

## REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – March 10, 2025

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Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, Sanford, Wolfe; Safety Service Director Hitchcock; Law Director Moore

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

### 1. Opening Procedures

- **Prayer and Pledge:**
  - The meeting began at 7:00 PM with prayers, including a special prayer for Councilman Eric Baltzell and his family following the loss of his mother.
  - Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
  - Reminder to silence cell phones.

### 2. Roll Call and Acceptance of Agenda

- **Roll Call:**
  - CM Buxton
  - CM Clausen
  - CM Fleck
  - CM Gray
  - CM Sanford
  - CM Wolfe
- **Agenda Acceptance:**
  - Law Director requested the addition of an executive session point (#10) to discuss pending or imminent court actions with legal counsel.
  - Motion to amend the agenda was proposed by CM Gray and seconded by CM Fleck and unanimously approved.
  - Motion to accept the agenda was proposed by CM Clausen and seconded by CM Buxton and unanimously approved.

### 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **Corrections and Acceptance:**
  - Minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting were reviewed.
  - Updates included attributing discussion points to specific council members.
  - Motion to accept the updated minutes was made by CM Buxton and seconded by CM Fleck and minutes were approved with a 5-0-1 count.

### 4. Committee Reports

#### a. Buildings and Grounds Committee

- **Meeting Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Chair:** CM Wolfe
- **Vice Chair:** CM Sanford
- **Key Discussions:**
  - **Westview Park Restroom Renovation:**
    - Removal of the existing octagonal shelter house restroom.
    - Construction of a new restroom with three stalls on each side, bottle filling stations, and security cameras.
    - **Estimated Cost:** \$315,000 (engineering included \$350,000).
    - **Available Funds:** \$366,000 from parks capital account.
    - **Construction Duration:** 3-4 months.
  - **Playground Addition:**

- Planned after restroom construction.
- **County Land Use:**
  - County reclaiming ground-level woods on the east side for staffing purposes.
  - Impact on soccer and baseball areas coordinated with the county.
- **Bidding Process:**
  - Local companies invited to bid for construction projects.
- **Timeline:**
  - Aim to proceed quickly within the year.

#### b. Utilities Committee

- **Meeting Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Vice Chair:** Mr. Gray
- **Key Discussions:**
  - **Water Operating Fund for 2025:**
    - Financial overview of income vs. spending; carryover funds at \$4 million.
    - Consideration of rate increases due to no hikes since 2009 and rising costs.
    - **Potential Methods:**
      - Across-the-board increases.
      - Chemical adders and special adders.
  - **Planned Projects:**
    - Waterline replacement project management.
    - Sugar Street water line replacement estimated at \$1.4 million.
  - **Carryover Fund Management:**
    - Historical minimums set at \$2 million in 2012; current carryover at \$4 million.
    - Proposed adjustment to \$3 million.
  - **Future Projects and Rate Adjustment Strategies:**
    - Income increases, incremental rate hikes, service-based rates.
  - **Public Relations:**
    - Develop strategies to communicate rate increases and ongoing projects.
  - **Action Items:**
    - Develop rate increase scenarios.
    - Conduct cost of service study.
    - Coordinate Sugar Street project with county initiatives.

#### 5. Communications

- **Awards:**
  - **Bill Montgomery:** Elected Citizen of the Year 2024 by the Chamber of Commerce.
  - Recognition for contributions to Montgomery Field and community donations.

#### 6. New Business

##### a. Ordinance 6-25-O: Lease to Ohio Marshallese Youth

- **Purpose:** Authorize lease of Bryson Park District for Ohio Marshallese Youth event on May 3, 2025.
- **Terms:**
  - Lease Amount: \$1 per annum plus current rental fees.
  - Event Includes: Food vendors, handicrafts, music, basketball, bouncy houses.
- **Emergency Declaration:** Necessary for public health, safety, and welfare.
- **Approval:**
  - Motion to suspend rules for three readings was made by CM Buxton and seconded by CM Fleck unanimously passed.
  - Motion to suspend rules for three readings was made by CM Buxton and seconded by CM Gray unanimously passed.

**b. Ordinance 7-25-O: Lease to Ohio Marshallese Community Inc.**

- **Purpose:** Authorize lease of Bryson Park District for Ohio Marshallese Community Inc. event on May 26, 2025.
- **Terms:**
  - Lease Amount: \$1 per annum plus current rental fees.
  - Event Includes: Food, handicrafts, music, dancing, parade.
- **Conflict Check:** Ensured no overlap with Concert Series. – CM Buxton / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Conflict Check:** Discussed possible conflict with Memorial Day. – CM Buxton / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Approval:**
  - Motion to pass to a second reading by CM Gray and seconded by CM Wolfe unanimously passed.

