



**MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
October 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of the City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Baker (6:52PM), Johnson, Jenkins, Strickland, Salvati, Lawson Rowe
ABSENT: Cotner, Pyakurel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023

The regular meeting minutes of September 25, 2023 were approved as submitted.

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2023

The regular meeting minutes of October 9, 2023 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Adam Shiffman
683 Blazon Street**

Mr. Shiffman stated that he is here tonight with his pickleball community to discuss two things. One being to share their appreciation and gratitude for the partnership they have had with the City of Reynoldsburg over the years. The second issue they would like to discuss is having dedicated pickleball courts specifically at the JFK tennis courts. He

explained that he would give a little bit of background on the pickleball group, stating that 11 years ago there were 12 people snowbirding in different states where they learned about pickleball. They loved the sport and brought it back to Ohio but there were no pickleball courts. It was still new at the time, so they played anywhere they could find a flat surface using chalk lines and their own nets. They would also travel to other cities looking for courts. They eventually began to lobby certain facilities to request courts. About 8 years ago, pickleball court lines were painted on the JFK tennis courts, but those lines now need to be redone as they have faded over time on both the tennis court lines and the pickleball court lines. They would also like to request dedicated pickleball courts rather than having to bring their own nets. He explained that these courts would be used every day of the week based on the weather, as there are groups every day in the morning and evening that have to put up and take down their own nets. Their goal is really just to catch up with the communities around us that already have dedicated courts. They have tournaments and raise money and even donate money back to the City. He explained that the courts at JFK could easily have six to 10 pickleball courts. He reiterated that they are so thankful for the partnership and look forward to continuing this relationship.

Email Comment

John Seryak
8322 Bedlington Drive

Madam President, Councilmembers, Mayor Begeny. My name is John Seryak. I live at 8322 Bedlington Drive here in Reynoldsburg. I'd like to give kudos to our Parks and Recreation Department and our City Planners for the Blacklick Creek Restoration Project. While it is not complete yet, my wife and I so enjoy that Blacklick Creek is now opened up for walkers, joggers, and bikers to enjoy. I am confident that when the project is complete it will enhance the beauty of our Huber park. We so enjoy seeing all the improvements to our City's parks.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that he met with the pickleball players on the courts and they had contacted someone about the pickleball courts and that everything Mr. Shiffman said about the courts is absolutely true. The person who was working on this no longer works at the company, so the project got a little lost, but they will give an update as soon as they can about this process. He explained that it is projected that 10 pickleball courts can be constructed in place of 3 tennis courts.

Mayor Begeny also thanked everyone for attending the Halloween events over the last few days and especially thanked the Reynoldsburg Community Association. He stated that trick or treat night will be Tuesday, October 31 from 6-8pm. The next event the City



will be hosting is the tree lighting ceremony on December 1 from 5:30 to 8 pm at the Senior Center.

Mayor Begeny stated that Town Hall with State Representative Rich Brown will be this Thursday. Rich Brown is our Franklin County representative to Reynoldsburg at the State House. He will be answering questions and discussing things going on at the State House at this meeting.

Mayor Begeny stated that he has more information on how much a potential dedicated police levy would cost based on the desire of the community for more traffic control. The millage for a \$6.5 million levy would be \$246.51 per \$100,000 for the assessed housing with discounts for those who are considered a homestead. He stated that ultimately the decision is up to Council. He stated that he had thought of a few questions regarding this proposed levy. Does this address a need or a want? The impact of the Franklin County assessed property values, which are approximately between 41 and 50%, and the economic impact of our residents. He stated that there is also a potential for a school operating levy that may be on the ballot as soon as November 2024 and they have not requested an operating levy since 2010. He explained that because of this, schools are operating in 2023 on a 2010 budget. He explained that if they choose to move forward with this, then there will be legislation presented at the next Council meeting.

REPORTS

West Licking Fire District Report

Councilmember Baker stated that this included the stats from October and explained that they are planning to be done with construction by spring of 2024.

