



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 13, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Shanette Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

ABSENT: Pyakurel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2024

The regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2024 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that City Hall will be installing LED lighting throughout the building with grants funds awarded from NOPEC last year. The City hoped to have this done within the next three weeks. A grant request for funds to complete the LED lighting change out in the police department would be requested this year. Mayor Begeny invited everyone to tune in to the State of the City meeting on February 18 at 6:30pm.

Interviews for Ward 1 Applicants

President Strickland advised with the December 15, 2024 resignation of President Lawson-Rowe, Council had to select a new Council President. With my appointment as Council President, my Ward 1 position was vacated. Council requested applications for this position and intend to select a new Councilmember at tonight's meeting. Council received three applications from residents residing

within the City to fulfill the Ward 1 position. Council invited each applicant to the podium to make a brief one-minute presentation. Councilmembers then asked questions of each candidate. Following the interview process, Council could further discuss the merits of each applicant, make a motion to approve a specific candidate, or table the selection process until the next meeting.

Clerk Prasher advised that one applicant, Sandra Boller, had withdrawn her application;.

Hilary Conley

Ms. Hilary Conley stated that she has a passion for community service and advocacy has been a guiding force in her life for many years. For the last sixteen years she has been assisting working class people in obtaining social and economic justice through her work with public employee unions. She is an expert in organizing and mobilizing community outreach, coalition building, negotiations, and political advocacy. She has been an active member of the Reynoldsburg community for the last seven years and would be honored to serve as a representative using her skills and experience to contribute to the well-being of the City.

Councilmember Salvati asked Ms. Conley what drew her to Reynoldsburg and her reasoning for wanting to get more involved with the City. Ms. Conley stated that she came here initially because of a house she saw for sale. Once she purchased her home, she fell in love with the community that she lives in in Timber Creek. She appreciates the safety of the area and how neighbors look out for each other. She also enjoys the many different City events throughout the year with her family and grandchildren.

Councilmember Hill asked if she had any specific goals for the future of the City of Reynoldsburg or Ward 1. Ms. Conley stated that specifically in Ward 1 she would like to reach out to the community members and assess what they believe the needs are in that area. She believes that because she is the representative for the Ward, it is most important to hear their concerns out first. She believes that traffic is one issue that could be addressed in this area as well as safety on the roads. She also believes that they should address some small areas of crime that seem to have repeat issues. She stated that based on our current political climate, we may need to be more prepared to support and protect our immigrant populations as well.

President Strickland asked what are the top 3 issues she would like to address if she were appointed to this position. Ms. Conley stated that she would like to give a voice to the residents of Ward 1 so she would like to hear their concerns first. She

sees this role as an extension of being neighborly. She also stated that reason number 2 is some of the things she addressed in the previous question. She stated that with her experience, she believes that this is an opportunity to use her skills to assist her own community.

Councilmember Baker asked how she would assist the City in navigating through population growth. Ms. Conley believes that there should be a committee created to specifically study this topic to better understand how this impact our City.

Julie Towns

Ms. Julie Towns stated that her background lies within education, policy making, leadership, and service. She was an elementary school teacher for 20 years and she has taken the letters of the word "serve" to explain what that means to her and her goals for Reynoldsburg. S for service oriented; she is committed to serving the community with dedication and improving the quality of life for all residents. E is for engagement; she values the diverse perspectives of community members and believes in actively engaging with all residents. R is for responsibility; she will take responsibility for her decisions ensuring that there is transparency in all matters. V is for visionary; she has a forward thinking vision for the City's growth focusing on sustainable development. E is for empathy; she approaches leadership with empathy, understanding that each person's experience is their own. Through these values, she is dedicated to leading with integrity, fostering a diverse and thriving community, and ensuring that the City's future growth benefits all. She ended with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

Councilmember Salvati asked Ms. Towns what drew her to Reynoldsburg and her reasoning for wanting to get more involved with the City. Ms. Towns stated that she has lived around Central Ohio since college and remembered seeing the advertisements for all the different events in Reynoldsburg and loved attending those events. Then when she had her two daughters, she considered what would be a good place for them to grow up and believed that this community fit what she wanted. She decided to stay for those same reasons, she loved the community and loved the opportunity to serve on the school board previously.

