



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
February 26, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill, Lawson-Rowe,

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Councilmember Baker arrived as 6:35pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2024**

The regular meeting minutes for February 12, 2024 were approved as submitted.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

President Lawson-Rowe advised Council that in celebration of Black History Month, the Reynoldsburg High School Livingston Campus will hold a music, art, fashion, and dance event on Tuesday, February 27th, beginning at 4pm called Celebrate Blaque. Waggoner Road Junior High school hosted a Oaks and Water event to celebrate Black History Month.

Mayor Begeny indicated that the City would be hosting a meeting to discuss the report regarding the Blacklick Creek flooding study. There will also be an additional meeting in July. The City will host a Town Hall meeting on March 6th to discuss the upcoming

Waggoner Road Phase 1 Project.

## **REPORTS**

### **Clerk of Court Report**

#### **Clerk of Court Report - January 2024**

Clerk Prasher stated that the Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in January 2024 in the amount of \$18,700.00.

#### **Development, Parks & Recreation Committee**

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for February 26, 2024.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Hill, Councilmember Johnson, Chair Salvati and President Lawson-Rowe.

#### **An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Builderscape for the Development of Brice Park, and Declaring an Emergency**

Director Bauman stated that they finally had their bid opening and Builderscape was found to be the lowest and best bid, so they are requesting the authority to enter into a contract for the development of Brice Park, to appropriate funds into the CIP, and they are requesting an emergency at the next meeting. Columbus has already agreed to this, and they plan to reimburse the City monthly.

Councilmember Salvati moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

#### **A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for and Accept an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks Grant**

Director Bauman stated that they would like to apply for a grant through ODNR for the development and redesign of the tennis courts to accommodate for permanent pickleball courts. One tennis court would remain and four to six pickleball courts would be in the leftover space.

Mayor Begeny stated that they are working with State Representative Rich Brown



and Senator Hearcel Craig to request additional funding for this project with the goal of having this project completely funded using the ODNR grant and State Capital funding.

Councilmember Strickland asked if having only one tennis court would be an issue in the future. Director Bauman stated that the majority of the individuals out there are playing pickleball. She explained that she has heard from two tennis players stating that one tennis court is not enough, but they will hold a few town hall meetings to get a better feel about what the public is wanting.

Councilmember Salvati moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

### **Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee**

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for February 26, 2024.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Hill, Councilmember Johnson, Chair Pyakurel and President Lawson-Rowe.

### **A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle for the Reynoldsburg Police Department**

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that they want to replace one of their older motorcycles and move that to a training motorcycle since it is 12 years old. They currently have two full-time motor unit officers and their goal in 2024 is to add a third. They would then have four motorcycles in rotation with one as a backup and this fifth motorcycle would be used for training.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

### **A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department**

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this is to remove a computer that is no longer operable. This laptop was used for computer voice stress analysis. It is no longer functioning, so they would like to remove it from their inventory.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

### **Public Service & Transportation Committee**



This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for February 26, 2024.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Hill, Councilmember Johnson, Chair Strickland, and President Lawson-Rowe.

**A Resolution of Intent to Appropriate Property and Easements for the Waggoner Road Phase I Project and Related Improvements for the Public Purpose of Making or Repairing a Public Road**

Attorney Shook stated that the Committee and Council are aware that they will need to acquire a certain amount of right of way and different types of easements in order for the project to be successful. We are currently in negotiations with all the property owners we need to acquire that right of way. We are getting closer to that time period where the project needs to begin and in the conversations where we cannot come to an agreement, we need to begin the process of eminent domain. This Resolution is the first step in that process. It does not mean that we are filing the eminent domain, but it does give us the ability to move forward and make that determination in the future. He does anticipate that at the next Council meeting they will have an Ordinance authorizing appropriations or eminent domain, which will only be for the properties that we absolutely need before the end of March or have not been able to come to an agreement with.

Councilmember Strickland asked how many properties this applies to. Attorney Shook stated that they sent out a notice to all property owners a few months back and also sent them a good faith offer based on an appraisal. He stated that there are about 32 properties and some are owned by the same person. Mayor Begeny stated that they had a town hall to discuss this project and allow residents to ask questions to ensure that there was no miscommunication.

Councilmember Cotner clarified that these parcel owners are not necessarily against the project but are trying to negotiate the price at which they are willing to sell. Attorney Shook said that is correct. Councilmember Cotner asked what the next step is. Attorney Shook stated that once the Resolution has passed, they will send a copy of the Resolution to the property owners that are listed on the Resolution. They will then come back to Council at the next meeting with an Ordinance authorizing appropriation proceedings to begin against those properties where we have not reached an agreement. He stated that they plan to continue negotiations throughout the next two weeks and hope that this list will continue to get smaller. Councilmember Cotner asked how many parcel owners have already agreed to the City's terms. Attorney Shook said he is not sure since he doesn't have the list in front of him, but he believes there are about 8 or 9 of them; he clarified that they are not requesting eminent domain on all of the remaining properties, only the ones where they need access to clear trees and utility access.

