

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JUNE 15, 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 Hellmann moved to excuse Councilman Russel seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.

ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Slough moved to accept the June 1, 2021 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

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

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

Councilman Shindledecker 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:

1. Letter from John H. Burson, Trustee of Evelyn J. Hamilton Irrevocable Trust - proposed trust fund for Evelyn Hamilton and her parents Louis and Florence Burkey (**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** section)
2. Letter from Fire Chief Eberle – FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant award (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS** section)
3. Letter from Mayor Muryn – Miracle League donation (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS** section)
4. Ordinance No. 2021-057 – FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant award (**LEGISLATION** section)
5. Ordinance No. 2021-058 – Miracle League donation (**LEGISLATION** section)

REPLACEMENTS:

1. Ordinance No. 2021-045 AS AMENDED – Bright Avenue vacation (**LEGISLATION** section)
 - Header:
 - o Changed ALLEY to now be AVENUE
 - 1st WHEREAS:
 - o Changed alley to now be avenue
 - SECTION 1:
 - o Changed alley to now be avenue
 - o Changed legal description per County Auditor's Office/County Recorder's Office
2. Ordinance No. 2021-056 – Wilson Street vacation (**LEGISLATION** section)
 - Header:
 - o Changed STREET to now be ALLEY
 - 1st WHEREAS:
 - o Changed street to now be alley
 - SECTION 1:
 - o Changed street to now be alley
 - o Changed legal description per County Auditor's Office/County Recorder's Office

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

PETITIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

John H. Burson, Trustee of Evelyn J. Hamilton Irrevocable Trust. – proposed trust fund for Evelyn Hamilton and her parents Louis and Florence Burkey

Mr. Burson requests to establish a trust fund through the City of Findlay, Maple Grove Cemetery on behalf of Evelyn Hamilton and her parents, Louis and Florence Burkey for the yearly planters and grave blankets on their gravesite of Block ML3 Lot 1. A check payable to the City of Findlay in the amount of ten thousand dollars and no cents (\$10,000.00) was enclosed for deposit into a trust fund for this purpose. Upon Council's confirmation of the approval of the establishment of this trust fund and the acceptance of payment, the Auditor's Office will then send confirmation of the establishment of the trust fund to both Mr. Burson, as well as, the City of Findlay Maple Grove Cemetery. Council's confirmation is requested.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak noted that this request is to allow the City to decorate the grave site with flowers and blankets. It requires a motion of Council to approve it for the City Auditor’s Office to move forward on this request.

Councilman Wobser moved to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Councilman Hellmann asked how long this is in effect for. City Auditor Staschiak replied there is no expiration date.

All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Findlay Leon Incorporated dba Cancun Restaurants, located at 1600 Broad Avenue, Findlay, Ohio for a D5I and D6 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

Robert K. Ring, Chief of Police – Findlay Leon Incorporated dba Cancun Restaurants, located at 1600 Broad Avenue, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:

- Antonio Leon
- Nestor E. Delgado Torres
- Juan J. Delgado Torres

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

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

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – May 2021. Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – May 2021. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Airport North Apron Rehab Project No. 35210500, FAA Airport Improvements Program (AIP-30) Design Grant

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded the City a grant in the amount of eighty-nine thousand forty-six dollars (\$89,046.00) for this project which will cover one hundred percent (100%) of the design cost for the North Apron Rehab project that was included in the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. In order to accept the grant funds, legislation will need to be completed prior to the agreement deadline of June 25, 2021 to allow the Service-Safety Director to apply for the FAA AIP-30 grant and enter into a grant agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration. Legislation to allow the Service-Safety Director to apply for funding from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvements Program (AIP-30) and enter into a grant agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-053 was created. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Project No. 35210500 Airport North Apron Rehab, FAA AIP-30 Design Grant

The Federal Aviation Administration has awarded the City a grant in the amount of eighty-nine thousand forty-six dollars (\$89,046.00) for the design portion of this project. The awarded grant funds will cover one hundred percent (100%) of the design costs of the North Apron Rehab project. Legislation to allow the Service-Safety Director to apply for the grant and to enter into the FAA AIP-30 grant agreement, as well as appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-053 was created.

