

# FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

DECEMBER 21, 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 introduced Troop 342 in the audience who lead tonight's the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by their Troop pledge. The Troop is here tonight on behalf of former City employee Bob Wagner who will be recognized tonight posthumously via Resolution No. 026-2021.

Scout Master Greg Little introduced his Troop. He thanked Council for the opportunity to attend tonight's meeting to honor Bob.

## ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Slough moved to accept the December 7, 2021 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

## ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

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

### REPLACEMENTS:

1. Ordinance No. 2021-120, AS AMENDED – ODOT FY22 Resurfacing (Bright Rd Phase II) (**LEGISLATION section**)
  - Changed the Project No. from ~~31993800~~ to now be 32811800

**PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** none

**RESOLUTION NO. 026-2021** (*Bob Wagner resolution*) **requires one (1) reading**

**first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING POSTHUMOUSLY ROBERT WAGNER FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HIS SERVICES TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY AND HIS COMMUNITY.

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn noted that Bob obviously had a tremendous impact on the City's team. While she only had the privilege of knowing him for a short while, his impact to the community is palatable as seen by the trucks and the students both at his funeral and here today. She is hearing the stories of him showing up to employees homes to help them with projects when they just wanted to borrow a tool or coming in to help with projects. He is the embodiment of a servant leader within the community and will be dearly missed, but his impact will be carried on through all who knew him and had the honor of calling him a colleague and friend. She invited Bob's widow Kathy to come forward, along with their daughters, in congratulating Bob with outstanding recognition of him being a part of the City's team and community by his lasting impact.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. Ayes: Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, 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.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** none

**PETITIONS:** none

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** none

## REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

**Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report** – November 2021. Filed.

### A set of summary financial reports for November 30, 2021:

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of November 30, 2021
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of November 30, 2021
- Open Projects Report as of November 30, 2021
- Cash & Investments as of November 30, 2021

Filed.

**Treasurer's Reconciliation Report** –November 30, 2021. Filed.

**Mayor Muryn - November 2021 Monthly Budget Summary.** Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – Spring Lake sanitary upgrade, project no. 35611600**

The City of Findlay Engineering Department has finalized the design of the Spring Lake sanitary sewer, is ready to advertise the project for construction and would like to be able to bid the project as soon as possible in order to obtain the best price possible. Construction is projected to start in early spring of 2022 with completion by mid-summer. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for construction is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-123 was created.

**Discussion:**

Councilman Russel asked City Engineer Kalb to provide an update on this project. City Engineer Kalb replied that plans were finalized for the Spring Lake sanitary sewer project within the last week to two weeks. It was originally going to be a pump station, but after working with the Marathon pipeline, we were able to gain some depth on where their pipeline and other utilities are, so it can be a gravity sewer. Plans have been finalized and are now assembling a bid book for it. Goal is to have this out to bid in January with a contractor in place in February with construction beginning in March or April. As soon as the weather breaks, construction will begin. By the time summer arrives, this project will be out of the way and will be functional by summer time.

Councilman Slough asked if extreme flooding ever occurred there, and if so, if this will stop it. City Engineer Kalb replied no. This is for sanitary sewer and not for storm water.

Councilman Greeno asked that since this has changed to a gravity sewer if there will be any cost savings or if it balances out. City Engineer Kalb replied that there will be a savings. The project was funded by an H2Ohio grant in conjunction with Ohio EPA. It will be a savings of taxpayer money in the long run. It will lower the cost of construction. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – HAN-Greenway Trail Phase III, 2022 TAP application**

The City of Findlay has been invited to submit an application for next year’s Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds. The City of Findlay’s Engineering Department would like to submit an application to extend the Blanchard River Greenway Trail from the existing multi-use trail on CR 236 to Riverbed Park. Construction on the project would be during ODOT’s FY2025. Legislation authorizing the Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to apply for the funds and sign any applicable agreements (or related documents) is requested. Ordinance No. 2021-124 was created. Filed.

