



**MINUTES  
REYNOLDSBURG City Council  
June 26, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**INVOCATION - President Angie Jenkins**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Presentation of the Colors by Cub Scout Pack 277**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson  
Rowe

ABSENT:

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There are several changes to the agenda. Under Item 10 Reports, e. Public Service and Transportation Committee, #1 is removed from the agenda and #2 has changed from a resolution to an ordinance. #2 has also been added to Item 13 Consent Agenda for First Reading as item b. Item c under Item 11 Resolution - Consent Agenda has been removed. If there are no other changes, the agenda stands approved as amended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2023**

The regular meeting minutes of June 12, 2023 were approved as submitted.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

**Keith Benner**

## **1200 Creekside Place**

Mr. Benner stated that based on the meeting minutes from June 12th, it was discussed in the Finance Committee that the Ordinance to increase salaries would be brought back for another work session, yet it is listed on the agenda as a first reading. He explained that he doesn't really have an issue with the Ordinance but believes that there is more to discuss and should not be rushed. He also explained that he would like work sessions to be more work and have more questions to better understand the legislation.

## **Councilmember Lawson-Rowe**

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe thanked all those who were able to attend or volunteer at the Juneteenth event. She told a story about a woman who had her glucose levels checked by one of the health vendors at the event where they realized that her glucose level was over 600. They were able to get her the medical attention she needed and possibly saved her from long-term health issues. Councilmember Lawson-Rowe reiterated that this was an example of why they invite medical professionals to events like this because people in the African American community should strive to take better care of themselves.

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Lawson-Rowe and Jennifer Clemens for their work on this event.

## **Mayor Begeny**

Mayor Begeny stated that he received the most recent number from the Columbus Realtors Association with some interesting information specific to Reynoldsburg like the sale price of a house has increased 5% and the number of days a house stays on the market has actually gone down from 19 days to 12 days. Which shows that the market is still very hot.

Mayor Begeny also have a huge shout out to staff and all those who have helped with the events and activities going on throughout the summer which is a very busy season for the City.

Mayor Begeny exclaimed that on Friday they found out they were receiving a grant that had been applied for around 18 months prior to improve sewer capacity on the eastern side of town. This grant will allow for more commercial development in the area so that is exciting news. The grant was awarded from the Governor's office and we were awarded \$1.3 million.

Mayor Begeny gave a reminder about the fireworks on Monday at Civic Park and



Tuesday for the 4th of July parade.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Treasury Board June Minutes**

## **MOTIONS**

**A Motion to Reconsider Ordinance No. 57-2023 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**

Following the passage of this Ordinance at the June 12th meeting, it was determined that a correction needed to be made to one of the job positions (Electrical Inspector) and a clarification to the definition of Employee - Three-Quarter Time.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to reconsider Ordinance No. 57-2023. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

We now need a motion to amend Ordinance No. 57-2023, 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 in order to adjust the position status of the Electrical Inspector and clarify the definition for Employee – Three-Quarter Time.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to amend Ordinance 57-2023. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

Cotner – Yes; Baker- Yes; Bryant – Yes; Strickland – Yes; Salvati – Yes; Pyakurel – Yes; Lawson-Rowe – Yes; Jenkins - Yes

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to approve Ordinance 57-2023 as amended. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.



Cotner – Yes; Baker- Yes; Bryant – Yes; Strickland – Yes; Salvati – Yes; Pyakurel – Yes; Lawson-Rowe – Yes; Jenkins - Yes

## **REPORTS**

### **Liquor Permits**

#### **Liquor Permit Everest Fusion**

This application is for the transfer of a liquor permit from Brothers Sports & Bar LLC, located at 6563 E. Livingston Ave to Everest Fusion, LLC. The statutory agent will be Ramesh Thapa. The permit is for a class D5, which allows for on/off sales of beer, wine, pre-packaged low proof mixed beverages, and on premises only consumption of high proof spirits all until 2:30am. The Ohio Dept. of Liquor Control did advise Brothers Sports & Bar LLC has a current tax violation that will stop the new permit from being transferred and issued; however, there are no grounds for a municipal objection and we do not recommend requesting a hearing.

#### **West Licking Fire District Report**

Councilmember Baker stated that this includes stats for their recent services. He explained that they continue to do great work throughout the City.

#### **Development, Parks & Recreation Committee**

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for June 26, 2023.

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

#### **A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Contract with Burcor Fencing LLC for Fence Replacement for Craig Spangler Memorial Field**

Director Bauman stated that they received 2 bids for this project with Burcor Fencing being the best and lowest option. She explained that they are not requesting funds because it was included in the budget for 2023 so they are just



requesting authorization to sign the contract.

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

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

Director Bauman explained that this vehicle was transferred from the building department to the parks department but the transfer paperwork was never completed. She stated that the truck has been removed from service by a mechanic because of rust and other issues so it now needs to be removed from the fixed asset list. The truck will be placed on GovDeals.com and if it does not sell it will be scrapped.

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

**Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee**

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for June 26, 2023.

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

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Two Watchguard Systems for the Police Department and Appropriate Funds Therefor**

Deputy Chief Grizzell explained that they received a JAG grant to purchase two new flock cameras but the commissioners disagreed to the use of that money and requested that it be used to purchase something else. They are now requesting to purchase two watchguard systems for the cruisers. She explained that the money would need to be appropriated from the general fund and would be reimbursed by the grant.

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 26, 2023.

