



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
May 28, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESNET: Councilmember Hill, Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember,
Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember
Pyakurel, Council President Pro Temp Strickland

ABSENT: President Lawson-Rowe, Councilmember Salvati

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The May 28, 2024 agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - There are no minutes for approval.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Clerk Prasher read the following comment into the record.

Patty McClain Evans

I am writing to Council to ask about the lack of community recycling in the City. Being seniors here at Reynoldsburg Mobile and living on a limited income, we can't afford the blue recycling bins, and they won't come into our park for just a few on the streets. I have to drive to East Refugee Road or Pickerington in Violet Twp. Isn't Reynoldsburg big enough to have its own recycling center?

Thank you for your help!

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny shared that the next City event is the Artists and Makers Mart on June



1st from 10am to 4pm at the Livingston House, which is an open-air market of locally created fine art and premium hand-crafted goods, live music, and food.

Then, the next event is the former Thursday Farmer's Market, which is now called Market OFF Main on June 4th. This market offers a mix of local produce, baked goods, specialty foods, handmade items, and health and beauty products. There will also be live music and food vendors.

The Mayor also thanked members of Council, who attended the Memorial Day event on Monday. It was a beautiful day to recognize those individuals who served our country and lost their lives.

PUBLIC HEARING

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2025, and Declaring an Emergency

President Pro Temp Strickland explained that this Ordinance was a Public Hearing to hear comments on An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2025, and Declaring an Emergency.

As no one appeared to speak, President Pro Temp Strickland closed the Public Hearing.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation to Recognize May as ALS Awareness Month

Councilmember Hill read the proclamation into the record.

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

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for April 2024

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in April 2024 in the amount of \$35,049.00.

Liquor Permits

Liquor Permit La Cucina Di Stefania LLC

Deputy Chief Grizzell reported that Scali's was changing their name to La Cucina de Stefania, so they were requesting to transfer the permit to the new business.

Stephanie and Raymond Musselman would each hold 50% ownership. The statutory agenda would be Jeffrey Musselman. The permits were for a class D1, D2, and D3 category, which allowed for sales of beer, wine, and mixed beverages for on-premises consumption or carry out in sealed containers, and consumption of spirituous liquor on premises until 1am. RPD did not recommend requesting a hearing on this transfer.

Liquor Permit for 786 Livingston LLC

Deputy Chief Grizzell reported that this application was for a liquor permit transfer for Sunoco at 6101 East Livingston Avenue. The transfer was from Captain Abe Inc. (DBA Sunoco). Yousaf Chadhary has applied as 100% owner for C1 and C2 class permits. These permits allowed for carry out of only beer and sales of wine and pre-packaged, low-proof, mixed beverages until 1am. The Ohio Department of Liquor Control did advise that there was a current tax violation that would stop the new permit from being transferred and issued. However, there are no grounds for a municipal objection. RPD did not recommend requesting a hearing.

West Licking Fire District Report

Councilmember Baker stated that West Licking Fire District changed the format to submit their statistical data. This new information was included in Council's packet.

He also advised that he attended the grand opening of the new station on Taylor Road. The facility was very modern and would be a great asset to the community.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee



An Ordinance to Approve the Final Plat for the M/I Home Development at Spring Hill Farm Phases 6A & 6B

Director Meyer explained that this result from M/I Homes for Phases 6A and 6B of their Spring Hill Farm housing development was the same as previously requested plat approvals. M/I advised that they were happy with the progress of the development and thanked Council for their previous support.

Councilmember Cotner moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a First Reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to the Police Department for Donated Monies

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that the Department received a generous donation of \$250 from Park National Bank. The funds need to be transferred from the General Fund and to the police department supply fund.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Auditor to Appropriate Funds to Various Accounts for the Police Department, and Declaring an Emergency

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this Ordinance was a renewal request for the ARPA funds approved in 2023 for a Reynoldsburg Police Employee Retention program. The Department filed for a grant and received funds in 2023 and 2024 for this program.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services for the Parks and Recreation / Public Service Department's New Facility Infrastructure, Appropriate Funds Therefor, and

Declaring an Emergency

Chair Strickland explained that this item has been returned to Committee to amend the funding source for this contract from the CIP Fund to the General Fund.

Mayor Begeny explained that the Auditor advised that funding for this project would need to come from the General Fund instead of the Capital Improvement Fund.

Chair Strickland moved to amend the Ordinance to change the funding source from the Capital Improvement Fund (410) to the General Fund (110). Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried. The Ordinance was amended.

Chair Strickland moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a Second Reading and emergency approval as amended. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

An Ordinance Authorizing a Change in Appropriations for Various City JEDD Agreements, and Declaring an Emergency

Auditor Cicak explained that the City established revenue amounts for each of the City's five JEDDS. Occasionally, those funds needed to be adjusted depending on actual revenues received. This Ordinance would reduce revenue estimates for two of the JEDDS and increase revenue estimates for two other JEDDS.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a First Reading. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Debt Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's Office for the Collection of Delinquent Debt

Attorney Shook explained that this agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's office was brought to the City by our Tax Manager Lori Gischel. It is an agreement with the Attorney General that would allow the City to use their services for the purposes of various forms of debt collection that include unpaid taxes, unpaid fees, permit fees, and things of that nature. In addition, property damage caused to the City sustained from accidents by vehicles could also be collected. The only cost, which is not attributed to the City, would be born by the debtors themselves. The AG's office could charge up to 10% for collection fees based on this agreement with the debtor. We have done a lot of research in terms of looking at the positives and negatives associated with this agreement.