**Water Superintendent Phillips – transmitter replacement project**

Water Superintendent Phillips is providing a brief update on the progress of the implementation of the new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for utilization of their water transmitter and meter system. As of December 15, 2021, the current status of the project is as follows:

- Staff has been trained and has started the mass deployment at the end of October
- Additional batteries have been added to the tablets to allow for all day use
- Billing interface is working with a few minor issues
- As anticipated, the 2G system has finally failed and has been taken off-line
- Deployment of the new system is now focusing on industrial and commercial accounts
- Current stats of deployment
 

	# of active account	# installed	% complete
○ North side (cycle one)	9,138	659	7%
○ South side (cycle two)	7,939	1,055	13%
○ Industrial commercial (cycle three)	1,541	154	10%
○ Totals	18,618	1,868	10%

**Next steps:**

- Continue to work towards getting all industrial and commercial accounts changed
- Working to get auto shut offs integrated into system
- Finalization of interfacing issues with dual port and compound meters

**Discussion:**

Councilman Russel asked Water Superintendent Phillips to inform Council on where this project is at. Water Superintendent Phillips replied that the project is about ten percent (10%) completed. 2G digital went away as planned, so the shift of the project has gone to making sure all of the industrial and commercial accounts are switched over to the new system while working through some of the details of how exactly to move forward with the rest.

Councilman Russel asked that with 2G now off, if that means there are no automated meter readings going on with anything that has been recently installed. Water Superintendent Phillips replied that is correct. Councilman Russel asked if the City will read meters less often because there are a lot of meters that were not previously automatically reading. Water Superintendent Phillips replied that he is formalizing a couple of different plans that he will review with the Administration to determine which direction to go and then will bring the final plan to a WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting to determine a plan to move forward with in early 2022. Councilman Russel informed Water Superintendent Phillips that if there is anything Council can do to help speed up the process of converting the meter readers over to let them know. He looks forward to when all the meter readers converted over. Water Superintendent Phillips replied he looks forward to that too. Filed.

**City Auditor Jim Staschiak – year-end items to transfer/appropriate**

The following accounts require an appropriation or a transfer for this budget year so that the City may remain in compliance with ORC and audit. It is important that the rules be suspended and the legislation for these transfers be passed at the December 21, 2021 City Council meeting in order to remain in compliance.

*Transfer Resolution:*

FROM:	Public Building Maintenance #21022000-other	\$	4,000.00
TO:	Public Building Maintenance #21022000-personal	\$	4000.00

REASON: the transfer deals with moving already appropriated funds between the department's personal services (wages and related benefits) and other (operational expenses) accounts to be able to finish the rest of the year. Resolution No. 027-2021 was created.

*Appropriation Ordinance:*

FROM:	Airport Fund	\$	20,500.00
TO:	Airport Operations #25010000-personal services	\$	15,500.00
TO:	Airport Operations #25010000-other	\$	5,500.00

REASON: Due to staffing changes during the year and increased fuel costs, there is a need to appropriate additional funds in order for the department to be able to finish out the rest of the year.

FROM:	CR 236 TIF Fund	\$	40,568.58
TO:	CR 236 Widening Debt Service #23060310-other	\$	40,568.58

FROM:	CR 236 Widening Debt Service #23060310-other	\$	40,568.58
TO:	CIT – Capital Improvement Restricted Account	\$	40,568.58

REASON: the CR 236 debt payments were appropriated and paid initially by CIT Fund-Capital Improvements money for 2020. \$40,568.58 has been received in 2021 of TIF revenue to offset a portion of the 2021 debt payment. These appropriations allow the TIF Fund money to be used for the debt and reimburse Capital Improvements.

FROM:	County Permissive Fund	\$	358,411.92
TO:	CR 236 Widening Debt Service #23060310-other	\$	323,317.92
TO:	CR 236 Land Debt Service #23060210-other	\$	35,094.00

FROM:	CR 236 Widening Debt Service #23060310-other	\$	323,317.92
FROM:	CR 236 Land Debt Service #23060210-other	\$	35,094.00
TO:	CIT – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$	358,411.92

REASON: The CR 236 debt payments were appropriated and paid initially by Capital Improvements money for 2021. \$358,411.92 of County Permissive Fund money to pay the 2021 debt payments as an allowable use of the money. These appropriations allow the County Permissive money to be used for the debt and reimburse Capital Improvements.

FROM:	Energy Bonds Series B #23056100	\$	23,910.57
TO:	CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$	23,910.57

REASON: The City had to appropriate the entire amount of the interest payment for the Energy Bonds for the 2021 debt payments. However, the Series B bonds are federally subsidized and the City received a portion of the subsidy payment. Due to the federal mandated sequester, the City did not receive the entire subsidy. There is a federally established process with the IRS to request the payments that must be followed twice a year. The second payment request was filed at the earliest date of September 2020; however, that payment has not been received which means the reimbursement amount in 2021 is larger than what the City would normally be returning to the restricted account.

Also, the interest amount that was due on the bonds ended up being less than was shown on the amortization schedule and was originally budgeted. These transactions take care of the return the fronted appropriation to CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account.

FROM:	Special Assessments Sidewalks #28020000	\$	95.12
TO:	General Fund	\$	95.12

REASON: In 2004, the City made the final debt payment on the 2003 Sidewalk Construction Program, however, there were several assessment deferrals granted at that time in addition to several property owners that had chosen not to pay the assessment. Also, the City made the final debt payment on the 2010 Sidewalk Repair and New Construction projects in 2014. About half (1/2) of the assessed property owners chose not to pay this assessment. The City had to cover the costs of the debt payments with General Fund money and was to be reimbursed when the property owners finally made payment. The \$ 95.12 represents the amount of money that was received in 2021 for some of these properties. This money should now be returned to the General Fund. There are still a few outstanding assessments to be collected from these projects.

FROM:	Police Pension Fund	\$	21,422.02
TO:	Police Pension #27078000-761400	\$	21,422.02

FROM:	Fire Pension Fund	\$	21,422.02
TO:	Fire Pension #27079000-761400	\$	21,422.02

REASON: A portion of the amount received from the assorted property taxes from the County tax settlements is deposited into Police and Fire Pension Funds by law. The cash balance is then transferred to the General Fund at the end of the year. Although the revenue budgets for 2021 were estimated very closely, the transfers out of these funds were budgeted low. The County revises their revenue estimates after adoption of our annual appropriation ordinance, and in order to avoid potentially over-budgeting the fund on the certificate filing, the transfer out is budgeted lower than expected.

FROM: City Income Tax Fund \$ 670,208.00  
TO: City Income Tax #27047000-other \$ 670,208.00

REASON: Based on current projections, the actual income tax collections will be more than the original estimate. The tax is allocated to the CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account and the General Fund based on actual collections. It is anticipated that the City will be able to transfer more money than currently budgeted and will need the appropriation increased by this amount in order to complete the transfer to the General Fund as part of the 2021 transactions.

FROM: General Fund \$ 70,000.00  
TO: Self Insurance Fund \$ 70,000.00

REASON: The Self Insurance Fund earns interest that is supposed to pay for the expenses related to the fund, however, the expenses are larger than what is able to be earned as interest. In order to pay the expense of this fund, part of the principal of the fund had to be used. This fund should always have an ending fund balance of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). This appropriation allows for that to occur. Ordinance No. 2021-125 was created.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to have the first paragraph of the letter read, seconded by Councilman Russel. All were in favor. The Council Clerk read the first paragraph of the letter.

Councilman Russel asked City Auditor Staschiak to provide an overview of why this is done annually at the end of the year and how it fits into the whole cycle of accounting. City Auditor Staschiak replied that some things are not seen until the end of the year. For example, debt is prepaid such as a sidewalk that the City put in Hunter's Creek. Although that debt issuance expires the end of this year, some of the property owners just paid their portion, so that has to be accounted for properly. The City prepaid it, and now the money needs to be moved to where it needs to be. Those funds cannot be moved without Council's approval which is done via legislation. In order to comply with State Law, funds that come in for Police and Fire pensions cannot be appropriated in the first ordinance of the following year that funds the City's entire budget, because Council cannot over appropriate at that time. Pensions have to be appropriated a little bit less until it is known how much tax money actually came in, and then when the exact amount is known, it is cleaned up at the end of the year. Filed.

