



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
May 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Councilmember Shanette Strickland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Lawson-Rowe made a motion to add a Proclamation to the Agenda as Item 7b. Second by Councilmember Strickland. Motion carried.

The agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular meeting minutes from the April 22, 2024 Council meeting

The regular meeting minutes of April 22, 2024 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Dennis Riley
603 Culpepper Drive**

Mr. Riley stated that he was there to discuss stopping traffic on Waggoner Road for construction from Bannockburn Blvd to Amelia Drive. He explained that he was the Vice President of the association covering Waggoner Hills. He wanted to know whose decision it was to stop traffic beginning at those points. He stated that the first phase was supposed to be from East Main to Priestly. He explained that he lives off of Amelia

drive and that was not supposed to be affected until Phase 2. He stated that it takes him 45 minutes just to go to the store, and he knows people in the association who have cancer and need treatment a couple of times a day and his daughter, who only lives two blocks away, takes her an hour to get there. He further explained that he had recently been driving down Bannockburn and there were 26 cars lined up to turn left. He also wanted to know if the red light at Lancaster and Main has been adjusted to compensate for the increased amount of traffic in the area or if anyone has contacted ODOT concerning this issue.

Ginny Heimrich
7707 Blackburn Court

Ms. Heimrich stated that she also attended meetings for the Waggoner Road construction where they stated that the construction would go from Main to Priestly, but did not recall them stating that the road would be closed all the way to Amelia and now closed all the way to Rodebaugh. She explained that on the first day of construction there were many cars pulling into their neighborhood only to realize it was a dead end. She stated that it was not made clear to the residents why they must stop traffic so far from where the actual construction begins. She explained that the previous night she was driving north bound on Waggoner when another car was driving south bound in her lane, driving straight at her. She also explained that the same thing happened a few nights before, but the car had no lights on. She stated that they are not sure how they will deal with this for the next 480 days plus, however long phase two takes to complete.

David Lee
691 Culpepper Drive

Mr. Lee stated much of what he has to say has already been said tonight. He stated that it has been ludicrous the way that it started out and the way that it has changed. He stated that the construction was only supposed to go to Priestly, but it has now been shut off all the way to the Amelia entry point. Mr. Lee stated that there may need to be some "culling of the herd" if they cannot read that this is one way. He reiterated that it takes at least an hour just to go to the store, and it had become difficult to even pull out of Amelia. He explained that this needs to be addressed as it is predicted that there will be around 480 days of this traffic and it goes through winter.

Email Comment
Tracy Sharpless

Good evening. My name is Tracy Sharpless. She was reaching out for my brother, Jason Sharpless, who lives at 7821 Farmsbury Dr. Jason is blind, and we were inquiring about the possibility of having the "beeper" or "audio accessibility" sound

added to the crosswalks at the intersections of Baltimore-Reynoldsburg & Farmsbury, and the intersection of Taylor Rd. & Taylor Square Dr. I was advised these "audio signals" could be installed for \$400 each. ODOT stated they would assist with the implementation / timing if Reynoldsburg agrees to purchase the equipment, since both intersections are in Reynoldsburg.

As it stands, her brother Jason was unable to cross these busy roads (Baltimore-Reynoldsburg) or Taylor Square Dr. (@ the BW3), without the sound alerting him it was safe. This area had an abundance of senior living/condos, and these signals would assist not only her brother, but many seniors in the area with vision problems as well. Please assist me in making this area of Reynoldsburg as inclusive as possible. Thank you all in advance.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that in December 2021, they began planning for Waggoner Road Phase with EMH&T. He stated that it was originally planed to be cut off at the intersection of Priestly, but once they began the project they realized it would be much safer to cut off traffic at Rodebaugh. He explained that they are continuing to observe and evaluate the situation to try and keep it as safe and efficient as possible. They did extend the light on Lancaster and Main to twenty-four seconds to hopefully alleviate some of the travel time. He stated that he understands that this is an inconvenience, but they are trying to do the best they can.

Mayor Begeny stated that the event season is here, and the next event is Plant Reynoldsburg on Saturday from 9am to noon.

Mayor Begeny stated that they are also working with ODOT to plan on getting audio crosswalks installed at the locations mentioned in the email statement.

