



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel

ABSENT: Cotner, Hill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Items 8 c 1, 2, and 3 in the Public Service and Transportation Committee were pulled from the agenda, indicating there will be no committee meeting. As there are no further changes, the agenda was approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2025 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Adam Shiffman
683 Blazen Street**

Mr. Shiffman thanked the Council in advance for their vote tonight on the reconstruction of the JFK tennis courts into pickleball and tennis courts. He stated that they have presented this issue to Council a few times and look forward to seeing this Ordinance passed. He explained that when they first started coming to Council to discuss this issue, they had around 200 members, and they have already had up to 280 members since then. He stated that the pickleball community is growing very quickly, and they appreciate that the City recognizes that.

Email Comment
Councilmember Hill

Good evening Council, Mayor, and Attorney,
In my absence tonight, I am writing to contribute my thoughts on the DORA discussion. I implore the City to consider compostable or reusable cups for the DORA program. While recyclable cups are better than putting plastic in the landfill, they still require petrochemicals to produce, and petrochemicals to break down and re-purpose. Since recyclable cups would require specially designated drop-off locations and processing vs trash anyway, compostable cups would not change this system other than who picks up the waste and processes it. Incorporating reusable metal mugs would be an even better program, as this would eliminate waste entirely and would give users ownership and a sense of belonging and accountability to our community. I hope we can champion the future of Reynoldsburg by reducing our plastic consumption, recyclable or not.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny gave a shout to the Reynoldsburg Special Olympics basketball team who placed 3rd at their tournament last week. He also congratulated the Reynoldsburg boys' basketball team for such an amazing season and even though they came up a little bit short, they overcame a lot of adversity throughout their season.

Mayor Begeny also stated that the Ohio Public Works Commission will have a stated capital improvement program on the ballot this May. He explained that there is a grant process that is funded by a gas tax and permissive taxes that have to be reauthorized every 10 years. The City frequently uses this grant program for projects like Waggoner Road and Main Street. This will not directly affect residents through property or income tax as the state picks up the permissive through other taxes and fees. This benefits many smaller communities who may not have the budget to complete large-scale projects on their own.

Mayor Begeny stated that he also hopes everyone can join him at the Reynoldsburg Community Association's spaghetti dinner Saturday, March 29, at Messiah Lutheran Church. More information is available on their website.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report



Clerk of Court Report For February 2025

The Clerk of Court submitted moneys collected from the courts held in February 2025 in the amount of \$28,975.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for March 24, 2025.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Design Engineering, Construction Administration Services, and Bid Services for the Redevelopment of the Conversion of the JFK Tennis Courts, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been returned to committee to be amended.

Mayor Begeny stated that this legislation has returned to committee to remove a fee that EMH&T accidentally added to the project total. This change will reduce the overall cost from \$111,000 to \$50,000.

Councilmember Salvati moved to amend this Ordinance to reduce the amount of the contract to not exceed \$50,000. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried. The Ordinance was amended.

Councilmember Salvati moved to forward this Ordinance as amended for a second reading and emergency adoption. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Work Session

An Ordinance Creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) and Establishing Safety and Sanitation Plans

Attorney Shook stated that there has been some discussion over the years about the City of Reynoldsburg having our own Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). He explained that they are presenting this item as a work session tonight because they feel as though now is the time to take advantage of developments that have occurred in Olde Reynoldsburg. Some of these developments include the old Tempe Taco, which is currently for sale or lease; they believe a DORA may

assist in the sale or lease of that property. These developments also include the Trivium Development at the corner of Main Street and Lancaster, which currently includes open space for a bar and restaurant.

Attorney Shook explained that a DORA would allow bar and restaurant patrons to legally walk within a designated area, with an open container of alcohol that has been served by an appropriate liquor-holding establishment in that area. This would only occur during specific times that will be established by the administration and this Council. He stated that some of the potential benefits of a DORA include cost savings for some businesses as it would allow them to have more open spaces, likely there would also be increased revenue for these establishments as patrons are allowed to travel from one business to another, increasing pedestrian traffic in the area. A DORA would also assist in coordination with some of our City events as some park space has been included in the map. Attorney Shook explained that some challenges we may see with creating the DORA include City expenses associated with managing and maintaining the program. This would include additional signage and sanitation receptacles throughout the area to ensure that cups are discarded properly. We would most likely have to increase police presence in these areas, since there are general challenges that come with more pedestrians drinking in public, along with potentially, increasing EMS services. The City had conversations with Truro Township about this matter and we have received their support. Another challenge we may likely face is ongoing continuation and monitoring. He explained that like any state law, the DORA laws evolve over time, so we have to stay updated on those laws as well as the permit holders and patrons. Attorney Shook then discussed the proposed map which was included in the packet. He stated that it includes mostly Olde Reynoldsburg, JFK Park, and Huber Park. Prost, Vicks, The Locale, the old Tempe Taco, the Trivium Development, East Side Brewery, Darshan Restaurant and Bar, and Tyler Pizza are a few of the business locations that were included in this proposed map. He then discussed the proposed logo, cups, and signage. The current proposed hours are 4pm to 10pm on Thursday and Friday and 12pm to 10pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Attorney Shook stated that under the Ohio Revised Code section 4301.82, the DORA process will not legally start until the Mayor submits an application to City Council, which is planned for April 14. This application will include a final map and survey with a detailed description of the boundaries of the DORA. There will also be a general statement about the nature and types of establishments included in this area, which goes beyond just liquor permit holders. This application will also state that the City shall have no more than three DORAs and that this DORA includes at least two qualified permit holders. At this time, this is the only DORA they are proposing, which includes 7 qualified permit holders. The application will also include statements about health, safety, and sanitation. Following the April 14

meeting, Council would be required to schedule a hearing within 45 days. Our proposed hearing date is May 12, 2025, at 6:30pm. A public notice will need to be published about this hearing. In order for Council to pass this legislation they only need a simple majority, which is 5 votes. The approval must be at least 30 days after receiving that application, but within 60 days. If Council chooses to approve this Ordinance, they will specify the boundaries including all street addresses, number spacing and signage, hours of operation, approval of a safety plan, sanitation plan, and a requirement that all beer and intoxicating liquor shall be in a bottle or approved non-glass container. Attorney Shook reiterated that they plan to submit the application on April 14, first reading on April 28, second reading and public hearing on May 12, and then a third read and approval or disapproval on May 26. It would then go into effect at the earliest, on June 26, 2025. If the Council were to disapprove this application, then the Mayor has the opportunity to make changes to the application to adhere to some of the concerns Council may have. He explained that they are here tonight to hopefully address some of those concerns or issues before they present the application so that they do not have to go through this process multiple times. If this Ordinance is approved, they will send notice of approval to the Division of Liquor Control, and they will send out the approval to each permit holder in the area so that they can get a qualified permit from the Division of Liquor Control specifically for the DORA. After the approval of the DORA, the Council can choose to dissolve the DORA at any time with notice to the public. There is also a requirement that the Council review the DORA every 5 years to determine how it is operating, if the positives outweigh the negatives, and continue the DORA for another 5 years.

Councilmember Johnson asked how increasing EMS and police presence would affect the number of workers we have right now. Attorney Shook stated that he is not suggesting that they need more police or EMS, he is suggesting that during the times the DORA is in effect there may be a need for more patrol in the area. He explained that after meeting with Chief Baker to discuss this proposal, they agreed that more police officers are not needed. Truro Township also agreed that they do not need to increase staffing for the DORA.

Councilmember Salvati stated that while he understands including the parks in the DORA for City events, he does have some concerns about kids sports and adults drinking during these events and whether they can create different hours for different areas within the DORA. Attorney Shook stated that no drinking at children's sporting events will not be an issue because they are able to set different hours for the parks outside the regular DORA hours. Another issue they have discussed internally is whether the ballfields or the tennis courts at JFK need to be included in the map at all.

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that at the Tomato Festival there is a designated

area for drinks. He asked if that area would still be needed. Attorney Shook stated that when you have an event going on at the parks that have a class F permit, which we do have for the Tomato Festival, people cannot bring in outside drinks. They are hoping that with the DORA it will encourage people to gather at other places in the City before or after events like the Tomato Festival.

Councilmember Baker stated that he has asked for this for around 5 or 6 yards because he has seen the benefits it has had in other communities. He stated that at some of these events in other cities, you are able to consume alcohol throughout the entire premises and not just in one tent. He asked if the Tomato Festival would still continue to have the specific liquor area or if people could drink throughout the entire festival. Attorney Shook stated that he does not anticipate that the DORA will change the way that the City operates the Tomato Festival. He stated that because the City runs this event, they cannot allow outside alcohol to be permitted within the Festival limits. He is not sure whether they would allow alcohol outside the beer tent but still within the confines of the Festival because he believes it may lead to some safety concerns. Mayor Begeny stated that they would consider this when working with RPD and reviewing the liquor licenses to ensure that the City was in compliance. Councilmember Baker stated that he is only asking about within the Tomato Festival in general, not allowing outside alcohol within the gates. Attorney Shook reiterated that they do not expect the DORA to impact the functions of the Festival. Mayor Begeny stated that people are already able to walk around the entire Tomato Festival with drinks that have been purchased at the event. This was changed a few years ago to allow people outside the beer tent.

Councilmember Baker asked if the City plans to buy new trashcans and recycling bins for the DORA area or just add recycling bins to the existing trashcans. Mayor Begeny stated that during events they will have additional staff ensuring that these areas are clean and on normal days they will make sure that some kind of recycling is available. They are also willing to look into Councilmember Hill's proposal about metal cups to allow for reusable options. Councilmember Baker clarified that people are only able to drink in the DORA area with the specific clear cups with the logo at this time. Mayor Begeny stated that that is correct. Councilmember Baker also asked if there is a fee these businesses will have to pay to be considered registered within the DORA. Attorney Shook stated that he will discuss that with the Department of Liquor Control. Councilmember Baker also asked about reviewing the DORA every five years, if they choose to. Attorney Shook stated that they are required to review it at least every 5 years, but they can review it more frequently if they choose to do so.

President Strickland asked who would be responsible for purchasing the recyclable cups. Mayor Begeny stated that the Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce has offered to provide these cups. They may have to renegotiate that cost if the City

decides to also offer metal cups. President Strickland also asked what kind of responsibility these businesses will have to ensure that their areas are clean. Attorney Shook stated that in sanitation plans in communities that currently have a DORA, there is an obligation to the permit holder to ensure that the right-of-way adjacent to their location is kept clean from trash and debris. President Strickland asked if any other communities have dealt with any negative consequences of creating a DORA in their City. Attorney Shook stated that he has not witnessed any community closing their DORA after their 5-year review, but there are some issues that we could anticipate. There are concerns about disorderly conduct, pedestrian safety, and just safety in general within these areas. President Strickland asked if there would be a need for extra staffing outside typical work hours to accommodate the proposed DORA hours. Mayor Begeny explained that, for the most part, businesses will take care of their own areas like normal. There may be extra staff onsite for events to ensure that the area is kept clean.

Councilmember Baker stated that he noticed on the proposed map there is an area that was not included in the north-east portion of the map that includes a bar. He asked if they would be able to just extend the map all the way to Waggoner. Attorney Shook stated that they have had some discussions about that area, but it is up to Council to add or remove areas to the proposed made. He explained that one of the concerns he had with that area was the large parking lot and the distance from Main Street. He also explained that pedestrian traffic through large parking lots is something that they generally try to avoid.

Councilmember Towns asked if RPD has expressed any concerns about an increase in underage drinking within these areas. Attorney Shook stated that it would continue to be monitored the same way it always has. He explained that he believes there have not been issues with the current permit holders in this area related to underage drinking, so he does not anticipate underage drinking will become a huge problem. He stated that they always keep an eye on this issue as they are always concerned about underage drinking.

Councilmember Baker asked how this standard regarding large parking lots may affect the creation of a new DORA in the future. Attorney Shook stated that when they look at different locations like O'Tooles compared to somewhere like Hickory House, O'Tooles has a very large parking lot because it is located in an older strip. This creates a much larger gap between businesses and the sidewalk on Main Street. Councilmember Baker stated that he does not believe businesses should be excluded from the DORA because they have a large parking lot. Councilmember Baker also asked if it would put a strain on resources to add another day to the DORA hours, like Wednesday. Mayor Begeny stated that they created this schedule from Thursday through Sunday because that is when a majority of City events occur. He stated that this is something that could always



change in the future, but they preferred to have a smaller set of days while learning the ins and outs of the DORA.

There is no Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for March 24, 2025.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement for an Independent Contractor

Director Cornell stated that this Resolution was for a limited independent contracting position for the purpose of improving employee recruitment and retention. Former Director Boller was uniquely qualified for this position given her many years of service here in Reynoldsburg. The estimate for completion would be no more than three months.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement for an Independent Contractor

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Design Engineering, Construction Administration Services, and Bid Services for the Redevelopment of the Conversion of the JFK Tennis Courts, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Shared Mobility for Transportation Services, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance to Amend Reynoldsburg Codified Ordinance Section 333.03 Maximum Speed Limits; Assured Clear Distance Ahead

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker gave a shout-out to RPD. He also gave a special shout out to the boys' basketball team for their great season and the special Olympic basketball team for their third-place finish. He also thanked teachers for the work they do.

Councilmember Towns gave a shout-out to the band and color guard who are in Orlando right now and have had excellent performances.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 3, 2025 Planning & Zoning



April 14, 2025 Council
April 17, 2025 Planning & Zoning
April 28, 2025 Council

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council