



**MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG City Council
July 24, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilmember Stacie Baker

ROLL CALL

PRESNET: Council Member Cotner, Council Member Jenkins, Council Member Rowe,
Council Member Strickland, Council Member Baker, Council Member
Pyakurel

ABSENT: Council Member Salvati

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two new motions and an Ordinance for a single read emergency have been added to the Finance & Administration Committee and to the Consent Agenda for Emergency Approval. The agenda is approved as amended. Due to an emergency with a Councilmember, the agenda will be discussed out of order but the minutes will reflect the correct order of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - There are no minutes for approval.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Tatjana Bozhinovski
412 Cheyenne Way**

Ms. Bozhinovski stated that she has lived in Reynoldsburg since 2005 and is a long-time member of the Macedonian Church. She explained that she has been before Council a few times with her fellow Macedonians to introduce the Macedonian community to Reynoldsburg and Central Ohio.

She stated that Reynoldsburg has been home to their church since 2016 and started the Macedonian Festival shortly after. At first the festival was only 2 days but has now been extended to 3 days due to interest. They attended Council to formally invite everyone to the Festival on Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10 at St. Mary's Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral located at 400 S. Waggoner Rd. There will be food, drinks, kids activities, and dancing. They promised that you will not go home hungry and you will not be disappointed. Ms. Bozhinovski stated that Macedonian Independence Day is actually September 8 which also happens to be the first day of the festival so they will all be at the church that day and there will be a special program at 7pm. She explained that it is so special and meaningful to her to see the Macedonian flag flying at City Hall.

Tracy Maxwell Heard
2323 W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 160

Ms. Maxwell Heard stated that she is honored to be here this evening as a guest of her colleague, Councilmember Lawson-Rowe. She stated that Councilmember Pyakurel is also one of their board members. She attended Council to represent MACC, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence. MACC is Ohio's leading voice for cultural competence, and they've held this distinction for 20 years. Their mission is to help organizations embrace, achieve, and benefit from diversity and equity. We are the premier statewide organization offering cultural competence education and training for behavioral health and healthcare systems, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, businesses and organizations interested in creating equity and addressing disparity. We believe discrimination in any form harms people, communities, and the economy. MACC supports organizations in getting to win-wins, gaining understanding and skills in cultural competence to increase employee engagement and satisfaction, increase equity in upward mobility, improve service delivery and outcomes, increase the bottom line and impede attrition all while receiving a return on investment that is measurable.

She had the honor from 2007-2014 to serve in the Ohio House of Reps. During that time, she traveled all around her district and all around this state as a member of leadership in support of my peers. Unfortunately, Reynoldsburg was not a part of central Ohio she was very familiar with. Since working with Councilmember Lawson-Rowe, she has learned a lot about this city's growth vision and had the opportunity to even participate in our 3rd annual Juneteenth celebration as a vendor and give out a MACC training membership and a foursome to their upcoming golf outing in September. She saw the diversity of our community and the diversity of our leadership. These are challenging times we are living in and seeing a community strive to come together and do better, be more inclusive and create a better thriving community for all its residents is encouraging.

This month is minority mental health month and she encouraged us to just be mindful and pay attention to our black and brown neighbors. Reach out if you see someone in need – and if you find someone in crisis, direct them to the support services offered in your community. She was here this evening as the ED of MACC to offer partnership to the city of Reynoldsburg as we grow, and in our growth become a more diverse community. MACC stands ready to bring their expertise to the table to be of service wherever needed. She thanked Council for allowing her time to present.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe stated that August 1 was RPDs National Night Out



which will be 5-8pm at Civic Park. She also stated that Saturday August 12 will be the African American Male Wellness Walk with health screenings beginning at 7am and the run/walk beginning at 9am and the festival with vendors will end at noon at Livingston Park.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe explained that there will be a number of back-to-school events in August as well. The first event is Friday July 29 from 12-4pm at Fayin Insurance Agency. The second event is the fourth annual school supply drive hosted by the Reynoldsburg Lions Club at City Hall; the first day to drop off donations is August 5 from 10am-1pm. The pick-up date for supplies is August 19 from 10am-1pm as well. There will also be a back-to-school bash and fashion show at 1921 Channingway Center Drive on August 19 from 12-6pm.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that the Tomato Festival will be August 10, 11, and 12 with plenty of vendors and community events.

