



**MINUTES Regular Meeting
REYNOLDSBURG City Council
May 22, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION by Pastor Matt Stephens of the Vineyard Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes of May 8, 2023

The regular meeting minutes of May 8, 2023 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Linda Leisure
1561 Valley Drive**

Ms. Leisure stated that she has been a resident for over 50 years and would like to ask Council to help the children. She stated that children are like flowers and the reason she chose to bring in red flowers is because children are dying in the streets. She stated that the situation is terrible and she believes that bringing back the program Scared Straight will help. She explained that Scared Straight would take the "worst" children to jail for a day to allow them to talk to inmates about what it's like to be in jail

and this will hopefully keep them out of prison in the future. She explained that these children are little dragons and the only thing they understand is bigger dragons. She stated that this program used to be successful in Columbus before it was shut down but she believes that it could work in Reynoldsburg if it was brought back. She stated that it has been weighing on her conscience and hopes that something will help keep children out of prison and save some lives.

Keith Benner
1200 Creekside Place

Mr. Benner stated that he had a few questions about some items on the agenda. He asked for an explanation for how streets are chosen for the street repair program. He also asked about the contingency fee of 8% and how that fee was determined. Mr. Benner asked about the purchase of a motorcycle for the police department and stated that when this idea was first brought up it was discussed that the police motorcycles would be able to patrol neighborhoods and residential areas but he does not feel as though there has been an increased police presence.

John Haag & Sean Cress
Email comment

On Sunday June 11th, Eastside Brewery, Slabs BBQ, and Brewsters Real Ice Cream, will present "Pups and Pints" from 2pm to 6pm. All ages are welcome but especially our canine pals. There will be pools of water for the fur babies, adoption opportunities and Brewsters will have free pup cups of vanilla ice cream. If it is a success we will make theses a regular event to celebrate man's best friend and some of Reynoldsburg's best beer and food.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe gave a reminder that the Juneteenth celebration is coming up soon which will be a day of community building and engagement. You may expect to see small businesses and resource-based organizations, community partners, health screenings, food trucks, and entertainment filling the park. They are also still accepting vendor forms. The event starts at 9am on Saturday June 17th and will conclude at 4pm at Huber Park.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny thanked everyone that came out for Plant Reynoldsburg to help beautify City Hall, he stated that he was especially thankful since they endured bad weather to be there.

Mayor Begeny congratulate Auditor Cicak for receiving an award of achievement from

the GFAO, the organization that determines fiscal responsibility. He congratulated them again and stated that they do a wonderful job managing the City's money.

Mayor Begeny also invited everyone to the Memorial Day Ceremony at Memorial Plaza at 12pm on May 29th. They will also be having a ground breaking ceremony for the Alliance project on June 16th at 11am.

Mayor Begeny stated that they will be working with ODOT on a project for the construction on 70, followed by 256 and Taylor Road.

Mayor Begeny congratulated the Reynoldsburg High School E-sports team for winning the state championship in their first season.

Presentation by Nala Kovach, Internal Affairs Manager, of AEP regarding the electricity price increase

Nala Kovach thanked Council for allowing her to present on the new electricity price and what that means for the City. She explained that Ohio is a state of choice and that allows residents to choose where their power generation supply comes from. She explained that in the past they have been very competitive in their pricing but because of inflation and other factors they have had to increase their prices over the last 2 years. This will only affect residents on the standard service from AEP, not those who have shopped around for other providers. Ms. Kovach also explained that the increase also will not affect those on PIPP which is a percentage of income payment plan which has an income requirement. She also stated that there is a neighbor to neighbor program which is a grant for up to \$500 back for those that qualify. There is also an average monthly payment (AMP) program that has no income requirement that helps spread the cost of your heating and cooling over the entire year. She stated that since those who have shopped around for providers will not have this increase, residents are still able to choose a different provider.

Mario Simms gave an overview of the investments and improvements in Reynoldsburg. In 2021 and 2022 they invested \$3.4 million and they replaced or installed 229 poles, added or replaced 375 fuses, replaced or installed 7,921 feet of overhead powerlines, replaced or installed 106,765 feet of underground powerlines, and through their 4 year forestry maintenance cycle they inspected and trimmed 78 miles of trees. The plan for 2023 and beyond is to invest over \$3 million and includes improving the reliability of power, 1.6 miles of overhead line reconductor, .25 mile underground primary reconductor, and the Astor Island project to increase reliability and tie opportunities, underground areas heavily impacted by trees.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked how residents will be notified of this change. Ms. Kovach explained that they have been proactive about this change and began

sending out communications in March including mail, email, and texts including bill inserts. They have also attended City Council and other city events to keep residents updated.

