



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
October 14, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION - Councilmember Bhuwan Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel provided the invocation.

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 September 23, 2024

The regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2024 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Valerie Wunder
5556 Knollbrook Drive
Westerville 43081

Ms. Wunder stated that she was the Executive Director of Communications and Outreach for Reynoldsburg City Schools. She stated that while she was not a resident, she was a raider, and Reynoldsburg proud. She explained she wanted to take this time to express her support for the upcoming levy. This levy was vital to our schools and would ensure they have the necessary resources to provide a quality education for all students. She stated that they have worked hard to share factual information and be transparent about what the levy stood for and what would happen if it did not pass. She explained that at their first town hall meeting, the community requested a cut list and

that list was then provided at the next special board meeting. They created videos, documents, a website, and met with community members in person and through Facebook live to discuss the issue. She further explained that the levy would help maintain funding for the services they were offering right now. They were having to dip into their savings just to maintain programs and this was not sustainable long-term. They would also like to be able to recruit and retain staff members and provide quality education for students. She recommended that people educate themselves on what the levy was and what it was not to better understand what was being asked of them.

Amanda Lee
886 Hunt Valley Drive

Ms. Lee stated that she came to Council to speak on behalf of Friends of Reynoldsburg City Schools. She was also speaking as a resident and a mother. She explained that she was here to express her support for the upcoming levy. Since the most recent levy was passed 14 years ago, the District and its Board of Education have been faithful stewards of taxpayer money and stretched the funds until they could not be stretched any further. She stated that she saw firsthand some of the wonderful things Reynoldsburg educators have done academically, but also helping children emotionally like hers. She stated that if voters choose not to pass the levy, elective classes like Mandarin, American Sign Language, and Project Lead the Way could be in jeopardy. Positions, that were added over concern for mental health and safety, could be cut as well as athletic and non-athletic after-school programs. She requested that residents talk to their friends and neighbors about the levy and remind them that people often look to the school districts when deciding where to buy a house. We owe our kids and community the funds and resources to provide quality education to allow students to thrive.

Tanja Dexter
7255 Sorrelwood Court

Ms. Dexter stated that she was here to request that Council reverse the Ordinance banning residents from owning chickens in residential areas. She stated, that at a time when things change every day and egg prices change week to week, she believed it would be easier if they were allowed to own their own chickens to provide for their family. She stated that there would not necessarily be less money, but they would at least be able to provide for themselves. She stated that some of the benefits of owning chickens include eggs, homemade compost for gardening, education for children on pet care, pest control, and even meat for those who choose to butcher them. She explained that most hens can lay between 75 and 200 eggs each year and most people spend about \$3500 yearly on eggs from the grocery store, so they could use that money for something else if they were able to have their own chickens. She stated that some negatives of owning chickens include the cost of the coop, bedding, feeding, and regular maintenance of the birds, which could attract predators, disease, and noise.

She stated that if they were to change the Ordinance, they could limit it based on flock size or only one rooster and have a no free-range chicken rule. She stated many people are already doing it, but they would like to be able to do it within the regulations of the City. She requested that Council consider this change.

Councilmember Baker

Councilmember Baker stated that he agreed with everything stated about the upcoming levy. He hoped that everyone understood who this benefited and was aware of the consequences of this levy failing. He clarified that this levy benefited our children. He hoped people would decide to support this.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that this coming weekend in JFK Park would host the spooky vendor event beginning at 4pm as well as the giant pumpkin carving. The community Halloween party by the Reynoldsburg Community Association will also be this weekend with games and events. On Sunday, was the spooky pooch parade. He also gave a shout-out to all City staff for their contributions to these events.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Councilmember Hill stated that she had been personally affected by breast cancer. Her Mother was diagnosed in 2020 and due to her consistent screening, they were able to catch it at Stage 0. She explained that even though it was aggressive and required chemo and radiation, she was able to do a minimally invasive surgery and her prognosis was now very good because of that early detection. She encouraged people to get routine screenings, if they are able to.

Councilmember Hill read the proclamation.

Councilmember Hill invited Elisa Limbers to the podium.

Ms. Elisa Limbers stated that she was a lifelong resident of Reynoldsburg. She and her three sisters all attended Reynoldsburg City Schools. She was a retired teacher from Reynoldsburg after teaching for thirty years, and was a breast cancer survivor. She stated that she had a routine mammogram where they found a spot. She then went back for further testing and a biopsy. They found that it was Stage 2. She had recently lost a sister to breast cancer and decided she would choose a very aggressive treatment. She had a double mastectomy with a 98% chance that it would not come back again. She is almost two years cancer free, and she thanked everyone that came to support her tonight. She stated that she was



humbled and honored to be chosen to receive this proclamation.

Councilmember Baker stated that being able to beat something like breast cancer was nothing short of a miracle. He stated that his Mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer, and she was not able to win her battle.

Councilmember Strickland thanked Councilmember Hill for the Proclamation and everyone else for sharing their stories. She stated that earlier this year, a good friend of hers was diagnosed with breast cancer as well as her sister. She explained that her friend's sister lost that battle, but her friend was able to win her battle. She stated that it was a bitter-sweet situation and wanted to encourage everyone to get checked. She explained that she also had a scare in the past and was scared to get checked, but she was so glad that she did.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

September Treasury Board Meeting Minutes

President Lawson-Rowe indicated that the September Treasury Board meeting minutes were included in the packet.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for August 2024

The Clerk of Court submitted monies for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$21,861.00.