Councilmember Strickland thanked the Mayor for that information and asked if there is a way to increase police presence on Waggoner Road and if there are signs installed to tell drivers they cannot turn around in those neighborhoods. Mayor Begeny stated that there are very large signs that say ROAD CLOSED all the way up until traffic begins, but it seems as though people are not paying attention. RPD has been out in all areas of Waggoner and they have given out tickets and noted a number of issues in the area, so they are working through those traffic issues. Councilmember Strickland asked if they are keeping the website up to date on Phase 1 and Phase 2 as the project progresses. Mayor Begeny stated that Phase 2 is only about 60% designed, so they have not even gotten the complete designs for that yet. He stated that from the work aspect, they are looking at school calendars, event calendars, anything that may become a challenge in the area to better prepare for what's ahead. Councilmember Strickland thanked Mayor Begeny for that information.



Presentation by the Columbus Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Tamara Staley stated that she is the President of the Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She stated that it is a privilege and honor to come before Council with their 384 member chapter who lead, serve, and empower communities every day. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 13, 1913, at Howard University by 22 visionary women. They are the largest African American Greek letter organization for women. On May 20, 1934, the local vision of Delta Sigma Theta was established in Columbus by 23 trailblazing women. They have remained steadfast in their commitment to their growing communities and are known for their commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. They are proud of the leadership provided by their members in Reynoldsburg, including the Honorable Meredith Lawson-Rowe and Shanette Strickland and the Honorable Angela Abrams. They are also proud sponsors of the Reynoldsburg Juneteenth Celebration and proud partners with Heart Food Pantry to promote food equity.

Councilmember Baker thanked them for their leadership and volunteerism.

Councilmember Strickland thanked President Staley and her sorors for attending this evening. She stated that she was so proud to be a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

President Lawson-Rowe thanked them for their support and involvement in the community.

A Proclamation Recognizing Clerk Mollie Prasher for Municipal Clerk Week

President Lawson-Rowe read the Proclamation.

Proclamation

55th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 5 - 11, 2024

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time-honored and vital part of local government, exists throughout the world, and is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk



through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.

Whereas, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Reynoldsburg Clerk of Council, Mollie Prasher.

Whereas, Ms. Prasher brings a wealth and knowledge, having served as Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant from May 2007 until coming to Reynoldsburg in July 2019, and

Whereas, Ms. Prasher became a Certified Municipal Clerk by the Internal Institute of Municipal Clerks on September 7, 2017, followed by her Master's Municipal Clerk in January 2022; and

Whereas, Ms. Prasher has serviced as President of the Ohio Municipal Clerk Association from January 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023, as is currently the Immediate Past-President; and

Now, Therefore, We the Members of Reynoldsburg City Council, do recognize the week of May 5 through 11, 2024, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, **Clerk of Council Mollie Prasher** and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 13th day of May 2024

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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

President Lawson-Rowe stated that as there were no comments, the hearing was closed.

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



President Lawson-Rowe stated that as there were no comments, the hearing was closed.

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

President Lawson-Rowe stated that as there were no comments, the hearing was closed.

APPEAL HEARING

Appeal Hearing of Planning & Zoning March 21, 2024 Decision for Application #2024-0116 - 7372 East Main Street

A transcript of the Appeal Hearing will be attached to the final printing of the minutes.

REPORTS

West Licking Fire District March Stats

Councilmember Baker stated that the numbers and minutes for Station 404 were available online to review, and were beginning to rise as the population continues to grow in the area. New Station 404 was hosting an open house on May 19th from 1 to 4pm.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for May 13, 2024.

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

A Resolution Stating What Services the City of Reynoldsburg will Provide to the Proposed Annexation of Property along Summit Road

Mayor Begeny stated that this Resolution was before Council on behalf of Glenn Duggar from Smith and Hale. This annexation was approximately 67 acres. The legislation discussed what the City services were provided if they annexed into the



City of Reynoldsburg. This piece of legislation was the first step in the process.

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 May 13, 2024.

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

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

Attorney Shook stated that this is a proposed amendment to the reckless operation Ordinance section 333.02. This proposed amendment would do two things: it would increase the degree of offense for reckless operation from a minor misdemeanor to a fourth degree misdemeanor. The significance of that change is that a fourth degree misdemeanor does carry with it the possibility of 30 days in jail and \$250 in fines, whereas its current designation as a minor misdemeanor makes it equivalent to a speeding ticket or minor traffic infraction. The second change included passing another vehicle in a designated turn lane as reckless driving. They are requesting this change because they are seeing an increase of people using turning lanes as a passing lane and this could lead to a very serious head-on collision.

Councilmember Cotner asked if jail time for passing is unique to Reynoldsburg. Attorney Shook stated that this is not at all unique to Reynoldsburg. He stated that many municipalities in Ohio have increased reckless driving to a fourth degree misdemeanor. He clarified that they are not pushing for a jail sentence, but it is technically included. Councilmember Cotner stated that he is glad to see us get much harsher at enforcing such things and would like to see us enforce the things we already have. Attorney Shook stated that one thing in increasing the offense gave the City more flexibility charging a fourth degree misdemeanor. They have to come to court and can be given community service or if it was a serious accident, they can be given restitution. Councilmember Cotner stated that this is good information to have.

