

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2020-2021 Councilmembers:

PRESENT: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser

ABSENT: Greeno

President of Council Harrington pointed out that Councilman Greeno informed him that he would not be in attendance tonight. Councilman Russel moved to excuse Councilman Greeno, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Filed.

President of Council Harrington lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Slough moved to accept the November 3, 2020 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, Councilman Niemeyer seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

Councilman Russel moved to add and replace the following to tonight's agenda, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ON:

- Financial Summary from Mayor Muryrn (*REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section*)
- Letter from Northwest Ohio Realtors Chief Executive Officer Megan Foes – Findlay zoning map update (*WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS section*)

REPLACEMENT:

- Ordinance No. 2020-133 (*LEGISLATION section*)
 - Changed first appropriation of \$520.30 to now be \$635.49

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Manager of Raise the Bar Tricia Valasek – 5-year return on investment in Raise the Bar

Councilman Wobser noted that ORAL COMMUNICATIONS are allotted four (4) minutes to speak and asked if Ms. Valasek could be given more than that. He moved to allow Ms. Valasek extra time for her ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, seconded by Councilman Russel. All were in favor.

Ms. Valasek is before City Council tonight to inform them of how the City's investment in Raise The Bar (RTB) the past five (5) years has had an impact on the community. She thanked Councilman Wobser for his commitment to RTB who serves on the board, as well as Mayor Muryrn who is the Vice President of RTB, and Tim Mayle who serves as President of RTB. Ms. Valasek is the Manager for RTB of Hancock County. She stepped into that role in May when Laurie Zydok departed. She has enjoyed facilitating the cradle to career trajectory by instilling skills that she knows individuals need to be successful in the workplace today and into the future. They are education providers, government, and non-profits that conduct conversations on how to change the system and how to change how individuals learn about jobs in the community, how to raise awareness about the types of skills they need in order to be successful in jobs that ultimately turns into tax income for the community. The City's investment in RTB has been very purposeful and well spent. They are a local entity that is working on workforce development in collaboration with the Economic Development and many other organizations in Findlay. RTB has been working with two (2) different sectors of the workforce: the youth whose job it is every day to be in school to learn and to grow. They also work with the adult workforce population. She highlighted how RTB has been impacting those two (2) sectors of the workforce every day. The ten thousand (10,000) individuals who are part of the youth force are within the nine (9) districts within Hancock County in city schools. They are learning the professional mannerisms and the key knowledge needed to fill jobs both now and into the future. They are doing a fantastic job. The teachers in those districts are phenomenal. RTB is supplementing them with new skills so that they can be leaders of themselves and unleash their potential and the strengths that they possess so that they can go forth and be leaders someday in the medical field, in manufacturing, become government leaders or wherever their hearts and aptitudes allow them. The program is in all Findlay City Schools. Every building has implemented the Leader In Me program. The program is also in the McComb and Arlington School systems. RTB's goal is to have the Leader In Me program in all county schools by 2025 which is a big investment in the community, but is one that is worth doing because of the outcomes that are proven around the nation and around the world on what types of soft skills the youth can develop. It teaches them to lead themselves before they lead others. They learn to listen, speak confidently, shake ones hands and look them in the eyes, which are qualities employers want here in Hancock County. RTB also helps in middle schools with career explorations because once they get to high school, they have investigated more about where they think they should go rather than what opportunities are available to them. Not everyone is ready to go to college and not everyone needs to go to college. RTB wants individuals to know that there are pathways for them whether they want to go right into the workforce, earn while they learn, or go to college and come back to a career. In non-COVID years, RTB has had one thousand (1,000) eighth (8th) graders walking through manufacturing facilities where they get to see, smell and touch the products that are produced locally.