**c. Ordinance 8-25-O: Lease Agreement for East View Park**

- **Purpose:** Authorize lease of East View Park for Ohio Marshallese Community Inc. events on May 10, 17, and 24, 2025.
- **Terms:**
  - Lease Amount: \$1 per annum plus fees for diamond preparation and lights.
  - Event Includes: Annual non-alcohol event.
- **Conflict Check:** Ensured no overlap with Junior High baseball. – CM Wolfe / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Approval:**
  - Motion to suspend rules for three readings was made by CM Wolfe and seconded by CM Fleck unanimously passed.
  - Motion to suspend rules for three readings was made by CM Buxton and seconded by CM Clausen unanimously passed.

**7. Administrative Reports**

**a. General Fund Summary**

- **Financial Status:**
  - Positive revenue outlook with an 8.3% increase. – Auditor Shinn
  - No appropriation revenue included due to pending county certification. – Auditor Shinn
  - Engineering expenses slightly elevated due to Mill Street engineering fees. – Auditor Shinn

**b. Donations:**

- **Recent Contributions:**
  - Mercer Savings Bank: \$2,000 each to fire and police departments. – Auditor Shinn
  - Celina Moose Lodge: \$1,000 to fire department. – Auditor Shinn
  - Dynamic Federal Credit Union: \$7,500 to Recreational Department for sports programs. – Auditor Shinn
- **Future Legislation:** Incorporate donations into the general fund.

**c. Local Industry Inquiries:**

- No official notices received from local industries regarding opening and closures of UPS. – CM Fleck / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- Outreach conducted from County about a possible future project at Miller Woods. – Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- Brush & Limb pick up schedule. – CM Buxton / Safety Service Director Hitchcock / CM Sanford / CM Wolfe

**d. Snow Removal Complaints:**

- **Issue:** Delayed snow removal in February; specific complaints about Briar Lane. – CM Gray / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Response:** City addressed individual complaints (Main Street sidewalks); standard crews handle regular snow removal. – CM Gray / Safety Service Director Hitchcock

e. **Fire Department Updates:**

- **Training:** Firefighters scheduled for training and certification in November. – CM Gray
- **Achievements:** Firefighter Schoenleben completed Firefighter II certification. – CM Gray
- **Recruitment:** Ongoing efforts to certify civil service list. – CM Gray

f. **Police Department Updates:**

- **Staffing:** Two new officer trainees graduating from the academy. – Chief Wale
- **Training:** Ongoing training programs and court duty. – Chief Wale
- **Issues:** Parking complaints managed through notifications; no new major updates. – Chief Wale

g. **Debt Reduction Update:**

- **Current Debt:** Reduced from \$6.4 million to \$4.14 million. – CM Sanford / Safety Service Director Hitchcock
- **Future Outlook:** Potential to reach zero debt, dependent on loan maturities and council decisions on future borrowing. – CM Sanford / Safety Service Director Hitchcock

h. **Park Enhancements:**

- **Bryson Park Walkways:** Completion of half-mile marked walkways. – CM Sanford
- **Westview Pond Area:** Topsoil addition, rip-rap, and stone finishing planned. – CM Wolfe / Safety Service Director Hitchcock

8. **Action Items**

- **Utilities Committee:**
  - Develop and present rate increase scenarios.
  - Conduct cost of service study.
  - Coordinate Sugar Street water line project with county.
- **General Fund:**
  - Incorporate recent donations into the fund.
- **Snow Removal:**
  - Improve response times for snowstorms.
- **Debt Management:**
  - Continue strategies to reduce city debt.
- **Park Projects:**
  - Complete walkway and pond area enhancements.

9. **Follow-up**

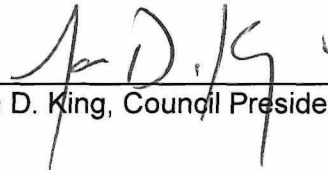
- **Executive Session:**
  - Motion to hold executive session for discussing disputes involving the public body related to court actions was made by CM Gray and seconded by CM Wolfe and approved unanimously.
- **Future Meetings:**
  - Next council meeting to review rate increase scenarios and donations incorporation.
- **Event Coordination:**
  - Ensure Ohio Marshallese events proceed without scheduling conflicts.

10. **Closing Remarks**

- Encouragement for community members to enjoy the parks and utilize the new walkways.
- Acknowledgment of the council's efforts in debt reduction and community enhancement projects.

Adjournment

- **Time:** 8:13 PM

  
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Jason D. King, Council President



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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 3/10/2025, and were approved by Council 3/24/2025.

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Council Clerk