Liquor Permit Request

Deputy Chief Grizzell stated that this application was sent back to the Liquor Control Board due to conflicting personal information on the application. The applicant is supposed to be fixing that and resubmitting an application to Liquor Control. Due to this, we will not be presenting an investigation for this permit tonight.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting for October 23, 2023.



Members in attendance are: Councilmember Johnson, Vice Chair Baker, and President Jenkins.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into an Agreement with the Ohio EPA for the 2024 Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Program

Mayor Begeny stated that this is an authorization for two grants; one for a water bottle refilling station with a 0% match located at JFK Park and Huber Park, and a litter grant to purchase more litter materials like buckets, vests, and other things like that with a 25% match, but is well within our budget.

Councilmember Baker thanked Mayor Begeny for bringing this to Council.

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

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for October 23, 2023.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Johnson, Chair Strickland, and President Jenkins.

An Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Strawser Paving for the 2023 Water Line Replacement Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that every year we do a waterline project and Strawser Paving was the lowest bid, so he is requesting we move forward with the contract.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Construction Inspection Services for the 2023 Water Line Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this contract is for the inspection of the project and noted that the EPA is coming out with some additional requirements on waterline



maintenance. When they go out and inspect these waterlines, they are now checking for lead waterlines as well. The EPA is now requesting that older galvanized lines and lead lines be replaced.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Inliner Solutions for the 2023 Sewer Improvement Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this is the yearly sewerline project and this year they are focused on French Run and Bridon where they will clean and expand the sanitary sewer lines with a less invasive technique. This is also a requirement by the EPA.

Councilmember Baker asked about the stormwater flooding around Honeycutt and if there was a plan for that. Director Dorman stated that this is the first he has heard of it but he will look into the issue.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Inspection Services for the 2023 Sewer Line Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that this contract allows us to have an insight inspector and point of contact for residents.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 953 Water Charges, Section 953.01(a) Water Rate Schedule of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance is something we do every year as Columbus increases our rates. He explained that they are having to do some major renovations to their infrastructure to meet EPA mandates and expand their water service. Because we are a master meter community, we also pay those rates. The proposed increases are 5% water, 5% sewer, and 1% stormwater. We then add a small percentage on top of that for the administrative side. The current water rate is \$9.45 and the proposed price is \$10.11.

Councilmember Strickland stated that it seems like they go up every year and she knows there is a program for senior citizens to help with this cost. Director Dorman said that there is a 10% discount for seniors. He explained that we have now moved to a new remote reporting system that allows them to run daily reports on the meters which would help catch leaks and breaks faster than before. He explained that they will continue to work with residents to address whatever concerns they may have.

Councilmember Baker asked if Columbus has communicated with the cities that get their water from them about what their plans are moving forward, because it seems like the rates go up every year and we have no control. Director Dorman said that they do attend meetings at the Dublin plant regularly and it's been noted that in 2020 it was raised to 2%, 4% in 2021, another 4% in 2022, and now 5% in 2023. They have even heard projections of 8-10% increases. He explained that as much as we would like to have some say in these prices, we don't have much control. He explained that with Columbus, they serve such a large area that it can be weeks before they are able to repair waterline breaks, but in Reynoldsburg, they typically address the issue within an hour. He said that they test the water monthly and do lead and copper sampling during these tests as well. Councilmember Baker asked where we are in terms of monthly payments as well. Director Dorman stated that the way it is set up does not include monthly payments, but residents are welcome to pay their bill however often they want. They could come in each month and submit a payment so that the 3 month bill is much more manageable.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he uses bill pay through his bank and every month when he pays his other bills he also sends in about a third of what he expects his water bill to be to help alleviate the cost.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 945 Sewer Charges, Section 945.02(c) Rate Schedule of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Director Dorman stated that this is similar to the previously discussed legislation

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

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

Director Dorman stated that a bill from Local Waste was sent to the water department rather than the service department. There was a PO open but there

was not enough on the PO. They are not requesting more funds, just to move them over to pay this bill.

Councilmember Strickland asked if they now have any systems in place to ensure that bills are sent to the right place. Director Dorman stated that typically when a bill doesn't get paid, the company reaches out stating that they have sent an invoice but it has not been paid yet. Local Waste did not reach out again after they sent the original bill, so it went unnoticed. They have corrected this issue within the department as well.

Councilmember Baker asked if there were any late fees. Director Dorman stated that there were no late fees and that they were very easy to work with.

Councilmember Strickland asked if they heard good things about this company from residents. Mayor Begeny responded by saying that they rarely get comments, saying that they are doing a good job but there has been a significant reduction in calls and complaints. Director Dorman added that us and Gahanna were the only communities that Local Waste bid on and they got a considerably better rate than other communities. Mayor Begeny stated that on the community survey, City services received a review in the mid-70s for service satisfaction.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase the Rights-of-Way Necessary for the Construction of Waggoner Road Phase I, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman stated that as part of our OPWC grant for Waggoner road phase 1, we are in the 99% stage of design. We know that we are widening the road and adding curbs, leisure paths, and street lights. We may need to acquire small pieces of land along the edge for these additions. They have already received these appraisals for these pieces of land and are now in the process of contacting the property owners and negotiating deals with them. Per the grant, we are given \$300,000 just for right-of-way negotiations. Mayor Begeny stated that this will affect around 30 properties to varying degrees. Director Dorman stated that there are some developments being built in this area so they had to include this in their building plan to move forward with the development from the beginning.

Councilmember Baker asked about adding lights on a section of road near Kroger and Taylor Road because of how dark it is and there are no sidewalks. Director Dorman stated that they are currently doing a thoroughfare study in these areas to look at and address problems. He stated that as COPC is built, they will add a path



in front and whoever buys the property next to it will also be required to do the same. They do want to figure out what it will take to solve some of these issues, especially with lighting.

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 23, 2023.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the City Auditor to Fund the Health Savings Accounts for 2024

Mayor Begeny stated that they do this every year as part of the budget and this allows the Auditor to go ahead and ready the funds for those health savings accounts. The benefit packages are out to bid right now, so they are looking forward to seeing how those come back but the structure and HSA will still remain the same.

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

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 190 Income Tax Effective January 1, 2016, Section 190.03 Imposition of Tax, Section 190.05 Annual Return; Filing, Section 190.18 Interest and Penalties, and Establish Section 190.29 Election to be Subject to R.C. Sections 718.80 and 718.95 of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Attorney Shook explained that these are mandatory amendments to chapter 190, which is our tax code, the general assembly and the Governor implemented in HB 33 which is the biannual budget, that overhauls taxation including municipal taxation. The major changes that are coming before Council include an amendment that would allow businesses to calculate their net profit based upon the location of their workers and give them an option to choose the location used. The other change now includes a cap on the penalties that they can impose at \$25 for late filing. In addition, there are the same prohibitions put on the City through RITA that we cannot send our notices to tax payers of late filing if they applied for a federal tax extension and if we do send us a notice, we are penalized \$150. He stated that these are relatively minor changes but they are mandatory.



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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into an Agreement with the Ohio EPA for the 2024 Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Program

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Strawser Paving for the 2023 Water Line Replacement Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Construction Inspection Services for the 2023 Water Line Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency



An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Inliner Solutions for the 2023 Sewer Improvement Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Inspection Services for the 2023 Sewer Line Project, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 953 Water Charges, Section 953.01(a) Water Rate Schedule of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 945 Sewer Charges, Section 945.02(c) Rate Schedule of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase the Rights-of-Way necessary for the Construction of Waggoner Road Phase I, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the City Auditor to Fund the Health Savings Accounts for 2024

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 190 Income Tax Effective January 1, 2016, Section 190.03 Imposition of Tax, Section 190.05 Annual Return; Filing, Section 190.18 Interest and Penalties, and Establish Section 190.29 Election to be Subject to R.C. Sections 718.80 and 718.95 of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND 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**

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker wanted to give the Raiders football team good luck in their game this week. He also wanted to give his usual thanks, but especially to the teachers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 31, 2023 Trick or Treat

November 2, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board

November 13, 2023 Council

November 16, 2023 Planning & Zoning Board

November 23 & 24, 2023 City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27, 2023 Council