



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
September 9, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION - Tim Meier with The Alliance

The invocation was given by Tim Meier with The Alliance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Cotner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2024

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

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2024

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**John Seryak
8322 Bedlington Drive**

Mr. Seryak stated that he was there to give a shout-out to an event by Friends at Pine Quarry Park and the Unplugged Concert in the Park. This event is in its fifth year. It will feature music from the Day Drinking Band featuring Jerry Slater. It will be inside the Park and a nice community event on Sunday, September 22nd, at 6 pm. He wanted to

extend an invitation to anyone interested.

Sharon Montgomery
572 Bonnington Way

Ms. Montgomery wanted to thank Ms. Hooker for getting the ball rolling here in Reynoldsburg while she was attending other city councils regarding pedestrian accidents. She thanked everyone in Reynoldsburg who was willing to learn or already on board with the need for meaningful penalties when drivers are distracted. Until the state meets its responsibility in this matter, we need cities to protect their residents, workers, and visitors. She would like to see these stronger penalties in Code 303.99 applied to more than just the forty-nine listed traffic offenses, but realized there was precedent for using this approach. However, she did want everyone to understand how the state law, this was based on, actually worked. It was more of a "looks good on paper" kind of thing. It looked like drivers who break one of those forty-nine traffic laws would get two penalties - the normal ones for that law and also the \$100 fine. What actually happened was when the law they broke could be disposed of through the traffic violations bureau, admit guilt, and then just pay the fine for that law. If they did not admit guilt, they could choose to go to court, where the judge had the option of assessing all, some, or none of the extra \$100 fine. As for the crosswalk violation penalties, anyone who had not heard the disturbing reports about the rising number of pedestrian fatalities had not been listening. It was particularly egregious to crash into someone who did not even have the safety of a motor vehicle around them. Driving while focused on a phone or hurrying through a crosswalk are both unnecessary and self-centered behaviors. A moment of convenience for that driver could cause a lifetime of misery for someone else.

Councilmember Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel gave a shout-out to the event Heroes for Heroes this past Saturday. He stated that he was happy to see all the participants and was happy to participate himself and, for the first time, even won a medal for running.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny welcomed Council back after their break in August and stated that they were busy, as we could see by the length of the agenda.

Mayor Begeny also thanked staff and community for making the Tomato Festival very successful with an attendance of around 28,000. There were also many events coming up throughout the month of September. He also thanked the Macedonian Church for their invitation to the amazing event.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation to Recognize Hope for the Day National Suicide Prevention & Action Month (NSPAMP)

Councilmember Strickland read the Proclamation. She explained that this month was very important to her as she lost her cousin to suicide at only 21 years of age. Councilmember Strickland wanted to encourage those in need to seek help.

Anyone can call 988 to be connected with someone who can help. She stated that the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation was also finding resources available to help individuals make sure that they know where they could receive assistance in their time of need. She stated that she continued to support the campaign called Life is Better with You Here that focused on the black and brown community as those numbers continued to increase.

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

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Strickland for bringing this proclamation to Council.

COMMUNICATIONS

July Treasury Board Meeting Minutes

Ohio Auditor of State: Financial Health Indicators Report

Independent Audit of the City of Reynoldsburg

MOTIONS

A Motion to Affirm the Mayor's Appointment of Stephanie Cornell as the New Human Resources Director



President Lawson-Rowe explained that with the resignation of Director Boller, the Mayor selected Human Resource Coordinator Stephanie Cornell as the new Director of HR.

Mayor Begeny stated that this was a bittersweet moment as they were excited to see Ms. Cornell in this new role, but would miss Director Boller as she transitioned into retirement.

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

Councilmember Strickland welcomed Ms. Cornell and stated that she was excited to work together, but would miss Director Boller. Councilmember Baker also welcomed Ms. Cornell and thanked Director Boller for her years of service and believed she deserved public recognition for her work.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

The Clerk of Court submitted moneys collected from the courts held in the months of June and July 2024 in the amount of \$52,567.