Tax Manager Gischel reported that she researched two other cities currently using the program. They have been using the AG's service for a couple of years. The village of Asheville in 2022 received just over \$87,000 from this program. Attorney Shook mentioned we could utilize this program for other categories of eligible debt.

With the tax piece of the program, there are really two different groups that were looking at - one group is accounts that we have already received a judgment for through either Franklin, Licking, or Fairfield Counties. Most of those accounts are already with a third party collection agency. At this time, we know we have 397 accounts with that collection agency. We don't know the total dollar amount, because some of those are in a payment plan situation. However, if we use that number of accounts with the average liability of \$1,730 determined from a small group of accounts, we should be able to successfully claim the liability due to us for, at least, 75 accounts, amounting to roughly \$130,000. The second group that we're looking at has not been taken through Small Claims or Civil Court. Using preliminary numbers, there are 265 accounts with a combined liability of just under \$105,000. We would like to use a small sampling from both groups as test cases to start.

President Pro Temp Strickland asked how long the program had been in existence and where these funds would be deposited when received. Tax Manager Gischel responded that the program has been operational for 12 1/2 years. This year alone, local government collections were up 5 million dollars. Any funds received would be deposited into the General Fund, then distributed accordingly to the Charter.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked for a total overall revenue that could be collected through this program. Tax Manager Gischel stated she did not have a total overall dollar amount. The City is just looking at these particular situations. For those that have a small tax balance with penalty and interest, the estimate is approximately \$105,000. The City has other accounts that are currently not included as RITA is currently working on some accounts. We would like to allow RITA the opportunity to continue to exhaust that program first. This program would be an additional tool. RITA collection program includes filing civil suits followed by a third party collector post judgment. The City does not have the total liability amount on those yet. It is going to take more of a manual effort for that third party to sort those back out and tell the City which accounts are carrying liens or garnishments.

Councilmember Hill asked how this program would be different from the current debt collection process. Attorney Shook explained that currently the City uses RITA, at least in terms of unpaid taxes. Rita does use a law firm that will file legal actions against the taxpayers who have not filed or have not paid their tax obligations. However, RITA is sort of hamstrung in a way that the AG's office is

not. RITA and its third party law firm collects debt through typical routes, which are wage garnishments and bank attachments. The AG's office has the ability to attach other forms of income such as federal tax refunds.

Councilmember Baker asked if the issue mentioned the 10% fee could be reexplained. Tax Manager Gischel stated that the Ohio Attorney General would get 10% of the collected amount. If the tax liability was \$100, then the bill the taxpayer would receive is \$110. The City would recover the full liability of \$100 and the fee is borne by the taxpayer.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	6 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Baker
SECONDER:	Councilmember Johnson
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Pyakurel, Hill

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Debt Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's Office for the Collection of Delinquent Debt

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	6 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Baker
SECONDER:	Councilmember Johnson
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Pyakurel, Hill



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

An Ordinance Granting American Electric Power (AEP) an Utility Easement (0.00207) acres), and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classifications and Pay Grades (a) Administration and (g) Service Department for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing an Appropriation from the General Fund for the New GIS Position, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with CivicPlus for CivicPlus Pay Software, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services for the Parks and Recreation / Public Service Department's New Facility Infrastructure, Appropriate Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

These Ordinances stand for a First Reading.

An Ordinance to Approve the Final Plat for the M/I Home Development at Spring Hill Farm Phases 6A & 6B

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to the Police Department for Donated Monies



An Ordinance Authorizing the Auditor to Appropriate Funds to Various Accounts for the Police Department, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing a Change in Appropriations for Various City JEDD Agreements, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

These Ordinances stand for a Second Reading.

An Ordinance to Amend Section 333.02 Reckless Operation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1335 Flood Damage Prevention of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the 2023 Juneteenth Event

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the 2023 Pride Event

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2025, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING AND APPROVAL

RESULT:	6 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Baker

SECONDER: Councilmember Johnson

AYES: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Pyakurel, Hill

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

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

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker wanted to express his appreciation for the men and women who have serviced in the United States Armed Services that lost their lives for our country.

Memorial Day is a time to remember those lost and be grateful for their service. He also congratulated the graduating seniors and hoped the teachers enjoyed their summer. He also thanked RPD, doctors, nurses, and retail workers for all of their hard work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 6, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board

June 10, 2024 City Council

June 14, 2024 Flag Day

June 19, 2024 Juneteenth

June 20, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board

June 24, 2025 City Council

ADJOURNMENT



As there was no further business, Council President Pro Temp Strickland adjourned the meeting.

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of
Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council