

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 19, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2020-2021 Councilmembers:

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

ABSENT: Russel

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

President of Council Harrington lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of Toledo Police Officer Brandon Stalker.

ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Slough moved to accept the January 5, 2021 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, Councilman Palmer seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA: none

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

PETITIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

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

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – December 2020. Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – December 2020. Filed.

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – December 2020. Filed.

City Planning Commission agenda – January 14, 2021; **minutes** – December 10, 2020 & January 14, 2021. Filed.

Precipitation and Reservoir levels report – fourth (4th) quarter October-December 2020. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Tax Administrator appointment

Mayor Muryn is requesting Council's confirmation, pursuant to the City of Findlay Codified Ordinance No. 194.13(A), of her appointment of Cory Duran as Tax Administrator for the City of Findlay. Mr. Duran is a 2008 graduate of Bowling Green State University with a Bachelors in Business Administration and a minor in Finance. He most recently worked with the Ohio Casino Control Commission as an External Auditor Supervisor. His prior experience also includes working with the Ohio Department of Taxation. This requires Council's confirmation.

Councilman Slough moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn introduced Tax Administrator Cory Duran talking over for Andrew Thomas who retired last year after nearly thirty (30) years of service to the City. While Mr. Duran has big shoes to fill, he has worked the last couple of months training with Mr. Thomas. Mr. Duran informed Council that he is happy to be here. It has been a great environment so far. He appreciates everyone's attitude and positivity.

All were in favor. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – various boards and commission appointments

Mayor Muryn is requesting appointments to the following boards and commission:

Airport Advisory Board – does not require Council’s confirmation

Roy Alexander

Matt Rutter

Terms will expire on December 31, 2023

Parks and Recreation Board – does not require Council’s confirmation

Colin Earl

Term will expire on December 31, 2023

Shade Tree Commission – does not require Council’s confirmation

Ben Dolan

Ed Crawford

Thomas Mills

Terms will expire on December 31, 2023

Filed.

Police Chief Ring – Cuyahoga County/Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force grant

The City of Findlay Police Department received a five thousand one hundred sixty-nine dollar and nine cent (\$5,169.09) from Cuyahoga County and the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force grant. The purpose of this check is to be used to pay for one (1) portable computer forensics tower for the detective division. This tower will be used to investigate internet crimes against children and can also be used for the investigation of other computer related crimes. This is not match for the grant. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-004 was created.

FROM:	Internet Crimes Against Children Grant	\$ 5,169.09
TO:	PD-Internet Crimes Against Children Grant #31904300	\$ 5,169.09

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – various boards and commission appointments

Mayor Muryn is requesting appointments to the following boards and commission:

Downtown Design Review Board – requires Council’s confirmation

Josette Brickman, term to expire December 31, 2023

Brad Wagner, term to expire December 31, 2023

Jamie Robertson, filling the unexpired term of Sharon Rooney, term to expire December 31, 2021.

Councilman Wobser moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Filed.

Hancock Regional Planning Commission – requires Council’s confirmation

Donald Bledsoe

Jody O’Brien

Christie Ranzau

Matthew Leddy

Duane Boes

Term will expire on December 31, 2022

Councilman Hellmann moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor. Filed.

Street Designation Committee – requires Council’s confirmation

Dale Gillespie

Terms will expire on December 31, 2022

Councilman Hellmann moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

President of Council Harrington pointed out that Mr. Gillespie was a former City Councilmember.

All were in favor. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – mobile health clinic

Over the last few years, Hancock Public Health has been working with the Findlay Rotary Club to investigate and begin fundraising for mobile health clinic to serve the Findlay-Hancock County community. Mayor Muryn was recently approached by Hancock Public Health, as well as a number of other community leaders requesting the City of Findlay assist in initial funding of the mobile unit to be able to jump start this project. This unit, which was previously needed for such things as blood pressure screenings, mental health services, immunizations, social services, harm reduction and many other public health services can be the literal vehicle to vaccine distribution. After a number of conversations from entity representatives from the Blanchard Valley Health System, Findlay Rotary Club, Hancock Public Health, The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, Hancock County Commissioners, and the ADAMHS Board, she now feels comfortable recommending a one-time appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) to support such a program in Hancock County. The estimated expense to purchase the unit, be equipped & operational for the next two (2) years is nearly seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00) which includes all personnel, materials, insurance, etc. One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000.00) is currently committed to this and after the City's donation, it is expected that the remaining balance is expected to be received from other local donors and grant awards, a number of which have already verbally committed. Hancock Public Health expects to fully cover the annual operations following this initial investment through Medicaid collections, grants, and other State and Federal Funds. Along with City Council's financial commitment, Hancock Public Health will be able to purchase the mobile unit with the goal of it being operational by late March. In addition to the community health benefits provided, there are also potential financial benefits to local employers who are willing to work with the Hancock Public Health for onsite screenings which can provide a cost benefit in insurance plans. A brief summary on the mobile health clinic is provided.

Discussion:

Councilman Palmer asked that the letter be read into the record, seconded by Councilman Wobser. All were in favor. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety.

