

REGULAR SESSION

March 8, 2018

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Jeffrey Smock, President of Council presiding.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

Members of Council present: Andrew Blackley, Deborah Chuha, Chris Grau, David Lelko, Nancy McArthur, Daniel Meleski, Jeffrey Smock.

Members of Council absent: none.

Others Present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Finance Director Mate Rogonjic, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Law Director James Gillette, Police Chief Scott Niehus, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Planning and Zoning Administrator Steve Yaney, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Amy Patterson, Bell Stickley, Karen Blankenship, Judy Elliott, Jen McClintock, Gabrielle Boose, Tiffany Bosiacki, Madelon Horvath, Dr. Michael Hanlon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2018 Regular Session.

Mr. Sharpe requested that the minutes reflect that First Energy estimated the \$54,000 cost savings for the LED street light replacement program.

Mr. Grau requested a clarification of the statement from Mr. Hornyak on Page 4 regarding excavation work that the City will do for the Maple Grove project.

No member of Council had any objection to the proposed changes to the minutes.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported that NOPEC awarded a \$1,500 grant for the City's 2018 National Night Out event.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of a State grant for the south end development of Mel Harder Park.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the Ohio Public Works Commission approved the City's request for a \$100,000 grant and \$391,000 loan for the South Hambden Street Improvement Project.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the Chardon United Methodist Church activated their emergency shelter to assist with residents in the community that lost power in a recent storm.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of the Maple Highlands Trail Extension Project Phase II and the Railroad Trunk Sewer Project.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Grau reported that Planning Commission met and approved a temporary occupancy permit for a single family home in Hidden Glen.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS - none.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

THOSE PERSONS ON THE AGENDA -

Dr. Michael Hanlon, Chardon Schools Superintendent, provided a Power Point regarding an upcoming 3.9 mill operating levy and discussed the district's current financial situation and how the levy will affect property values.

Gabrielle Boose, representing Citizens for Chardon Schools, spoke to ask Council members to support the levy on the May ballot.

Members of Council spoke in support of the school and the levy.

Mayor Smock stated that the City will prepare a Resolution of Support for Council to vote on in April.

GENERAL PUBLIC - none.

OLD BUSINESS -

Regarding the Buxton presentation, Mayor Smock asked if Council members had any comments they wished to make about the Buxton presentation before the Economic Development Committee considers their proposal.

Mr. Blackley stated that he would like to receive additional information about the return on investment of Buxton's program.

Mr. Sharpe stated that Buxton has also provided references from communities similar in size to Chardon which he can provide the committee.

Mr. Smock stated that other companies besides Buxton should be considered before a decision is made.

Mr. Sharpe asked Council to consider what economic development means to them.

Mr. Grau stated that he wants to make sure that existing businesses in the City are given proper attention. He added that the data Buxton can provide is available through other resources; however, their ability to put the City in contact with decision makers from businesses is something that should be considered when looking at other companies.

Mr. Lelko stated that he believes that the City should first develop an economic development strategy to determine the City's strengths and weaknesses and which type of businesses would be beneficial.

Mrs. McArthur stated that Montrose is a company that can assist the City in developing a plan; however, their plan would be static as well as expensive.

Mr. Sharpe noted that plans are being discussed to increase the number of business visitations to keep business retention at the forefront.

Regarding the sidewalk financing connection plan, Mayor Smock stated that the latest proposal is for 100% financing plan by the City for infill sidewalks. He reviewed various benefits to the 100% financing.

Mr. Grau stated that he is in favor of 100% financing by the City but he is not in favor of depleting the fund. He added that he would prefer to extend projects out rather than depleting the fund.

Mayor Smock stated that in 2021, the wastewater treatment plant debt expires and most residents will be receiving some savings, so it is possible that the sidewalk assessment could be increased in 2021.

Mr. Meleski asked if the language in the sidewalk assessment ordinance needs reviewed since it was specific that the assessment was to be used for sidewalk repair.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that the language in the sidewalk assessment legislation needs revised to allow for the payment for new sidewalks. This can be done as part of the assessment renewal in September.

Mr. Lelko noted that there have been instances where new sidewalks have been installed for homeowners at the City's expense.

Mr. Courtney concurred that the City has installed sidewalks for homeowners as part of a larger project.

Mrs. McArthur stated that she has an issue with the fact that the sidewalk assessment was not to be used for this purpose and there are homeowners who have been paying for the installation and maintenance of their sidewalks and others have not had this expense. She would like to see the homeowners pay for a portion of their new sidewalk.