Traffic Commission minutes – November 15, 2021. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: none

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 026-2021

See page 1 (RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS section)

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2021 (year-end transfer) requires one (1) reading

first reading - adopted

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN APPROPRIATED FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 028-2021 (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 Greeno moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, 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. 2021-116, AS AMENDED (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 FINDLAY, OHIO, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-121, ORDINANCE NO. 2021-042, ORDINANCE NO. 2021-068, ORDINANCE NO. 2021-097 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 Hellmann. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas. Councilman Palmer moved to amend the Ordinance to remove the Special Projects Manager position from the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wobser.

Discussion:

Councilman Palmer explained that this position was created very quickly this past spring for the transition of the Service-Safety Director position, and that he finds the creation of the position to have been done by a bad process. The position should have been created in committee with minimum standards created in which none of that happened when the position was created which is why he feels it should be removed and then have it go to committee. If the committee wants to create the position, a set of standards with minimum requirements could then be created. Mayor Muryn replied that this is the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) reading of the Ordinance and asked why, if Councilman Palmer felt the removal of the position was necessary, why he did not make that known during the first or second reading so that the amendment could have been accomplished before getting to this point. She felt it was a valued position at the time, but that the position was not utilized because of the delays that occurred. Having flexibility within the pay ordinance and being able to bring in individuals with expertise as necessary, especially by not having to enter into an agreement each time for someone to provide a number of services when they can come in and help on an as needed basis for a lower rate is prudent. Bringing this up at the last minute is throwing a bad process after what has been stated to be a bad process.

Motion to amend the Ordinance:

Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Wobser, Greeno. Nays: Slough, Warnecke, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance is amended.

Motion to adopt as amended:

Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted as amended and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-116 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-117** (*ee payroll deductions for HSA*) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE ELECTED TO ENROLL IN THE HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA) PLAN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-117 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-119** (*Airport fuel budget appropriation*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel reminded Council that tonight is the last meeting of the year, so business that is not resolved or finished by this meeting will die and then will have to start over with new Council in January. This Airport fuel appropriation is necessary for the continued sale of the fuel at the Airport and needs to be adopted tonight.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. Ayes: Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-119 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-120, AS AMENDED** (*ODOT FY22 Resurfacing (Bright Rd Phase II)*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY22 RESURFACING (BRIGHT ROAD, PHASE II) PROJECT NO. 32811800, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that this is an ODOT annual project to pave streets and is one that Council knew about. It will allow for the City to start construction quickly in a rising costs environment.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-120 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-122** **requires three (3) readings** (*MOU – confining & support of City of Findlay overflow prisoners*) **second reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONFINEMENT AND SUPPORT OF CITY OF FINDLAY OVERFLOW PRISONERS AS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HERETO ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Discussion:

Mayor Muryn thanked those that attended the Special Session City Council meeting last week and participated in the discussions. She recapped that the jail is looking to decrease the number of inmates that would be able to be housed locally and have not previously exercised the ability to contract directly with other counties. The Court staff, Law Director, and Judges discussed that issue and felt it would be prudent to look at alternative housing options for inmates which will require some operational shifts within the Courts and how those individuals are managed. They are working with the Police Department on the details. The legislation on this is for the ability of the City to enter into those direct agreements to house inmates in surrounding counties. Initially, Wyandot County and Putnam County were looked at, but are now in conversations with a number of other counties that would be able to house inmates. An invite will be sent out in the next couple of weeks to bring together City and County officials to discuss longer term solutions for inmates and the criminal justice system within the community, and look at the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) for long-term jail needs, etc. As she gains a better understanding of what the County's plans are on how the City can help them with the decision-making process, she will have a better understanding of what the costs are for this possibly long-term. Housing costs are already in the budget that will be paid directly to the Hancock County Sheriff, so there is no additional appropriation of funds needed at this time, however, while working through the operational details, funding may be needed in different areas such as transporting prisoners in which one of the City's vehicles would need to be retrofitted to be able to do so. The upfront costs associated with this would still be less than the overall expenses right now.