Councilmember Baker thanked Attorney Shook for bringing this forward because he has seen this happen and hopes to see this taken care of.

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



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Four (4) Ford Explorer Police Cruisers for the Reynoldsburg Police Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Chief Baker stated that they would like to allocate budgeted money to the purchase of four Ford Explorers now that Ford has come back on the market for purchase. This will replace older cruisers in use.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Chief Baker stated that this is for the removal of computer equipment that will be replaced through the IT schedule.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney and Mayor to Enter into the 2024 Grant Agreement With the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County for Continued Operation of the Reynoldsburg Recovery Court

Attorney Shook stated that this Resolution was because of our annual grant agreement with Franklin County ADAMH for our Reynoldsburg Recovery Court. This was a reimbursable grant and this program has been incredibly successful.

Councilmember Baker stated that they are doing great work with this program.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked if they have any plan to increase participation and funding in this program. Attorney Shook stated that they are not planning on that at this time as this program is still fairly new and the number of participants is led by court cases, so they are not hoping to take on more people.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for May 13, 2024.

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



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

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance was to grant AEP a small easement tied to the Waggoner Road project in order to move a few poles to make room for the sidewalk.

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

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

Attorney Shook stated that the City had been a part of this program since 1978.

Our participation in this program allowed residents, who live in the flood plane, to obtain insurance. ODNR notified the City that the flood plain in Licking County had been modified, which would require us to update Chapter 1335.

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

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

Director Dorman stated that with this new building there would be an increase of traffic in the area. They hope to add an additional parking lot. EMH&T would be assisting in sidewalk and street design along with storm water design.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into An Agreement with Samsara, Inc. for GPS Software for the Service Department

Director Dorman stated that they would use this GPS system to show the locations of plows during the winter. It helps residents to better plan without having to call the City.

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

Finance & Administration Committee



This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for May 13, 2024.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Salvati, Councilmember Pyakurel, Councilmember Strickland, Chair Baker and President Lawson-Rowe.

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

Director Boller stated that they recently became aware that EMH&T is no longer going to offer GIS services, so they have decided to bring this service in house. She stated that this service is used by engineering, the service department, and parks and recreation. They paid EMH&T about \$112k a year for this service and are going to offer this new employee between \$69-85k. The second part of this legislation is updating the Clerk of Council job description to include new duties like secretarial duties with the JEDD boards. They plan to move this position from a pay grade 16 to 18.

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

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

Director Boller stated that this Ordinance was to put the funding in the correct place for the new GIS position. They plan on moving \$60k for salary and benefits and \$9k to be moved to the IT budget for new software and equipment for this position.

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

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

Mrs. Clemens stated that the 2023 Juneteenth Event brought in \$10,600 in donations and left us with \$2932 to be moved to the 2024 events budget.

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

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

Mrs. Clemens stated that the 2023 Pride Event brought in \$6,100 in donations and left us with \$2074 to be moved to the 2024 events budget

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

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

Mrs. Clemens stated that they had several requests to offer an online payment process and decided to use CivicPlus Pay software that could be linked directly to our current website.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked why emergency language was needed. Mrs. Clemens stated that they would like to have it put in place before the events season.

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

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

Auditor Cicak stated that he included some paperwork to go over what exactly the tax budget is. He explained that it was a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code and was basically the financial plan for the next calendar year and identifies estimates. It required three readings and a public hearing, scheduled for the next meeting. They would then receive a certificate of available resources from the Tax Commissioner.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Stating What Services the City of Reynoldsburg will Provide to the Proposed Annexation of Property along Summit Road



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Four (4) Ford Explorer Police Cruisers for the Reynoldsburg Police Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

A Resolution Authorizing the City Attorney and Mayor to Enter into the 2024 Grant Agreement With the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County for Continued Operation of the Reynoldsburg Recovery Court

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into An Agreement with Samsara, Inc. for GPS Software for the Service Department

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST 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 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

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

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

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



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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

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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 congratulated the graduates of Reynoldsburg High School. He thanked nurses, teachers, doctors, and RPD for all of their efforts and hard work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 16, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
May 27, 2024 Memorial Day City Offices Closed
May 28, 2024 Council (NOTE: Tuesday evening meeting)
June 6, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board



June 10, 2024 Council
June 19, 2024 Juneteenth City Offices Closed
June 20, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
June 24, 2024 Council

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council