



MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG City Council
June 12, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of the City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular minutes of the May 22, 2023 meeting

The regular meeting minutes of May 22, 2023 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe

Councilwoman Lawson-Rowe stated that she wanted to share that June 17th is the Reynoldsburg Juneteenth Celebration. She stated that they are very excited that the Columbus Museum of African American History and Culture will present a sampling of the Wilson Collection. The sampling will focus on the Juneteenth period to provide context of the celebration, the status of the previously enslaved, and the perspective of slaveholders and abolitionists. Councilmember Lawson-Rowe stated that in discussion with a resident and local business owner, the resident asked if she would be able to

attend as a vendor as a white person. She stated that everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the Juneteenth Celebration. She explained that Reynoldsburg is an inclusive community and want everyone to feel welcome at City events.

Councilmember Bryant

Councilmember Bryant gave a reminder for the Pride Celebration coming up on June 24th at Huber Park. She hopes that everyone will attend both of these events.

Councilmember Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that June 20th is World Refugee Day and this is very significant to him. He stated that he was a former refugee and that being a refugee is not something to celebrate. He stated that a refugee is someone that is outside their country of origin for reasons of feared prosecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, that have caused a disturbance of public order. For him, when he was about 9 years old he was forced out of his country and into a refugee camp where he stayed for 18 years. In 2009 he had the opportunity to resettle in the US. He stated that in the refugee camp, many children died because of the lack of clean water and food. He stated that he is one of the few lucky ones to have survived and be sitting in Council today. He gave thanks to the US and the community for allowing people like him to settle here. He explained that this is an important day and on June 20th they will hold an event at the Platinum event center from 6 to 7:30 pm with small business owners and food.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that the Alliance groundbreaking will be at 11am on Friday June 16th.

Mayor Begeny also gave a reminder about the Thursday Farmers Market at JFK Park.

Mayor Begeny also stated that the 4th of July is right around the corner and they will be having a parade and fireworks that day.

Recognition of Championship Reynoldsburg E-Sports Team

Mayor Begeny introduced the coaches, Chase Harman and Trey Adams.

The coaches stated that the team put in a lot of work throughout the season and they are really proud of them for their hard work and dedication. He stated that Esports are growing quickly all over the country and some colleges are even offering scholarships for Esports.

Office of the Mayor Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is one of the privileges of the Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, to honor people of importance; and

Whereas, the 2022-2023 Reynoldsburg High School Esports Team was victorious over Shaker Heights winning 4 games to 3 to attain the school's first ever State Championship on May 21, 2023 in Akron, Ohio; and

Whereas, the Raiders Esports team members are: Dylan Sheffield, Levi Cooper, Carson McCroskey, Ankith Subba, Connor Leiber, and Austin Sisler; they are coached by: Chase Harman and Trey Adams.

Whereas, the State Championship is a culmination of their collective commitment and team spirit portraying what it takes to accomplish such a feat; and

Whereas, the City of Reynoldsburg wishes to join the coaches, players, school administration and the entire Reynoldsburg community to express our pride and admiration for the Reynoldsburg High School Esports Team on their exemplary achievement of winning the 2023 State Championship;

Now, therefore, I, Joe Begeny, Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2023 as:

REYNOLDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ESPORTS TEAM DAY

in the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio and we encourage everyone to celebrate our Raiders!

PUBLIC HEARING

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

As no one appeared to speak, the Public Hearing for this Ordinance was closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Auditor's Reports March, 2023

The Auditor's office submitted the budget by department and classification for the month of March 2023.

REPORTS

West Licking Fire District Reports

Councilmember Baker stated that he submitted the statistics from the fire department over the last few months and stated that they are doing great work.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for June 12, 2023.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for a Guaranteed maximum Cost Reimbursement Agreement and Operating/Maintenance Agreement with the City of Columbus for Property Located at 1455 Brice Road

Director Bauman stated that they have been working on this for quite some time and are now able to move forward with the agreement with Columbus. The Guaranteed Maximum Cost Reimbursement Agreement is a contract between Columbus and Reynoldsburg for the construction and improvements to Brice Park. Columbus has already agreed to a \$2 million reimbursement but there are talks of upping that amount so this is still a working document that allows for minor changes. She stated that Reynoldsburg Parks and Rec will be responsible for the normal maintenance like trash and cutting the grass. This is for a 10 year agreement.

Councilmember Baker stated that he is excited for this agreement and glad to see it move along.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for June 12, 2023.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Appropriate Funds to Various Accounts for the Police Department

Chief Baker stated that this Ordinance is to appropriate funds that they have received this year from a grant for recruitment and retention.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for June 12, 2023.

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

An Ordinance to Accept a Right-of-Way Deed from Trivium Reynoldsburg Development, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this is for a property located at the corner of Lancaster and E Main Street. The Right-of-way dedication is to accomodate for the City's streetscaping project.

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

An Ordinance to Accept a Right-of-Way Deed from DMAK Properties II, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance is for the existing alley to the west of Prost. He stated that they are planning to clean up the area and make it a thru alley to lead to the area behind those buildings. He explained that almost every business in that area has agreed to improve that area located behind the businesses.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Appropriation of Additional Funds for the Mechanic Department, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that they are requesting additional funds for this department because of the increase in price for parts and high demand.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Appropriate Additional Funds for the Franklin County Board of Health, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman explained that Franklin County Board of Health has jurisdiction over all of Reynoldsburg, including the parts in other counties. He stated that Reynoldsburg will collect fees for their services and then keep 40% and give the

other 60% back to Franklin County. He explained that the 40% they collect goes back into the general fund and does not replenish the building fund so they are requesting that the money be appropriated accordingly.

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

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

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance is for the trash contract. He stated that currently when they collect recycling they have to take it to Rumpke. He stated that for many years when Rumpke had the contract, they did not charge any of the local jurisdictions to bring it there. With this new contract there is a fee, however they sent the bill to the trash hauler, Local Waste instead of the City. Local Waste received several months worth of bills and the City now needs to pay them. Director Dorman also stated that when the City sends over a certain amount of recycling they actually receive a check back from Rumpke.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Service Director to Recommend the City of Hilliard's Participation and Opt-In to the SWACO Community Consortium Contract with Local Waste

Director Dorman stated that for Hilliard to become a part of this consortium that Reynoldsburg and several other nearby communities are a part of, they have to be recommended by a community in the consortium. Reynoldsburg was selected to invite Hilliard to join. He stated that Reynoldsburg and Gahanna are currently the only members that have Local Waste contracts, he explained that he believes we have the better price and service so Hilliard would like to opt in with us.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for June 12, 2023.

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

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

Director Boller stated that when she received notice that a previously purchased

truck had arrived she stated the process to insure the truck. She explained that she had received notice that coverage had increased by \$3254 in additional premiums. She opened the PO on May 11 and the invoice was dated May 12. Since then, she was notified that they received a credit and the invoice is now down to \$1911. She stated that she is not sure why exactly this needs to be a then and now but Auditor Cicak can explain if needed.

Councilmember Salvati moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

WORK SESSION - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 141, Section 141.01 Compensation for the Mayor, Chapter 143, Section 143.01 Compensation for the City Auditor and Chapter 147, Section 147.03 Compensation for the City Attorney of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

President Jenkins stated that Clerk Prasher did research on other cities' salaries for these same positions. She discovered that there have not been any increases in the Mayor's or City Attorney's salary since 2012. They decided to bring this to Council to discuss options for salary increases. This Ordinance would allow the Mayor and Attorney to receive increases in 2024 and the Auditor to receive an increase in 2026.

Clerk Prasher stated that the Auditor's position received an increase in 2013 with 2% increases in 2014, 2015, and 2016. It also received an increase in 2017 with 2% increases in 2018, 2019, and 2020. There has not been an increase since 2020. If this Ordinance is passed, the Auditor would not receive an increase until 2026. Both increases include a 2% increase until the next election.

Councilmember Strickland asked for more clarification on what Clerk Prasher found in her research of other cities. Clerk Prasher stated that all of the specific information can be seen in the agenda packet but she chose cities with populations between 30,000 and 50,000 with both elected mayors and appointed mayors, elected auditors and appointed finance directors. She explained that city attorneys were more difficult to find as many cities appoint their attorneys and they still work in other practices.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he has no problem with the proposed salary increases. He explained that the only part he has a question about is the yearly 2% increases, he stated that they may be something the next Council wants to decide. Clerk Prasher stated that this language was included because it was based on what had been passed in 2012.

Councilmember Baker asked why the City Attorney and Mayor had not received salary increases along with the Auditor in 2012 and 2016. President Jenkins said they were not sure exactly why it had been done that way. Clerk Prasher stated it was brought up in the late 2010s but was never passed.

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he is in favor of the salary increases.

Councilmember Cotner stated that the City Auditor is still paid significantly less so it is not unreasonable to have an increase in salary for that position as well. He stated that going back to 2012 and putting raises in based on that number would give them an increase of almost 27% which he feels does not make sense.

Councilmember Cotner also stated that it is not correct to compare Mayors to City Managers as a city manager has to have more certifications and qualifications to obtain that position. He believes that the raise should only be going forward, rather than going back a decade and trying to make up for the difference in a base salary increase. Councilmember Cotner stated that once the election has been held and they take office, they cannot put in a 2% raise during that term that wasn't passed during the election. He stated that as the Ordinance is written, he does not see any way he could support that high of a salary increase.

Councilmember Salvati moved to bring this item back committee for another work session.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Service Director to Recommend the City of Hilliard's Participation and Opt-In to the SWACO Community Consortium Contract with Local Waste

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for a Guaranteed Maximum Cost Reimbursement Agreement and Operating/Maintenance Agreement for Property Located at 1455 Brice Road with the City of Columbus

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Appropriate Funds to Various Accounts for the Police Department

An Ordinance to Accept a Right-of-Way Deed from Trivium Reynoldsburg Development, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Accept a Right-of-Way Deed from DMAK Properties II, LLC, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Appropriation of Additional Funds for the Mechanic Department, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Appropriate Additional Funds for the Franklin County Board of Health, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

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

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

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

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

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 THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classifications, and Pay Grades Including Chapter 160.02 (a) Administration, Chapter 160.02 (f) Police Department, Chapter 160.02 (g) (2) Building Division for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker congratulated the Reynoldsburg Esports team for their state championship. He also gave thanks to those that have continued to work throughout difficult times.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuit to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) "To consider the investigation of complaints against a public employee."

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ORC Section 121.22 (G)(1) "To consider the investigation of complaints against a public employee". Second by Councilmember Pyakurel.

The Council invited Mayor Begeny, Attorney Shook, Auditor Cicak, Director Boller, and Clerk Prasher to remain in the session.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe made a motion to leave Executive Session. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS