

REGULAR SESSION

June 11, 2020

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:26 P.M. via video-conferencing service, Zoom (Meeting ID: 816 6216 6945).

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, Stephen Waybright, Courtney Hudson, Jeff Miller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Meleski noted that the minutes should be amended to reflect Mr. Grau's abstention from voting on a motion regarding rent deferrals at Old Village Hall and a grammatical correction to page 2.

Mr. Smock moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 Regular Session as amended.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Meleski spoke to address the current state of affairs of the country in response to the death of George Floyd. He stated that the City and its leaders are disturbed by the death of George Floyd. His death and the actions that led up to it have greatly impacted the nation. For many, it has been a call to action, for change and justice. A great part of America is the right to peacefully assemble. He asked the Police Chief to discuss the City's preparedness for protests.

Chief Niehus reported on the Police Department's preparedness for possible protests should they occur in the City including monitoring protests in other communities, discussion with other communities, and being active in the preparedness planning of other communities.

Mr. Grau thanked the Police Chief for his thorough preparedness.

Mayor Meleski reported on the status of a social media post and thanked Chief Niehus for his thorough investigation into the matter.

Chief Niehus reported on his investigating and findings into a social media post of that depicted two juveniles engaging in the "George Floyd Challenge" and designating the location as

Chardon. He explained that the post has been researched and it has been determined that it does not have any connection to the City of Chardon, Chardon Local Schools, or any Chardon students.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported on upcoming retirements and resignations.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the bid opening for the 2020 Street Maintenance Program was held June 3, 2020 and Specialized Construction, Inc. is the apparent low bidder. Legislation is on the agenda to award the bid.

Mr. Sharpe reported that the 2019 Annual Report has been completed and distributed. The annual report identifies key initiatives, projects, programs, and events that occurred in 2019.

Mrs. McArthur inquired about the status of summer events.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the status is still unknown until more information is given by the State.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met and recommended Council approve the text amendment regarding temporary signs. The legislation is on the agenda for Council's consideration.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee

Ms. Means reported that the Committee's last scheduled meeting was postponed for a future date.

Mayor Meleski asked for an update on the Ad Hoc Theater Committee.

Ms. Means reported that the Committee will be meeting June 17, 2020. The Committee is gathering input that will be used to create an RFP which will be sent out to those interested in utilizing the theater spaces.

Ms. Means reported that the spaces are getting cleaned up for future use.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

THOSE PERSONS ON THE AGENDA - none.

GENERAL PUBLIC - none.

OLD BUSINESS - none.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Director Mate Rogonjic spoke to review the City's current financial status. He stated that while water and sewer fees have declined, they have not declined to the degree that was estimated.

A public hearing was set for July 9, 2020 at 6:20 PM to discuss the 2021 tax budget.

Mayor Meleski reported that he received correspondence from United Community Services inquiring if the City would be interested in purchasing "United We Stand" banners at cost, for the purpose of spreading necessary positivity and good will across America. He added that there are 12 locations in the City that would be appropriate for the banners and inquired if Council is interested in the purchase of the banners at a cost of \$125 for each banner.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the City has hardware that can accommodate the banners.

Discussion occurred regarding the potential locations for the banners.

Mr. Grau stated that he would like local businesses to have the opportunity to create the banners and could investigate if there are any interested local businesses interested in doing this project.

Mayor Meleski asked Ms. Means, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, if she would be interested in working with the City Manager on the banner design.

Ms. Means stated that she is not in support of spending the money on the banners at this time since the City has been cutting funding for other expenditures. However, if the majority of Council supports it, she would be willing to work with the City Manager on the design.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Grau seconded to authorize the Economic Development Committee Chairman and City Manager to approve the design and placement of 12 banners.

Mrs. McArthur stated that she understands Ms. Means' concern about spending money at a time that the City is trying to be budget conscious.

Mr. Sharpe noted that there is money in the budget for the banners.

Discussion occurred regarding reducing the number of banners.

Mr. Smock stated that he likes the look of the banners, but he is not comfortable spending the money on the banners at this time.

Mrs. McArthur stated that there may be other options to pursue instead of these particular banners and is not in favor of spending this amount of money at this time.

Mrs. McArthur rescinded her motion and Mr. Grau rescinded his second.

Ms. Means reported that the little food pantry at 106 Water Street is being utilized frequently and Mrs. Chuha recommended adding a food pantry, constructed by Scouts, at Mel Harder Park.

Mrs. McArthur asked why Mel Harder Park has been recommended as a location.

Mrs. Chuha stated that it is a high visibility area that already has a little library.

Members of council spoke in support of adding a little food pantry at Mel Harder Park.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded to authorize a little food pantry at Mel Harder Park.

Mr. Sharpe asked if Chardon Square Association will be in charge of caring for the pantry.

Ms. Means stated that Chardon Square Association will take care of the pantry.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 3117

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1129.09 AND 1129.13 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHARDON TO REGULATE THE USE AND SIZE OF TEMPORARY NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Grau 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. 3117 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. McArthur seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3117.

Mrs. McArthur asked how strictly the sign removal will be enforced.

Mr. Yaney stated that the legislation gives the City the authority to remove signs in case they are not removed in a timely manner.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the City would apply the law as drafted with the understanding that the City wants to be mindful of the City's residents' and businesses' first amendment rights to expression. The City has rights afford it by the Constitution and would take actions consistent with balancing those rights with one another.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3118

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT WITH SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE - MILLING, REPAIR AND PAVING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Smock moved and Mr. Blackley 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. 3118 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. 3118.

Mr. Courtney reviewed the bidding process and stated that he is recommending the project be awarded to Specialized Construction, Inc.

Mrs. McArthur asked what streets are included in the project.

Mr. Courtney reviewed the streets to be chip sealed, repaired and resurfaced.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3119

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CITY OF CHARDON TREASURY FOR 2020 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 Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3119 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. McArthur moved and Mr. Smock seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3119.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that the ordinance will make the budget adjustments official that were discussed at Council's Regular Session in May. In addition, the ordinance takes into account the replacement of an air conditioning unit for the Fire Department.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. McArthur reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Smock moved and Mr. Grau seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official and preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations for bargaining sessions for public employees, and considering their compensation and other terms and conditions of their employment and invite Jeff Miller, Heidi Delaney, Chief Niehus, Paul Hornyak into the session. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding appointments to boards and commissions.

Discussion occurred regarding preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations for bargaining sessions for public

employees, and considering their compensation and other terms and conditions of their employment.

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

Meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Members of Council and staff reported on upcoming activities.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attest:

DANIEL MELESKI, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council