Councilman Slough asked if the County is going to participate in this program and if so, what their fee would be. Mayor Muryn replied that the County has not made a formal commitment, but have been a part of the discussions and are open to supporting this project and want to see what direction the City is going before making a formal action on it.

Councilman Hellmann supports this initiative as he has been a Rotarian for many years and has served on the board and have gone through many iterations on how to get this accomplished. It has been spearheaded by Bill Ruse, former President and CEO of the Blanchard Valley Hospital who is one hundred percent (100%) behind this as he has put in a lot of time and effort on it. He encouraged Council to support this, as well as the City Administration. Mayor Muryn explained why the Rotary supports it. Bill Ruse was a driving force in seeing that this was a need in the community in gaining access and reaching out into the community for those that may not always look for help into the healthcare system. It will work in conjunction with other healthcare providers within the community. Some may be directed to the Caughman Health Center, the Family Resource Center, or getting them connected with a primary care physician or whatever their needs are. It will help them get set up on insurance if they do not have any where they will walk them through as a guiding presence that the Health Department is known for. The Findlay Rotary Club get involved because they had planned to fundraise over a number of years for this. The Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio has a similar mobile health clinic that they have operated since 2015 where the University has reached out to the community providing blood pressure screenings, blood draw screenings, etc. The Rotary has provided various fundraisers over the last couple of years in the hopes of consolidating the initial expenses together to donate the unit to the Health Department. The COVID crisis has jump-started that initiative stating that they would benefit from it sooner rather than later and have asked what needs to be done to make it happen. City Administration has worked with several entities to determine what it should look like, how it will operate, what the staffing will need to be. Those logistic conversations have been occurring and will continue to do so. Council tonight is being asked if they want to support it or not, and if so, move forward with purchasing a vehicle to get it up and operational because there is a lead time on purchasing a unit like this.

Councilman Wobser asked who will own the unit once it is paid for. Mayor Muryn replied the Health Department will. Councilman Wobser asked if the Health Department will handle the ongoing expenses year to year. Mayor Muryn replied that is correct. Maintaining ongoing expenses was a concern of Hancock Public Health in that they do not want to incur significant costs to maintain it, which is why there is a variety of funding out there to support it. It is anticipated to cost approximately two hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$235,000.00) annually based off of operating it for thirty-five (35) hours a week which will include providing vaccinations. Contracted organizations have engaged to find out how their students can get involved. It is a complex topic that has been very well vetted, but will continue to work through any hurdles. She asked that anyone who would like to see the almost two hundred (200) page Hancock County Health Assessment document to let her know. It states that there are a number of underserved individuals within the community that are needing assistance. Seventy-two percent (72%) are not getting preventive checkup. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Findlay citizens have a primary healthcare physician with eleven percent (11%) not getting a representative action that is very important. Five percent (5%) are uninsured. A large population have high blood pressure, obesity, high cholesterol that this mobile unit can intervene and work with them to take the initial step and make them comfortable with getting into the healthcare system and help prevent large expenses for them in catastrophic health events. Some other programming that will be provided are: cessation planning, medical interventions, family counseling in the schools, nutritional advisements and activities to interact with the Health Department. It will provide a lot of opportunity. After the initial upfront investment, it has the ability to be sustainable which was her main concern. She does not want to buy it just to be able to do something relative to it right now and make a reaction, but instead be something that is sustainable long-term that she feels comfortable with. Councilman Wobser asked what Ada, Ohio's percentage use of their mobile unit is. Mayor Muryn replied that she does not have the specific numbers, but that knows that when the group was looking into this that they talked closely with Ohio Northern University about their unit. Councilman Wobser asked if ONU kept busy enough with their unit to make it worthwhile. Mayor Muryn replied that is correct. They have had their unit since 2015 and have taken it to health fairs, community festivals, schools, foodbanks, City Mission, etc. They use it regularly. Councilman Wobser pointed out that two (2) of the County Commissioners are in the audience tonight and asked if the County has gotten involved with this yet. Mayor Muryn replied that they have not made a financial commitment, but Commissioner Peple has been on a couple of the calls on this.

Councilman Wobser noted that he would be more inclined to get involved if he knew the County was. Council would like to know what the County's commitment level is on this. Mayor Muryn replied that if the City is interested in moving forward with this, the next step would be to have legislation on it for an appropriation of the City's share. If Council takes that step saying this is something they want to move forward with by having legislation for and she can answer questions over the next couple of weeks that would provide a comfort level to some other entities to step forward. Filed.

