

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 24, 2019

President of Council Doug Joseph called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM

PRESENT: Joseph, Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

ABSENT:

Approval of Minutes

- a. City Council – Regular Meeting – June 10, 2019

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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Approval of Agenda

Mr. Joseph: I would like to add the West Licking Joint Fire District Report by Councilman Spalding.

ALL VOTED IN FAVOR BY VOICE

Community Comments and Requests
Communications

AUDITOR'S REPORTS-FEBRUARY, 2019

See attached reports

AUDITOR'S REPORTS APRIL, 2019

See attached report

Reports

WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE REPORT - MAY

Councilman Spalding summarized the West Licking Joint Fire Report Statics for the month of May. See attached report.

Mr. Baker: I have been looking at the overall district response time and that is very impressive that, out of all the runs they have done, the overall time is under 5 minutes. That's impressive.

Mr. Spalding: Thank you Stacie, I appreciate it.

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Motions

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG AS A WELCOMING CITY THAT CELEBRATES THE GROWING DIVERSITY OF ITS RESIDENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND ALL NEWCOMERS ENHANCE THE CULTURE AND THE ECONOMY AND ACKNOWLEDGING WORLD REFUGEE DAY ON JUNE 20, 2019. --- Bryant. City Council.

Ms. Bryant: Thank you President Joseph. June 20th this past week was World Refugee Day and we had a member of Reynoldsburg community go t Washington D.C. and be able to participate in that on a large scale basis and I think most of us here, tat have been here awhile, have recognized in the last seven or eight years we've had a growth in our population of new American from a variety of places. And we have seen more restaurants, businesses, stores popping up, which is contributing to the growth of our City and we certainly need to acknowledge and appreciate that from our new community members. And so I would like to introduce this Resolution on behalf of our new Americans in Reynoldsburg. We do have a few Speakers that would like to come up, we will start with Bhuwan Pyakurel. If you will state your name and address and limit your comments to three minutes.

Mr. Pyakurel: Good evening everyone. My name is Bhuwan Pyakurel, I live at 8386 Ashlyn Place, Reynoldsburg, Ohio. First of all I would like to thank you, thank American for giving me a second chance to live my full life. At one point of time, 29 years ago, I was considered less than a human by a dictator and I spend 18 years of my life in a refugee camp in Nepal. Had it not been America and American people I would be still spending my hellish life in the refugee camp. Because of the welcoming nature of this country, I can lead my full life today and proudly call myself as a citizen of this land, thank you America. So today, I want to appreciate and thank Council member Bryant and all the City Council for bringing this Resolution and making Reynoldsburg a real welcoming city for me, my community and all the people of this nation. And I would also like to recognize Jeff from Council member Remy's office from City of Columbus, coming and recognizing and participating in this event, thank you Jeff. And at the same time I also like to thank Senator Tina, at one point of time she also is a former refugee and being here with us today and being part of this celebration. One refugee today is celebrated today not for being a refugee but and this is a celebration because refugee went through several different hurdles and now today that we can be considered and we are a citizen like all other, like a human being like all other. So thank you and I appreciate it, thank you so much, thank you.

Ms. Bryant: Thank you. Next we have, and I apologize because I am not going to say this correctly. Jhuma Acharya. Ok, I am so sorry, thank you.

<INAUDIBLE>

Mr. Acharya: Good evening <INAUDIBLE> Council members. I consider myself to be lucky to stand in front of you today to say that I am a proud American. Most part is being said by Bhuwan, that is bad thing of being second speaker because that is pretty much what I was willing to say. I came as a refugee to this country 9 years ago. I still call myself at a former refugee, I

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came from Bhutan and I call myself as a Buckeye today. It is all because of the people like you who welcome us, after a hard time of spending our years and years of life in a refugee camp. So I take this moment to thank you for being so generous to welcome people like me who are having difficulties in life, outside of the United States, giving them a second chance to here. Once again thank you very much and I feel so privilege so lucky to be here in this great nation. Thank you.

Ms. Bryant: Thank you. Yashoda.

Ms. Siwakoti: Hello, my name is Yashoda Siwakoti and I am from Nepal but I got to school at ESTEM.

Ms. Oli: Hello, my name is Laxmi Oli, I am a member of Student Council and I am currently a junior in High School. I am here today to talk about my life as fellow refugee. To start off many refugees around the world are obligated to make ruthless decision like what items to carry as they flee from their own homeland. There are countless reasons as to why people are forced this unimaginable circumstance such as fleeing from oppression, multiple forms of exploitation, war and etcetera. On the other hand, many have left their homeland for life changing opportunities and freedom. From my standpoint from being a refugee, I can relate to the difficulties numerous individuals have to face when adapting to a new place. I, along with my family moved to the United States 9 years ago. The first and foremost struggle we encountered was a language barriers and a difficult curriculums. Communicating in English was a difficult task to follow. I come from a background where English was taught as a secondary language. But as I started to go to school in American and make friends, I emerged myself in a climatized new language, culture and customs. Thanks all to all my teachers and classmates who assisted me to overcome the difficulties that came in living in the United States as a refugee. I also want to thank my parents for giving their country and leaving their life behind so I would have a successful future. It is all because of their generousness that I am able to stand here today and speak to you all. Moving to a new country was one of the toughest decision for my life, for my family and I, yet turned into the best decision of our lives due to new opportunities we received regarding education, jobs and etcetera. Lastly, I would like to address that I am proud to be refugee because that is a badge of strength, courage and victory. Thank you all coming here today and have a great evening.

Ms. Siwakoti: Again I am Yashoda Siwakoti, and I was born in a refugee camp in Nepal. I stand here before you today to celebrate the courage, strength and determination of refugees around the world who fled their troubled homeland in search for a better life for themselves and their children. As a refugee myself, I can personally attest to the difficulties many like myself have faced when settling in a new country. With language and culture barriers being some of the most prominent. When I arrived to the United States nine years ago, I did not know a word in English or any cultural norms. It was only with the help of my classmates and teachers, that I was able to adapt and overcome any challenges that came with living in America as a refugee. I am very great full to my parents who gave up their life so that me and my sister could be proud of our future. It is thanks to these kind hearted souls that I am able to stand here and address you all today. Before I end my speech, I would like to remind everyone that it does not take much effort

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to make an immigrant feel at home a new country. A simple hello is enough to make them feel included and invited in this world. I would like to thank everyone for coming and I hope you all have a wonderful evening, thank you.

Ms. Bryant: One of the reasons that this resolution is important to me is I have the privilege in the last three or four years to spend time getting to know many of you that are here tonight, members of the new American community here in Reynoldsburg and I don't think that any of us really understand what you have been through. Some of the background stories that I have heard from Senator Maharath in regard to her family, Bhuwan Pyakurel regarding your experience, it sounded like hell on earth getting through those refugee camps. And to you know, do what needs to be done to survive those refugee camps takes more than strength, and it brings you here to us to where you appreciate American values and that you are assimilating into our community, becoming our neighbors, our friends and I wanted to make sure as a community that you understood that, that means a lot to us here in Reynoldsburg, you add value to what we have here today and I want to thank you for that. With that I would like to read the resolution.

MS. BRYANT READS THE RESOLUTION FOR WORLD REFUGEE DAY

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

LEGISLATION FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

74-19

ORDINANCE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF SERVICES PERFORMED PRIOR TO THE AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Luzader. Public Service and Transportation Committee.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brett Luzader, Ward 2 Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

75-19

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 160.08(A)(2) ADMINISTRATION OF PAY PLAN OF CHAPTER 160 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Cotner. Finance and Administration Committee.

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RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barth R. Cotner, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

76-19

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. --- Cotner. Finance and Administration Committee.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barth R. Cotner, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

77-19

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 160.01; 160.02; 160.03 AND 160.08 --- Bryant. Finance and Administration Committee.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kristin Bryant, At-Large Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

LEGISLATION FOR THIRD READING

78-19

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CITY AUDITOR TO REMOVE EQUIPMENT FROM THE CITY'S FIXED ASSET LIST. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward 4 Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

79-19

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND TO AN ACCOUNT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. --- Clemens. Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee.

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RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward 4 Councilmember
AYES:	Clemens, Cotner, Luzader, Spalding, Baker, Bryant, Skinner

Executive Session To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official

Reconvene at 10:09 PM after completion of executive session.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 10:10 PM

Doug Joseph, President of Council

Clerk of Council