Councilmember Strickland asked if residents who use other providers can still apply for those bill assistance programs. Ms. Kovach stated that yes they can still apply.

COMMUNICATIONS

April Treasury Board Minutes

May Treasury Board Minutes

MOTIONS

A Motion to Reconsider Ordinance 38-2023 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Strawser Paving Company Pertaining to the 2023 Street Improvement Project, Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Following the passage of this Ordinance at the May 8th Council meeting, it was determined that the Alternate Bids #5 and #7 could not be included in this year's street project due to cost. This Ordinance needs to be reconsidered in order to remove those alternates and update the final cost figures.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to reconsider Ordinance No. 38-2023. Second by Councilmember Bryant. Motion carried.

We now need a motion to amend Ordinance No. 38-2023, An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Strawser Paving company pertaining to the 2023 Street Improvement Project, appropriating funds, and declaring an emergency in order to remove alternate bids #5 and #7 and adjust the cost of the project.

Councilmember Baker asked what percentage of streets have been repaired since the beginning of this project. Director Dorman stated that he is not sure exactly but around 10-12%. Mayor Begeny stated that hopefully by 2025 it will be more about maintaining the roads they have already repaired rather than continuously

repairing.

Councilmember Strickland asked for clarification on how bids #5 and #7 were chosen. Director Dorman stated that because there were bids for roads that were supposed to be part of the project last year, those had to come first. So, bids #5 and #7 will be part of the basebid for next year to guarantee that they will get done.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 38-2023. Second by Councilmember Bryant. Motion carried.

Councilmember Bryant made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 38-2023 as amended. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Liquor Permit

Trivium Reynoldsburg LLC Liquor Permit - Chief/Deputy Chieft

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this application is for a new liquor permit for Trivium Reynoldsburg, LLC located at 7232 E. Main Street and the owner is Timothy Spencer. The permit is for a D2 permit which allows wine and mixed beverage consumption on premises until 1am. The business's location would not have an adverse affect on the operation of any hospitals, schools, or playgrounds. There is no legal reason to deny the request, so they recommend that we do not request a hearing.

Councilmember Cotner wanted some clarification as to why Trivium would be getting a liquor permit as they are a developer. Clerk Prasher stated that a developer may obtain a liquor permit and then transfer it to a new business owner once they move in.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for May 22, 2023.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Cotner,

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe, Chair Pyakurel, and President Jenkins.

An Ordinance to Approve the Final Plat for the Eastwood Phase 1 Development

Director Meyer explained that this plat is for about 40 acres and 85 single family lots. This legislation was brought forward with a positive recommendation from the planning and zoning board.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for and Enter into an Agreement with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to Accept the 2023 Event Recycling Grant

Mayor Begeny explained that this Resolution would allow them to apply for the next recycling grant. He stated that this one is a little bit different in that it is specific to events rather than general locations.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for May 22, 2023.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Lawson-Rowe, Chair Bryant, and President Jenkins.

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed Prior to the Auditor's Certification of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this Ordinance is for a back up battery for dispatch which was budgeted but the invoice was issued prior to the purchase order being opened.

Councilmember Bryant moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read emergency. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Accepting Funds from the Sale of a Police Department Motorcycle

Deputy Chief stated that the motorcycle was sold at a public auction and they are requesting to transfer the funds back to the police department.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked how the motorcycles are utilized by the

department. Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that she is unaware of how previous administrations used the motorcycles but they tend to be used as traffic units but it can be case by case on how they are best utilized.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe asked about the benefits of the UTV. Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that the community resource officers use them at events and in the community to make officers more approachable.

Councilmember Bryant moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Lawson-Rowe. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Four (4) Ford Explorer Police Cruisers for the Reynoldsburg Police Department, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding and Declaring an Emergency

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that they had planned to buy 4 new cruisers last year but were unable to due to production shortages. They have now changed how these vehicles must be purchased, now you must have a PO open before October 2023 to get on the list for 2024. This Ordinance would allow them to get on that list to ensure they receive their cruisers.

Councilmember Baker asked how they determine which cruisers will be replaced. Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that as new cruisers come in, they will remove the oldest cruisers from the fleet. They have a replacement schedule in place and typically remove the oldest 4 cruisers when the 4 new ones come in.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this item was put out for bid and was a budgeted item.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for May 22, 2023.

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

President Jenkins stated that they would like to amend the agenda to include item 15(b) in the committee meeting to be amended to add emergency language.

An Ordinance to Accept an Unrecorded Stormwater Easement (0.013 Acres) from Trivium Reynoldsburg Development, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance is for a stormwater easement that is part of the main street project phase 1 improvements that goes over a piece of the Trivium plot.

Councilmember Cotner asked about the reason for requesting an emergency on this legislation. Mayor Begeny explained that they requested an emergency to allow this to pass along with the sale of the property which had been pushed back by AEP trying to vacate an easement which delayed the closing of the sale.

Councilmember Strickland moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Certify Special Assessments for Sidewalk Repairs and Replacement Cost (2022)

Director Dorman stated that this is the annual appropriation for the sidewalk assessment for each county. They provided the residents with an estimate prior to the project and then after the project with an invoice. He stated that this is the third year they have done this annual assessment.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked how they decide which sidewalks to assess. Director Dorman stated that every year when they do the street program they try to make the sidewalk program coincide so they can do all the work at the same time. Residents can also choose to have a contractor come out and do the work and pay for it themselves rather than paying the City.

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

A Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Furniture for the Various Departments Within City Hall and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman stated that in order to maximize the limited space they have as their department continues to grow, they needed to have new furniture purchased to fulfill that need.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Appropriate Additional Funds for Star Consultants for Design Services for the Parks & Recreation/Service Building Project

Director Dorman stated that this item has come back to committee to waive the 30 day referendum period and add emergency language.

Councilmember Baker moved to amend the Ordinance to remove the 30 day waiting period and to declare an emergency. Second by Councilmember Lawson-Rowe. Motion carried.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe moved to forward the amended Ordinance to Council for a third reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for May 22, 2023.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Bryant, Councilmember Pyakurel, Councilmember Strickland, Chair Salvati, and President Jenkins.

An Ordinance Authorizing the City Auditor to Pay Various Ohio Public Works Commission Loan Projects, and Declaring an Emergency

Auditor Cicak stated that they received a bill from OPWC for the first payment of \$10,913 for Main Street Phase 1. He stated that this is the first payment of \$502,000 that has been loaned to the City at 0% interest.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Payment from Trivium Reynoldsburg Investments, LLC for the Sale of Real Property, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that they were in negotiations with Trivium LLC to finalize the purchase of the property from the City. They are requesting to accept the payment of \$502,232.67.

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

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2024, and Declaring an Emergency

Auditor Cicak stated that this is an annual requirement and there will be a public hearing at the next Council meeting. They are requesting an emergency because it is due by July 20th. This will just be an estimate but they will receive a certificate of available funds which will begin the 2024 budget process.

Councilmember Baker asked how work from home work has affected our estimated returns. Auditor Cicak stated that this legislation is for property tax but that we are down only 10% as a loss from work from home.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Bryant
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson Rowe

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for and Enter into an Agreement with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to Accept the 2023 Event Recycling Grant

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

A Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Furniture for the Various Departments Within City Hall and Waive Competitive Bidding

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Bryant
SECONDER:	Salvati
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson Rowe

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Ford Pick-Up Truck for

the Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department, Waive Competitive Bidding, Appropriate Funds, and Declare an Emergency

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed Prior to the Auditor's Certification of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Accept an Unrecorded Stormwater Easement (0.013 Acres) from Trivium Reynoldsburg Development, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Payment from Trivium Reynoldsburg Investments, LLC for the Sale of Real Property, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to appropriate Additional Funds for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to Resurface State Route 256, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to appropriate Additional Funds for Star Consultants for Design Services for the Parks & Recreation/Service Building Project

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance to Approve the Final Plat for the Eastwood Phase 1 Development

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Four (4) Ford Explorers Police Cruisers for the Reynoldsburg Police Department, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declare an Emergency

An Ordinance Accepting Funds from the Sale of a Police Department Motorcycle

An Ordinance Authorizing the City Auditor to Pay Various Ohio Public Works Commission Loan Projects, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2024, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Pyakurel
SECONDER:	Lawson-Rowe
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson Rowe

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Public Infrastructure Associated with the Rosehill Townhomes (Woodmont Trace) Project

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Public Service to Implement an Annual Sidewalk Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance Program (2023)

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker congratulated the E-sports team on their state championship. He also thanked all those that have continued to work hard through difficult times.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Leanora Jenkins, President of Council

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council