

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 6, 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2020-2021 Councilmembers:

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

ABSENT: none

President of Council Harrington opened 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 March 16, 2021 Public Hearing meeting minutes to rezone 610 South Blanchard Street via Ordinance No. 2021-017, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.
- Councilman Wobser moved to accept the March 16, 2021 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

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

ADD-ONS:

- Letter from Mayor Muryn – City Income Tax Administrator interim appointment (*REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section*)
- Letter from Mayor Muryn – Airport Advisory Board appointment (*REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section*)

REPLACEMENTS:

- Ordinance No. 2021-021 AS AMENDED (*LEGISLATION section*)
 - Changed 2nd "TO:" appropriation dollar amount from \$300,000.00 to now be \$88,200.00.

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

PETITIONS:

Zoning amendment request – Madison Avenue (Lots 6192, 6193, 6194)

Brian Buck on behalf of William Buck (his father), would like to change the zoning of three (3) lots on Madison Avenue to C1 Local Commercial District. It currently is zoned as R3 Single Family, High Density. Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Main Street Deli of Findlay LLC, 513-515 South Main Street & Patio, Findlay, Ohio for a D3 liquor permit. This requires a vote of Council.

Robert K. Ring, Chief of Police – Main Street Deli of Findlay LLC, 513-515 South Main Street & Patio, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:

Anthony R. Clark
Jerrod D. Hartman

Councilman Slough moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Twist and Shout Incorporated dba Smokins Buckeye BBQ Company, located at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio for a D3 liquor permit. This requires a vote of Council.

Robert K. Ring, Chief of Police – Twist and Shout Inc dba Smokins Buckeye BBQ Co, located at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:

John R. Coulston
Diane E. Coulston

Councilman Slough moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke. All were in favor. Filed.

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Twist and Shout Incorporated dba Smokins Buckeye BBQ Company, located at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio for a D1 & D2 liquor permit. This requires a vote of Council.

Robert K. Ring, Chief of Police – Twist and Shout Inc dba Smokins Buckeye BBQ Co, located at 3050 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:

John R. Coulston
Diane E. Coulston

Councilman Slough moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

Board of Zoning Appeals minutes – February 11, 2021. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – AARP Community Challenge grant

The City of Findlay is eligible to apply for the AARP Community Challenge grant. The funds are at no cost to the community and do not require matching funds. Legislation authorizing the Mayor to apply for the grant and sign any applicable grant agreement or related documents is requested. Ordinance No. 2020-032 was created.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked what the funds will be used for if obtained. Mayor Muryn replied that she is unsure and will look at her emails and will inform Council at the end of tonight’s meeting. Councilman Russel noted that since the Ordinance for this is just to authorize the Mayor to apply for the grant, Council usually waives the second and third readings on requests like this, so Council would like to know what the funds will be used for before the reading of the Ordinance later tonight. Mayor Muryn replied that she will do so. There are a couple of grants out there right now, so she will confirm what this one is for and will provide that information to Council before the reading of the Ordinance tonight. Filed.

City Planning Commission – March 11, 2021; **agenda** – April 8, 2021. Filed.

City Engineer Thomas – Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks Grant Program

The City of Findlay is eligible to apply for funds through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks Grant program. The NatureWorks grant program provides up to seventy-five percent (75%) reimbursement assistance for local government for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas. Funds would be used for a shelter house at Swale Park. Estimated project costs is eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00). The grant requires the City’s match of twenty-five percent (25%) or four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00). Legislation authorizing the Mayor or Service-Safety Director to apply for the grant and sign any applicable grant agreement(s) or related document(s). Ordinance No. 2020-033 was created. Filed.

Safety Director Schmelzer – Airport fuel release

On October 12, 202, approximately four hundred (400) gallons of aviation gasoline was released onto the ground where it was absorbed into the soil around the underground tanks. The release was caused by a combination of a valve being left open and pump being left on after a refueling. The pump surcharged one of the fuel tanks and fuel was released from the air vent. As required, the City contacted the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) to initiate Tier 1 Source investigation. Quotes were obtained and TTL was chosen to provide the necessary monitoring. The cost for this initial response was approximately fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) and was taken from the airport operating budget in 2020. Results from the initial investigation show concentrations of fuel compounds above the BUSTR Site Check/Closure Action Levels, therefore additional monitoring wells and reporting are required. At minimum, the completion of the Tier 1 report is required. In order to receive a No Further Action certificate, more evaluations (Tier 2) will need to be performed based on the results.

Expected consulting expenses are:

Completion of Tier 1 investigation (required)	\$ 20,000.00
Tier 2 evaluation (anticipate)	\$ 15,000.00
Monitoring well decommission (anticipate)	\$ 4,500.00
Supplemental wells and groundwater monitoring plan (possible)	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 47,500.00</u>

Safety Director Schmelzer recommends a project be initiated with funds to pursue required monitoring and reporting. The project will be used to track funds incurred. The City has insurance for these types of incidents with a fifty-five thousand dollar (\$55,000.00) deductible. If the City exceeds that amount, a claim within one year of the incident can be pursued. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-034 was created.

FROM:	General Fund	\$ 50,000.00
TO:	Airport Fund – UST Corrective Action <i>Project #35211400</i>	\$ 50,000.00

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Shade Tree Commission appointment

Mayor Muryn is appointing Tim Brugeman to the Shade Tree Commission. His term will expire on December 31, 2023. She is also appointing Jennifer Pullen to the Shade Tree Commission. Her term will expire on December 31, 2022. The appointments do not require Council’s confirmation. Filed.

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – March 2021. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – interim Income Tax Administrator

Mayor Muryn is appointing Mary Price to the position of Interim Tax Administrator effective April 5, 2021. Cory Duran who is currently serving as Income Tax Administrator will be leaving the position in May due to a personal matter. A transition process and training schedule has already begun, as well as additional training will be provided by former Income Tax Administrator Andrew Thomas. Mr. Duran will continue to work in the department in a lesser role until his departure. The position of Income Tax Administrator will be reposted for the next thirty (30) days. Mayor Muryn will periodically update Council as the process progresses. This requires Council's confirmation.

Councilman Greeno moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Haas. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Airport Advisory Board appointment

Mayor Muryn is appointing Darren Bryan to the Airport Advisory Board. His term will expire on December 31, 2023. This does not require Council's confirmation. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** met on March 16, 2021 to continue March 2, 2021 discussions on the finalization of an RFQ for a contractor to assist with the initial data gathering for the strategic plan.

We recommend the following timeline:

- Mayor to distribute revised RFQ to committee by March 18, 2021.
- Committee to approve or suggest revision by noon on March 22, 2021.
- Auditor to forward to Baker Tilley for comment.
- Committee to review final document and suggestions at April 6, 2021 committee meeting.
- RFQ to be published by April 9, 2021.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that today's committee meeting was cancelled because he has not heard back from Baker Tilley. Once he receives the information back from them, the committee will then vet it and discuss it with the Auditor and the Mayor. At the end of tonight's meeting he will schedule the next STRATEGIC PLANNING meeting for 5:30pm prior to the next City Council meeting. After the timeline is redone, it will be brought to Council for their approval allowing for it to move forward.

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS: none

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-019 (2020 Ordinances/Resolutions changes) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**
AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE FINDLAY CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-019 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-021 AS AMENDED (Logan Ave Phase 3 project) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-021 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-022 (2nd Capital Improvement appropriation) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR AND THE SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHERE REQUIRED AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2021 DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT LIST, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR SAID CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-022 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-032 (*AARP Community Challenge grant*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT, SIGN ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn informed Council that this is to place some benches, trash receptacles and crosswalks on 236 which is the new multi-use path that has been installed for a safer, more inviting environment along that area in an effort to continue to develop the area out to Riverbend Park.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Haas. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser encouraged those that has not been out to the newly developed multi-use path to visit it. It is being used frequently. This grant will be a nice addition to it. Mayor Muryn added that a crosswalk at Lakeview leading to the Fox Run neighborhood, as well as Heatherwood area will be also be added, as well as the Brucklacher Memorial Park that was established by the Kiwanis. This will continue the efforts of creating paths for citizens to be outside, safe, and continuation of the use of the path.

Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-032 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-033 (*ODNR NatureWorks grant program*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM, SIGN ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. Ayes: Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-033 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-034 (*Airport fuel release*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked what caused the release and assumed it was a containment system. Safety Director Schmelzer replied that there is no underground containment system because the fuel was not contained within a containment area the City has to go through an investigation. Councilman Wobser asked for an explanation of the investigation. Safety Director Schmelzer replied that there are two (2) underground six thousand (6,000) gallon tanks containing low-lead fuel that feeds GA aircraft. There is a hose that is connected to the plane that is valved and is pumped into the pipe. When one of the planes were finished being fueled, the valve was shut to the fueling line to the plane, so fuel was not spilling all over, but the pump was left on. Annual inspections are done by third party vendors to certify the condition of the tanks, valves, and pumping mechanisms. It is his assumption that the contractor left the valve between the two (2) tanks open because this has been done by City staff a thousand times and have never left the valve open, nor ever left the valve open and the pump on which is what happened in this case. It is very coincidental that those two (2) things occurred at the same time. When the pump was running, it surcharged through the line that connects to the two (2) tanks and pressurized the other tank causing fuel to come out of the air vent. It was a very slow release that over time came out of the air vent. It ran for a number of hours before one of the staff employees saw fuel coming out of the air vent before shutting everything off. Since then, the lockout/tag out protocol is now on and the vendor is very aware of the issue that happened, but there is no way to prove it was the contractor's fault, and there is no intent to do so. There is no way to prove it. It could have been a City employee who left the valve open. Once detected, the City took immediate action of calling a vendor so that the existing monitoring wells that are there could be utilized to pump out as much ground water as possible. Approximately two thousand seven hundred (2,700) gallons were removed, recovering approximately ten percent (10%) of the fuel. This was analyzed, filtered allowing a determination of how much was recovered. Everything was recorded to BUSTR who deals with underground storage tanks. They in turn, under any kind of circumstance, require a very rigid procedure of analyzing exact amounts. The City was required to install three (3) monitoring wells relatively immediately after the detection allowing to analyze the fuel content, trihalomethanes, etc. to see how much fuel is in the groundwater in the monitoring wells that were installed which was above the recommended levels. BUSTR wants the City to expand its Tier 1 investigation by drilling five (5) more wells, monitor those and potential groundwater flow in the Tier 2. This would be planning for the worst case scenario, but he does not expect any long-term implications on the operation of the Airport, and is willing to do whatever is needed to prove that is not the case.

Councilman Slough asked if this will have any impact on West Park. Safety Director Schmelzer replied it will not. There were twelve hundred (1,200) gallons of fuel sitting there when four hundred (400) gallons were released with forty (40) gallons being recaptured, so approximately three hundred sixty (360) gallons of released fuel is somewhat immeasurable and should have no impact whatsoever to West Park, nor ultimately any impact on anything on the Airport property.

Councilman Greeno asked if there are any safeguards installed to prevent this from happening again. Safety Director Schmelzer replied that a level sensor has not been installed because of this incident. Measuring devices had already been installed prior to this incident so that fuel numbers could be measured which is how it was known how much fuel was released to report back. The lockout/tag out placed on the pump and valve prevent the pump from being turned on and the valve left open.

Councilman Hellmann asked if the company that was involved with this incident will be providing any cost-sharing measures with the City. Safety Director Schmelzer replied no. While they appreciate the City's business, there is nothing saying the City has to utilize them again. He has no intent of pursuing action against them because it cannot be proven that it was them that left the valve open and he doubts that during their inspections, they leave valves open then either. He has no intention of trying to recoup any costs involved with this as it is not a very viable pursuit.

Councilman Russel asked if it is imperative that this Ordinance be passed tonight. Safety Director Schmelzer replied it is not, but do have certain timelines to meet, but is not something that has to be passed tonight. It is not something that is going to go away or change between now and the third reading. He would like to get obtain a contract in order to complete the installation of the additional monitoring wells as soon as possible, but is not imperative that it is done right away.

Councilman Wobser asked that if anyone on Council feels this should wait and not be passed tonight to voice their opinion now. Councilman Shindledecker noted that he sees no reason not to pass it immediately, but if it can wait another couple of weeks until the next City Council meeting, it might be best in that there may be some that feel the City is trying to cover something up, but he would not vote against it if Council decides to pass it tonight.

Councilman Wobser asked if this is passed tonight if the additional wells could be drilled now by taking funds to pay for it out of the Airport budget and then replenish their budget with this Ordinance. Safety Director Schmelzer replied that this Ordinance is to place the money in the project and draw out of that project to cover expenses in order to accomplish the goals that are outlined in his letter. There are a couple of variables he had added in: monitoring well that he highly recommends (it is likely that BUSTR will require it) and additional monitoring wells (for creating a water flow plan). Those two (2) are items that might not happen/funds may not end up being spent on, but he has included them in the budget. The other two (2) parts of the process (Tier 1 and Tier 2) are going to happen. Councilman Wobser asked if this Ordinance appropriation amount is worst case scenario. Safety Director Schmelzer replied that he is the giving worst case scenario for Tier 1 and Tier 2 and has added some additional possible expenses. For instance, if they come back and require the City to drill three (3) more wells which could cost an additional thirteen thousand dollar (\$13,000.00), he would like to have some funds available for what else is needed which will not be known until Tier 1 is done. He asked the consultant what the total cost for the entire process would be, worst case scenario, which is what he is asking for in this Ordinance. Based on what the GEO Tech Engineer believes they will find, the amount of the appropriation in this Ordinance is the worst case scenario. There is not enough funds in the Airport budget to cover this, so at some point, an appropriation will need to be done. A project for this should be created so that funds going in and out of it can be tracked. If costs go above fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) a claim could then be made as the City's maximum exposure on this based on the insurance policy is fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00).

Councilman Wobser moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-034 and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Russel: **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE** meeting on April 8, 2021 at 12:00pm in the first floor Council Office of the Municipal Building (CO).

agenda: Bliss Avenue vacation

Councilman Wobser: **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** meeting on April 20, 2021 at 5:30pm in the first floor Council Chambers of the Municipal Building (CC).

Mayor Muryn noted that Volunteer Energy added a surcharge to the gas aggregation program in an effort to recoup some of the money they were losing in other areas after the various storms that took place, so the City fought it and now Volunteer Energy will be refunding those fees to Findlay citizens.

Mayor Muryn addressed some of the City's personnel changes:

- Cory Duran, who accepted the appointment of City Income Tax Administrator late last year, has resigned for personal reasons. He will be taking a lessor position within that department for the next couple of weeks before departing that department entirely. Council approved tonight the interim appointment of Mary Price to that position. She has been a part of the City's Income Tax Department over the last year or so. Former City Income Tax Administrator Andrew Thomas will be coming in on a volunteer basis to provide Mary some additional coaching over the next couple of weeks. The position will be opened up to do a search before making a final determination while Mary is in the position as an interim appointment.

- City Engineer Brian Thomas has been recruited by the City of Perrysburg to help them build out their City Engineering Department. Jeremy Kalb, Assistant City Engineer, will be taking over as City Engineer upon Brian's departure. The Assistant City Engineer position will be opened up to find a new individual to support Jeremy and the Engineering Department. Brian will be working with Jeremy and the team over the next couple of weeks. The Engineering Department already has a strong team in place, so it is expected to be a smooth transition.
- New Service-Safety Director Rob Martin will start April 19, 2021. He has been an involved member of the community for a number of years, most recently serving as the Chief and Director of EMS in Hancock County. He will be an asset to the community. He has worked over the last couple of years in the division of Hanco with emergency response through event planning and a number of employees. He is someone who understands City operations and the community as a whole.

Mr. Martin introduced himself to Council. He has served as Hanco EMS Chief for just over eight (8) years and has worked very closely with the City Administration and other Heads throughout the community. He is looking forward to the next chapter in his life of being a part of the City Administration team. During the interviewing process, he met with City Department Heads where he was impressed by their engagement, energy and talent in running their departments. It energizes him when he is around it. He was initially excited about the possibility of becoming the City's Service-Safety Director, but after going through the interviewing process and understanding just a small portion of what each Department Head does, he is now energized to the point that he is ready to dive in. While he has big shoes to fill, he is looking forward to learning from the Mr. Schmelzer and the transition. He has worked with Mr. Schmelzer over a number of years while with Hanco.

Mayor Muryn informed Council that approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of Ohio residents are vaccinated. It is starting to get to the point of capacity. If a Hancock County resident has not gotten their vaccine, they are encouraged to sign up to do so. A number of employers are working to get their employees vaccinated onsite. The University of Findlay is working to get their students vaccinated beginning next week. While Hancock County residents are getting vaccinated, we are not out of the pandemic, in fact, over the last two (2) weeks, there has been a measurable increase in cases each week. There have been at least thirty plus (30+) new cases a day for the last couple of days, with the highest being fifty (50) new cases per day which is concerning. There has been an uptick in hospitalizations. Thankfully, while we are seeing new cases that are largely in the younger than fifty age group, which is not the highest risk category, it shows that the virus is still out there and that it spreads quickly. She asked Council to continue to reiterate to those that they come in contact with to wear masks, social distance, and conduct health assessments which are very important to keeping the community open and be able to go about our daily lives. While Hancock County is not out of the woods yet, we are moving in the right direction.

Niemeyer asked if the deadline for City income tax filing has been extended like the State and Federal. Mayor Muryn replied it has been extended until May 17, 2021 which is consistent with the State. The deadline for estimated tax payments that are due has not been extended which is also consistent with the State. That notice has been given via a press release and social media.

Councilman Hellmann complimented the improvements that were made on 236. It is his hopes that it will be an inspiration to continue to do those types of improvements as it helps the community in many ways (i.e. health reasons, an excellent addition to the City, etc.). He would like to continue to look for those types of grants in the future. Mayor Muryn confirmed that they will continue to seek those types of grants to continue to improve areas to provide a safe environment.

Mayor Muryn informed Council that the City of Findlay has been chosen to be a part of a pilot program consisting of ten (10) cities across the United States. It is called the Spark 360 Platform. All citizens will have access to a fitness platform that will integrate with Fitbits and smartwatches to provide challenges with different businesses, individuals, and other cities. It will be free for those that want to participate to be active, healthy and compete against others. She will send information on it out within the next couple of days.

Councilman Russel moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT