

REGULAR SESSION

February 11, 2021

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via video-conferencing service, Zoom (Meeting ID: 814 3495 9854).

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, Leah Barto, Genna Kozelj, Brian Doering, Brad Sekas, Annie Royle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Chuha noted grammatical corrections to the January 14, 2021 Regular Session minutes.

Mr. Grau moved and Ms. Means seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Regular Session as amended.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported on the leaf collection program for 2020 and stated that eight trips were made around the City and 106 loads were collected.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of personnel hirings.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the Chardon Square Farmers' Market will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. beginning in June.

Mr. Sharpe reported on a \$3,720.31 donation offered by Rubber City Arches for taxes on the properties of 432 & 434 Water Street which they donated to the City in 2020.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to accept the gift from Rubber City Arches.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met and approved variances requested by Sommers Development Group for a Starbucks restaurant and drive-thru.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission approved a request by O'Reilly Enterprises to renovate the roof of Lake Effect Laundromat at 115 Wilson Mills Road.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also gave Conditional Use approval to Impact Church for a Church / Religious Assembly in the "C-1" Restricted Business District.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission discussed interest by El Patron for outdoor dining. This will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water/Sewer Committee

Mr. Smock reported that the Committee met and heard a presentation from CT Consultants on the recently completed Chardon water distribution system model update. They provided recommendations including: replacement of 1% of the water lines annually, looping dead end water lines when possible, replacing the 4" water mains, and 18 other recommended improvements. Additional discussion took place regarding their recommendation to add a clear well at the water treatment plant.

Mrs. McArthur asked the reason for the recommendation to replace the 4" mains.

Mr. Hornyak stated that it was recommended that the City plan for replacement of lines after they are 100 years old. In addition, smaller diameter lines will choke the system.

Mr. Courtney added that 4" water mains are not sufficient for fire protection.

Mr. Grau inquired about the clear well.

Mr. Hornyak stated that the clear well is a staging tank before water gets pumped to the water tower for distribution.

Mr. Smock stated that the Committee also discussed two instances of gray water that staff will continue to investigate.

Mr. Smock reported that the Committee discussed recent updates made to the water and sewer system alarm system.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

THOSE PERSONS ON THE AGENDA

Vince Crawford, Representing Waste Management, reviewed their 2020 annual report and discussed the actions they took in response to COVID-19.

Mr. Crawford also reviewed recycling dos and don'ts.

General questions were asked about recycling.

GENERAL PUBLIC - none.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Grau seconded to amend the agenda to move New Business before Old Business. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding the consideration of a policy regulating the public use of and access to public space in the City of Chardon, Law Director Ben Chojnacki, stated that a policy was drafted to give some clarity to the methodology by which people access public property in the City.

Mr. Grau moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to accept the policy regulating the public use of and access to public space in the City of Chardon.

Mr. Smock asked if the policy would limit the gatherings approved by the City on City property, to 10 people.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the policy continues to prohibit gatherings in excess of 10 people subject to the caveats in the State order.

Mr. Sharpe stated that if the State regulations change, the City will make the change as well.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the State championship signs, Mr. Sharpe stated that two different entrance sign designs are being developed for Council's consideration. A decision on the sign design will be needed at the February 18 Special Session.

Annie Royle, representing the Geauga Maple Festival Board, reviewed the feedback from the County Health Commissioner during maple stirs. She reviewed how they can make changes to their processes to comply with his recommendation. She explained that Tappin' Sunday will be held virtually and maple sales are also potentially being removed for their events.

Mr. Grau asked what steps will be taken to prevent people from congregating.

Ms. Royle stated that they will have signs explaining the protocol that is needed for safe social distancing.

Ms. Means asked the Law Director to explain why the maple stirs through the concession stand are permitted.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the maple stir sales through the concession stand is similar to a commercial activity with a line that is controlled and everything that has been proposed has been in a manner consistent with the State orders and directives.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Ms. Means seconded to authorize concession activity by Geauga Maple Festival Inc. and to give the City Manager the authority to approve any amendments consistent with public health, guidelines, orders and restrictions.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3154

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTIONS 921.172(A), 923.172(A), 923.175(B)(1), 923.175(C)(1), AND 923.176(A); REPEALING SUBSECTION 921.172(D); ADDING SUBSECTION 923.176(D); AND CREATING SECTION 921.174 (WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE), OF

THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES was read for the third time by title only.

Mr. Smock moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3154.

Finance Director Mate Rogonjic stated that the ordinance is based on the recommendations in the water and sewer rate study that was provided to each Council member. City staff met with the Water and Sewer Committee to review the study and come to a consensus on the recommendations to City Council. Three main points in the fee changes include:

1. Enacting a water capital improvement fee and increasing the sewer capital improvement fee so that there is dedicated funding for capital improvements.
2. Implementing a similar practice of small incremental increases to the water/sewer operating rates.
3. Allowing water/sewer capital improvement fees to be part of the utility discount program.

Mr. Smock thanked the Finance Director and spoke in support of the ordinance.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3155

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 123.26, LOCAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND, SUBSECTION (B)(3), OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHARDON was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. McArthur 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. 3155 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Grau moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3155.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that the ordinance reflects the updated timeline for the expenditure of the Coronavirus Relief Funds from December 30, 2020 to December 31, 2021, based on action taken by the federal and state governments.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3156

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MOUNTAIN ROAD CYCLES, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Grau 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. 3156 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Smock moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3156.

Mr. Grau noted a grammatical correction to Section 1.

Mr. Yaney stated that Mountain Road Cycles has been in the location of 109 South Street for 14 years and has been a good tenant. He noted a change to the first year lease figure in the ordinance.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. McArthur reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. McArthur moved and Ms. Means seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official, 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 for the purchase of public property for a public purpose or the sale of public property at competitive bidding and invite Ben Chojnacki, Steve Yaney, Randy Sharpe, Mate Rogonjic 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 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 7:59 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Grau seconded to appoint Natalie Michael to fill the vacancy on the Board of Ethics Review for a term ending 12/31/2023. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL - none.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Attest:

DANIEL MELESKI, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council