Clerk of Court Report for June 2024

Clerk of Court Report for July 2024

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for September 9, 2024.

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

An Ordinance Consenting to the Annexation of Certain Real Property Located at 8718 Summit Road in Etna Township Consisting of 69.4+/- Owned by Maple Wood Farms Ltd. and Carol S. Christy and Richard Halley, and Declaring an Emergency



Director Meyer stated that they were requesting a two-read emergency for this legislation for a few reasons. Council was on break for the month of August, so they were not able to begin this process sooner. If this annexation were to pass, they plan to add a TIFF to this site later this year. The intent of the TIFF was to help pay for some of the extension work occurring in the City. They plan to annex it in for residential use and plan to work out a deal with the developer to reserve a portion of the site for a park.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for September 9, 2024.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with the Reynoldsburg School District

Chief Baker stated that this Resolution authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Reynoldsburg City School District. They operate under a memorandum of understanding, which will be reevaluated every few years. The last time the MOU was reviewed by the school district was 2018, so it has been several years. They started this discussion at the end of the last school year and recently finalized the language of the MOU. The agreement clarified the roles and expectations between the school district and the Reynoldsburg Police Department. Not a lot has changed, but it did give RPD more input on security at the schools, most aimed toward events. He stated that he is happy with their current status as they work together well and have open communication continuously.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for September 9, 2024.

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

A Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with Clear Cut

Tree Co. for Tree Clearing Purposes, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this tree clearing was for the new parks/service building. The cost was actually less now than original cost. He clarified that many of these trees would be replaced on this lot or moved to another location.

Councilmember Strickland made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Contract for City Hall LED Lighting Upgrades with Reimbursement from NOPEC Grant Funds, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that he was excited about this Ordinance as they hope to convert all the lighting at City Hall to LEDs to be more sustainable and also save money. This work would be fully reimbursable by NOPEC grant funds. The legislation was being requested as an emergency, so all grant requirements could be completed prior to the end of the year.

Councilmember Strickland made a motion 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 to Purchase Nine Speed Display Signs and Maintenance Plans for the Service Department, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this legislation was a small piece of a much larger program that he and Councilmember Johnson were working on. He stated that many residents were concerned about speeding in the City, and they plan to collect data to decide where these new speed signs would benefit the residents the most. RPD and traffic enforcement identified nine locations that would benefit from more permanent signage to allow for continuous data collection. They were using America Recovers Act funds for this particular project.

Councilmember Strickland stated that she was glad the City was moving forward as the residents seemed concerned about speeding. Mayor Begeny stated that in one of his conversations with residents during a Walk with the Mayor, they discussed that while many people choose to speed or ignore stop signs. If these new signs could even keep one more person safe, then it would be worth it. He also thanked Councilmember Johnson for her support in this.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she attended a Walk with the Mayor and

wanted to applaud him publicly for actually listening to residents and facing unpleasant conversations.

President Lawson-Rowe asked if the nine areas were identified publicly. Mayor Begeny stated that they were not identified publicly, but the plan was to release that information with the full presentation. The roads had been identified, but not the specific locations. Some of the roads included Farmsbury, Graham, Rosehill, Rodebaugh, Kingsley, Slate Ridge, Firstgate, and Brice Road North. He stated that the other traffic trailer signs would still be placed and work typically on a two-week rotation. President Lawson-Rowe stated that traffic control was very important, and we should feel safe driving in our own neighborhoods.

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

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this Ordinance was to pay DLZ, which was the City's inspection services contractor. There was miscommunication as to when those services were supposed to begin versus the date of the actual purchase order. There were miscommunications on both sides and everything has since been ironed out.

Councilmember Strickland made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for September 9, 2024.

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

An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$32,000,000 for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of Improving the City's Facilities by Constructing, Furnishing, and Equipping a Parks and Public Service Complex Including Related Site Improvements, Together with All Necessary and Related Appurtenances Thereto, and Declaring an Emergency

Auditor Cicak stated that these bonds would finance the improvements to the new Parks/Service complex. He certified that the improvements had a useful life of five

years and the bonds' maximum maturity of 30 years. The principal amount would not exceed \$32,000,000. The rate would be established by a highly competitive bidding process and sale.

Councilmember Baker asked what were the contingencies for this project? Mayor Begeny stated that this was not to exceed \$32,000,000. The bids currently out right now and would be back before the next Council meeting. He stated that staff divided this project by alternates and hoped to get as many alternates included in the \$32,000,000 as possible. They were aiming to stay around \$30 million and would remove alternates as needed to stay within budget. Councilmember Baker stated that staff and Council intended to be good stewards of public money. Auditor Cicak stated that he opened an account specifically for this money when it comes in and would be earning close to 5% interest on the \$32 million to hopefully cover any other costs.

Councilmember Baker made a motion 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 for City Liability Insurance for a Period from October 14, 2024 to October 13, 2025, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Boller stated that this legislation was for the City's liability insurance, which included property, vehicles, and general liability coverage. It did not include cyber coverage. The broker did not have an exact premium cost yet, but expected it would increase by a minimum of 10%, which seemed standard throughout the industry. The coverage was around \$420,000 for 2024, so because of the expected increase, they were requesting an additional \$69,000. This legislation was requested as an emergency, because coverage expired October 13th. An annual premium cost should be available by the next meeting.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing Renewal of the City's Dental Insurance Coverage with Delta Dental for the Period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Boller stated that this Ordinance was to renew the dental insurance with Delta Dental. It was a 3% increase for one year. They did offer a two-year contract for 6.3%, but she believed that the extra .3% did not warrant an extra year. Our health insurance would renew in 2026, so staff may be able to look into bundling these services at that time.

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

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Ms. Clemens stated that this Ordinance was to cover the expenses for lodging during the Tomato Festival. The Auditor requested it be opened up under American Express and she had forgotten to move it to the purchase order.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the Martin Luther King Breakfast

Ms. Clemens stated that this legislation allowed the transfer of money from sponsorships received in 2023 and to the 2024 budget. As this event was early in the year, about half of the sponsorships were received in the previous calendar year.

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

A Resolution Supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial - America 250 OHIO

Mayor Begeny explained that this legislation was to recognize that the City would be participating in America 250 in 2026. This resolution would allow the City to apply for grant funding for our 4th of July celebration to make it even bigger than before.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Strickland. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with the Reynoldsburg School District

A Resolution Supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial - America 250 OHIO

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

A Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with Clear Cut Tree Co. for Tree Clearing Purposes, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Consenting to the Annexation of Certain Real Property Located at 8718 Summit Road in Etna Township Consisting of 69.4+/- Owned by Maple Wood Farms Ltd. and Carol S. Christy and Richard Halley, and Declaring an Emergency



An Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Execute a Contract for City Hall LED Lighting Upgrades with Reimbursement from NOPEC Grant Funds, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for City Liability Insurance for a Period from October 14, 2024 to October 13, 2025, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing Renewal of the City's Dental Insurance Coverage with Delta Dental for the Period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$32,000,000 for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of Improving the City's Facilities by Constructing, Furnishing, and Equipping a Parks and Public Service Complex Including Related Site Improvements, Together with All Necessary and Related Appurtenances Thereto, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract to Purchase Nine Speed Display Signs and Maintenance Plans for the Service Department, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the Martin Luther King Breakfast

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 3 Traffic Code, Sections 303.99 General Traffic Code Penalties and 371.01 Right-of-Way in Crosswalk to Increase the



Penalties for Distracted Driving and Violations in a Crosswalk that Result in Harm to a Person in the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Communications/Events Department

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Disbursement and Fees from the City's TIF Funds to Allow for Payment to the Reynoldsburg City School District and to Account for County Treasurer Fees

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker welcomed everyone back to Council after the break. He thanked the RPD, the doctors, and teachers. He also gave a shout-out to the Reynoldsburg football team and encouraged them forward following their first loss.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 19, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
September 23, 2024 Council



ADJOURNMENT

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

Meredith Lawson-Rowe, President of
Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council