Councilman Wobser asked if there are any further updates from Sheriff Heldman on the operations over at the jail and what the immediate short term impacts are. Mayor Muryn replied that numbers are starting to decrease over time. There currently are approximately seventy (70) individuals being housed between the courts with the Police managing those numbers and what individuals are being put into the jail here locally. As soon as this is executed, it will take approximately two (2) weeks before anyone can be placed in other facilities, but are starting to see the shift locally.

Director of Court Services for Findlay Municipal Court Beach added that the Sheriff routinely sends the court a report of the number of inmates that are in the Hancock County Justice Center, the composition of those inmates, and if they incarcerated under a felony or misdemeanor. He introduced Probation Officer Candance Griffith (in the audience) who has been working diligently with the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC). Today, the Sheriff indicated that there are approximately fifteen (15) inmates that have been removed from the Hancock County Justice Center with a couple going to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, and the vast majority going to the Mercer County Sheriff's Office who will be holding Hancock County's prisoners and Common Pleas Court prisoners due to the reduction of ability of the local justice center to handle the load.

Councilman Russel asked Mayor Muryn asked if Wyandot County is where the City will initially be looking. Mayor Muryn replied no, Putnam County is the initial location. Wyandot County was inadvertently listed on tonight's agenda because it was a County that the City reached out to, but are now working with a number of Counties. Putnam County is the who the City has had initial conversations with and who has already provided a draft agreement. Director of Court Services for Findlay Municipal Court Beach added that Seneca County has already confirmed they have available housing pending approval by Council and the Seneca County Prosecutor's Office. He has also reached out to the Wood County Sheriff's Office with some possibilities there as well, but that it is not as firm as Putnam County.

Councilman Russel appreciates the information that was shared at the Special Session City Council meeting on December 15, 2021 and the work that the crews did to put this together. In light of the situation that is going on with the Hancock County Jail, this was not a difficult decision for him and with the information that has been shared about it, especially about citizens who are trying to serve their time and get on with their lives, but are being turned away, even if Council had not been provided with the Hancock County Jail situation, he still would have supported the move. When our citizens are willing to make amends and move forward, the City has an obligation to help them do so and move on with their lives. It is unfortunate what is happening across the street, but it is his hopes that this will provide some good opportunities to improve things due to the cooperative efforts amongst Mr. Beach's team.

Ayes: Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-122 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-123** *(Spring Lake Sanitary Upgrade)* **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPRING LAKE SANITARY UPGRADE PROJECT NO. 35611600, 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: Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke.

Discussion:

Councilman Shindledecker pointed out that every other year, Council has to decide whether to adopt legislation during the last meeting of the year/term or that it will die at the end of the year. Councilmembers are elected for two (2) year terms, which in this case, ends this meeting. Next year, legislation can be carried forward into 2023 because it will be the same Council.

Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-123 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-124** (*HAN-Greenway Trail Phase III, 2022 TAP application*) **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading – adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO APPLY FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP) FUNDS AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HAN-GREENWAY TRAIL PHASE III, 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: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-124 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-125** (*year-end appropriations*) **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading -adopted**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING 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 Haas. 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 Palmer. Ayes: Shindledecker, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Greeno, Haas, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXI, Page 2021-125 and is hereby made a part of the record.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilman Wobser reminded Council that Raise the Bar Hancock County (RTB) was discussed last week during the budget hearings. It is an organization that thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) per year is funded by City funds and taxpayer money. When Council was originally looking to help fund this organization, Council had a board position to go along with that funding, but that board position has now been removed. The goal of the Director of that organization and that of the organization itself was to move the board away from a legacy funded group of board members. It was a position he held and represented Council on since 2016, but that position no longer exists. Council does not have representation on that board that they partially fund. He is bringing this up before Council tonight to ensure that Council knows what they are doing. The funding of that organization is good. The organization continues to do good work and will meet some obstacles coming up, so the City's funding to them is worthwhile. Discussion on why the City first funded it was because Council had a board position and had the ability to ensure that taxpayer dollars were being spent well. He asked Council for their thoughts on whether or not to continue to fund it, and if not, the budget would need to be amended to take the money out and/or petition for RTB to put Council's board position back in.