City Engineer Thomas – I-75 and County Road 99 Interchange (PID 102375) – Planning and Design Project Number 32811100

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is looking to replace the interchange for Interstate 75 and County Road 99 due to the increased traffic volume and decrease level of service. This project has been in discussions for a number of years with the City of Findlay and Hancock County working to improve this key gateway to our community in supporting current and future needs. The project name states that it is an interchange replacement and will also include work on County Road 99 from Technology Drive to Main Street. It is imperative that the entire corridor be examined and improved at the same time because the improvements to the interchange will get traffic onto County Road 99 faster. If the required improvements are not made on County Road 99, the increase traffic volume will have a negative impact not only on the condition of the roadway, but would also affect motorists. Motorists will end up spending additional time at signals waiting to get through the intersection and the number of accidents would most likely increase due to lack of turn lanes and added congestion. It is a county road (County Road 99), but a portion of the right-of-way within the project limits has been annexed into the city. By participating in this project, the City will be able to obtain better pricing when the project is bid due to economy of scale, and will also be able to obtain grant funding to help reduce the amount of City funds needed to complete the required improvements. Legislation to appropriate four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000.00) as the City's share for design services is requested. The City of Findlay has been awarded six hundred eighty-seven thousand three hundred forty-five dollars (\$687,345.00) State of Ohio Safety Program and four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) from ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) Program for design services. City funds would allow ODOT to complete preliminary design of the project and complete needed environmental work allowing for a better chance of obtaining Federal funds to finish the design work and construction of the project. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-005 was created.

FROM:	CIT Fund – Capital Improvement Restricted Account	\$ 420,000.00
TO:	I-75 and County Road 99 Interchange (PID 102375) – Planning and Design, <i>Project No. 32811100</i>	\$ 420,000.00

Filed.

Board of Zoning Appeals minutes – December 10, 2020. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: none

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2021 (*advances on County tax settlements*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE TAX ADVANCES DURING THE YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §321.34.

Second reading of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2021 (*no PO*) **requires one (1) reading** **first 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 Slough moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-004 **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**

(*Cuyahoga County & the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force grant*)

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: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-004 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-005 (*I-75 and County Road 99 Interchange*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

City Auditor Staschiak noted that there were some comments made to him behind the scenes during the budget hearings about the revenue projections being too conservative, but informed Council that was not the case. Since he started in his position as City Auditor, he uses the information provided to him, based on this moment in time, he personally goes through every single revenue item in the budget reviewing them line by line with the goal of being within five percent (5%) on a projection placing the City within a million and a half dollars (\$1,500,000.00) of the projected budget that the Administration should be able to handle whether it is in the positive or negative. Under Ohio Law, the responsibility falls under the Auditor to make those projections. He makes sure they are optimistic and not pessimistic, but realistic. The City has a net revenue of approximately four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00) in the General Fund going into 2021, partly due to funds from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation and CARES funds from the Federal Government. It disguises some of the challenges the City had last year and some the Administration will have this year. He wants to be assured that Council walks into it realistically.

Councilman Wobser: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting on February 9, 2021 at 5:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1).

- agenda: 1. Capital Plan
- 2. CR 99 project

Councilman Wobser pointed out that there will be legislation for the Capital Plan agenda item on the February 2, 2021 City Council meeting agenda that will receive its first reading before this APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Hellmann asked City Engineer Thomas if Ordinance No. 2021-005 needs to be expedited tonight. City Engineer Thomas replied it does not.

Mayor Muryn updated Council on the COVID-19 situation in that numbers for this month so far have been good going down to about thirty (30) current cases a day which is not a large increase of cases. She thanked everyone for doing their part over the holidays in continuing to maintain safety protocols in keeping numbers down. Vaccines are coming into the community. The Healthcare system and the Hancock Public Health have done a great job in having a very clear process. Those in Phase 1A or Phase 1B Hancock County residents can pre-register for the vaccination by either calling 50North 419-423-8496 or by calling Hancock Public Health 419-424-7105. Registration can be completed online at hancockph.com (Hancock Public Health). Pre-registration helps to know how many vaccines are needed. Hancock Public Health does not find out how many vaccines are arriving until the Thursday before they are received. By pre-registering, it informs them how many are interested and can schedule them for their vaccination. Hancock Public Health or the hospital will call them to schedule their appointment. There are twelve thousand (12,000) individuals in Hancock County that are eligible within Phase 1A and 1B and are only getting two to five hundred (200-500) vaccinations each week. It will continue to be a slow process as it ramps up and are pushing the vaccinations out as soon as they arrive. As more vaccinations arrive, notification of them will go out. Her goal is to open up distribution for others to be able to get the vaccination over the next couple of months

President of Council Harrington provided his condolences to the friends and family of Brandon Stalker. Mr. Stalker was a Toledo Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty recently. Police Officers put themselves in harm's way 24/7 and should be commended for it.

President of Council Harrington announced that he is looking for a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss some real estate matters. All public attendees will now have to exit the room and all media outlets, including YouTube and Spectrum, will need to cease. No recording devices are permitted during the executive session. Councilman Hellmann moved to adjourn into executive session, Councilman Wobser seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn clarified that no other business will be conducted after the executive session. She asked that the two (2) County Commissioners in attendance tonight could be in attendance at the executive session.

All were in favor. Council adjourned at 7:30pm. Councilman Palmer moved to adjourn from execution session at 7:56pm, seconded by Councilman Niemeier. Councilman Hellmann moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT