

REGULAR SESSION

April 14, 2022

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, April 14, 2022 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, Park and Recreation Director Adam Rogers, Adam Hendrickson, Jen Liebler, Jim Boardwine, Brett Boardwine, Don Rice, Pat Hoadland, Amy Patterson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 10, 2022 Regular Session

Mrs. Chuha stated that the minutes should reflect that Council approved participation in the mural project at 106 Water St. in amount of \$1,600, rather than \$16,000.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Regular Session as amended.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported that the City's coverage for cyber liability insurance has been placed through BCS Insurance Co. The premium was prorated to coincide with the renewal of the property and liability insurance.

Mr. Sharpe reported that a resident complaint was received regarding changeable copy signs in residential neighborhoods wondering what the City could do to regulate the content of the signs. It was explained to them that the City cannot regulate the content of messages as they are protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Law Director, Benjamin Chojnacki, stated that the First Amendment prohibits the City from enacting a law that abridges someone's freedom of speech. The City cannot look at the content of someone's form of speech to determine whether it is appropriate or not and can only regulate the time, place and manner of signs.

Mr. Sharpe reported that he and Mayor Grau met with Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur and discussed various upcoming projects and initiatives in the City.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the EV charging station at 106 Water Street is in operation, and the dedication will be held on April 20 at 11:30 AM.

Mr. Sharpe reported on staffing for summer recreation programs, noting that while lifeguard staffing is complete, it has been challenging to find daycamp staff.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of capital projects.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and approved the Concept Plan for the Chardon Memorial Park Project. He reported that Planning Commission also discussed tree planting in front yards which will be looked at in more detail during the update of the zoning code.

Community Development Administrator, Steve Yaney, gave the Economic Development report that highlighted business openings and renovations during the 1st quarter of 2022.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Martin reported that the Committee met and discussed the BRE 2022 Program in coordination with Geauga Growth Partnership. He reported that the Committee also discussed the CRA and TIF Districts which provide tax incentives for business. The Committee also discussed Retail Strategies' contract and program as well as signs and banners to promote Thrive's programs at 106 Water St. Agenda item #5 was discussed by the Committee which is a Think Local Initiative to assist promoting small businesses within the City.

Ms. Means and Adam Hendrickson presented the scope of a Think Local Campaign that focuses on supporting the small business community and asked Council for their support in funding the campaign. The idea behind the campaign is to ask people to spend money locally. The first step is to put out a simple, clear message out to the community, driving people to the City's website that has a business directory. In addition, banners and window clings would be printed to reinforce the messaging.

Mr. Hendrickson explained the data that will be gained from the traffic going to the City's website.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to allow the City Manager to authorize a \$5,000 payment to the Think Local Campaign. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Means asked Council to e-mail committee members if they have suggested changes to the logo for the campaign.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda

Don Rice, Superintendent of Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, spoke to inform the public of the past, present, and future plans of the Metzenbaum Center.

Representatives from Thrive reported on upcoming events & provided an update on the Theater & 106 Water Street locations.

Jen Liebler, Chairman of Thrive Performing Arts Board, provided an organizational overview and a financial update.

Jim Boardwine, Artistic Director, reviewed Thrive's activities over the last six months.

Brett Boardwine, Managing Director, reviewed Thrive's activities planned for 2022 and 2023.

GENERAL PUBLIC - none.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Means reported on the status of the Giving Garden Mural Project noting that an artist has been selected and is scheduled to paint the mural in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Hoadland, Landscape Architect for Brandstetter Carroll Inc., reviewed the scope and process of creating a Park and Recreation Master Plan. The plan will find out what the public wants and will help the City have some clear priorities with regards to parks and recreation.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the creation of a joint park and recreation district and finding out what the township residents want.

Mr. Hoadland reviewed his past experience creating districts and explained that they can assist with this effort.

Mr. Lelko stated that in reviewing program participation, a large number of participants are non-residents. He asked if the interests of non-residents will be solicited.

Mr. Hoadland stated that he would like to get data from the non-residents.

Discussion occurred regarding asking survey questions regarding a levy for parks and recreation.

Mayor Grau stated that regional cooperation would be critical to any investment by the City and asked if he would help approaching the school and townships outside of the master plan.

Mr. Hoadland stated that they could provide a service to inquire if there is a regional interest.

Mr. Sharpe spoke in support of finding out if there is regional interest before proceeding with the master plan.

Mr. Blackley suggested that the City elicit the support of the athletic groups in the townships before approaching the township trustees.

Mr. Hoadland stated that they have experience getting levies passed.

Members of Council spoke in support of Brandstetter Carroll Inc., preparing a quote to obtaining information on the regional interest in a joint park and recreation district.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3202

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM 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 Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3202 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3202.

Public Service Director, Paul Hornyak, stated that the legislation will allow the City to participate in ODOT's bidding process for vehicles, salt, asphalt and other equipment.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-22

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS IN THE CITY OF CHARDON TREASURY FOR 2022 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley 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. 9-22 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 9-22.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the transfers are needed to maintain positive balances in all of the City's funds and are included in the budget.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mr. Meleski reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. to consider the purchase of public property for a public purpose or the sale of public property at competitive bidding, and preparing for conducting or reviewing negotiations for bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, and invite Ben Chojnacki, Randy Sharpe, Mark Iacofano, and Amy Day 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 preparing for conducting or reviewing negotiations for bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Meeting reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Members of Council and staff made announcements regarding upcoming events.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council