

SPECIAL SESSION

February 18, 2021

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Special Session on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via video-conferencing service, Zoom (Meeting ID: 835 5318 6542).

Daniel Meleski, 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, Nancy McArthur, Heather Means, 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 Benjamin Chojnacki, Police Chief Scott Niehus, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Community Development Administrator Steve Yaney, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Municipal Court Judge Terri Stupica, Park and Recreation Director Adam Rogers, Deputy Finance Director/Human Resources Heidi Delaney, David Jevnikar.

**Regarding the FY 2021 Annual Budget,** Randy Sharpe, City Manager, reflected on 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mate Rogonjic, Finance Director, provided an overview of the process for preparing and adopting the budget. He stated that in approaching the budget, staff looks for ways to preserve the quality and level of services, pay down outstanding debt, maintain the health, safety and welfare of residents, enhance quality of life and create an environment for successful development.

Mr. Rogonjic began reviewing the budget document through a Power Point presentation. He reviewed revenue estimates in the 2021 budget and reviewed the budgeted ending fund balances in the four main operating funds.

Heidi Delaney, Deputy Finance Director/Human Resources, reviewed the anticipated 2021 fund expenditures by function compared to the prior four years.

Mrs. Delaney reviewed notable items in personnel expenditures which included a budgeted 1.5% wage increase for bargaining and non-bargaining staff members, increased costs of the City's health insurance plan, filling of the vacant lieutenant and sergeant positions, and funding for a new part-time property maintenance worker in the Recreation Department.

Mrs. Delaney reviewed notable items in the operating expenditures including: the funding for the residential sidewalk repair and maintenance program, funding of a street maintenance program, eliminating funding for Chardon Tomorrow and the Retail Business Grant Program, contracting with Retail Strategies for economic development planning, creating a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation, doubling the typical budgeted amount for the installation water/sewer meter reading equipment, rehabilitation of wells 7 and 14, studying the traffic signal system and camera system and the reopening of recreational activities.

Mr. Rogonjic reviewed significant capital projects for 2021, and stated that the expenditure for all capital projects in 2021 totalled \$3,773,320.

Municipal Court Judge, Terri Stupica, reviewed the 2020 year amid the pandemic and spoke to review the court's proposed revenue and expenditures for 2021.

Police Chief Scott Niehus reviewed the notable expenditures in the Police Department 2021 budget.

Mr. Rogonjic reviewed Fire and EMS 2021 budget.

Paul Hornyak, Public Service Director, reviewed the notable expenditures in the water & sewer operating, street maintenance, cemetery, and lands and buildings 2021 budgets.

Steve Yaney, Community Development Administrator, reviewed notable expenditures in the Planning and Zoning Department budget for 2021.

Adam Rogers, Recreation Director, reviewed the notable expenditures in the Park and Recreation Department budget for 2021.

Mrs. McArthur asked when it will be known when Concerts-in-the-Park can go forward.

Mr. Rogers stated that while it is not known when the concerts can proceed, and there may be a delay in their start, planning for them is still taking place.

Mr. Sharpe reviewed notable expenditures in the Manager, Legislative and General Administration budgets for 2021.

Mrs. McArthur asked when the Retail Strategies' contract will begin.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the contract will begin as soon as the budget is passed.

Mr. Rogonjic reviewed the notable expenditures in the Finance Department budget for 2021.

Mr. Rogonjic reviewed the notable expenditures in the 2021 budget for water and sewer billing.

Mrs. Chuha recognized the customer service provided by the Water/Sewer Billing Department.

Ben Chojnacki, Law Director, reviewed the notable expenditures in the Legal Department budget for 2021.

Mr. Sharpe concluded the budget presentation by thanking Council for their support and trust.

Mrs. McArthur asked why the budget was completed earlier than usual.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that staff worked diligently to get the budget completed.

Mayor Meleski thanked staff for their work on the budget.

**ORDINANCE NO. 3157**

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF CHARDON, STATE OF OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Smock moved and Mrs. Chuha 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. 3157 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Grau seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3157.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**Regarding an amendment to Classification and Pay Plan,** Mr. Rogonjic stated that the plan reflects a 1.5% wage increase for non-bargaining employees.

Mr. Smock moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded to adopt the amendment to the classification and pay plan as presented.

Mrs. McArthur asked when the wage increase would take effect.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that it would take effect March 29, 2021.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. McArthur moved and Ms. Means seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official, and for conferences with the attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or eminent court action, and invite Ben Chojnacki, Randy Sharpe, Mate Rogonjic and Amy Day into the session.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding conferences with the attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or eminent court action.

Discussion occurred regarding the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official.

Meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Sharpe reported on recent inquiries about the City's sidewalk plowing program and comments that they are not being taken care of.

Mr. Hornyak reported on the sidewalk plowing process and reviewed recent events with employee turnover and newer staff members. He stated that with more experience will come higher efficiency and added that street maintenance and safety are first priority.

Discussion occurred regarding the Chardon state championship signs and Council was presented with two versions of the sign that were temporarily installed for their consideration.

All members of council spoke in support of the version with the list of championships listed in words below the Chardon State Championship logo.

Mrs. McArthur suggested that the leaves on either side of the logo be in red outlined in black.

Other members of Council concurred.

**ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Attest:

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DANIEL MELESKI, Mayor  
President of Council

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AMY DAY  
Clerk of Council