Liquor Permit - O'Charleys LLC

Lieutenant McDonnell stated that this investigation was completed for a liquor permit held at O'Charleys located at 2272 Baltimore-Reynoldsburg Road. The



application was for a change of LLC members' interest in the business. The new managing members will be doing business as O'Charleys Holdings LLC. The liquor permit was a D5 D6 class, which was for liquor on premises consumption only, beer and wine for on premises and off premises in original sealed containers as well as sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday. There had been no police activity regarding the liquor permit at this location. They were not requesting a hearing for this transfer of permit.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for October 14, 2024.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds to an Account in the Senior Center Fund, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this Ordinance came from the Parks and Recreation Department to appropriate funds to the Senior Center fund, which was a formerly donated amount of money to the Senior Center. These funds were a little more depleted than expected, so they were now requesting funds ahead of time to ensure they do not have to request a then and now in the future.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Vehicles from the Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department

Mayor Begeny stated that there were a couple of items that have outgrown their usefulness. The staff was requesting that those items be removed from the fixed asset list. They will be sold on GovDeals in hopes of gaining funds.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for October 14, 2024.

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

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

Lieutenant McDonnell stated that this patrol vehicle, a 2019 Ford Explorer, was totaled in an accident, and PD was requesting it be removed from the fixed asset list. He clarified that the at-fault party would be reimbursing the City for the car's worth.

Councilmember Baker asked what they plan to do with the funds once received. Lieutenant McDonnell stated that since the cruisers were ordered in advance.

They would use this money to outfit some of the vehicles they plan to get in the future. Mayor Begeny clarified that they have four new vehicles on the way in the next few months and this money would go towards those.

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 October 14, 2024.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pepper Construction for the Construction of the Parks and Service Complex

Director Dorman stated that they were working on this project for about two years with the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Service Department.

Supervisors, superintendents, and directors were brought in for many meetings to discuss future needs. Based on those needs, Star consultants were hired and created a plan for a new complex. The project was recently put out for bid. They had over 90 companies pull plans for the project, which showed a huge amount of interest. They narrowed the bids to five complete bids. Out of those five bids, they chose the lowest bid, which was Pepper Construction of Dublin. They were excited to move forward and appreciated everyone's support on this project. This legislation was just the contract amount and the contingent amount would come to Council at another meeting.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Etch Ltd

for GPS Fleet Tracking Services for the Service Department

Director Dorman stated that earlier this year they installed units on all service vehicles that allowed the ability to track each vehicle. This legislation would provide the software necessary to access this tracking system. The goal was to allow residents to see things like snowplows and know when their area or route would be plowed. They were excited about this software and how it would allow residents to see this information from the City's website. They can also see data like how fast vehicles were moving, if they were off route, or if one of them was not moving. They also plan to do the Paint a Plow events again this year.

Councilmember Cotner clarified that this tracking system was not just for snowplows. Was it also for all service vehicles? Director Dorman stated that yes, all service vehicles, including street sweepers and regular service trucks, would be tracked. He explained that this system also allowed staff to keep up with what employees were doing, not in a "big brother" way, but to use data to regulate speed or validate complaints if residents call in with concerns. They also discussed using this system for the new, upcoming leaf pick-up program. Not every City vehicle would be available for public view. Staff will determine which vehicles were best for that at a later date. Councilmember Cotner asked if we were having issues with City employees and speeding. Director Dorman stated that it did not happen often, but they do get calls occasionally. They ask residents where the incident happened and if they can identify the vehicle. This system would track speed, so they would be able to see if the truck was actually speeding rather than taking the residents' word for it.

Councilmember Strickland asked who would manage the software. Director Dorman clarified that each vehicle had the device already installed, and once everything was turned on and running, the vehicles would automatically upload data to the software. Only certain vehicle data would be uploaded to the public website, which would be monitored by the Service Department.

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 October 14, 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

This item was being returned to Committee for further discussion.

Auditor Cicak stated that with the passage of this Ordinance, they will be able to go into a competitive market for bond sale this week to provide the funds to complete this project. The bonds will be sold at a premium that will cover all expenses for the bond counsel. The bond will only be for \$30,700,000 with the Ordinance language setting the maximum amount as \$32 million.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked if the costs of this building would be passed along to the residents to pay for it? Mayor Begeny stated that no, this will not make taxes go up like a levy that must be voted on.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a third reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

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

Auditor Cicak stated that this Ordinance would appropriate money from the unappropriated General Fund into two JEDD funds - JEDD 1 and 2. Adjustments must be made over the course of the year to meet the obligations for our payments due at the end of this month. He was requesting a two-read emergency.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Vehicles from the Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department



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 Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pepper Construction for the Construction of the Parks and Service Complex, and Declaring an Emergency

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Etch Ltd for GPS Fleet Tracking Services 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 to an Account in the Senior Center Fund, 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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

An Ordinance Authorizing the Renewal of the City's Vision Insurance Coverage with VSP for the Period Beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028, and Waive Competitive Bidding

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker thanked RPD, doctors, nurses, teachers, and those who work in retail for their hard work that keeps the country moving.

Councilmember Pyakurel thanked everyone for attending the Diwali Celebration at Civic Park this past weekend. He was very excited about the 5k race, which had almost doubled the attendance from last year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 17, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
October 28, 2024 Council
October 31, 2024 Trick or Treat
November 7, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board
November 12, 2024 (Tuesday) Council
November 21, 2024 Planning & Zoning Board



November 25, 2024 Council
November 28 & 29, 2024 Thanksgiving City Offices Closed

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