



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Meredith Lawson-Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024

The regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2024 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Quincy Howard
660 Culpepper Drive**

Mr. Howard stated that he is attending Council in support of doing a traffic study for a roundabout at the 5-way intersection. He explained that he spoke with Clerk Prasher before the meeting and learned a lot about what has already been done to better understand traffic at this intersection. He hopes Council will reconsider the decision not to construct a roundabout at that intersection and seriously consider the amount of traffic there.

Mayor Begeny



Mayor Begeny stated that this Saturday there will be a Community Clean Up Day at City Hall in the JFK parking lot and will begin at 9am. He stated that they will have pill disposal, proper flag disposal, bike donations, shredding, as well as bulk and electronics drop off, there will not be hazmat this year as that is done every other year.

Mayor Begeny read a Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month.

**Proclamation
Office of the Mayor**

WHEREAS, Motorcycle riding is a popular form of transportation and recreation for over two hundred thousand people across the state and millions across the nation; and

Whereas, In an effort to make motorcycling in Ohio a safer and more enjoyable sport, motorcycling organizations from around the state are now planning a collective venture to promote Motorcycle Awareness; and

Whereas, Ohio is a national leader in motorcycle registrations and production; and

Whereas, It is especially important that the citizens of our state be aware of motorcycles on the streets and highways, and recognize the importance of motorcycle safety; and

Whereas, All motorcycle organizations, clubs, dealerships, groups, and highway safety officials in our state should join with the Motorcycle Ohio Program and ABATE of Ohio, Inc., in actively promoting safe operation, increased rider training, improved licensing efforts, and motorist awareness; and

WHEREAS, During this month, all roadway and highway users should unite in the safe sharing of roads throughout the State of Ohio;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Begeny, Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as
Motorcycle Awareness Month

as I urge all people of Reynoldsburg to join in recognition of this significant occasion and the achievements above mentioned.

ABATE of Ohio thanked the Mayor and Council for inviting them to attend this evening and receiving this Proclamation. He stated that ABATE of Ohio is a motorcycle rights and awareness group and they have people working on legislation at both the state and federal level. He explained that they will be presenting these proclamations on the

steps of the Statehouse at 1pm on May 4th.

Parks & Recreation Presentation

Director Bauman introduced Amanda Gehres, the recreation superintendent, and Brian McGuire, the grounds superintendent. She stated that they are here today to discuss a goal that they are working towards that they will eventually need Council support for. She further explained that they are working towards CAPRA.

The Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is the only national accreditation of parks and recreation departments and is a valuable measure of a department's overall quality of operation, management, and service to the community. Achieving CAPRA accreditation is the best way to demonstrate that our department and our staff provide our community with the highest level of service. The mission of the CAPRA accreditation program supports the achievement of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) mission and is to: provide standards, procedures, and best practices for the evaluation of public park and recreation agencies through a program of self-evaluation and external peer review for the purpose of national accreditation; confer judgment regarding whether agencies have met the national accreditation standards while promoting social equity, health and wellness, and conservation; enhance the performance of park and recreation agencies through data-driven research and seek to continually improve the quality of their programs, services, and facilities; promote agencies that demonstrate overall best practices, excellence and transparency in programming, operations, and management; model diverse, equitable, and inclusive policies and procedures which improve the health and well-being of communities for all people through parks, recreation, and conservation.

So how does CAPRA benefit Reynoldsburg? For our community, it demonstrates that the department meets national standards of best practice. It recognizes the community as a great place to live and helps secure external financial support and reduce costs for the community. It holds the parks and recreation department accountable to the public and ensures responsiveness to meet their needs and ensures that all staff are providing quality customer service. For our department and staff, it proves to decision makers, stakeholders, and the public that our department is operating with the best practices of the profession. It increases credibility and can improve internal and external funding and improves overall operations and increases efficiency. It enhances staff teamwork and pride by engaging all staff in the process and creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.

There are currently 206 accredited park and recreation agencies in the US. 10 of these agencies are in Ohio. CAPRA assists agencies in determining "what we don't know". Once the application is completed, we have 2 years to complete the



requirements. There will be in person or virtual visits and must attend in person or virtual hearings. They must complete and pass 154 standards within 10 different categories and be reaccredited every 5 years. They also note why it is important to have a master plan. They must assess current and future recreation needs of the community. Establish a long range vision and help prioritize and budget for capital improvement plans. The planning process builds community support and encourages new opportunities for future development.

We are currently working in groups of 3-4 to complete the 154 standards. Each group has been assigned 2 categories and 13 of the 15 full-time team members have agreed to assist with this project. In 2025, we plan to complete a Parks Master Plan and will request funding for this in the 2025 budget. We will submit the application for accreditation in 2026 or 2027 and complete it in 2028 or 2029.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Honoring the Reynoldsburg High School Mock Trial Team

Councilmember Salvati read the Resolution.

Councilmember Baker stated that he was able to attend one of their trials and was very impressed with how the team handled themselves and congratulated them on their success.

President Lawson-Rowe congratulated the team as well.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to approve this Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

A Proclamation of Recognition for the Reynoldsburg Raiders Mens' Basketball Team

Councilmember Baker read the Resolution.

Councilmember Strickland made a motion to approve this Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

A Proclamation Recognizing Administrative Professional Week & Day by Recognizing City of Reynoldsburg Employees



Councilmember Strickland read the Resolution.

Councilmember Strickland thanked the staff and administrative professionals that are committed to our community and citizens.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

MOTIONS

A Motion to Approve the Appointment of Mark Hodge to the Reynoldsburg Tax Board

Council is responsible for approving the recommended appointment by the Council President of Mark Hodge to the Tax Board.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to approve this motion. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for March 2024

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in March 2024 in the amount of

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for April 22, 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 stated that he went over the agreement at the previous meeting where they also reviewed a timeline but it has now been requested that the timeline be changed. He clarified that there are no actual changes in the content of the agreement.

Attorney Shook explained that really all they would need to do is move this agreement up one meeting and have the first reading today with the second reading and public hearing at the second meeting in May. They would like to have this passed by the second meeting in May if Council chooses to do so.

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he read that 10% of the funds will go into a board improvement account and wanted clarification on what this entails. Attorney Shook stated that those funds are typically set aside for infrastructure improvement that are associated with the development like roads and other utility infrastructure. This money goes to the JEDD Board and is only spent if it needs to be.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 102-18, as Amended by Ordinance No. 174-2021 and Ordinance NO. 124-2023, to Authorize the Use of Service Payments for Public Improvements in Support of Urban Redevelopment

Director Meyer stated that this is for the Brice and Main TIFF that was previously passed by City Council. If this Ordinance passes, we would be able to spend this TIFF money throughout the City rather than just in its designated area. This would just allow us to open up our options for where we choose to utilize this money. This would apply to the entire life of this TIFF.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 137-98, as Amended by Ordinance No. 123-2023, to Authorize the Use of Service Payments for Public Improvements in Support of Urban Redevelopment

Director Meyer stated that this is the same concept as the previous Ordinance but for a different TIFF, this is for the Taylor Square TIFF.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter Eleven - Planning and Zoning Code for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Director Meyer stated that for changes to be made to the zoning code, they must first be presented to City Council. It will then go to the planning and zoning board after Council decides if they want to move forward with it. They are requesting that Council approve this Ordinance for a first read so that the planning and zoning board can then work on the draft and present their changes at a later time.

Councilmember Strickland asked what changes are being presented tonight. Director Meyer stated that they are now having projects being presented to them that have never been presented in Reynoldsburg before there are some issues they have not addressed before in the zoning code.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to the Parks & Recreation Department, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Bauman stated that they have received 2 grants, one from the Ohio EPA water bottle refilling station, and one from the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Changing Spaces Project which allows for funding for adult-sized changing stations in restrooms. They are just requesting for these funds to be moved from the general fund to allow for them to begin these projects.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign and Execute a First Amendment for an Assignment and Assumption to the Community Reinvestment Area Agreement Dated December 21, 2022

Director Meyer stated that in 2022 they provided a tax abatement to Central Ohio Primary Care and they are expanding up to about 173 jobs. In the agreement, if ownership of the building were to change it had to be approved by City Council so they are now requesting approval for the ownership change. it would still be operated by Central Ohio Primary Care, but they would no longer be the owners of the building. There is no change in the agreement and all standards must still be met.