She does not think they truly grasp what is going on in Hancock County as most adults do not realize the potential in this community. RTB helps them see the possibility of what is different than what their parents or their grandparents have taught them about manufacturing. It no longer is a dirty, dark or dangerous job and is now high-tech, clean and innovative. RTB also helps high school juniors and seniors see what careers are available during career day where they attend college fairs and career fairs. While that is not possible during COVID days, RTB still inspires to grow as they go. In October, they sponsored the Litman project where they connect literacy and manufacturing to third (3rd) grade students in the community. They delivered approximately eight hundred (800) books dealing with manufacturing to elementary third (3rd) graders. They also provided them with a one-page informational sheet that lists what products are made locally, specifically around the automotive workforce as they probably do not realize that the cars that they ride in every day have parts that were built in Hancock County. Their parents may not know that either. It raises awareness and has positive outcomes. Another program RTB facilitates is the Ohio Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (Ohio FAME) program. It is an earn while you learn program, is not an apprenticeship where a dreamaker's card is earned, but is where one earns an Associate's Degree from Findlay's Owens Community College in Technical Studies of Applied Engineering, and they also go to work. The individual in that program goes to school two (2) days a week and work three (3) days a week. RTB is entering their third (3rd) cohort with eighteen (18) individuals among eight (8) companies in Findlay that will be growing with four (4) new companies in the program next year. The Pathway To Fame program is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to exposing the adult population to their pathways. The models are pliable, replicable, and stable to many industry sectors in the community, but want to expand to meet other needs such as manufacturing, internet, and medical professions. Those are all of the ways RTB has served the community that provides well paid dividends to individuals who are employable, who want to stay in Hancock County, and want to live in the City of Findlay. It will return the income back to the services and infrastructure that the City can offer.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser pointed out that RTB has gained the momentum that was expected for some time now with Ms. Valasek pushing things forward. What the Leader in Me program does for the community's children all the way through high school is an amazing site. It's what is being done with the cohorts and the program that keeps the workforce in Hancock County which ultimately pays the dividends for what citizens have invested in the board and the programs. It is money well spent for what the community gets back out of it. It is a good investment. The City is financially well off enough to continue to support them for some time forward. The City's continued financial support will be put into next year's budget and can be discussed more at budget hearings time.

Mayor Muryn added that the City of Findlay, Hancock County is the only program of FAME in the state of Ohio. It was originally started with Toyota and the importance of education. It is important to recognize the climate and the idea of educating middle schoolers and high schoolers, as well as their families, around what manufacturing is and the high caliber jobs that it creates. They are not the traditional old school manufacturing, low paying jobs, but are advanced manufacturing, good-paying jobs that Hancock County has seen a wage growth among manufacturing and logistical jobs that are transitioning and there is education that comes with that. The benefit that it brings to not only Findlay and Hancock County, and the State of Ohio is recognition that we are already receiving at a State level in the interest of some of the Ohio Manufacturing Association with a number of companies and organizations that are recognizing Findlay and Hancock County as a leader. The small investments that the City makes attracts businesses, employees and employers. It helps Findlay to maintain being at the top caliber of the community that sets the example for communities across the state of Ohio. The City's continued support will be included in next year's budget and will be discussed in a couple of weeks. It is money well spent.

Councilman Russel asked how many companies are involved with the eighteen (18) individuals that are in the program. Ms. Valasek replied there currently are eight (8) companies involved with four (4) more coming on next year. Councilman Russel asked if those four (4) will be added to the current eight (8) companies. Ms. Valasek replied that they rotate. The program is picking up four (4) new companies and will have seven (7) companies next year. Councilman Russel asked how someone gets involved with this program. He would like to see more than eighteen (18) individuals get involved in the program. He asked if there are any limitations on being in the program. Ms. Valasek replied that the limitation is on how many positions the employers open up to the program. The employers have to commit to at least twelve dollars (\$12.00) an hour and pay at least half (1/2) of the State's tuition fees throughout the program. It is a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000.00) investment per individual for each company. The employers also have to make sure they do not fill too many Technician spots and have to move employees out to other positions in order to fill those positions again. It is a maneuvering of individuals where companies see the potential and return on investment in the program at a certain rate. Councilman Russel asked when a position becomes open if there is a waiting list of individuals who are interested. Ms. Valasek replied that they only accept individuals once a year. Recruiting starts in the summer. They are accepting applications right now and then in the spring are interviewed by the companies who are part of the program to be selected in March or April and start over the summer. It is only done once a year and requires an application and interview process. It is a commitment between the employer and that employee. Filed.

PETITIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief Executive Officer of Northwest Ohio Realtors Megan Foes – Findlay Zoning Map update

On behalf of the one thousand nine hundred (1,900) realtors served by Northwest Ohio Realtors (and the clients they serve) Ms. Foes is writing in favor of the Findlay Zoning Map update. The City of Findlay Zoning Map needs updated to correct inconsistencies between the existing use of properties and their current zoning classification. These inconsistencies cause limitation on property utilization and cost property owners time and money. These zoning inconsistencies often times are found when the property owner sells their property causing delays in the transfer of property. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – October 2020. Filed.