FROM:	FAA AIP-30 Grant	\$ 89,046.00
TO:	Airport North Apron Rehab (AIP-30) #35210500	\$ 89,046.00

Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Project No. 35711300 East and E. Main Cross Waterline

The City will be raising the intersection of East Main Cross, East Street and Martin Luther King Parkway as part of the MLK Parkway project. Due to the scale of the project and the amount of traffic that uses the intersection on a daily basis, the City would like to replace the waterline within the project footprint while the intersection is under construction. Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) was originally appropriated to the East and East Main Cross waterline project to reroute the existing waterline out of a storm manhole, but after investigating the condition of the existing waterline within the project limits, it was determined the existing waterline would likely be up for a replacement within the next five to seven (5-7) years. A quote from the contractor to replace the waterline within the footprint from a set of plans that was provided by the City’s Engineering Department has been received. The placement of new gate valves and the alignment of the new waterline will allow the City to run in all directions without the need to shut down the intersection for any future projects. In order to install and replace the waterline within the footprint of the MLK Parkway project, an additional appropriation of one hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$135,000.00) is needed to cover the additional cost. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-054 was created.

TO:	Water Fund	\$ 135,000.00
FROM:	East and E. Main Cross Waterline #35711300	\$ 135,000.00

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that City Engineer Kalb contacted him about this project a couple of weeks ago when it became clear that this is what was going to need to be done on this project in which City Engineer Kalb asked him if this should go through the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE to which he directed him to bring this to City Council given the nature of the project and the dollar amount, as well as the fact that it will save the City money by not having to tear apart this brand new intersection again in five (5) years when a waterline may have to be replaced. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Income Tax Administrator appointment

Mayor Muryn is appointing Mary Price to the position of Income Tax Administrator for the City of Findlay Income Tax Department effective June 16, 2021. Ms. Price has been serving as Interim Income Tax Administrator since April 5, 2021 and has performed at a very high level. She has prior experience in the Income Tax Department as a Tax Administrator Agent and has previous management experience. Ms. Price, along with three (3) other qualified candidates interviewed for the position of Income Tax Administrator in late May 2021 in which the interview panel agreed that Ms. Price was the top candidate for the role. This appointment will position the Income Tax Department to continue providing the excellent service that the community members expect and deserve. This requires Council’s confirmation.

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn explained that there has been a transition process in the Income Tax Department and after a thorough review and interview process, Mary Price who has been serving as the interim Administrator during the transition period, was selected and is the Mayor’s recommendation for the appointment to fill this position long-term. She called Ms. Price to come to the podium to introduce herself to Council. Ms. Price has been doing a great job and the numbers are looking strong. She has been going through the process with her department during the middle of tax season. She appreciates the smooth transition and Ms. Price’s work with her team. Ms. Price had been working within the department previously. She is from the area and her family is well known within the community and has a number of connections with the City of Findlay.

Councilman Greeno moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Filed

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – May 2021.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that former Safety Director Schmelzer had mentioned that when the new software would be installed that it would be able to start tracking statistics for his departments and would be available for this report. Currently the report does not have anything to compare the listed monthly numbers to. He asked when comparison statistics would be made available to Council. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the KPIs are provided to Council that compare historical trends. He will get with Chief Ring to see if he is benchmarking with similar communities. Right now, it reflects Findlay’s community and historical trends, but he will follow up to see if there are best practices for similar communities and sizes throughout the nation. Councilman Wobser replied that he is more interested in comparisons to last year and also the last five (5) years. Mayor Muryn added that the Chief Ring is always looking for continuous improvements to the report. At this point, they are in the final stages of the Tyler conversion and have not been able to build out additional reports, but do have additional capabilities that she, Service-Safety Director Martin and Police Chief Ring have been looking at to include higher incident rates related to specific crimes and if there are things that could be done to help mitigate that (i.e. street lights in certain areas for higher crash incidents due to higher traffic volumes or if there is a need to reconfigure the intersection, etc.). They are starting to obtain that data, but that there has to be data within the system in order to have an apples to apples comparison. At this point, they are still trying to collect the data to have it in a more granular level to be able to have something to accurately compare it to. Filed.

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

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of May 31, 2021
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of May 31, 2021
- Open Projects Report as of May 31, 2021
- Cash & Investments as of May 31, 2021

Filed.

City Planning Commission minutes – May 13, 2021. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Project No. 35611900 CSO 8004 Flap Gate Rehab

In 2018, flap gates were installed on four (4) combined sewer overflows throughout the City of Findlay. The flap gates on CSO 8004 have ripped off of the existing concrete headwall due to the deterioration of concrete. The City of Findlay Engineering Department contacted the contractor that installed the flap gate to see what can be done at the CSO to install a new flap gate. It was determined that a new flap gate can be installed with the addition of carbon steel. This new design will work considering the condition of the existing headwall and the head pressures that are experienced at the CSO. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) from the Sewer Fund is needed to cover the cost of the installation of the new flap gate at CSO 8004. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-055 was created.

FROM:	Sewer Fund	\$ 30,000.00
TO:	CSO 8004 Flap Gate Rehab #35611900	\$ 30,000.00

Discussion:

Councilman Greeno asked if the 8004 is on the actual river. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. Councilman Greeno pointed out that with that flap missing, when the river rises, it will start flowing into the sewer system which is something that needs to be fixed as soon as possible. City Engineer Kalb replied agreed. Filed.

City Auditor Jim Staschiak – Revenue Estimates for fiscal year 2021

The Estimated Revenues for the next fiscal year will be provided for the July 6, 2021 City Council meeting which is the first step required under Ohio budgetary law. The figures are a best estimate of what is expected in revenues over the next eighteen (18) months. In order to meet the statutory requirements for the distribution of local government money, these documents should be accepted by Council during the July 6, 2021 meeting so that it can then be filed with the County Auditor no later than July 20, 2021. A motion for acceptance of the revenue estimates will be needed during the July 6, 2021 meeting. The Council Clerk has scheduled a public hearing before the July 6, 2021 meeting, notice of which must be published ten (10) days before the hearing during which period, the document will be available for public inspection in the City Auditor’s Office. City Auditor Staschiak is requesting this letter be read into the record. The public hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2021 at 6:55pm.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to have the letter read, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety. Filed.

Mayor Muryn - May 2021 Monthly Budget Summary. Filed.

Fire Chief Eberle – FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

The Findlay Fire Department was notified on June 11, 2021 of the federal award of the FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of one hundred seventeen thousand dollars two hundred seventy-two dollars and seventy-three cents (\$117,272.73). The award is for two (2) different activities as described below:

1. Replacement of at least seventeen (17) portable Fire Department radios
2. Tuition of eight (8) Fire Department employees to attend Certified Rescue Technician (CRT) training

This grant requires a local match of eleven thousand seven hundred twenty-seven dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$11,727.27). The grant application for radio replacement is part of a larger project to eventually replace all the aging portable radios in the Findlay Fire Department. The City’s 2021 Capital Plan also includes funds to replace a portion of them. According to the grant award package, the cost for each radio is estimated to be five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). The Certified Rescue Technician (CRT) training curriculum consists of six (6) technical rescue disciplines, including rope, swift water, confined space, auto extrication, trench, and structural collapse rescue. These courses are each roughly one week long and delivered over a six to eight (6-8) month period. The tuition cost per Firefighter is five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500.00). The acceptance deadline of the grant is July 11, 2021. Legislation authorizing the acceptance of this grant and to pay the City’s local match is requested. The deadline is July 11, 2021. Ordinance No. 2020-057 was created.

FROM:	CIT Fund Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 7,728.27
FROM:	Fire Department #21014000-other	\$ 3,999.00
FROM:	FY20 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (FEMA)	\$ 117,272.73
TO:	FY20 Fire AFG Program (FEMA)	\$ 129,000.00

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Miracle League donation

The City of Findlay received a donation of forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000.00) from the Miracle League to go toward the purchase of a sixty-eight foot (68’) double ultra zipline (with one standard seat and one inclusive seat) to be installed at the Blanchard Valley Health System Miracle Park. The funds have been deposited in the General Fund. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance no. 2021-058 was created.

FROM:	General Fund (Miracle League donation)	\$ 43,000.00
TO:	Recreation Maintenance #21042000-other	\$ 43,000.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Florence Wells to vacate the northern most 3.3705 feet of the first north/south alleyway east of Wilson Street.

We recommend to approve the request of Florence Wells. Ordinance No. 2021-056 was created.

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

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Brian Buck on behalf of his father William Buck to rezone Madison Avenue Lot 6192, 6193, 6194 from R3 Single Family High Density to C1 Local Commercial District. This request was previously discussed during the May 13, 2021 PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE meeting where it was tabled.

We recommend this remain tabled.

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 014-2021 *(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 Wobser. 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. 2021-045 AS AMENDED *(Bright Ave vacation)* requires three (3) readings

third reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN AVENUE (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE BRIGHT AVENUE VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-045 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-046 *(W Main Cross St vacation – City Mission)* requires three (3) readings

third reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE WEST MAIN CROSS STREET VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

Councilman Shindledecker noted that he realizes the value of the City Mission as he and his family has supported them financially and have volunteered there, but for safety reasons and the fact that the alley is used, he will not vote for it.

Mayor Muryn pointed out that some citizens from that neighborhood have come forward about their issues with the City Mission. She has been communicating with Council via email on how the City has been working with them to resolve the issues. The refrigerator trailer was relocated away from residential properties and the fuel tank has been secured. The City Mission has ordered a refrigerated unit that should be in soon so the refrigerated trailer will no longer be necessary. That road was already on the City's list to be repaved either this year or next year and stone has been placed in that area and there has been some additional patrol in an attempt to eliminate cars parking too close to driveways so not to impede driveways while maintaining a three foot (3') distance from the driveways. The City has been working with the City Mission on their policy of who is and is not able to park on their property as they have some restrictions on their residents. She is seeking additional parking for their volunteers. The City has addressed all the concerns with the City Mission that the neighborhood has brought forward.

Councilman Wobser asked if the Mayor's Office has received any phone calls against this vacation. Mayor Muryn replied that she has not received any communications on this topic.

Councilman Hellmann asked if this alleyway is intended to be continually paved or improved. He was under the impression it was going to be removed and grassed in and made into a quasi-park. Mayor Muryn replied that this alleyway would be part of the City Mission property and would no longer be a public road therefore, the City would not be maintaining it as roadway or alleyway. It would be part of the City Mission property. The City Mission already purchased the parcel on the other side of the alley that they plan to extend the fence and turn that area into a park area. The alley would still allow access to the City Mission parking lot. Depending on their configuration, they may gain some additional parking spots because of the change in flow.

Ayes: Hellmann, Palmer, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas. Nays: Niemeyer, Shindledecker. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-046 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-051 *(continue Workers Compensation programs)* requires three (3) readings

second reading

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENROLL THE CITY OF FINDLAY IN THE BUREAU OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION (BWC) GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-053 requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted

(Airport North Apron Rehab Project, FAA Airport Improvements Program (AIP-30) Design Grant)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY GRANT APPLICATION(S) TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THEIR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT, 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 Greeno. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Palmer, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-053 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-054 (*East & E Main Cross Waterline project no. 35711300*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

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

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-055 (*CSO 8004 flap gate rehab*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading- adopted

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

Councilman Greeno moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. Ayes: Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Haas. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Shindledecker. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-055 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-056 (*Wilson Street vacation*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE WILSON STREET VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-057 (*FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER'S GRANT (AFG) FUNDS AND SIGN THE NECESSARY AGREEMENT(S) TO ACCEPT THE AWARDED DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER'S GRANT (AFG) FUNDS, ALONG WITH THE CITY OF FINDLAY'S TEN PERCENT (10%) MATCH, TO REPLACE PORTABLE RADIOS FOR THE FINDLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT, PAY FOR TUITION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND CERTIFIED RESCUE TECHNICIAN (CRT) TRAINING, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-058 (*Miracle League donation*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Wobser updated Council on the STRATEGIC PLANNING process and how it is progressing. They have received ten (10) RFQ responses. **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** meeting on July 6, 2021 at 5:00pm in the first floor Council Chambers (CC) of the Municipal Building

Councilman Hellmann asked if a sound engineer could look into the sound system in the Council Chambers that has been talked about for a long time. Mayor Muryn replied that they are in the process of evaluating whether or not to install new wiring for the microphone system. A firm had previously been in and made some updates, but the wiring itself is faulty, so the City is having another firm get the new wiring installed. One recommendation is that when speaking into the microphones, not to get too close because it makes it pop. The system is currently being worked on.

City Auditor Staschiak notified Council that he forwarded an email that he received from Julian & Grube who are the City's auditors for this year. He confirmed that the email he forwarded to Council was not spam. The attached letter in that email state that they are unable to finalize the City's audit until all responses have been received. Their audit is the check to make sure that Council is doing their due diligence. President of Council Harrington asked City Auditor Staschiak to resend the email so Councilmembers could respond to it as some may have thought it was spam and deleted it. City Auditor Staschiak replied he will do so. Mayor Muryn asked City Auditor Staschiak to forward it to her and the Service-Safety Director as well.

