

REGULAR SESSION

March 9, 2023

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, March 9, 2023 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: City Manager Randy Sharpe, 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, Amy Patterson, Anastasia Nicholas, Melissa Ricco, Mary Briggs, Mallory McMaster, Peter Byrnes, Lissa Giedt, Joyce Perrico, Vince Crawford.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Regular Session as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Meleski noted that Colin Wantz should be added to Planning Commission members present in the minutes of the February 23, 2023 Joint Special Session.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Martin seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023 Joint Special Session as amended.

Results of the roll call vote:

Blackley: Yes
Chuha: Yes
Grau: Abstain
Lelko: Yes
Martin: Yes
Means: Yes
Meleski: Yes

Motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager, Randy Sharpe, reported that the 2023 Street Maintenance Program has been advertised and the Ordinance to award the bid is on the agenda under Legislation.

Mr. Sharpe introduced Fire Chief Justin Geiss who was present to provide an update on Fire Department activities.

Fire Chief, Justin Geiss, introduced himself and explained that he replaced long-term Chief Larry Gaspar who took a promotion as Assistant Chief with South Euclid.

Chief Geiss reported on the upcoming activities of the Department and reviewed emergency call data from 2022, noting it was their busiest year to date.

Discussion occurred regarding ambulance replacement.

Mr. Sharpe reported that Water & Sewer Division Foreman, John Napp, passed the Ohio EPA Wastewater Treatment Class III exam, noting that this licensure is an asset to the City's operations.

Mr. Sharpe spoke to respond to comments made by Mr. Al Crowe regarding the City's Deputy Human Resource Director & Finance Director during discussion of the Police Dispatch Center at the last Council meeting. He stated that Heidi Delaney is an exemplary employee and an asset to the City who would use her own personal time to do work for the City, contrary to the statements made by Mr. Crowe.

Finance Director Mark Iacofano echoed Mr. Sharpe's statement, adding that the City is lucky to have Ms. Delaney as an asset.

Mr. Sharpe reported on public works projects.

Mr. Meleski requested that staff check the bike trail for tree debris following a recent storm.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and granted architectural review approval to Robert Landies III for a 35,000 sq. ft. industrial building at 310 Park Drive.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also granted approval for a lot split and consolidation at 272 Thwing Road.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission granted a lot split and consolidation and utility easements for the Bridle Downs property at 367 Park Avenue.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission gave concept plan and architectural review approval, and approved requested variances for a new Chase Bank Building at 501 Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission approved the City's Concept Plan for the improvements to Seventh Avenue.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also reviewed and gave their recommendation for a zoning map amendment for multiple parcels on Center Street from I-WTTO Industrial to C-4 General Commercial.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water & Sewer Committee

Mrs. Chuha reported that the Committee met and received an update on various water and sewer projects planned for 2023.

Finance Committee

Mr. Meleski reported that the Committee met jointly with the Water and Sewer Committee, and in addition to receiving an update on projects, the Committee noted their interest in reviewing the travel expense allowable amounts and potential

efficiencies with the expenditure review process at a future meeting.

Mr. Meleski asked the Law Director to report on the Audit Committee's process relative the annual audit.

Law Director, Ben Chojnacki, reported that the State Auditor audits the City's records annually to ensure that the City's money is being managed appropriately. The City meets with the Auditor at the onset of the audit to discuss what the process will look like for the year and the process moves forward.

Mr. Meleski informed Council that the Auditor will be requesting information from them, and asked Council to be responsive to their requests.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda

Melissa Ricco, representing the Chardon Square Association (CSA), addressed Council and requested permission to wrap 2 utility boxes in the City. She stated that CSA has allocated funds to wrap 2 utility boxes within 500 feet of the Square (Center Street/North Street & Water Street/South Street). She presented artwork sketched by Marilla Gorton for three panels of the boxes. The artwork being proposed would highlight the Maple and Arts Festivals at the north utility box and events of historical significance at the south utility box. Going forward, the hope is that sponsors will pay for the wrapping of remaining utility boxes in the City.

Ms. Means asked how long the utility wraps will last.

Ms. Ricco stated that they are expected to last approximately 5-7 years.

Ms. Ricco noted that QR codes will be added to the wrap which will provide additional historic details about the location and about the person that sponsored the box.

Mayor Grau asked if the City has any issue with the utility boxes being wrapped.

Mr. Hornyak stated that the boxes are owned by the City and he does not see any issue with the utility wraps.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Chardon Square Association for wrapping the 2 utility boxes as presented by Ms. Ricco. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Vince Crawford, Waste Management, provided an update on the trash and recycling program in the City.

Mr. Martin asked how residents are taken care of that do not have access to the internet or mobile app.

Mr. Crawford stated that even though labor shortages are an issue, Waste Management will continue to provide customer service support to residents who wish to call.