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

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Windows for the Administration Building, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency**

Mayor Begeny explained that this Ordinance is to replace windows that have structural defects that are causing the windows to leak to try to limit damage done to City Hall.

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 26, 2023.

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

**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**

Councilmember Salvati stated that at any point along the way, they can keep this item in committee to continue to discuss it. He explained that he does not want to rush this legislation and wants to continue conversations about it. Councilmember Salvati also reiterated that there does have to be some timeliness of this Ordinance since it is already June and this item would need to be included on the ballot. Councilmember Salvati explained that he did an extensive amounts of research on this topic and even took the time to think about what the actual duties are of these positions to make sure that they are being compensated for the real work they are doing and not the person doing the job. He stated that he agrees with how the Ordinance is currently written based on his research and what was passed in the past. He explained that most jobs have increases for cost of living changes and believes that these positions should also increase as cost of living does. He explained that he does understand the difference between mayors and city managers and what the different qualifications and requirements are to hold those positions but city managers are making significantly more, if not double, what the mayor is currently making. He stated that we cannot up the mayors salary to \$200k but does believe that the 2% yearly increase would keep them more in line with those in similar positions.

Councilmember Strickland stated that she also did some research since last Council to better understand what was being proposed. She explained that she

agrees with what the Ordinance has proposed and they should move forward. She stated for clarification, that the previous Council passed an Ordinance in 2017 for only the Auditor to receive a 2% raise a year until 2020.

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he believes the City should have more competitive wages and should increase with the rise in cost of living.

President Jenkins stated that since an increase has not been given in so long, an increase is now due especially with the increase in cost of living in the last 10 years. She explained that there is a gap in our wages compared to similar cities.

Councilmember Baker stated that he believes those who do the hard work should be rewarded. He believes that current Mayor and City Attorney have done plenty of hard work and deserve to be compensated for it. He stated that our City has continuously gotten better over the last 4 years because of their hard work and they deserve to be recognized for it. He also believes that to get the best you have to pay for the best.

Councilmember Cotner stated that this isn't really a raise to compensate for the last 10 years. He explained that then they ran for office 4 years ago they knew what the salary was going to be, so it isn't as though our current elected officials haven't received a raise in 10 years. He stated that a near 30% salary increase is not the answer when taxpayers have stated that they want more money invested in our community and roads. He explained that there is a difference between appointed positions and elected officials and that needs to be acknowledged in this discussion. He stated that he agrees with cost of living increase going forward and agrees with the 2% per year increase but it is not necessary to go back 10 years and compensate for that time lost. He explained he cannot get behind that large of an increase because it is not fair to tax payers. He reiterated that it just does not make sense and especially doesn't make sense if the Auditor isn't included if it's a cost of living raise.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he respects and totally understands what Councilmember Cotner is saying and does not want his comment to be seen as a direct attack on his comments. He stated that he does slightly disagree but that that is his personal opinion on the matter. He explained that at his day job, which is not an elected position, they do yearly cost of living raises but every 10 years or so they will do a survey of their field and positions to ensure that they are still competitive in their wages. With this in mind, he reiterated that he does personally agree with looking back over the last 10 years to ensure that they are being compensated correctly.

Councilmember Strickland stated that most people on Council still have to work

their normal 9-5 jobs but are still more fortunate than others to be elected into these positions. She explained that the elected officials that work full time are there because this is what they love to do and they care about the City. She stated that if the City has the money then they should be awarded for the work they are doing.

Councilmember Cotner stated in reference to Councilmember Salvati's statement, that the public and private sector are very different. In the public sector, they cannot receive bonuses so he does agree with the cost of living increase going forward. He still reiterated that he does not agree with going back 10 years to retroactively increase salaries. He stated that he does not intend this statement to be argumentative because he appreciates that Councilmember Salvati always comes to Council well read on the issues and presents facts rather than opinions when discussing legislation. Councilmember Salvati stated that he just appreciates the good discussion and hopes that these increases attract high quality candidates in the future.

Councilmember Baker stated that he understands the sticker shock in seeing the salary increases, but disagrees with the idea that they know what salary they will be receiving when they run for office, therefore they don't deserve raises. He explained that in 2017 when they passed the increase in salary for the Auditor, he doesn't remember much push back on that even though they had also just passed a tax increase to fix the roads. He commented that now that they are trying to pass similar legislation for the Attorney and Mayor, they are receiving push back for a very similar item. Councilmember Baker reiterated that the Attorney and Mayor have gone above and beyond what the position requires and believes they should be compensated for their good work.

Councilmember Salvati requested that this continue to stay in committee throughout the voting process.

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

## **RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Contract with Burcor Fencing LLC for Fence Replacement for Craig Spangler Memorial Field**



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

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION**

|                  |                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>                                                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Strickland                                                                    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Pyakurel                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson<br>Rowe |

**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 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**

**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 FIRST READING**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Two Watchguard Systems for the Police Department and Appropriate Funds Therefor**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Windows for the Administration Building, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency**

**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**

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING**

**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**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING**

|                                        |
|----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:      Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b> |
|----------------------------------------|

|                  |                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Baker                                                                         |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Pyakurel                                                                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Cotner, Baker, Bryant, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson<br>Rowe |

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

#### **OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councilmember thanked RPD for attending and working the Juneteenth event. He also thanked doctors, nurses, teachers, and retail workers who do great work.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**July 4, 2023 July 4th Celebration City Offices Closed**  
**July 6, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board**  
**July 10, 2023 City Council**  
**July 20, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board**  
**July 24, 2023 City Council**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**