



**MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
October 9, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Dr. John Stumbo of The Alliance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson Rowe

ABSENT: Jenkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2023

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Councilmember Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel wanted to thank everyone for participating in the Diwali event over the weekend, which was very successful and they estimate that over 10,000 people attended. He gave a special thanks to Mayor Begeny and Jennifer Clemens, stating that none of this would be possible without her. He also thanked RPD and the Fire Department for their assistance. Councilmember Baker reiterated how great of an event it was and stated that he looks forward to next year.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny also reiterated how great the event was and thanked everyone for all of the work that went into it.

Mayor Begeny stated that earlier this year Council approved doing a community survey and they recently received those results. They are working through the information now and will begin to prepare a formal presentation to give at Council. Overall, none of the information was surprising as it kind of goes along with what the City already sees as their strengths and areas of improvement. He explained that 40% of people reported that they have had an interaction with a City employee and out of that 40%, 81% stated that we were friendly or extremely friendly and 69% said that we were helpful or very helpful. Some areas we were high performing overall included our parks system (91% favorable), garbage collection (81% favorable), and community events (80% favorable). Some areas that need to be improved are areas that we are already aware of, which are roads and sidewalks.

Mayor Begeny stated that at the last Council meeting we had a resident express concern about police presence and traffic enforcement within our neighborhoods and they were not the first person to bring up this issue. He explained that the City of Reynoldsburg is about 11 square miles and we currently have 72 officers over three shifts. He explained that we are doing a great job with what we have when it comes to criminal enforcement; however, we do not always have the resources for traffic enforcement. After the last meeting, Mayor Begeny met with Chief Baker and asked him to create a rough idea of what it would take for the City to have a dedicated traffic patrol, about 4 to 5 people per shift, to address this issue. Chief Baker stated that it would take approximately 30 additional officers plus equipment, tools, vehicles. He explained that it is not currently in the budget to add 30 officers, so he wanted to bring this information to Council and allow them to decide what they believe should be done. They discussed that this would mean a police levy for the residents. He also mentioned that if they chose to go through with this, it would mean more tickets for everyone. Mayor Begeny stated that if this is something they choose to do, they would most likely add it to the ballot in March of 2024.

Councilmember Strickland thanked Mayor Begeny and Chief Baker for providing that information. She stated that with the price of everything going up including water and sewer, even groceries, she is not sure if this is what makes sense right now. Of course, safety is always a concern, but so are our residents' finances.

Councilmember Baker stated that he is interested in seeing what the numbers look like because we are growing and we do have to keep up with that growth.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked how they came up with the number 30 for how many more officers we would need. Chief Baker stated that when you look at the number of traffic incidents, they have to look at something called the relief factor. The relief factor

is the number of officers you would need that could take care of 40 hours a week which is typically 2 officers for every shift when you include, training time, vacation time, and sick time. Chief Baker stated that this year they have addressed around 4200 traffic incidents and typically address around 6000 a year. He explained that one officer spends about one hour on a priority call but 2 to 3 hours on that call if it ends in an arrest. One officer takes about 30 minutes to deal with a traffic stop. The current call response time is about 6.5 minutes but that response time will go up if we shift to conducting more traffic stops. We currently have 2 officers that are solely dedicated to traffic stops but they would like for that number to be between 10 and 15.

Councilmember Cotner asked since issue 11 how have the numbers and the budget changed. Chief Baker stated that there has been an increase of around 10 officers since then but our population has increased as well. He explained that there are a lot of stolen cars in Central Ohio and those calls use a lot of resources; there have been around 45 stolen cars in the last quarter. He said that incidents involving stolen cars are priority one calls further adding to the resources being used for these calls. Fortunately, they are able to investigate these crimes quickly thanks to some of the technology they have implemented. He explained that they are maintaining well but if they would like an increase in services then there would need to be an increase in officers.

Councilmember Cotner stated that even though traffic violations are a crime and they should be dealt with, it seems as though the safety of our communities is what residents are more concerned about and that does not line up with an increase in traffic stops. Chief Baker stated he believes they would be able to address both issues with the proposed increase in officers.

Councilmember Salvati stated that with this increase in officers that would include an increase in motorcycles, cars, and equipment and would also lead to an increase in traffic citations which would increase the work load for our Mayor's Court and the Clerk of Courts office. Mayor Begeny stated that before they got too far down the rabbit hole of researching how much this all would be, they wanted to bring the idea to Council to see if they were even interested. Councilmember Salvati said that it is not a horrible idea to just put it on the ballot and see how much the residents actually want this. He then asked if he knows of any other communities have passed something similar to this. Chief Baker stated that major cities have things like this but he is not sure of what other communities may do this. He stated that the complaints they are receiving are not unique to Reynoldsburg though.

Councilmember Baker asked if additional officers would help the amount of overtime police officers are currently having to work. Chief Baker stated that more officers will help with this but they would increase the minimum amount of staff per shift to increase traffic control and decrease response time. He explained that their overtime has been pretty consistent over the last few years.



Mayor Begeny stated that they will gather more in depth information about the cost and bring that back to Council for them to review.

Presentation to Joseph's Coat of Funds Collected during the Tomato Festival

Mayor Begeny presented a donation of \$336 to a representative from Joseph's Coat. The representative from Joseph's Coat thanked everyone for their donations.

Presentation by Franco Manno of EMH&T regarding landscape walls along East Main Street

Mr. Manno stated that he is a landscape architect with EMH&T and works with City staff on understanding the renovation from Rosehill to Briarcliff. The first phase will include repairing the brick walls at the Rosehill and Main Street intersection. This would include adding stone to the existing brick walls, plants, and metal accents to match the other areas on Main Street. He stated that all the trees will stay where they are and there will be some reduced landscaping to add more lawn area. He stated that this proposed first phase at the Rosehill intersection would be \$300,000. The remainder of the street, from Rosehill to Briarcliff, would be about \$600,000. He explained that these are all ballpark numbers.

Councilmember Baker asked how these updates will hold up over 10, 15 years. Mr. Manno stated that the metal they will use will be rust proof and they will recommend that additional stock be purchased and warehoused for repairs over the years. These walls are designed to last on a 30 year cycle and should be easier to repair.

COMMUNICATIONS

Treasury Board September Meeting Minutes

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe stated that in her article in the Reynoldsburg

Connect, she highlighted that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Sadly, many of us have been affected by breast cancer, whether dealing with it ourselves or someone in our lives. She explained that her children have 5 godmothers and 2 of them are now warrior angels and she does not want her kids or anyone else's kids to lose any more aunts to breast cancer. She stated that if you or anyone you know is in need of a free or reduced mammogram to contact BCCP, Breast and Cervical Cancer Project. She also invited Ms. Anderson to the podium to offer her remarks and receive the Proclamation.

Councilmember Lawson-Rowe read the proclamation.

Ms. Anderson stated that she has been in Reynoldsburg since her son was 1 and he is now a senior. She explained that in October of 2021 she felt lumps in her breasts so she went and got a mammogram and got an ultrasound. She was then told that it was just calcium deposits, not cancer. But within 10 months, that grew to 80% of her breast and in August of 2022 was diagnosed with stage 2 invasive carcinoma breast cancer which spread to her lymph nodes. She had to advocate for herself and keep asking for more tests because she knew something wasn't right. If she had not advocated for herself she doesn't know where she would be today. She said that she is still fighting, she is winning the fight but still fighting. She appreciated everyone in the community as they have helped her through this tough time.

Councilmember Strickland stated that earlier this year she also had a scare and Councilmember Lawson-Rowe continuously told her to go get checked. She went for the 3D mammogram and they saw something so she continued to go for more tests. Everything turned out okay but she wants to make sure that everyone gets checked even when they think everything is okay.

Councilmember Baker stated that breast cancer doesn't only affect the person who has it, it affects everyone around them. He explained that his mother had breast cancer and she fought as long as she could and lived two years longer than they predicted. He commended Ms. Anderson for continuing to fight even when they told her she was fine and that she knew herself well enough to know that something was wrong.

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

REPORTS

There is no Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for October 9, 2023.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Cooperative Agreement Between the City of Reynoldsburg and the Franklin County Engineer for the Improvement, Maintenance, and Operation of the Portions of Waggoner Road Phase I within Truro Township in Franklin County

Director Dorman explained that this is an agreement the City has with the Franklin County Engineer's Office and that Waggoner Road is probably one of the biggest projects we have had. This project involved a lot of collaboration between the City and the County Engineer. He stated that through this project they took a look at the bridge just north of Main Street and the County feels that it is a good time to replace the decking on that bridge and they will take that cost themselves. This agreement now includes the repairs for the bridge.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 958 Stormwater Charges, Section 958.05 Imposition of Charges and Section 958.06 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance addresses our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System which was implanted by the EPA around 20 years ago for small municipal storm systems. Our storm water goes to a creek rather than a treatment plant, so that is why they have to monitor what goes into the



water. Some storm water still goes to the Columbus treatment plant and that fee is added to the water bill. This fee is increasing by around 12 cents.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for October 9, 2023.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Pyakurel, Councilmember Strickland, Chair Salvati, and President Pro Temp Lawson-Rowe.

An Ordinance to Accept the Agreement from the Ohio Auditor of State for an Independent Public Accountant for 2023-2025

Auditor Cicak stated that this Ordinance accepts the agreement from the Auditor of State and every three years it must be renewed. He explained that we received two bids and they were evaluated by the state and we then chose Wilson, Shannon, and Snow from those two bids based on those findings. It will cost \$25,200 for the first year and \$23,100 for the last year.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Cooperative Agreement Between the City of Reynoldsburg and the Franklin County Engineer for the Improvement, Maintenance, and Operation of the Portions of Waggoner Road Phase I within Truro Township in Franklin County

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Pyakurel

AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Pyakurel, Lawson Rowe
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An Ordinance Authorizing an Increase in Appropriations for Various JEDD Agreements, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 958 Stormwater Charges, Section 958.05 Imposition of Charges and Section 958.06 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance to Accept the Agreement from the Ohio Auditor of State for an Independent Public Accountant for 2023-2025

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance to Amend Section 971.15 Personal Conduct of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Media Promotion Enterprises (MPE) for the 2024 Tomato Festival



OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Strickland stated that she received a flyer for Veterans Dental Care Day. They want to show appreciation for our Veterans by providing them free dental care on Friday, November 10 at 8am. Free dental care will consist of free dental cleanings, fillings, or tooth extraction. The address is 6504 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg OH 43068 and the email is info@reynoldsburgdentalcenter.com and the number is (614)866-4186.

Councilmember Baker thanked nurses, doctors, RPD, firefighters, teachers, and everyone who works hard.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 19, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board
October 23, 2023 Council
October 31, 2023 Trick or Treat