



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
March 25, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Reynoldsburg Raiders Men's Basketball team will not be attending the meeting tonight due to spring break. As there are no further changes, the agenda stands as approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024

The regular meeting minutes of the March 11, 2024 Council meeting were approved as submitted.

PROCLAMATIONS

Recognition of Summer Batts, 7th Girls State Wrestling Championship

Councilmember Strickland read the proclamation and congratulated Summer Batts; however, Summer was unable to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Salvati moved to approve the proclamation. Second by



Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Recognition of Quinn Dean, State Bowling Participant

Councilmember Salvati read the proclamation and Council congratulated Quinn on his achievement.

Councilmember Strickland moved to approve the proclamation. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mayor Begeny advised Council of the upcoming clean-up day at Civic Park on April 6, 2024. There will also be a day to remove invasive species from Pine Quarry Park. Information will be available in the upcoming Reynoldsburg Connects.

Rich Coglianese of the Columbus City Attorney's Office Regarding the Tobacco Legislation Lawsuit

Rich Coglianese, Solicitor General for the City of Columbus, spoke to Council regarding a lawsuit being filed by Columbus against the state legislator's decision to prohibit municipalities from regulating tobacco within their city limits. The state law prohibits municipalities from regulating tobacco in any way, including Reynoldsburg's legislation to require businesses to register as a tobacco retailer.

Effective April 24, 2024, Reynoldsburg's law will no longer be enforceable. In fact, communities maintaining these tobacco ordinances may be sued and responsible for attorney fees and costs. He indicated that Columbus was leading a coalition across the state to fight this new state law. Ohio is a Home Rule state and these new regulations infringe upon that Home Rule sovereignty. Home Rule rights may exercise a city's health and safety powers as long as it does not conflict with state law. The Ohio Supreme Court has upheld municipalities' Home Rule authority. Mr. Coglianese requested that Reynoldsburg join the City of Columbus and other localities in filing this lawsuit. We have other illustrious individuals offering pro bono professional support in this case. Reynoldsburg's participation would, currently, not cost the City anything. Reynoldsburg needs to address this issue prior to the April 24th deadline. Joining this suit to initially requesting an injunction against the state law will stop any possible lawsuits.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked how many other communities are currently participating. Mr. Coglianese responded that there were currently seven other communities, but there is likely to be a total of nine or ten. Councilmember Pyakurel asked if municipalities outside of the central Ohio area were also supporting this effort. Mr. Coglianese indicated that he was working with other cities throughout the state.



Mayor Begeny indicated that two other statewide organizations were currently looking into this issue. The Central Ohio Manager's organization and Ohio Mayor's Alliance were both moving to be in support of this effort.

COMMUNICATIONS

Treasury Board Minutes - March 2024

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for February 2024

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in February 2024 in the amount of \$19,142.00.

Liquor Permit Requests

Liquor Permit Request - Sal Acquisition One LLC

The investigation was completed by a transfer of a liquor permit held by Reynoldsburg Fresh Market Inc., which was doing business as Save-a-Lot at 6308 East Livingston Avenue. The permit is being transferred to SAL Acquisition One LLC. The liquor permit is for a C1, C2, and D6 class permit. The application submitted to the Division of Liquor Control is defective as it includes multiple permit application business names, which is not allowed. The person listed on the application list has social security numbers that are associated with other people, including a deceased person. For these reasons, we would request a hearing on this permit application.

Liquor Permit Request - Jayaho Inc.

This investigation was completed by a transfer of a liquor permit held by J Nepal LLC, which was doing business as Curry & Kabab at 6758 East Main Street. The



permit is being transferred to Jayaho Inc., who will operate the business as a restaurant. The liquor permit is for a D1, D2, D3, and D6 class permit. The applicant, Srihari Barre, submitted an application to the Division of Liquor Control with a date of birth that was not his. To our knowledge, the application has not been corrected or resubmitted. For this reason, we would request a hearing on this permit application.

There is no Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for March 25, 2024.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer and Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund (110) to the Federal Forfeiture Fund (294), and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny explained that a portion of the American Recovery Funds received in 2023 were used for the fence installed around the police department parking lot. Part of the requirements included the City completing an investigative search for Native American artifacts. The City thought that as the parking lot had existed on the property for an extended period, it was unnecessary to complete that investigation. The government determined that it was still a requirement. The City was now required to return \$140,000 for the cost of the fence. Once the funds were returned, the federal government will return the funds to be used on the police software purchase.

Councilmember Baker asked how long it would take before the funds would be returned to the City. Mayor Begeny advised that it would take about six to eight weeks.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to forward the Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the City of Reynoldsburg to Join the City of Columbus in a Lawsuit Against the State of Ohio to Uphold the Home Rule Authority of the City to Pursue and Enforce Tobacco Regulations

Assistant City Attorney Leist stated that Attorney Coglianese provided Council with

an excellent explanation as to why the City should join the City of Columbus in this lawsuit. Attorney Shook and I were also in support of joining this filing to support our Home Rule authority. As Attorney Coglianese indicated, the City would not be responsible for any expenses. As Reynoldsburg passed legislation last year to establish a tobacco licensing program, it was imperative that the City either join this suit or possibly face a potential lawsuit. We were requesting Council I approve this legislation.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked what the next steps would be once Council approved this legislation. Attorney Coglianese explained that once the City of Columbus was prepared to file the request, the suit would be asking for an injunction. The Court would determine whether to uphold the injunction until the matter could be adjudicated.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting on March 25, 2024.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks Inc. for the 2024 July 4th Fireworks and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman stated that this legislation was the annual contract to approve the fireworks for the July 4th celebration. The City has contracted with Pyrotecnico Fireworks for the past number of years and has been very satisfied with their work. This contract represented the same services as provided in previous years.

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

There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: 8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER:	Strickland
SECONDER:	Salvati
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

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CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Johnson
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Contract with DLZ for Inspection Services for Brice Park Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Appropriation of Property and Easements from Multiple Properties for the Public Purpose of Making, Repairing, and Improving Waggoner Road, a Public Roadway Open to the Public Without Charge, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer and Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund (110) to the Federal Forfeiture Fund (294), and Declaring an

Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Baker
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Lawson-Rowe, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Strickland encouraged the community to come to Civic Park on April 6, 2024, from 9am until noon to clean-up the Park. There will be refreshments served as an incentive to join the effort. There will also be a tree planting and invasive species removal event at Pine Quarry Park on April 20th from 9am until noon.

Councilmember Baker congratulated the Special Olympics basketball team for coming in second. He also thanked the teachers, who were on spring break, police officers, nurses, doctors, and retail workers for their sacrifices and hard work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 4, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
April 8, 2024 Council
April 18, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
April 22, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
April 27, 2024 Clean-up Drop Off

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of



Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council