Councilman Slough asked Councilman Wobser what his recommendation on this is. Councilman Wobser replied he does not have an opinion and is leaving it up to the rest of Council to decide. The Director called him after the Special Session City Council meeting concerned that funding would potentially go away and the reason why to which his reply to him was that his main concern was that Council's main job is to ensure that the City's money is well spent. The City does not fund any other outside organizations where the City does not have representation on which is a good move on Council's part. He would prefer that the City not pull their funding at this point in time as he feels it is still worthwhile, but that the organization will have to continue to prove its worthwhile going forward, but at the same time, he struggles with not having City representation on the board with taxpayer dollars going to fund it.

Councilwoman Warnecke asked why there no longer is City representation on the board. Councilman Wobser replied that they reorganized the board in which member terms ran out. Initially, the legacy funders had a position on the board that did not term out. Most non-profit boards' terms are for a certain length of time. When those terms expire, the member usually moves on to a different position or goes off the board and then is replaced. That has since changed in that there no longer are legacy funders (City, County, United Way, and the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation) on the board because of the funding dollars that the City gave to it. RTB changed the way the board was organized in those legacy funders essentially no longer had a board spot because of funding, so Councilman Wobser termed off as the City's representative. Councilwoman Warnecke asked if all the legacy funders termed off. Mayor Muryn replied that they are staggered so their terms will be coming up and will be removed appropriately as structured. She is on the board and will be taking over as Chair of the Committee of the board next year. She agrees with Councilman Wobser in that the City has a responsibility in managing taxpayer dollars and that the City does not fund other non-profits where there is not a City representative on the board. She is fine with rolling back the City's funding in the future because the City's initial commitment was up last year. During the budget hearings, it was noted that the City believes RTB still does warrant the City's support and that they were not quite sure what their financial position was going to look like. The bylaws for RTB were changed in 2020. Both she and Councilman Wobser reviewed and approved that change. This is coming before Council now because many of the board appointment terms will end soon. Her recommendation would be to continue the City's commitment. The board is not opposed to having a Council representative, but would need to be an individual that is not directly tied to the board just because he/she is on Council, but would need to be a member of the community who cares about workforce, serves on Council, and would like to be involved with RTB. There is a process to get involved with RTB. She recommends keeping RTB in the budget as it had been presented in last year's two (2) year budget, and then can be re-evaluate if it is something Council wants to continue to fund because she does not feel the City should be a primary funding organization for them long-term.

Councilman Hellmann asked if the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) that the City gives to RTB is a significant amount in their overall budget and asked what the financial condition of what RTB is and asked if they are in good financial standing. Mayor Muryn replied that they are stable. When Laurie Zydonik left the organization, Trisha Valasek took over and went after a ton of different grant funding opportunities for all of the different programs that they have. The benefit to the City's dollars is that they are unrestricted that can fill the gaps in the work that they need. Many of the grants they receive from other areas are specific to tech credentials, the Leader in Me program, or the FAME program (now Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership AMT Apprenticeship). The City's funds are able to be utilized wherever the organization wants which goes back to her point that they are stable and have set and built their goals and aspirations around the City's funding as there has not been any conversations to the contrary. If the City were to tell them that their contributions will dwindle down or will be going away within the next couple of years, they would adjust to that. If that would not be the case, they would come back to the City and address the City's concern of wanting to have a City representative on the board in order to feel comfortable funding them. Her recommendation over the next couple of years is to scale back the City's funding, not because she doesn't believe in the work that they are doing, but because she does not think the City should be funding non-profits because it gets complicated.

Councilman Russel asked which of the other three (3): County, United Way, and the Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation rolled off funding along with the City. Mayor Muryn replied that the County is continuing their financial contribution, but will not have anyone on the board. The United Way and the Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation are still currently on the board with the United Way rolling off next year, and the Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation rolling off the following year. They are staggered terms.

Councilman Wobser noted that during one of his conversations with Director Valasek last week, RTB was made aware that the funding from the United Way has been severely restricted this year. When asked if the City's funding is a significant amount, he believes any amount of money going to a non-profit is a significant amount. Director Valasek has done a tremendous job of getting outside funding, but are facing some obstacles.

Councilman Russel is comfortable with continuing to fund RTB for 2022 despite their financial situation, especially with the United Way pullback and with the fact that the Mayor is going to be the President of the board. Part of the discussions need to be on the fact that there is no guarantee that the City will provide funding for 2023, especially if the Mayor rolls off the board. He supports leaving funding for RTB in the 2022 budget.

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council that they have a win-win or compromise for themselves that might provide the answers to help everybody particularly in light of the Mayor's comments on long-term funding being in question. The way the budget is set up, the City does not fund the organization until Council passes an ordinance funding it. Per Ordinance 2022-001, Council has the option of removing the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) with the understanding that the organization can come to Council with a request because if Council funds it via Ordinance No. 2022-001 and he receives the bill, he has to pay it because it is in the budget. If they come to Council with a proposal for thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) a year and a request for funding of three to five (3-5) years, depending on what is most appropriate for the organization, the request will go to the committee where everything will be defined prior to committing the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). It could be done in one APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting and then an Ordinance can be adopted in enough time for their funding needs. He does not have say in the decision. It is ultimately Council's decision. The City needs to continue to support good things going on in the community, to encourage economic development, jobs and who fills them. By removing this from the budget and taking it to committee, it would allow the City to not lose the strength it has in the contribution that Council has not made yet and tie it to how Council would like to see future contributions defined. It gives them the added benefit of knowing exactly where Council is at over the next two to four (2-4) years.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Muryn asked Councilman Wobser to schedule a STRATEGIC PLANNING meeting.

Councilman Wobser: STRATEGIC PLANNING meeting on January 11, 2022 at ~~2:30pm~~ 2:00pm.

Mayor Muryn noted that she has been providing additional information via a budget summary. She began providing this when COVID first started to provide a comparison of how the City was trending against the budget. City Auditor Staschiak adjusted some of the reports he had been providing to include some of the items that she had been reporting on, so she will no longer be providing her 1-page budget summary next year. If there is anything anyone has concerns with or would like to see on City Auditor's summary, let him know of she can provide the information that is requested.

Mayor Muryn noted that tonight is the last full Regular Session City Council meeting for Councilman Haas and Councilman Shindlecker as they will be leaving Council. They will be recognized during the next City Council meeting on January 4, 2022. She thanked them for their service on Council and to the community and wished them well.

President of Council Harrington thanked Mayor Muryn for swearing-in all 2022-2023 Councilmembers that were in attendance tonight. They are now all set to go for next year. He reminded Councilman Haas and Councilman Shindlecker that they are required to attend the next Regular Session City Council meeting on January 4, 2022 as the current Council will need to approve tonight's meeting minutes and close 2021 business before adjourning sine die before conducting another Regulars Session City Council meeting immediately following with the 2022-2023 Councilmembers. It will be their first meeting of their term.



Councilman Hellmann asked what Council is going to do for the Raise the Bar issue that was brought up tonight. Councilman Wobser replied that discussions on what will be done will be at the next Regular Session City Council meeting when Resolution No. 001-2021 (2022 budget) is discussed.

Councilman Haas moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

---

CLERK OF COUNCIL

---

COUNCIL PRESIDENT