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – October 2020. Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – October 2020. Filed.

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – October 2020. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak – summary financial reports

A set of summary financial reports for the prior month follows including:

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of October 31, 2020
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as October 31, 2020
- Open Projects Report as of October 31, 2020
- Cash & Investments as of October 31, 2020

Filed.

Hancock Regional Planning Commission Director Matt Cordonnier – amendment to map update via Ordinance No. 2020-124

Hancock Regional Planning Commission (HRPC) has adjusted seven (7) parcels on the zoning map. Those parcels are not proposed to be changed in the map update. The parcels each have two (2) zoning classifications, but the computer assigned only one (1) zoning category when updating the parcel layer. This has now been fixed to display both zoning classifications. Ordinance No. 2020-124 already received its first reading during the October 20, 2020 City Council meeting and its second reading during the November 3, 2020 meeting. This amendment does not affect the Ordinance itself and only amends the proposed zoning map (exhibit).

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked for clarification on what the amendment is. HRPC Director Cordonnier explained that if a portion of a parcel is one zoning classification and the rest of the parcel is in a different zoning classification, when multiple zoning classifications for that parcel is updated with the County Auditor’s Office, when the data is imported, the GIS system assigns it just one (1) zoning classification, a line for dual-zoned parcels have to be manually drawn in. While those parcels have dual zoning classifications, they are listed as having just one classification and have to be corrected. Councilman Russel asked if dual-zoned parcels will be permitted going forward and if they have been around for any length of time. HRPC Director Cordonnier replied that they have been around forever, but HRPC has reduced the number of them down. For example, a parcel on Lima Avenue had a situation where two hundred feet (200’) from Lima Avenue was commercial and two hundred plus feet (200+’) from Lima Avenue was residential causing several hundred parcels to have dual zoning. When the map was updated in 2012, many of those were removed. Some of the current dual zoned parcels are remnants. For example, the church across from LaRiche Toyota is a five (5) acre site where their neighboring properties did not want a commercial property protruding into the neighborhood in which one acre of that was residential to keep the residential splitting the neighborhood in half. Filed.

City Engineer Thomas – 2018 Annual Sewer and Manhole Lining Program Project No. 35680200

Due to the cold winter the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, the 2018 Annual Sewer and Manhole Lining Program started late. The weather pushed the contractor’s schedule on all of their projects so that the City’s project was started late in 2019 and was underway when the Stay-At-Home Order was issued earlier this year. During the Stay-At-Home Order, the contractor had removed all of their employees from where they were working, but have since returned and are now at the point where they are ready to finish the City’s project. There were some sections of sewers that were lined that were longer than the plans indicated and there were a couple of sections that were actually larger than shown on the plans. This has slightly increased the cost of the project, therefore, additional funds for the project are requested in order to finish lining the sewers that have already been started on. This will prevent having to go back later to finish sections of sewer at a time. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2020-132 was created.

FROM:	Sewer Fund	\$ 21,600.00
TO:	2018 Annual Sewer & Manhole Lining Program <i>Project No. 35680200</i>	\$ 21,600.00

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked what year the unspent of thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00) funds were appropriated. City Engineer Thomas replied in 2019. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak – Coronavirus Relief Fund

Prior to the November 20, 2020 date of first encumbrance, the City also needs to appropriate the interest that has been earned on the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funding so that it can be used by the deadline per the guidance. This is necessary to be eligible for the redistribution of the County funding on November 25, 2020. The City has earned five hundred twenty dollars and thirty cents (\$520.30) that needs to be appropriated as follows:

FROM:	Coronavirus Relief Fund (interest earnings)	\$ 520.30
TO:	Coronavirus Relief (CRF) #22099000-other	\$ 520.30

As previously reported, part of the CRF funds have been used to cover unemployment costs for employees that had previously left City employment and had been either temporarily or permanently laid off during the pandemic. Because the City is a direct reimbursing employer and are in the employment history of those individuals, the City receives and invoice for a portion of their unemployment. The City has now received a fifty percent (50%) credit from the Ohio Bureau of Unemployment against those expenses using the State’s CRF money. Since the City received this credit, it cannot claim the same expenses against the City’s CRF usage and funds now need to be moved that was previously appropriated from the personal services category into the other category, therefore, the following transaction is needed:

FROM:	Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) #22099000-personal services	\$ 12,448.64
TO:	Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) #22099000-other	\$ 12,448.64

Legislation to appropriate funds, suspend the statutory requirements and give the Ordinance all three (3) readings during the November 17, 2020 City Council meeting is requested. Ordinance No. 2020-133 was created. Filed.

Human Resources Director Essex – CompManagement overview.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council that when rebates are received (i.e. Workers Comp), only a portion of it goes back to the General Fund. For example, of the three hundred sixty-nine thousand dollar (\$369,000.00) rebate received, only two hundred fifty-six thousand dollars (\$256,000.00) is returned to the General Fund. Per the ruling by the State Auditor, funds have to be applied to where they were spent. The refund with Workers Compensation is the biggest refund the City has ever received. A larger amount of funds cannot be returned to a fund than what was originally spent with the balance going to the General Fund. Filed.

Treasurer’s Reconciliation Report – October 31, 2020. Filed.

Mayor Muryn - Financial Summary. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss the Resiliency Fund via Ordinance No. 2020-130. We recommend that funds from the second round of CARES Act funding be distributed in the following manner: 1st priority will be disbursement through the Findlay-Hancock County Resilience Program as it laid out in the attached documents. 2nd priority will be disbursement of any remaining funds as was laid out in the Appropriations Committee report dated 7/14/20. Also, the current legislation Ordinance No. 2020-130 will be amended by removing all language referring to any appropriations. Ordinance No. 2020-130 was tabled after suspending the statutory rules of Council and giving it all three readings during the City Council meeting on November 3, 2020.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from David and Jacquelyn Rader to rezone 726 South Blanchard Street from R4 Duplex/Triplex to C2 Commercial District.

We recommend approval as requested. Ordinance No. 2020-134 was created

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 030-2020 (CDBG – fair housing services agreement) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, HANCOCK COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FINDLAY HOPE HOUSE FOR THE HOMELESS, INC. TO PROVIDE FAIR HOUSING SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2020.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO. 031-2020 (*No PO*) **requires one (1) reading**

second reading - adopted

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE AUDITORS OFFICE ON THE ATTACHED LIST OF VOUCHERS WHICH EITHER EXCEED THE PURCHASE ORDER OR WERE INCURRED WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING THE STATUTORY LIMIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D).

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Resolution its third reading, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. The Resolution received its third reading. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Wobser, Warnecke, Haas. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-121 (*salary ordinance*) **requires three (3) readings**

third reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, PAY RANGES, SALARY SCHEDULES AND OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY AFFECT PAY, FOR ALL NON-ELECTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-086, AND ALL OTHER ORDINANCES AND/OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Haas. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2020-121 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-124 (*Zoning map updates*) **requires three (3) readings**

third reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE CURRENT ZONING MAP INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT ZONING CODE CHAPTER 1101 ET SEQ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND IN ITS PLACE, ADOPTING, APPROVING, AND INCORPORATING A REVISED ZONING MAP, ATTACHED HERETO, AS IF FULLY REWRITTEN HEREIN.

Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough.

Discussion:

Councilman Shindledecker pointed out that he will be voting against this and does not object to the changes being made. As time goes on, changes like these are necessary, but feels it would be far more efficient and less intrusive to just change the language rather than affect over six thousand (6,000) parcels and property owners.

Councilman Hellmann complimented Director Cordonnier and his staff for this project that has been a large undertaking. It ended up being a great project. He commended them on their professionalism and the way it was handled.

Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer. Nays: Shindledecker. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2020-124 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-126 (*BRWP \$5,000/year renewal for three (3) years*) **requires three (3) readings**

second reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO EXTEND ITS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE BLANCHARD RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP (BRWP) OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) PER YEAR FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2021 THROUGH 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-127 (*Law Director budget - more funds for legal svcs (pending litigation & proposed detox facility)*)

second reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-128 (*HRPC provide CDBG program*) **requires three (3) readings**

second reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HANCOCK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS HRPC) FOR THE FACILITATION AND PREPARATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-130 (*Resiliency Fund – Coronavirus Relief Fund*) **requires three (3) readings**

tabled after third reading on 11/3/20

Adopted during OLD BUSINESS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AS THE GRANT REVIEW BOARD, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FINDLAY'S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE APPLICATION PROCESS OF RESILIENCE PROGRAM (aka) CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-132 requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted

(2018 Annual Sewer and Manhole Lining Program Project No. 35680200)

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2020-132 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-133 (CRF interest earned; Ohio Bureau of Unemployment payment) requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wobser moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Haas. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2020-133 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-134 (726 S Blanchard St rezone) requires three (3) readings

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1100 ET SEQ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE BY REZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY (REFERRED TO AS 726 SOUTH BLANCHARD STREET REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "R4 DUPLEX/TRIPLEX" TO "C2 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT".

First reading of the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Wobser moved to lift Ordinance No. 2020-130 from the table, seconded by Councilman Russel. Ayes: Wobser, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke. The Ordinance was lifted from the table.

Discussion:

President of Council Harrington pointed out that this Ordinance has had all three (3) readings even though the agenda states it has only received its first reading. It received all three (3) readings during the November 3, 2020 meeting and was tabled after. By lifting it from the table and because it has had all three (3) readings, it is now open for discussion and then will be voted on.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser pointed out that the committee report explains what will happen with these funds. Coordinating this effort and meeting the deadlines has been a huge task. It will be an even bigger job to get the funds disbursed if the City even receives any money. The Ordinance needs to be amended to remove SECTION 2 which is the appropriation request of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) as it is not known that the City will receive those funds or not.

Councilman Wobser moved to amend the Ordinance and delete SECTION 2, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council that he received an update today from the County Auditor who sent an email out to all Fiscal Officers stating that there currently is four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) that has not been claimed and all the other monies are with the appropriate entities that are with the County. The deadline to return the funds to the County Auditor is November 19, 2020. Any of the twenty-four (24) entities that are currently eligible for re-distribution subject to the recovery of the money, is required to send at least a dollar (\$1.00) back. It is unknown of how much, if any funds will be available until after November 19th. The funds have to be redistributed by November 25, 2020.

Mayor Muryn added that the Administration wanted to do something that would be a benefit County-wide and not just for the City of Findlay. She will follow up with the different entities throughout the community to make sure they are aware of the City's desire to do this and the benefit it will provide. The Grant Review Board, as stated in the Ordinance, includes representatives from the Township Association and a County Commissioner to ensure it is something that the City helped to facilitate that not only benefits the City of Findlay and organizations, but also the County at large. She thanked the Community Foundation for finding other models to base this off of and their help putting together the necessary documents. She also thanked City Auditor Staschiak and Deputy Sampson for their assistance putting this together. It will be a great benefit to the community.

Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Haas. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2020-130 and is hereby made a part of the record.

City Auditor Staschiak asked Council to decide how they would like to conduct the budget hearings this year (via zoom, in the Council Chambers, Department Heads come in person for their portion of the budget, etc).

City Auditor Staschiak reminded Council that there is a cleanup Ordinance of general housekeeping items at the end of the year that needs to be done in order to keep the City in compliance with the State Auditor's Office. It is usually on the agenda of the first City Council meeting in December, but will not be available from the City Auditor's Office until the last meeting in December. He asked Council to make sure there is a quorum that meeting, and if that will not be the case, to make arrangement prior to that in order to pass it on an emergency.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Muryn thanked Council for their support of getting the Resiliency Fund passed. It will be a great support to non-profit organizations.

Mayor Muryn she thanked Department Heads for their great management efforts with the BWC refund as it is fantastic to be able to receive such a substantial refund from the State. It goes back to the diligence of both the safety of the workforce in managing those claims and of Department Heads managing and instilling safe working environments. It also goes back to Human Resource Director Essex for his continued management of it and keeping a close eye on it.

Mayor Muryn pointed out that the budget summary that is before Council shows a continuation of keeping on budget by keeping revenue and expenses very close in line with each other. She expects to see revenue year-to-date through October at 22.99 and expenses at 22.826 which are right in line with projections and will continue to diligently manage it with the Bureau of Workers Compensation and with the CARES dollars. The City looks to be in a good position ending this year which sets the City up for success of managing its revenues and expenses for the next couple of years of possibly breaking even as they see where next year goes.