Mayor Smock stated that property owners have been paying for their sidewalk repairs; however, there has been very little new sidewalk installed.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the Service Committee had discussed that all the property owners pay into the assessment and all the property owners must be treated equally.

Mayor Smock stated that he equates the sidewalk assessment to the shade tree and street lighting programs. All property owners pay the assessments and benefit from the shade trees and street lights the way that they will benefit from sidewalks.

Mr. Meleski asked if there is any issue with using the funds that have already been collected for the sidewalk assessment for construction of new sidewalk.

Mr. Gillette stated that he would investigate if funds already collected through the sidewalk assessment could be used for new construction instead of the sidewalk maintenance program.

Mayor Smock stated that funds can be separated into their own funds if they need to be, which can be addressed with legislation.

Mr. Lelko moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to amend the previously adopted sidewalk financing plan to show the City picking up 100% of the financing instead of 50%.

Mr. Meleski asked if the infill projects need to be identified.

Mr. Gillette stated that the policy would be followed by legislation that would allow the funds collected for the annual levy to be used for construction of new sidewalks as part of the infill project. Council would also decide which sidewalk projects will be constructed in any given year as part of the Capital Plan each year.

Mayor Smock stated that the policy is not identifying the infill projects. It is setting a policy that the City will pay for infill sidewalks.

Mr. Meleski asked about new homes constructed in a development.

Mayor Smock stated that new homes will be required to put in their own sidewalk.

Mr. Blackley asked the Law Director to consider including language pertaining to new development when he reviews the sidewalk assessment ordinance.

Mr. Gillette stated that he will include language that will exempt any new development, including the construction of new family homes from the policy.

Mr. Grau asked if an infill project can be delayed in the event that the fund balance gets depleted to a level that Council is not comfortable with.

Mayor Smock stated that yes, the projects can be pushed back.

Results of the roll call vote:

Blackley: Yes
Chuha: Yes
Grau: Yes
Lelko: Yes
McArthur: No
Meleski: Yes
Smock: Yes

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. McArthur reported that there are some restaurants located in Precinct A of the City, that desire a D6 liquor permit to allow Sunday liquor sales. Because the precinct is dry on Sunday, the issue must be approved by the voters. The issue has been investigated with the Division of Liquor

Control and the County Board of Elections, and it has been determined that a petitioner must obtain a minimum of 275 signatures to get the issue on the ballot. She added that since the City is not able to act as the petitioner, and rather than having multiple entities initiate a petition, Chardon Tomorrow was asked to be the petitioner.

Mr. Blackley stated that Chardon Tomorrow is investigating becoming the petitioner to allow Sunday liquor sales in Precinct A.

Members of Council spoke in support of making the liquor permits available for the restaurants.

Mr. Lelko reported that the Department on Aging will no longer go into residences to assist people with putting items out for the City's annual trash day.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3005

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION AND TO EXECUTE ALL AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Grau seconded the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3005 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3005.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the ordinance authorizes him to accept a NOPEC grant to be used for replacing street lights in the City with LED bulbs.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3006

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LAW DIRECTOR TO PREPARE A PETITION TO SUBMIT TO THE BOARD OF GEAUGA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1.00 ACRE OF LAND, PPN: 15-096650, LOCATED AT 12499 CHARDON WINDSOR ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMB DEN, CONTIGUOUS TO LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF CHARDON; DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL/MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE PETITION; AND DIRECTING THE MUNICIPAL ENGINEER TO PREPARE AN ACCURATE PLAT OF THE PARCEL TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF CHARDON was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Grau moved and Mr. Meleski seconded the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3006 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3006.

Mr. Gillette reviewed the remaining steps necessary for the annexation of the property.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mr. Meleski reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the appointments to boards and commissions, the sale of property and the compensation of a City employee and invited Steve Yaney and Chief Niehus into the session.

Discussion occurred regarding appointments to the Charter Review Commission.

Discussion occurred regarding the sale of property.

Discussion occurred regarding the compensation of a City employee.

Meeting reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded the appointment of the following residents to the Charter Review Committee:

- Nancy McArthur
- Deborah Chuha
- Mary Jo Stark
- Hannah Sekas
- Bob Landies
- Christian Dussing
- Heather Huff
- Todd Lester
- Victoria Walker Nicholas
- Karen Sweet
- Ramona Saikaly
- Tom Nolfi (alternate)

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL - none.

ADJOURN

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Grau seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Attest:

JEFFREY L. SMOCK, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council

