

REGULAR SESSION

September 8, 2022

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, September 8, 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, Ed Slusarski, Dr. Michael Hanlon, Deb Armbruster, Bill Hess, Todd Albright, Karen Blankenship, Keith Brewster, Amy Patterson, Anastasia Nicholas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022 Regular Session as presented.

Results of the roll call vote:

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

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-22

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR HANNAH SEKAS AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION was read for the first time in its entirety.

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. 13-22 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. 13-22. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Blackley and Mr. Grau thanked Ms. Sekas for her service as a member of Planning Commission.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported that the refrigerator in the kitchen of the Heritage House malfunctioned and the Chardon Square Association has offered to donate \$2,000 towards the cost of a replacement.

Mr. Sharpe reported that Ryan Adomaitis resigned as maintenance worker in the Streets Division.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the City did not prevail in its objection to permit the part-time patrolmen to vote to unionize. If they choose to vote in favor of unionizing, the City will have to enter into negotiations with the patrolmen.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the fall newsletter is in production and should be delivered to residents mid-September.

Mr. Blackley asked what the City is doing to ensure their wages remain competitive enough to maintain quality personnel.

Mr. Sharpe stated that a wage study was conducted during the last collective bargaining agreement and will be done during the next one as well. He noted that Council may be asked to be more aggressive with salaries instead of setting them at an average level as has historically been done.

Mr. Lelko asked about the status of on-going statewide lawsuits regarding tax refunds for individuals working from home.

Law Director Ben Chojnacki stated that there are a number of lawsuits addressing that issue; however, they remain open with the courts.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of capital projects.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and approved a Concept Plan for an addition to the existing industrial building at 510 Center Street.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also approved exterior renovations and a sign deviation for Hilltopper Car Wash.

Members of Council inquired about various commercial property renovations occurring in the City which were addressed by the Community Development Administrator.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park & Recreation Board

Mrs. Chuha reported that the Board met and discussed fall and winter programs and future programming being considered. The Board also discussed the summer concert series.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda

Dr. Michael Hanlon, Superintendent of Chardon Local Schools, addressed Council and provided an update on the state of the school district including building improvements, curriculum and instruction. He also gave an overview of the school safety grant the district received which can be used for safety items and facility improvements.

Deb Armbruster, Treasurer of Chardon Local Schools, reviewed the financials of the district.

Council members asked Dr. Hanlon general questions about the topics he presented.

Ed Slusarski, representing Chardon Square Association, addressed Council and requested use of Chardon Square to host a scarecrow decorating contest. One contest would be for businesses to decorate flower pots in front of their businesses. A second contest would be for groups to make an upright scarecrow for the Square.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to authorize the use of the Square by the Chardon Square Association between October 9-22 by permitting decorations in the grass while working with the Lands and Buildings Department for appropriate placement.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

General Public

Todd Albright, 104 North Street, stated that he is a member of the Safety Committee of the Chardon Local School District, and inquired about the relationship between the City and School as it relates to speed limit signs and crosswalks in the area of the school. He is inquiring about whose responsibility it is to maintain flashing speed limit signs if the school pays to install them, and if the crosswalk to the student parking lot is in an appropriate location.

Mr. Sharpe provided a history of a joint effort between the City and School District to apply for a grant for crosswalk improvements. He stated that there have been many discussions that have been had in the past as well as recent discussions about the crosswalk to the student parking lot. After the grant was not awarded to the City, an updated quote for crosswalk improvements was obtained, which has been provided to the school.

Members of Council and staff spoke about the cooperation between the City and School District that has occurred for many years on many issues including discussions about the crosswalk to the student parking lot.

Ms. Means explained that various options to improve safety in the area were discussed at a City Safety Committee meeting earlier in the year.

Mr. Albright stated that he would like a joint meeting between the City and School to talk about what improvements can be made and who would be responsible for the costs.

Mayor Grau asked who determines when a flashing school sign is needed.

City Engineer, Doug Courtney, stated that he would investigate what triggers a flashing school zone sign.

Mayor Grau stated that once the school reviews the updated estimate, the school and City Safety Committee can meet jointly to discuss the crosswalks and signs.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding a report on the status of Joint Recreation District, Mr. Sharpe stated that staff recently met with representatives from the joint recreation districts of Madison and Granville to obtain additional background on their districts. He asked Council to permit staff to have some informal conversations with township trustees to inquire about their interest in moving forward with the creation of a district. His preference is to move in this direction rather than having Brandstetter Carrol be the City's communication device.

Members of Council spoke in support of staff pursuing discussion with the township trustees.

NEW BUSINESS - none

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO. 14-22

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF BLIGHT AND DISEASE OF SHADE TREES WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF CHARDON; AUTHORIZING THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION TO SO PROVIDE DURING THE YEAR OF 2022; ESTABLISHING A SINGLE DISTRICT FOR SAID PURPOSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 727.011, OHIO REVISED CODE; PROVIDING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COST AND EXPENSE OF SUCH PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING UPON BENEFITTING PROPERTY IN SAID DISTRICT, 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. 14-22 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 14-22.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the proposed assessment is being requested to remain at its current amount of \$70,000.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the assessment year in the legislation.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the year of enactment is the current calendar year so that it follows the tax on the property.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-22

A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF STREET LIGHTING 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 for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 15-22 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Blackley seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 15-22.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the proposed assessment will not change from its current amount of \$130,000.

Mr. Blackley asked if the City's switch to LED has reduced electric costs.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the change to LED street lights has reduced costs; however, due to the recent electric rate increases, a savings has not yet been realized.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-22

A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Martin 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. 16-22 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 16-22.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the proposed assessment will not change from its current amount of \$100,000 and will be used for sidewalk maintenance and connectivity.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-22

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR 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. 17-22 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Blackley seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 17-22.

Mr. Iacofano stated that Council adopted the 2023 tax budget in July which was adopted by the County Tax Budget Commission. The legislation before Council accepts the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, which will be certified to the County Auditor once adopted.

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, 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 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, Steve Yaney and Amy Day into the session. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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.

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 8:40 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to appoint Kathleen Scalara as the City's representative on the Thrive Board.

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.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council