

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – February 10, 2025

Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, and Sanford; Mayor Hazel; Safety Service Director Hitchcock; Law Director Moore

Start Time: President King called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Opening

- **Prayer and Pledge**
 - A prayer was offered, asking for blessings, wisdom, and guidance for the community.
 - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

Roll Call

- **Attendees:**
 - CM Baltzell
 - CM Buxton
 - CM Clausen
 - CM Fleck
 - CM Gray
 - CM Sanford

Main Topics Discussed

1. Agenda Acceptance and Amendments

- **Amendment to Agenda:**
 - Added Ordinance 5-25-O: as the sole new business item following a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.
 - **Motion:** Amended by CM Gray, seconded by CM Buxton.
 - **Vote:** Unanimously accepted.
- **Acceptance of Agenda:**
 - **Motion:** Amended by CM Baltzell, seconded by CM Clausen.
 - **Vote:** Unanimously accepted.

2. Minutes Approval

- **January 27, 2025 Meeting:**
 - Minutes were reviewed and accepted without corrections.
 - **Motion:** Accepted by CM Clausen, seconded by CM Fleck.
 - **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

3. Audience Communications

- Opened the floor for audience members to address the council.

4. New Business Item: Ordinance 5-25-O:

- **Subject:** Construction of a new restroom at Westview Park.
- **Details:**
 - **Location:** Westview Park.
 - **Estimated Cost:** \$350,000.
 - **Authority:** Safety Service Director authorized to advertise and receive bids.
 - **Emergency Declaration:** To expedite the bidding process for public health and safety.
- **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Existing facilities are outdated and require renovation. – Mayor Hazel
 - Funds are available in the park's capital account. – Mayor Hazel

- Bidding process duration: Approximately one and a half months. – Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Council Comments:**
 - Support from CM Clausen and CM Buxton.
 - Emphasis on the park's increased usage and need for updated facilities. – CM Clausen
- **Action Taken:**
 - **Motion:** Motion to suspend the rules by CM Sanford, seconded by CM Fleck.
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously.
 - **Motion:** Motion to pass the Ordinance by CM Buxton, seconded by CM Sanford.
 - **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

5. Old Business Item: Resolution 1-25-R:

- **Subject:** Sale of municipally owned personal property via Internet auction.
- **Details:**
 - Authorizes sales of obsolete or unneeded property.
 - **Motion:** Motion to pass the Ordinance by CM Gray, seconded by CM Clausen.
 - **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

6. Administrative Reports

- **Appointments:**
 - Anthony Cipollone appointed to the Tree Commission for a three-year term. – Mayor Hazel
 - Update on Civil Service Commission personnel changes. – Mayor Hazel
- **Local Issues:**
 - **Dumpster Problem:** Addressed unauthorized dumping; advised to contact Police Department for investigation. – CM Fleck / Law Director Moore / Chief Wale
 - **Gun Range Privacy Enhancement:** Added dirt to east mound for increased privacy and safety. – CM Buxton / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
 - **Property Issues:** Assistance with restrictions on Bob Evans property pending litigation. – CM Buxton / Mayor Hazel
 - **Police and Fire Staffing:** Ongoing recruitment and training efforts with expected graduations in Spring 2025. – CM Gray / Chief Wale
- **State of the City Report: - Mayor Hazel**
 - **Financial Overview:**
 - **Budget:** \$46.8 million for 2024 with projected revenue of \$50 million.
 - **Expenses:** \$61.15 million, including \$8.57 million in carryover funds.
 - **Revenue Actual:** \$56.8 million.
 - **Debt Reduction:** Outstanding debt reduced from \$6.4 million to \$4.14 million.
 - **Utilities Department:**
 - Comprehensive overview of water, wastewater, and electric services.
 - Significant investments in infrastructure and maintenance.
 - **Police and Fire Departments:**
 - Detailed status reports on staffing, equipment, and operational challenges.
 - **Public Works:**
 - Updates on infrastructure projects, including Mill Street and Bryson Park improvements.
 - **Economic Development:**
 - New businesses opening in Celina, contributing to local growth.
 - **Municipal Court:**
 - Decrease in filed cases by 24.5% from previous year.

Follow-up

- **Tree Commission:** Monitoring tree planting and maintenance activities.

- **Future Meetings:** Scheduling of committee meetings as needed.

Adjournment

- **Time:** 7:39 PM
- **Closing Remarks:** Emphasized the positive changes and financial health of Celina, looking forward to continued progress in 2025.



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 2/10/2025, and were approved by Council 3/10/2025.

_____ Council Clerk