Councilmember Strickland asked if there are some regulations about buying and selling that property and how long they must reside there. Director Meyer stated that in order to keep the tax abatement they have to continually meet the employment goals so they do pretty much have to keep it occupied so there would be massive financial penalties if they were to no longer meet the payroll regulations.



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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for April 22, 2024.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 351, Sections 351.01 Police Removal of Vehicles and 351.02 Prohibited Standing or Parking Places of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

Attorney Shook stated that several officers within the motor unit have been tasked with enforcing parking regulations in the City, and it seems that there may be a few deficiencies when it comes to our parking Ordinances. Attorney Shook stated that he agrees with their observations and recommendations. The first recommendation is to allow vehicles illegally parked on the right-of-way to be towed rather than give the owners a ticket, but the vehicle not be moved. The other suggestion involved parking in front of mailboxes. Currently, our code states that you cannot park within 3 feet of a driveway, but this does not include mailboxes. Mail carriers will not deliver mail when the mailbox is blocked, so they would like to change the code to make it unlawful to park in a way that obstructs access to a residents' mailbox.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he is in support of this legislation but also asked for enforcement clarification. Attorney Shook stated that this is most likely going to be enforced by reports from residents, not the motor unit searching for cars parked in front of mailboxes to give tickets. Councilmember Baker and Councilmember Pyakurel voiced their support as well.

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

A Resolution Suspending Enforcement of Chapter 723 Tobacco Retail License of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

Attorney Shook stated that on Friday it was a good day for home rule in Franklin County. The City of Columbus did file a lawsuit against the State of Ohio and the City of Reynoldsburg joined Columbus in this lawsuit along with several other communities. The Franklin County Court of Common Pleas issued a temporary restraining order against the State of Ohio in regard to this issue. The more challenging issue for us is that we are located in Franklin, Licking, and Fairfield



County, and this restraining order only applies to the State of Ohio, it does not apply to a tobacco retailer who may try to initiate a lawsuit outside of Franklin County. If a lawsuit were to come to Reynoldsburg, the City is responsible for paying the attorney's fees for the successful litigant, which could be quite expensive. He recommended that out of an abundance of caution, they continue to put a suspension on enforcing this legislation.

Councilmember Baker asked what this means for this legislation. Attorney Shook stated that they are not repealing the legislation, just suspending its enforcement.

Councilmember Strickland asked if he has any idea when this may go to the Ohio supreme court. Attorney Shook stated that it is very hard to predict since each court can work at a different speed but this one does seem to be moving slightly faster than the normal case.

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

A Resolution Suspending Enforcement of Section 302.4 Weeds of Chapter 1711 Property Maintenance Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg, Through the Month of May 2024, Under Certain Conditions

Mayor Begeny explained that approximately one year ago they started hearing from code enforcers and community members about excessive grass height in certain areas of Reynoldsburg. When it was brought up to the property owners, they explained the idea of "no mow May". They explained that not cutting the grass during May encourages pollination.

Brandon McKay explained that a pollinator garden is a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native and noninvasive plants. All plantings must be in accordance with noninvasive species as defined by the Ohio Wildlife Management Agency. It has been stated that no pollinator gardens are permitted within the traffic line of sight or a City of Reynoldsburg right of way in excess of six inches. The perimeter of these gardens must be maintained and cannot be within 3 feet of other properties. Property owners must send a notice to the City of Reynoldsburg with their intentions of creating a pollinator garden and the City will certify it.

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

There is no Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting.



There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

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CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

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OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Hill stated that she was very excited to hear about the adult changing table grant because they are so important for accessibility.

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that Auditor Cicak gave him a packet stating that 13 languages are spoken in our City services and he is very happy to see those services provided.

Councilmember Baker gave his congratulations again to the Mock Trial Team and Basketball Team. He thanked RPD, doctors, nurses, and teachers. He congratulated the Reynoldsburg Prom King and Queen. He also gave a shout out to the Reynoldsburg Community Baby Shower event for parents of children 0-5 years old on May 4th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 2, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board

May 13, 2024 Council

May 16, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board

May 27, 2024 Memorial Day City Offices Closed



May 28, 2024 Council (Please note Tuesday meeting.)

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, President Lawson-Rowe adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of
Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council