Councilmember Cotner stated that this project is not a surprise to anyone but this is the first he has heard of eminent domain being discussed. He stated that no property owners have reached out to him so there must be continuous communications already so that is a good thing. Councilmember Cotner stated that he does not want to step on the toes of any property owners so he would just like a better understanding of this process. Attorney Shook stated that they are mostly just going back and forth with numbers and some of the properties have a longer process than others. Councilmember Cotner stated that this is just a nice way of saying we are still taking their property, but that this project should not be a surprise to anyone and it surprised to hear that we are having to use eminent domain with the project. Attorney Shook stated that this Resolution does not lock us in to anything. It allows them the ability to move forward in the future, if needed. Councilmember Cotner stated that he wants to make sure that he has accurate information in case any resident were to reach out to him.

Councilmember Strickland stated that we are all in agreement that this project needs to happen and this conversation has been going on for years. She explained that they are trying to make this a safer area and thinks it will benefit the City.

Councilmember Strickland moved forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

### **Finance & Administration Committee**

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for February 26, 2024.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Pyakurel, Councilmember Salvati, Councilmember Strickland, Chair Baker and President Lawson-Rowe.

### **An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classifications and Pay Grades (a) Administration, Section 160.05 Overtime Eligibility, and Section 160.09 Group Insurance (a) for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio**

Director Boller stated that this Ordinance is back and stated that it was discussed in December with Civil Service for the tax administrator position. Director Boller has gone back and researched more about that job title and that pay grade and is now bringing a recommendation to Council. Civil Service did change the job description because of the amount of JEDD work the tax administrator was doing. She stated that when she was doing the research, she reached out to several cities, including Circleville, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Harrison, Macedonia, Salon, and Westerville, and most of those cities only had one JEDD. We have 5 with the possibility of adding another one. The job description for the JEDDs entails quite a bit of financial reporting and budgeting and this individual has to have an extensive

knowledge of tax and privacy laws. She stated that it took quite a bit of time to find out exactly what the pay grade should be. She explained that our current tax administrator has a Masters in administration and a Bachelor's in accounting and 25 years of experience. Based on this information, she recommends renaming this position to encompass all of those duties as a tax financial manager and moving it from a pay grade 17 to a pay grade 20.

Councilmember Strickland thanked Director Boller for doing that research and bringing it to Council. She stated that in December, Civil Service recommended a title change, pay grade increase, and retroactive pay. Director Boller stated that it is her understanding that it is not her duty to give a recommendation on the retroactive pay. Councilmember Strickland asked who would make that recommendation. Attorney Shook stated that Council will change the pay grade from 17 to 20 if they approve this Ordinance. From here, the supervisor, which in this case is the City Auditor, would set the pay within the pay range of that pay grade of 20. So, City Council's authority is to set the pay grade while the supervisor chooses the pay amount from within that pay grade.

Councilmember Salvati thanked Director Boller for her research and for reaching out to as many cities as she did.

Councilmember Strickland stated that because this particular position is very sensitive, what are the consequences we may face by leaving it up to the supervisor to make those decisions. Attorney Shook stated that they are able to discuss that outside of the Council meeting if she is concerned.

Councilmember Baker thanked Director Boller for this information.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA**

|                  |                                                                          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Approved 8-0 (UNANIMOUS)</b>                                          |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Councilmember Baker                                                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Councilmember Salvati                                                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill |

**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for and Accept an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks Grant**



**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle for the Reynoldsburg Police Department**

**A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department**

**A Resolution of Intent to Appropriate Property and Easements for the Waggoner Road Phase I Project and Related Improvements for the Public Purpose of Making or Repairing a Public Road**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION**

|                  |                                                                          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Approved 8-0 (UNANIMOUS)</b>                                          |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Councilmember Baker                                                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Councilmember Salvati                                                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill |

**An Ordinance Appropriating Unencumbered Balances as of December 31, 2023, in Various Police Special Revenue Funds, Providing that Revenues for Funds Received During 2024 be Accepted, and Declaring an Emergency**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING**

President Lawson-Rowe announced this legislation stood for a first reading.

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Builderscape for the Development of Brice Park, and Declaring an Emergency**

**An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classifications and Pay Grades (a) Administration, Section 160.05 Overtime Eligibility, and Section 160.09 Group Insurance (a) for the City of**



Reynoldsburg, Ohio

## **CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING**

President Lawson-Rowe announced this legislation stood for a second reading.

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with DLZ for Construction Inspection Services Relating for Waggoner Road Phase I Project, and Appropriating Funds**

## **OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councilmember Baker congratulated the boy's and girl's basketball teams on their win in the first round of the play-offs. He also thanked RPD, doctors, nurses, teachers, and those that work in retail because all work is hard work.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**March 7, 2024 Planning Board**  
**March 11, 2024 Council**  
**March 21, 2024 Planning Board**  
**March 25, 2024 Council**

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Leanora Jenkins, President of Council

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Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council