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Patrick Losinski stated that he is the CEO of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and that he is here tonight to give an update on the library as a whole and the Reynoldsburg branch. He explained that in March the library celebrated its 150th anniversary. He stated that they used this event to go into schools post-pandemic and discuss how they support students and what programs are available to them and how they can extend that with the local City Councils. He explained that the library opened in 1873 before cars and lightbulbs and what that means for them 8 years after the Civil War. He explained that this is important because in the libraries' founding documents specifically stated that the library would be open and free to everyone, which was significant because segregated libraries were being built throughout the country. He stated that with him tonight was Amanda Ekwall from the Reynoldsburg branch. She is the branch manager at our branch and is surprisingly busy at our temporary location.

Amanda Ekwall stated that the first branch in Reynoldsburg opened in 1938 as a county station library in Reynoldsburg Elementary School and then in 1980 the Reynoldsburg and Channingway branches merged and opened at 1402 Brice Road, where there is now construction and planned to open in 2024. The new two-level building will be 37,500 square feet, will have 15 study rooms, 3 large meeting rooms, and a reimagined children's space. She explained that even at the temporary location they are very busy and have issued 2200 new cards, had more than 2500 school help and reading buddy sessions, and seen more than 70,000 customer visits. She reiterated that the CML summer reading challenge is a signature event and system wide they had over 49,000 participants. The goal of the summer reading challenge is to combat summer sliding



and learning loss. Last year at the Reynoldsburg branch they had over 2300 people participate. She explained that they were able to offer 70 different programs throughout the summer.

Patrick Losinski discussed that there is a direct correlation between kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading level and that if 3rd graders are not reading at a 3rd grade level they are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school, so they have taken a special interest in kindergarten readiness. He explained that this happens because from kindergarten to 3rd grade you learn to read but from 3rd grade on you read to learn so those who cannot read proficiently are left behind. He went on to explain that one of the most common traits among those who are incarcerated is that they are illiterate. He stated that another tool they offer is a program called Linked In Learning, they have over 17,000 adult learning classes online. Mr. Losinski thanked Council for allowing them to speak and for their continued support.

President Jenkins stated that she has attended many of the classes with her grandson at several library locations and wanted to give her support for the kindergarten readiness program and the summer reading challenge.

Councilmember Strickland stated that she had the opportunity to visit the location in February and how great it was to see their programs.

Councilmember Baker thanked them for the information and also for their continued partnership.

COMMUNICATIONS

Results of the Fiber Study

Mayor Begeny explained that this was a rather robust study, so they felt that this information would be provided for Council's review during the recess and be discussed later.

MOTIONS

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Councilmember Lawson-Rowe as Chair of the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee Effective July 24, 2023 until the Next Council Organizational Meeting in January 2024

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Strickland
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Jenkins, Strickland, Lawson Rowe

A Motion to Recess the Reynoldsburg City Council for the Month of August 2023

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Strickland
SECONDER:	Baker
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Jenkins, Strickland, Lawson Rowe

A Motion to Authorize the Clerk of Council to Return Any Liquor Permit Requests Received During the August Recess, to Mark "Without a Request for Hearing," as Long as the Reynoldsburg Police Department Finds No Reason for a Hearing While Council is in Recess for the Month of August 2023. Should a Hearing be Needed, a Special Meeting of Council Will be Called

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Lawson-Rowe
SECONDER:	Baker
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Jenkins, Strickland, Lawson Rowe

REPORTS

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for July 24, 2023.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from Various Funds in the Community Events Department, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that recent City events have generated some vendor fees from the Juneteenth and Pride celebrations. Juneteenth collected \$1,525 from the 35 vendors and that will be donated to the African American Male Wellness organization and the Pride event collected \$125 from 13 vendors that will be



donated to the Kaleidoscope Youth Center. They are requesting an emergency due to the August recess and the African American Male Wellness organization is hosting an event soon that the City would like to participate in and present this donation.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Lawson-Rowe. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Adopting Provisions of Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code to Establish and Describe the Boundaries of the Eastern Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Reynoldsburg and Designating a Housing Officer to Administer the Program

Mayor Begeny stated that they are looking for a community reinvestment area (CRA) that would allow the City to better market certain parts of the community specifically in this area primarily on the Licking County side. This would allow the City to solicit bids for interested businesses that would like to come to the City and allow them to request tax abatements with approval from Council. He explained that beyond that, this CRA is very similar to other ones we have seen and the same thing applies for the next Ordinance.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked what kind of business they are looking for in this area. Mayor Begeny stated that they are hoping for economic generators, which deploy between 100 to 200 people, or quality of life services.

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

An Ordinance Adopting Provisions of Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code to Establish and Describe the Boundaries of the Gateway Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Reynoldsburg and Designating a Housing Officer to Administer the Program

Mayor Begeny stated that this is the same as the previous Ordinance that was discussed. He explained that this area along Brice road and Main street is already zoned for innovation. This would just allow them market the area.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 59-2022 to Update the Tax Exemptions Available within the East Main Community Reinvestment Area

Mayor Begeny stated that this is a slight alteration to a CRA that has already been approved for the land that is adjacent to the property owned by Ohio Primary Care. Due to some of the developments and interested parties, there is a potential for some kind of use further on that could include multiuse facilities. Any further plans would still need approval from Council.

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

Public Safety, Law & Courts

This is the Public Safety, Laws & Court Committee meeting for July 24, 2023.

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

A Motion to Appoint a Chair of the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Baker made a motion to nominate Councilmember Lawson-Rowe as chair of the Public Safety, Laws, and Court Committee. Second by President Jenkins. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed. Motion carried.

A Motion to Appoint a Vice Chair to the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe opened the floor for vice chair nominations. Councilmember Lawson-Rowe nominated Councilmember Baker to be vice chair. Second by President Jenkins. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed. Motion carried.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for July 24, 2023.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for a Grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the Summit Road (Mueller Drive to East Main Street) Improvement Project

Director Dorman explained that they typically apply for one OPWC grant a year and have had great success in the past; East Main Street was also funded by an OPWC grant as well as the Waggoner Road project. Director Dorman stated that

there is a multi-family and single family home development project occurring on Summit Road across from the high school. Further down the road there will be another projects with hundreds of homes being built connecting to the Eastwood Development. Looking ahead at traffic and water needs, they are trying to plan for the future as best they can.

Councilmember Baker asked if they plan to add a traffic light at Summit and E Main. Director Dorman stated that they are reviewing the traffic study done at that intersection and will soon go to ODOT for approval.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Three (3) Pick-Up Trucks Amending the Vehicle Purchase Type in Ordinance 122-2022 and Repealing and Replacing Resolution 2023-05 and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman explained that at the end of last year they were approved to purchase one vehicle and then two more at the beginning of the year, but they had specified that it would be a Ford Ranger. They recently learned that the Ford Ranger will no longer be sold to government entities. They are now offering the Ford Maverick, which is a hybrid truck. They are only requesting to change the type of truck listed in the Resolution.

Councilmember Baker asked is this was to replace vehicles. Director Dorman stated it is to replace two vehicles and add one due to an addition in employees.

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 July 24, 2023.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing an Increase in Appropriations for JEDD 2, and Declaring an Emergency

Auditor Cicak explained that this Ordinance is for a single read emergency that is required from the JEDD agreements. He explained that they received an unprecedented amount from JEDD 2 in an unexpected payment collected by RITA. He further explained that they are used to seeing around \$30,000 per quarter but

just received \$664,000 which has to be distributed among all of their partners this week.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked for an explanation of what the JEDDs are for. Auditor Cicak stated that it is a Joint Economic Development District. Attorney Shook stated that it is its own political subdivision created through contracts with Etna Township, Licking County, and Southwest Licking School District; all parties receive a percentage of the income tax revenue that we collect as part of the agreement.

Councilmember Strickland moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

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 Strickland stated that as this legislation is very important and needs input from all Councilmembers, she requested that the item not be moved forward and stay in committee until after the August recess.

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

Director Boller stated that they received a bill from some arbitration services that we had completed with the FOP. The amount was \$3692.42 which would make it a then and now.

Councilmember Strickland moved to forward this Ordinance for a single read and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Strickland
SECONDER:	Lawson-Rowe
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Jenkins, Strickland, Lawson Rowe

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for a Grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the Summit Road (Mueller Drive to East Main Street) Improvement Project



**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Three (3) Pick-Up Trucks
Amending the Vehicle Purchase Type in Ordinance 122-2022 and Repealing
and Replacing Resolution 2023-05 and Waive Competitive Bidding**

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

**An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from Various Funds in the Community
Events Department, and Declaring an Emergency**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Ironsite
Inc. for Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration, Appropriate Funds, and
Declaring an Emergency**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Contract with EMH&T for
Construction Phase Engineering Services for Blacklick Creek Stream
Restoration, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Flock
Safety for the Installation and Maintenance of Security Traffic Cameras in the
City of Reynoldsburg, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an
Emergency**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an InterGovernmental
Agreement with the Franklin County Board of Commission and the Franklin
County Engineer for Waggoner Road Improvements, and Declaring an
Emergency**



An Ordinance Authorizing an Increase in Appropriations for JEDD 2, and Declaring an Emergency

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Adopting Provisions of Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code to Establish and Describe the Boundaries of the Eastern Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Reynoldsburg and Designating a Housing Officer to Administer the Program

An Ordinance Adopting Provisions of Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code to Establish and Describe the Boundaries of the Gateway Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Reynoldsburg and Designating a Housing Officer to Administer the Program.

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 59-2022 to Update the Tax Exemptions Available within the East Main Community Reinvestment Area

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

An Ordinance Accepting, Approving, and Ratifying the Submitted Recommendations of Several City of Reynoldsburg Tax Incentive Review Councils

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 975 Refuse Collection for the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg



An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1305 Permits and Fees, Sections 1305.01 Fee Schedule, 1305.02 Plumbing Permits, 1305.03 Permit Addresses, 1305.04 Certificate of Occupancy, 1305.05 Demolition Permits, 1305.06 Re-Inspection, 1305.07 Contractor Registration, and 1305.08 Granting and Revoking of Permits of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 175 Purchasing and Contracting Procedures of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Strickland
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Jenkins, Strickland, Lawson Rowe

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

LEGISLATION FOR THIRD READING AND APPROVAL

THIS ORDINANCE WAS NOT FORWARDED FROM COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Applications for Reynoldsburg At-Large Council Position

President Jenkins stated that they received nine applications for this open Council



position. One applicant has since removed their name for consideration.

Councilmember Baker stated that he would like the process to be the same as it was in 2017 when applicants came to Council and the application review was done at the meeting and each applicant was given a chance to speak. He suggested that they choose an applicant at the first meeting in September. Councilmember Lawson-Rowe agreed. Councilmember Cotner agreed that one minute opening statement would be sufficient for the applicants to introduce themselves to allow time for questions. Councilmember Cotner also recommended doing this at the end so that official business was attended to at the beginning.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Council will be in recess for the month of August.

August 3, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board

August 10 - 12, 2023 Tomato Festival

August 17, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board

EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuit to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1) "To consider the appointment of a public official."

The executive session was not called as it was not needed.