Councilmember Hill asked if she had any specific goals for the future of the City of Reynoldsburg or Ward 1. Ms. Towns stated that she does see a few small areas of crime in their ward and believes that could be looked in to. She also wants to be more involved with the residents there and understanding what concerns they may have. She wants to know what can they do better, how can we be more present,

and how can they better listen to residents. She believes general safety on the roads could be beneficial for the entire City as well, especially regarding school buses.

Councilmember Baker asked how she would assist the City in navigating through population growth. Ms. Towns stated that they should listen to residents' concerns about growth and being more involved in the conversation. She would also like to see what work has already been done regarding this issue and better understand how she can support the City's goals.

President Strickland asked what are the top 3 issues she would like to address if she were appointed to this position. Ms. Towns stated she would focus on growth and development with affordable housing and small business representation, infrastructure and safety regarding roads, and continuing the celebration of our diverse population.

President Strickland thanked the candidates for submitting their applications and stated that the City is lucky to have residents who are willing to serve. President Strickland opened up the conversation to discuss the candidates.

Councilmember Salvati stated that both of the candidates are very well qualified for this position and stated that this is never an easy decision.

Ms. Julie Towns has been nominated by Councilmember Salvati.

Councilmember Cotner asked if this candidate would be appointed and sworn in to begin serving tonight. President Strickland stated that they will begin serving tonight. Councilmember Cotner asked if they have taken the time to familiarize themselves with the legislation that will be discussed tonight, he stated that he has not seen them at meetings previously. He explained that he has no issue with these candidates, but does not believe that they should be sworn in and begin serving in the same night, he has had an issue with this in the past and continues to have an issue with it now. President Strickland asked if there is any issue with this. Attorney Shook stated that there is no legal issue with this and the packet was available online Friday so the candidates did have the opportunity to view it if they wished to. Councilmember Baker stated that he has seen several appointments be sworn in the same night they were appointed and it has not been an issue before and if they chose not to review the packet beforehand then that is on them. Councilmember Cotner stated that he continues to have a problem with this and believes that Council is a position of preparedness and they should have an actual understanding of the issues rather than sitting up here and reading off a script. He clarified this is not an issue with these particular candidates, but more about the process. Councilmember Salvati stated that he understands Councilmember



Cotner's point, but does believe that these candidates would make informed decisions.

Roll Call: Hill - yes; Cotner - yes; Baker - yes; Johnson - no; Salvati - yes; Strickland - no.

That was a 4-2 vote. Motion passed. Julie Towns is now our Ward 1 Representative and was sworn into office.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. and His Day of Service

Councilmember Johnson read the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Proclamation.

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

MOTIONS

A Motion to Hereby Appoint Auditor Stephen Cicak and Attorney Chris Shook to Serve on the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependent Fund Board

This is an annual appointment. Auditor Cicak and Attorney Shook are designated appointees to this Board per the Ohio Revised Code. This legislation required Council's approval of their appointment

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Johnson
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Stacie Baker as the Council Representative to the West Licking Joint Fire District Board for 2025

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Johnson
SECONDER:	Hill

AYES: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Temporary Council Committee Chairs

President Strickland recommended the appointment of Lou Salvati as temporary chair of the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee; Mildred Johnson as temporary chair of the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee; Bhuwan Pyakurel as the temporary chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee, and Stacie Baker as the temporary chair of the Finance & Administration Committee.

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Baker
SECONDER: Johnson
AYES: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Councilmembers to Council Committees Effective January 13, 2024 until the Next Council Organizational Meeting in January 2025

President Strickland recommended the appointment of Lou Salvati, Barth Cotner, Julie Towns, and Erin Hill to the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee; the appointment of Mildred Johnson, Barth Cotner, Julie Towns, and Erin Hill to the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee; the appointment of Bhuwan Pyakurel, Barth Cotner, Julie Towns, and Erin Hill to the Public Service and Transportation Committee, and the appointment of Stacie Baker, Lou Salvati, Bhuwan Pyakurel and Mildred Johnson to the Finance & Administration Committee.

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Johnson
SECONDER: Hill
AYES: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Bhuwan Pyakurel to Serve as the President Pro Tempore of Council for the Period Beginning January 13, 2025 until the Next Council Organizational Meeting in January 2026

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Baker
SECONDER: Salvati
AYES: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland



A Motion to Reconsider Ordinance No. 83-2024 An Ordinance to Make Final Appropriations for the Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, and Declaring an Emergency

President Strickland explained that this Ordinance needed to be reconsidered as there was an error naming the correct ordinance number that directed the distribution of tax revenues. The language was rewritten to allow for changes in the ordinance without identifying a specific ordinance number.

