



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 8, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Aaron Delong of Simple Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Pyakurel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024

The regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2024 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny invited The Center for Healthy Families to discuss National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

They greeted the Council by stating that they are members of The Center for Healthy Families' Black Girls' and Young Women's Collective, here on behalf of The Center and the Franklin County Children's Services Malaika and Youth Advisory Board program. They are here today to invite everyone to join in recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month. They introduced themselves as Amari Harris, an 11th grade student at Eastland Fairfield Career Center, and Kennedy Wallace, an 11th grade student at

Bishop Hartley High School.

Celebrated across the country in April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance to raise awareness about the critical issue of child abuse and neglect in our community and beyond. Child abuse and neglect, also known as child maltreatment, are actions or failures to act by caregivers that cause harm or put children at risk. This can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, as well as neglect, and can occur in a child's home, school, or groups they interact with. They stated that last year Franklin County witnessed nearly 28,000 reports and calls to the Child Abuse Hotline, with over half relating to physical child abuse. When it comes to the topic of child abuse and neglect, it's also important to note that black girls and young women are disproportionately impacted, with many cases going unaddressed or overlooked. In 2021 alone, Franklin County Children Services received reports of more than 7,200 incidents of abuse and/or neglect concerning Black girls - further highlighting the urgent need for targeted support and intervention to protect vulnerable children in our community.

They believe that all Central Ohio community members have an active role to play in ensuring children lead positive, safe, and thriving lives, and that their families and caregivers have the information and support they need to create safe spaces for their children. They stated that we can join them in this mission by displaying a sign and blue pinwheels in the lawn of City Hall to boldly show our support of this important issue. The color blue is inspired by Michael, a 3 year old boy who tragically lost his life due to abuse, represents hope and remembrance for all children affected by these issues.

More than a color, this is a human issue that impacts innocent lives each day. This month is about international action and using our power, our voices, and our networks to advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves. They thanked Council for their time and look forward to working with them in the future on this issue.

Mayor Begeny read the Proclamation.

WHEREAS, Both statewide and nationally, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, with scientific studies documenting the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders; and

Whereas, Child abuse prevention and intervention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people; and

Whereas, The children of our community are our most precious resource, entitled to be nurtured and protected. These children will grow up to be the next leaders of this community, responsible for the protection of others; and



WHEREAS, Effective child abuse prevention and intervention programs succeed because of partnerships among a variety of entities including but not limited to, schools, faith communities, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Children's Advocacy Centers, prosecution agencies, medical professionals, mental health professionals, victim advocates and other community-based non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, The only way to combat this great evil is for everyone to take a stand and speak up for those who are unable; and

WHEREAS, We must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and how we can prevent it, because prevention remains the best defense for our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Begeny, Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio proclaim April 2024, as:

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

In Reynoldsburg, Ohio and invite all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation I efforts to prevent child abuse.

Mayor Begeny stated that along with the school district, there will be a community conversation on safety on April 23rd, from 6pm to 7:30 at Reynoldsburg Community Church.

Mayor Begeny stated that we also have a few events coming up. Saturday, April 13th, will be the Guns and Hoses charity volleyball game between Reynoldsburg Police Department and Truro Township Fire Department at Reynoldsburg Community Church starting at 6pm, doors opening at 5pm. There will also be Earth Day celebrations on April 20th at Pine Quarry and Rodebaugh Park where we will be planting trees. There will also be Arbor Day festivities on April 26th at Rodebaugh Park and Community Clean Up Day on April 26, 2024.

REPORTS

Auditor's Reports

The Auditor's Office submitted the budget by department and classification for the months of November and December, 2023 and January, 2024.



Auditor's Reports, November, 2023

Auditor's Reports, December, 2023

Auditor's Reports, January, 2024

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for April 8, 2024.

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

An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Joint Economic Development District Contract by and between Harrison Township and the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Meyer explained that they are requesting to schedule a public hearing that is more than 30 days from now, on May 13. In accordance with the ORC, this Ordinance will be available for public review by the Clerk of Council until then. He stated that we already have five existing JEDDs with Etna Township, but this new JEDD would be with Harrison Township, which is not contiguous to Reynoldsburg. That means that it is unlikely there is a chance to annex or grow into there. What a JEDD does is to allow income tax to be levied in an area that is not within a city. He explained that we are the top choice because we have a 2.5% income tax compared to other communities around us that have lower rates. He stated that the last JEDDs we negotiated, for example JEDD 7, the City received 3% of the gross received for administrative fees and then 15% of the net, but with this proposal we will be getting 5% of the gross and 15% of the net proceeds, which would be more than enough to cover our costs. This is in Southwest Licking School District and the school district is on board with this, and they would receive 30% of the gross. The site is about 190 acres with three parcels, with two parcels that are planning to be industrial with the rest unknown at that time.

Councilmember Baker thanked them for negotiating 5% instead of the standard 3%.

Councilmember Salvati asked about this agreement involving the CRA and if it would make the agreement more complicated. Director Meyer stated that we will



not deal with the CRA portion of it since that would go to the County. Attorney Shook stated that of the JEDDs we currently have, only JEDD 7 does not have a 100% CRA exemption and, because there is not a 100% CRA exemption, there is no percentage given to the school out of the gross revenue.

Councilmember Strickland asked about having a representative and the additional meetings. Director Meyer said it would be similar with a JEDD board with a representative from Reynoldsburg, Harrison Township, and the school district.

This item has been included in committee for an introduction, it will be brought back to committee for further discussion at the May 13th meeting.

An Ordinance Assuming Maintenance Responsibility for the Full Width of Summit Road Between the Southern Most Boundary of Parcel Number 011-026598-00.003 and the Northern Most Boundary of Parcel Number 0011-26598-00.22 upon Annexation of Said Parcels into the City of Reynoldsburg, Agreeing to Cooperate in the Maintenance of Said Roadway, and Indemnifying the Township of Etna and Licking County, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Meyer explained that the greenspace near Summit High School was previously annexed into the City, but the road was not included in that annexation. They are now trying to take responsibility for the entirety of that road. This Ordinance and area are also connected to a sewer grant we received that has a specific deadline, so that is why they are requesting a single read emergency for this legislation.

Councilmember Salvati moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

There is no Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting.

There is no Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting.

There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

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

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OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker hoped that everyone enjoyed the eclipse today and noted that his kids were very excited to witness it. He thanked Reynoldsburg Police Department, doctors, nurses, teachers, and those who work in retail. He also congratulated the men's volleyball team on their win.

Councilmember Strickland thanked Franklin County Water and Soil Conservation District along with Reynoldsburg Parks and Rec and everyone else that came out to Civic Park on Saturday for a community clean up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

As there was no further business, President Lawson-Rowe adjourned the meeting.

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of
Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council