Joyce Perrico, event coordinator for Chardon Restaurant Week 2023, presented information about the event which will be held April 16-22. She noted that \$1 per restaurant receipt will be donated to Next Step of Geauga County.

Mary Briggs addressed Council and requested permission to install a lit menorah on the Square and a Kwanza display, beginning December 7, 2023 through January 4, 2024. She stated that she is requesting permission early so that she can finalize raising the money for the display.

No member of Council had any objections to the lit menorah and Kwanza displays in the Square for 2023.

Mary Briggs and Megan Carver addressed Council and requested permission to allow vendors and food trucks at the June 17 Geauga Pride Event in order to draw more attendees and provide for a growing experience at the event.

Ms. Means noted that food truck guidelines need followed through the Health Department.

Ms. Carver stated that event organizers are planning to meet with staff ahead of the event.

Mr. Meleski asked if insurance is needed for the event.

Mr. Sharpe stated that insurance will be covered in the City's agreement with the event organizers.

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Martin seconded to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the organizers of Geauga Pride for their June 17 event relative to food trucks and vendors. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

General Public - none.

OLD BUSINESS - none.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding an amendment to the G-TV Contract, Mr. Chojnacki stated that representatives from G-TV have not signed the 2023 contract and have expressed an interest in re-negotiating the terms of Section 34, which allows for a re-negotiation of the contract at any time. They have proposed the language be similar to terms from the 2016-17 contract.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to amend Section 34 of the G-TV Contract as outlined by the Law Director.

Results of the roll call vote:

Blackley: Yes
Chuha: Yes
Grau: Abstain
Lelko: Yes
Martin: Yes
Means: Yes
Meleski: Yes

Motion passed.

A Public Hearing was set for April 13, 2023 at 6:20 PM to provide the public an opportunity to comment regarding a proposed Zoning Map Amendment to properties located on the northeast side of Center Street starting at the northeast corner the intersection of Center Street, Seventh Avenue, and Meadowlands Drive from I-WTTO" Industrial - Wireless

Telecommunications Overlay District to "C-4" General Commercial District.

Regarding a report on the Hotel Feasibility Study, Mr. Martin reported that a meeting was held with Core Distinction Group which included a tour of the residential and commercial areas of the County. Following that meeting, a questionnaire was sent to the business community in an effort to determine the ideal scale of a hotel. He noted that a draft of the study is expected at the end of March.

Ms. Means stated that Core Distinction Group has requested a list of demand generators in the County that would generate customers for a hotel.

Regarding revisions to job descriptions for Water & Sewer Leadman and Laboratory Technician, Mr. Sharpe reviewed the proposed revisions which include changes to the minimum qualifications needed for both positions. By requiring both positions obtain Water II and Wastewater II certificates, the individuals would be able to sign-off on either plant operations in the absence of the Plant Operator, and hopefully attract additional applicants to the positions.

Mr. Lelko moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to accept the revised job descriptions of the Water and Sewer Leadman and Laboratory Technician positions. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3233

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT WITH COLE BURTON CONTRACTORS, LLC FOR 2023 STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means 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. 3233 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. 3233.

City Engineer, Doug Courtney, reviewed the bidding process and stated that he is recommending Cole Burton Contractors for the 2023 street maintenance and repair program.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-23

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT TO APPROPRIATE PROPERTY INTERESTS FOR THE SEVENTH AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

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

Resolution No. 6-23 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 6-23.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that as part of the Seventh Avenue Improvement Project, the City has to enter onto private property for a period of time. Passage of the Resolution gives the City the authority to enter onto the property and compensate the property owners for the highway easement of their land for right-of-way improvements.

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 Mr. Meleski seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official, to consider the purchase of public property for a public purpose or the sale of public property at competitive bidding, and for conferences with an 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, Mark Iacofano, Chief Niehus, Steve Yaney, Doug Courtney, Paul Hornyak, Amy Day and Paul Jackson into the session. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding the purchase of public property for a public purpose or the sale of public property at competitive bidding.

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

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

Meeting reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CLOSING AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (DISPATCHERS) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

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

Resolution No. 7-23 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 7-23.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the Resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into a closing agreement with the dispatchers.

It is the Resolution of the motion that Council passed in February to close the dispatch center.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to appoint the following members to the 2023 Charter Review Committee:

Andrew Blackley
Deborah Chuha
Christopher Grau
David Lelko
Kyle Martin
Heather Means
Daniel Meleski
Victoria Nicholas
Dean Peska
Colin Wantz
Robert Emmons

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Members of Council and staff made announcements regarding upcoming events.

Mayor Grau reported that he is in the process of reviewing information regarding the Hometown Heroes banner program, in an attempt to get the program started in manner that is acceptable to the VFW.

Mr. Blackley offered his assistance.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council