Mayor Muryn informed Council that there is an article regarding the duplex/triplex approval process that was reflected in the City Planning Commission meeting which was the next step in getting the zoning map updated to bring properties into compliance ensuring accurate records. They have also reached out to properties that currently may not be in compliance to try to work with them if they were not able to identify whether or not if they are meeting the necessary requirements. Questions or comments on this should be forwarded to the Hancock Regional Planning Commission (HRPC) Office. The goal of this project is help properties become compliant while saving them time and money. They are not forcing compliance unless the City receives significant complaints.

Mayor Muryn informed Council about the Work From Home Municipal Income Tax Measure. On March 20, 2020, the State passed House Bill 197 that allowed municipalities to continue to tax individuals that were working from home in their primary place of business. Many were forced to work from home if they lived outside the city limits with the City potentially not receiving their income tax that the City relies on to continue to ensure that those working from home have a strong community to come back to (Police, Fire, water, sewer, etc.). That continued to be in place and what the City was planning on when receiving income taxes over the last year and a half, however, based off the current HB 110 and the Senate's proposal for this year's budget, as well as of those, would repeal that measure and would allow retroactive refunds from individuals that were working from home but did not live within the municipality. That HB allowed for just 2021 refunds, and the Senate Bill allows for refunds back to 2020 that could have a potentially significant impact on the City of Findlay's revenue. It is very difficult to calculate the specific numbers given that many may continue to pay their taxes here, but may end up being a larger amount if they live within a community that has a higher taxing rate. It is unknown who all might request the refund. There is a number of potential complex issues that Ms. Price would prefer to not have to tell Council about, but unfortunately could be a significant issue. She and Ms. Price are watching it closely. She has had many conversations with House and Senate members, including Representative Cross and Senator McColley. Some of the arguments she is hearing from the State level is that American Rescue Plan dollars received should cover loses. There is a lot of red tape associated with it that could potentially help make us whole, but that we have relied on those dollars. The City has played by the rules set by the State, so it is not fair to change them after the fact. While she would love to give everyone a huge tax refund, her priority is to make sure there is appropriate response time in the City's Police and Fire Departments if an emergency were to occur. It is a complex topic that she encourages Council to reach out to Senator Representative as well as other across the State to encourage them to leave it in place as is. There have been enough changing variables over the last year in providing high caliber services to ensure the community is positioned well into the future and not have to look back at this as causing a significant issue. She is not using this as a scare tactic, but wants Council to be aware that they are looking at wage calculations that are based off of income tax revenue growth. The City is in the middle of union negotiations with the goal of continuing to use that methodology. Having this uncertainty of continuous changes and having the potential to make refund requests for three (3) years, would pose a significant challenge.

Councilman Shindledecker asked if this is mandatory or optional. Mayor Muryn replied it would be mandatory for municipalities to fulfill a refund if a resident makes the request, which more than likely, anyone wanting a refund would make that request. If those requests come in, the City would have to validate that they did work from home. The City's staff of eight (8) employees in that department would have to track down the changes while having to validate them with employees which would have a significant impact.

City Auditor Staschiak added that a CPA group has provided communications that they are going to aggressively pursue this. There was some consideration for this coming to fruition and he did some budget projections for this that he will review with Council in the later part of July.

Mayor Muryn added that the State will have to pass this by the end of this month because it is tied to the State's operating budget that begins July 1st.

Councilman Hellmann asked what the House Bill number is. Mayor Muryn replied that the Work From Home Temporary Measure is 197, and the current House Bill which is the budget is 110. She does not recall the Senate Bill number. It is just referred to as HB 110 Senate version.

Councilman Niemeyer asked if there will be a number of streets that will be repaved in the Lima Avenue/West Sandusky Street area after gas line work is finished there. There are a lot of frustrated residents in that area. City Engineer Kalb replied it will not be a total resurface job. They did not tear up the entire street. He and the City's Street Department walked the entire area with Columbia Gas's subcontractor treating it like a City project where they laid out how the City wants it repaired and how the City would do the job in which they are in agreeance with the City. They did this so that the City would not have to fix anything in the future as this is Columbia Gas's project. There are also City Inspectors out there making sure the job is done the way the City wants it done. It will be awhile before Columbia Gas will be doing any final repairs as they still have a lot of work to do. There is cold mix on those streets in that area right now so that they do not have to be fighting stone during their projects. They are looking to repave in the fall. Lima Street is a good example as only half the road will be paved and will be milling some of the road. A full repaved area will be the one block area where the City repaved Cory Street a couple of years ago. Long story short, the area will be repaired by Columbia Gas (their contractors) to the City's liking. Columbia Gas is working with the City on the project. The project is in progress with final repairs expected in the fall.

Councilman Slough moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT