

REGULAR SESSION

January 11, 2024

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Christopher Grau, Mayor & President of Council presiding.

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

Members of Council present: Andrew Blackley, Deborah Chuha, Christopher Grau, David Lelko, Kyle Martin, Heather Means, Daniel Meleski.

Members of Council absent: none.

Others Present: Finance Director Mark Iacofano, 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, Bill Hess, Mandi Matchinga, Allison Wilson, Evan Graham, Angela Hansen, Peter Byrnes, Anastasia Nicholas, Mark Miloro, Colton Gray.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL VICE MAYOR

Mayor Grau moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to appoint Heather Means as Vice Mayor of Council. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mayor Grau read his appointments to Council Committees.

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the Mayor's proposed appointments to the Council Committees as follows:

Legislative Committee

Daniel Meleski- Chair
Heather Means

Service Committee

Kyle Martin- Chair
David Lelko

Safety Committee

Andrew Blackley- Chair
Deborah Chuha

Water & Sewer Committee

Heather Means - Chair
Andrew Blackley

Finance Committee

Deborah Chuha - Chair
Kyle Martin

Economic Development

David Lelko - Chair
Daniel Meleski

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Clerk read the proposed appointments to Boards and Commissions:

PLANNING COMMISSION - 4 year terms - Citizens/2 year terms - Council
Andrew Blackley (C) 1/1/24-12/31/25
Daniel Meleski (C) 1/1/24-12/31/25
Lene Hill 1/1/24-12/31/27
Colin Wantz 1/1/24-12/31/27

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD - 4 year terms - Citizens/2 year terms-Council
Kyle Martin(C) 1/1/24-12/31/25
Deborah Chuha(C) 1/1/24-12/31/25
Daniel Goodell 1/1/24-12/31/27

SHADE TREE COMMISSION - 3 year term
Cheryl Chapman 1/1/24-12/31/26

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - 3 year term
Mitch Hewitt 1/1/24-12/31/26

GEAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION - 1 year term
Mayor Christopher Grau 1/1/24-12/31/24

ENTERPRISE ZONE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE - 2 year terms
Mayor Christopher Grau 1/1/24-12/31/25
City Manager 1/1/24-12/31/25
Michael Woollams 1/1/24-12/31/25

ADA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE - 2 year terms
Mayor Christopher Grau 1/1/24-12/31/25
Legislative Committee Chairman - Daniel Meleski 1/1/24-12/31/25
Safety Committee Chairman - Andrew Blackley 1/1/24-12/31/25

GEAUGA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL - 1-year term
Robert Faehnle 1/1/24-12/31/24

Ms. Means noted that she spoke to Alyssa Rasmussen who has applied for the vacancy on the Board of Ethics Review and Matthew Hinder who has applied for the vacancy on the Tax Incentive Review Council, and recommended them for the positions.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the appointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Martin moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2024 Regular Session as presented.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Temporary Manager, Chief Scott Niehus reported that the City offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Chief Niehus reviewed leaf collection figures for the last 6 years, noting that 98 loads of leaves were collected in 13 trips around the City in 2023.

Mr. Sharpe reported that a Christmas Tree drop-off is located at the Service Garage through January 22, 2024.

Chief Niehus reported on the status of public works projects.

Discussion occurred regarding the paving of State routes.

Ms. Means expressed the importance of giving businesses as much advance notice as possible.

Public Service Director Paul Hornyak stated that he will share information as soon as it becomes available.

Mr. Lelko asked if apron work would be done as part of the project.

Mr. Hornyak stated that apron work will not be done, so the process should be fairly quick.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Community Development Administrator, Steve Yaney, reviewed the Economic Development report that highlighted business openings and renovations during the 4th quarter of 2023.

Ms. Means asked for an update on the status of parking around the Square after parking spaces have been blocked off for the courthouse construction.

Mayor Grau stated that he spoke to Commissioner Dvorak who confirmed that parking spaces are being leased from Chase Bank until that property purchase by the County is finalized. It is hoped that this will relieve parking issues that have occurred since the start of the courthouse expansion project.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Mr. Lelko stated that since a timeframe for the storage of sheppard staffs following their removal at the cemetery was not established as part of the modifications made to the cemetery regulations at the previous Council meeting, the Service Committee will meet and come up with a recommendation.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda - none.

General Public

Colton Gray, 300 Sylvia Dr., Chardon, spoke about his experience as the audio engineer at the Geauga Theater over the last 18 months, and thanked Council for the opportunity they gave Thrive to run events out of the theater.

Jackie Maskal, 11935 Oakhurst Ave., Concord, spoke in support of Curtain 440 occupying the Geauga Theater.

Mandy Matchinga, 17270 Ambl_____ Rd., Parkman, spoke about the community environment Curtain 440 has created for students through their educational programs, and asked Council to consider the community that Curtain 440 can bring to Chardon when they are deciding who should occupy the Theater.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding an update on the management of the Geauga Theater, Mayor Grau explained that a recommendation is not yet ready to be made to

Council, but they are working on getting this resolved as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding a motion to correct Ordinance 3261, Finance Director Mark Iacofano explained that there was a formula error that resulted in a typo in Temporary Appropriations Ordinance 3621 passed by Council in December. He requested Council pass a motion to fix the error to increase the Special Revenue Fund total by \$542,568 and decrease the Capital Fund total by \$543,568.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to amend Ordinance 3261 to correct a Scrivener's Error as outlined by the Finance Director.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

A Public Hearing was set for March 14, 2024 at 6:20 PM to allow the public to comment regarding text amendments to the City's Planning and Zoning Code.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3262

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT WITH SEIBERTKECK INSURANCE PARTNERS FOR THE PROPERTY, INLAND MARINE, EDP, CRIME, BOILER AND MACHINERY, AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY, COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL LIABILITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY, PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY, UMBRELLA EXCESS LIABILITY, AND CYBER AND PRIVACY LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Melesi 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. 3262 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mr. Blackley seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3262.

Ben Sutton, representing E.H. Sutton Insurance, the City's insurance consultant, explained that they oversee the City's insurance coverage programs to ensure the City has the proper coverage at the best price. He reviewed their recommendations which include a renewal of the existing coverages with the current carriers, with some minor plan changes. He explained some of the impacts affecting the increase in premium costs.

Mayor Grau asked if recommendations are ever presented to the City on ways that changes to the policy can reduce premiums.

Mr. Sutton said they typically recommend higher deductibles of property and boiler and equipment when possible.

Discussion occurred regarding what is covered as part of the cyber liability coverage.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-24

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY INTERNET AUCTION SALE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read the second and third time by title only.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 1-24 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 1-24.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Chuha reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL - none.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lelko moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council