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

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to amend this Ordinance to accept the new language as included in this packet. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to approve this Ordinance as amended. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for December 2024

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in December 2024 in the amount of \$22,115.00.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for January 13, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Temporary Chair Salvati, and President Strickland.

Selection of Committee Chair

Temporary Chair Salvati opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Salvati made a motion to nominate Councilmember Salvati as chair of the Development,



Parks & Recreation Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Selection of Vice Chair

Councilmember Salvati opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Councilmember Towns nominated Councilmember Hill to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into A Contract With Baker Tilly For TIF Consulting Services

Director Meyer stated that this item was budgeted for in the 2025 budget with a cost of not to exceed \$50,000. Baker Tilly was our municipal advisor and they would complete the analysis of our TIF projections, which would allow the City to prioritize which TIFs should be focused on first.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pros Consulting for the 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Director Bauman stated that Pros Consulting specialized in developing parks and recreation master plans and was definitely the most qualified for this contract. She stated that a not to exceed amount of \$125,000 was budgeted in 2025 for this project.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for January 13, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Temporary Chair Johnson, and President Strickland.

Selection of Chair

Temporary Chair Johnson opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Hill made a motion to nominate Councilmember Johnson as chair of the Safety, Law & Courts Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were



closed.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Selection of Vice Chair

Councilmember Johnson opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations.

Councilmember Johnson nominated Councilmember Cotner to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken and the 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 Resolution was for the removal of a handheld thermal imager that was around twenty years old and no longer worked. The unit would be destroyed.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for January 13, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, and President Strickland.

Selection of Chair

Councilmember Hill opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Hill made a motion to nominate Councilmember Pyakurel as chair of the Public Service & Transportation Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Selection of Vice Chair

Councilmember Hill opened the floor for vice chair nominations. Councilmember Towns nominated Councilmember Hill to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with DLZ for Construction Inspection Services for the Summit Area Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project and Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has returned to Committee to add emergency language.

Director Dorman stated that this item was discussed last meeting and was for the extension of the sanitary sewer system east of Taylor Road. Emergency language needed to be added to meet bid deadlines and construction deadlines.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to amend this Ordinance to include emergency language. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to forward this amended Ordinance to Council for a second reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Elite Excavating for Construction Pertaining to the Summit Area Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project and Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has returned to Committee to add emergency language.

Director Dorman stated that was discussed in the previous meeting and they were just requesting to add emergency language to meet bid deadlines and construction deadlines.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to amend this Ordinance to include emergency language. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to forward this amended Ordinance to Council for emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

A Resolution Supporting the Ohio Municipal League's Challenge of AT&T's Tariff Application to the Public utilities Commission of Ohio

Attorney Shook stated that this Resolution would support OML's effort to ensure that companies would be responsible for moving their utility lines for City construction projects rather than the City having to pay for those services.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Implementation of a Pavement Management Index (PMI) Program

Director Dorman stated that this Resolution would allow EMH&T to assess all the streets in the City to determine which areas should be prioritized when developing streets improvement projects in the future.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for January 13, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Salvati, Councilmember Johnson, Temporary Chair Baker, and President Strickland.

Selection of Chair

Temporary Chair Baker opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to nominate Councilmember Baker as chair of the Finance & Administration Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Selection of Vice Chair

Councilmember Baker opened the floor for vice chair nominations. Councilmember Baker nominated Councilmember Johnson to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Baker
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into A Contract With Baker Tilly For TIF Consulting Services



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pros Consulting for the 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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

A Resolution Supporting the Ohio Municipal League's Challenge of AT&T's Tariff Application to the Public utilities Commission of Ohio

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Implementation of a Pavement Management Index (PMI) Program

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Hill
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Strickland

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with DLZ for Construction Inspection Services for the Summit Area Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project and Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Elite Excavating for Construction Pertaining to the Summit Area Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project and Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker gave a shout out to the Reynoldsburg Boys' Basketball team. He also thanked doctors, nurses, RPD, teachers, and retail workers for all of their hard work, especially during the holidays. He gave a shout out to the Delta's on celebrating their Founders Day.



Councilmember Johnson stated that she hoped to see everyone at the MLK Breakfast on Saturday.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 16, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board

January 20, 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service City Offices Closed

January 27, 2025 Council

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council