we cannot commit the County. CM Sanford asked if it was typical for us to fill out the grant or if the school usually fills it out and Chief Wale explained that since it has to be a police officer unit for this specific grant the Celina Police Department would be the ones to sign up for it. CM Sanford asked about the payments for the SRO and Chief Wale explained how the current agreement works and how with the new grant the school would have to negotiate with administration. Mayor Hazel noted this is just to apply for the grant and everything else still must be worked out. CM Fleck asked if we were approached by the school about the grant and Chief Wale confirmed that was correct and CM Fleck also asked about the day-to-day activities of the SRO and Chief Wale explained how they have functioned and how they should function going forward if this position does happen again. CM Fleck noted that he believes the SRO position is a good thing to have police presence in the school. CM Buxton noted that he heard that the SRO has been asked to handle things not exactly in their jurisdiction and Chief Wale explained that they have remedied that with the latest discussion with the school. CM Baltzell noted he is happy that some parameters were set with that position and thinks it is great to have an SRO in the school and how beneficial it can be for the City as well as the kids and noted that across the state this is a pretty common theme and the grant helping cover some of the costs make it easier for all parties. CM Wolfe noted that previously the school applied for their own grant and that they did not apply for one this time and Chief Wale explained that they did before but does not know if the same grant was available or why they did not apply for any if grants were available. CM Wolfe asked if a daily report was done to show what they did at school that day and Chief Wale noted it was only done if a police report had to be submitted and CM Wolfe pointed out how it would be beneficial if they did a report so we knew what was going on each day, so we knew the right thing is always being done. CM Gray wanted to clarify if the school just did not apply for a grant and there was no known answer and asked if the County was able to apply for any grants and it was noted that it can be applied for through any police agency in the state. CM Wolfe noted that there are six different school districts within the County so it could be quite expensive if the sheriff's office tried to tackle all of that. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7- Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS (Second Reading):**

**34-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into an agreement with Mull & Weithman Architects, Inc. for professional services for the City Hall/Celina Fire Department Feasibility Study, appropriating funds, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel noted that it would have been

suspended during the last meeting, but they did not have enough Council Members and that it will take 90 days to do the survey once it is started. CM Fleck asked about the report for asbestos and Mayor Hazel confirmed that was already completed and would be a part of the final report. CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Sanford made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**36-24-0:** An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to accept a grant from the 2023-2024 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program for the purchase of body armor, appropriating funds, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel noted that it takes several months to get the body armor once it is ordered so the sooner, we can order them the better. CM Fleck made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0

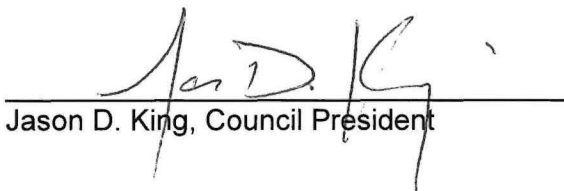
**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):  
None.

President King adjourned the meeting at 6:10 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 5/20/2024, and were approved by Council 6/10/2024.

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