Mayor Muryn asked Council to continue to reiterate the message of needing to make wise decisions with COVID. Numbers continue to increase in the community that are beginning to be quite concerning and are trending in a bad direction. She has been speaking with hospital leadership and the Health Commissioner where they are continuing to impress upon everyone the importance of face coverings, social distancing, good hygiene, and staying home when ill. The next line of defense is to stay away from groups. The City will continue to space employees out and will re-evaluate if needed, and look at alternative methods of meeting. Anytime there is an uptick in cases, there will be hospitalizations and severe cases that come two to four (2-4) weeks after that, so the City needs to ensure they are managing those healthcare resources. It is not fun going through this and she hates cancelling things and hates asking people to stay away from people they love, but those tough decisions have to be made right now. She asked Council to make one change, as Governor DeWine asked, that can be made each day to protect themselves and those around them to limit exposure and make decisions to be able to keep the economy open, keep people safe and be able to come back from the COVID virus. She asked Council to say extra prayers that the vaccine will come sooner rather than later.

Councilman Hellmann referred back to City Auditor Staschiak's comments about how Council wants to conduct the budget hearings this year. He asked if it is known if Department Heads would prefer to come to the Council Chambers versus how they have in the past for their portion of the budget hearings and speaking with Council about what they recommend for their departments or what their preference is. Mayor Muryn replied that Department Heads are always happy to come in and talk about the accomplishments they have achieved the past year and what they are presenting to Council. It is a great opportunity for them. She is supportive of changing the format of the budget hearings to zoom or a hybrid model or whatever Council is comfortable with. There are a couple of Department Heads that will not be able to make it if it is on December 9th and/or December 10th, but will accommodate that as best as she can. If Council wants to look at other dates, it is flexible. She would like Council to tell the Administration what works best for them. Budgets will not be very exciting this year and will be much like what has been seen the last couple of years. It will be managed the same way it has been managed. With the City in a strong financial position going into next year, she expects the goal to continue of being able to break even. The budget the last time she looked was proposing a three million dollar (\$3,000,000.00) deficient budget, but as Council has seen over the last number of years, the City has managed that same scenario and has maintained it pretty close. She expects this year to be able to give some funds back to the General Fund. She will accommodate Council with the budget hearings whatever way they are comfortable with. Councilman Hellmann replied that he enjoys having the Department Heads come in and explain what they have done and what they plan to do, so his preference is to hear from them. Mayor Muryn replied that she is preparing them to do just that. Whether the hearings are virtual or in-person, they will adjust as needed.

Councilman Russel noted that he would like to finalize budget hearing plans and asked Council what they would like to do. If they are conducted on December 9th and 10th as had tentatively been scheduled, he is requesting they be via zoom or audio as he will be out of town on the 8th and 9th and will not be able to attend. If the hearings are the following week, even if he was in town, in light of COVID, Council should consider conducting them via zoom if technically possible. The City staff would most likely appreciate it so that they do not have to come in and have to sit and wait for their turn.

Councilman Wobser agreed with Councilman Russel in having it via zoom. He asked Mayor Muryn if she would be able to facilitate that with Department Heads as most of the burden would be for the group to present to Council. Mayor Muryn replied yes. The City's zoom license can accommodate up to one hundred (100) people, so it would not be a problem. She would also make it available for the public if they would like to view it. Councilman Wobser asked if City Auditor Staschiak is okay with a zoom meeting. City Auditor Staschiak added that as long as it is the week that was already planned and not the week after. Councilman Wobser agreed in that he too would like to stick with the original dates and is of the understanding that Councilman Russel would be able to attend via zoom during those dates.

President of Council Harrington asked Council to set a time. He asked Council, with a raise of hands, who is in favor of having the budget hearings via zoom. Majority of Council raised their hand. He then asked Council if they would like to have the budget hearings on December 9th and 10th. Majority of Council raised their hand. He pointed out that the first night usually lasts longer than the second night because they try to get as much done as possible the first night and do not like long meetings because the interest tends to fade after a length of time. Budget hearings have started at 5:30pm in the past. He asked if Council if there are any objections to start both nights at that time. No objections given. Mayor Muryn replied that she will check to see if that time will work with the Department Heads and will send out a tentative schedule. Department Heads are prepared to come in if things move along faster and adjust from there.

BUDGET HEARINGS will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 and Thursday, December 10, 2020 via zoom beginning at 5:30pm both days.

Councilman Hellmann moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Haas. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT