

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 4, 2022

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 and a moment of silence.

ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

- Councilman Haas moved to accept the December 15, 2021 Special Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.
- Councilman Haas moved to accept the December 21, 2021 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

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

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

PETITIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS: none

LEGISLATION: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

Councilman Haas adjourned the 2020-2021 Council meeting sine die at 7:02pm, seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor. Filed.

President of Council Harrington adjourned City Council at 7:05pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 4, 2022

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2022-2022 Councilmembers:

PRESENT: Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wisener, Wobser

ABSENT: none

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

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

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

ADD-ONS:

1. Letter from Council President Harrington – Council appointment to Local Board of Tax Review (*REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section*)

REPLACEMENTS: none

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2022 (Councilman Haas retirement) **requires one (1) reading** **first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING COUNCILMAN CHARLES "BUD" HAAS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HIS SERVICES TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

Discussion:

President of Council Harrington noted that he has known Mr. Haas for fifty (50) years. He thanked him for what he has done for not only the City, but for his thirty-one (31) years as a Findlay Police Officer. He wished him luck in the future.

Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2022 (Councilman Shindledecker retirement) **requires one (1) reading** **first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING COUNCILMAN THOMAS SHINDELECKER FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HIS SERVICES TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Slough.

Discussion:

Councilman Slough noted that Mr. Shindledecker did a great job. He recalls meeting him twenty plus (20+) years ago when he worked for WFIN. He commended him for a job well done.

President of Council Harrington noted that over the years, he often referred to Mr. Shindledecker by his radio name of Tom Sheldon. Before he and Mr. Shindledecker came onto Council at the same time, as a news reporter, Mr. Shindledecker reported on City Council meetings. Mr. Shindledecker always gave wise feedback during Council meetings. He wished him the best of luck in the future.

All were in favor. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

Discussion:

Mr. Shindledecker noted that Findlay is a great community. Those that have lived here all their lives know it, but maybe not to the degree that he feels. The stewardship that he inherited from this Council in the last three (3) or four (4) years is because of those that served then.

PETITIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

City Engineer Kalb – 2022 early projects

There are several project that will be included in the 2022 Capital Improvement Plan that the City Engineering Department would like to be able to bid as soon as possible or have design funds appropriated into the project so that the design can be completed. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for construction, as well as appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2022-004 was created.

FROM:	CIT Fund – Capital Improvement Restricted Account	\$ 72,000.00
TO:	2022 Street Preventative Maintenance, <i>Project No. 32820100</i>	\$ 70,000.00
TO:	2022 Annual Street Resurfacing/Curb Repairs, <i>Project No. 32820500</i>	\$ 2,000.00
FROM:	Sewer Fund	\$ 55,000.00
TO:	2022 Annual Sewer Televising Program, <i>Project No. 35620300</i>	\$ 2,500.00
TO:	2022 Annual Sewer & Manhole Lining Program, <i>Project No. 35620400</i>	\$ 2,500.00
TO:	2022 Sanitary Sewer Upsizing (CSO LTCP), <i>Project No. 35620600</i>	\$ 50,000.00
FROM:	Water Fund	\$ 5,000.00
TO:	Morrical Blvd Waterline Replacement, <i>Project No. 35720200</i>	\$ 5,000.00

Filed.

President of Council Harrington – Council appointment to Local Board of Tax Review

Pursuant to Section 5709.85 of the Ohio Revised Code, Council President Harrington would like to appoint Councilmember Jeff Wobser to serve as Council’s Representative to the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). His term will be effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. This appointment does not require confirmation by Council.

Board of Zoning Appeals minutes – November 10, 2021. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

An **AD HOC COMMITTEE** met on November 29, 2021 to review Council's Rules of Procedures for the 2022-2023 Council term.

We recommend to approve the revised Rules of Procedure as provided and changes to include eliminations of reference to the following committees: Intergovernmental Relations, Parking Authority, and Raise The Bar, and to add Council's approval of Ad-Hoc Committees, and new committee assignments as provided.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee met on December 21, 2021. The Committee report and the agenda reflect the incorrect date of November 29, 2021. They had previously met on November, 29, 2021, but this report making this recommendation is for the December 21, 2021 meeting.

City Auditor Staschiak = **unable to hear the audio livestream of most of his comments, therefore unable to transcribe into the minutes.** He is the Administrator for Council and the community, as well as the Mayor, so he is always looking for any possible benefits. In this case, he sees a significant benefit if this committee becomes active again as it would give him, as Administrator, a specific point of contact with Council. Council should talk about those issues over the long term. If an Ad-Hoc meeting addresses each time an issue comes up, it would be a different person who would head that and would have a different impact on the City, then there will be an economic development group that would be going out and marketing property and would be doing what they need to do to satisfy their private board that would not provide public representation with a public approach from a representative point of view that Council is. It would not allow he or the Mayor to have good significant long-term meaningful dialogue that evolves. He is not asking for anything specific, but thinks that it deserves additional consideration.

Councilman Wobser pointed out that what City Auditor Staschiak has brought up had been a discussion of the Ad-Hoc Committee at length where it was decided to eliminate the committee and then if a topic came up that needed discussed, then it would be discussed in an Ad-Hoc type of function or appoint someone or a committee to deal with that specific issue. He and Councilman Russel disagreed on this in that he feels this committee is needed, but sees his point that it can be dealt with on an Ad-Hoc basis. City Auditor Staschiak's comments tonight on it adds more interest to the whole idea that Council needs to continue to be involved with other governmental entities inside the County. He is unsure if Council has done a good job with that in recent history and has relied on the Mayor to take care of all of it. While she has done a good job with it, it puts a lot of burden on her to relay information on a timely basis to Council. He is conflicted on taking this committee out. He asked for other Councilmember's thoughts on it.

Councilman Russel noted that the committee being removed could find no explanation for what it did. It met once during his tenure on Council which was to discuss the relocation of the Health Department. He spoke with members of the committee who were all in agreement to not have it anymore. The pros to having an Ad-Hoc Committee is for when issues that need intergovernmental type conversation that would be difficult to have a designated committee that would be best suited for each issue. Two (2) issues that discussed in an Ad Hoc committee were an annexation and the jail situation in which a designated committee might not provide the best Council Representatives or might not bring the best experience or best perspective to the two (2) different issues. An Ad-Hoc approach would provide Council Representatives that would be best suited to address each issue. An Ad-Hoc Committee would form as the need arose, and if the need didn't arise, the committee would not form. That was the conversations about this issue.

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

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** met on December 21, 2021 to discuss the following topics:

- Branding
- the community outreach team
- Data collection
- Website
- On site visit

We recommend the approval of the logo as currently done (see attached). Motion by Palmer, 2nd by Mayor, 7 ayes; 0 nays)

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2022 (Internet auctions - authorization to use) **requires one (1) reading**

first reading - adopted

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked if this is an annual renewal, or once a council term. City Auditor Staschiak replied it is renewed once a year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2022 (*advances on County tax settlements*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE TAX ADVANCES DURING THE YEAR 2022 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §321.34.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked if this needs passed tonight. City Auditor Staschiak replied that it can be given all three (3) readings. It is renewed every year. It gives him the ability to go to the County Auditor and request funds that may be sitting in their bank accounts instead of the City's. This was particularly needed when interest rates were significantly higher and money was not coming in as quickly as it had come in the last couple of years. It is regular business that Council passes every year and is always the second (2nd) resolution of the year.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2022

See page 2 (*RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS section*)

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2022

See page 2 (*RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS section*)

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-001 (*appropriations for current expenses & other expenditures for 2022*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS WHERE NECESSARY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked for an explanation of what this is. City Auditor Staschiak replied that this is was covered during the annual appropriations meeting. This Ordinance reads exactly like the budget book did in the budget review meeting in December. This is the detail budget (green and gray pages in the back of the book), not the summary. He was asked where the funds for Raise The Bar are. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) is still included in this budget, per Council's last meeting. It is included in the general expense – other item that is two million six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000.00) which is about two-thirds (2/3) down the first page. Its companion ordinance is Ordinance No. 2022-002 which moves Storm Water Restricted funds from the restricted account to the Sewer Fund which matches that total, the total of the two (2) items in Ordinance No. 2022-001 (this Ordinance). It allows those funds to also be used to fund operations.

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

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser pointed out that at the last meeting, there was a lot of discussion about Raise The Bar between him and the board who were concerned about the comments that were made previously, so he explained why he had made those comments and where that information came from. They are concerned about the loss of funding.

Mayor Muryn added that Raise The Bar is an important organization in the community. It was never the City's intention to be a regular funding for them. 2020's budget included the final payment to them, but decided in 2021 to continue to fund it with an economic uncertainty recognizing that workforce is a huge part of the community moving forward post pandemic. She recommends Council move forward with the funds as budgeted as previously discussed and look at having a conversation between Council and the Raise The Bar board who is very open to having someone from Council serve on the board if they have interest, but would not be a designated Council seat was the conversation, but are completely open to it. It is her intentions that the City not be the long-term funding entity for Raise The Bar, but for this year, she recommends that the City go ahead and provide the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) and then have a conversation moving forward.

Councilman Wobser asked Tricia Valasek, Director of Raise The Bar, to come to the podium and speak. Ms. Valasek thanked Council for the consideration. Raise The Bar has been doing significant work in the community. The City's funds would be important to them moving forward to continue the work they are doing. As they continue to look to diversify the funding so that they no longer have to feel that they are reliant on a certain number of funders who are initial funders. When they seek grant funding, most of the governmental grants require matching costs of which funds from the community are an essential part of that. They did end up with a nice year, they continue to look to see where they will have revenue available for them the next year to continue to grow. For the first five (5) years, they were a staff of one (1) trying to tackle workforce issues. With COVID, issues have blossomed, as well as the need to continue to grow the organization in order to continue to meet all the pressing demands that their workforce has for them. She asked Council to keep them in their budget this year, and then she will work with the Mayor and the rest of the board to determine how to have a Council Representative who is also a community member to have a voice on the board, and also to discuss how to not rely on the City for funding in the future.

Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wisener, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2022-001 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-002 (*Sewer Fund*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING 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 Palmer. Ayes: Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wisener, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wisener, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2022-002 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-003 (*2022-2023 Retirement Severance Payouts*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

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

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked when this needs to be passed. City Auditor Staschiak replied that it can go through all three (3) readings. This is to fund or set aside funds for paying out severance fees or separation packages as employees leave. He does not expect all the employees to leave at the same time, but there are funds in that account. In comparing last year's budget numbers with this year, one of the reasons the City would have a difficult time getting to a higher credit rating is because of the concern of what the State of Ohio has done with pension funding for public entities. One of the State Legislators has attempted to adopt legislation that would increase the City's obligation to the pension system. Many decades ago, there was an agreement between the State and municipalities where the State would take on a large portion of unified pension payments to ensure the safety of those monies and then each municipalities would pay their portion to ensure communities were taken care of long-term over those years. Now, there is a threat of going against that promise that was made all those years ago. In comparison to where the City was last year at this time, the potential of unfunded liability through 2021 totaled approximately one million six hundred thousand dollars (\$1,600,000.00). The 2022 budget is up to two million one hundred forty-two thousand dollars (\$2,142,000.00), and will be two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000.00) after that. It has gone up six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) in less than a year. The City is in a strong cash position. The City does not want to fund these things when the funds are not as strong, so while the City has the money, they should set the money aside where it will continue to be invested. Should the market improve, the money will accrue in that fund which is an advantage and could put the City in a position to take less money out of the General Fund in the future because of the advantages of a more favorable investment market. He anticipates it will improve over the next twelve to eighteen (12-18) months. The City only invests money in things that do not risk principle. The City's money is never put as an investment risk long-term which is the first and foremost caveat of the rules he has to follow as the City's Fiscal Officer.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-004 (*2022 early projects*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE 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, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR SAID CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked City Engineer Kalb to explain what this is and the reasoning of wanting to get it passed tonight. City Engineer Kalb replied that the first line item is for street preventative maintenance which is startup money for the City's Street Department so that they have funds for cold mix to fix potholes and if they need additional asphalt, roadway repairs, sign repairs, etc., funds would be available for startup. It is to ensure the 2021 street preventative maintenance is closed out before starting 2021 work so that the previous year's work does not carry over. These funds are for the City's Street Department to get started until the Capital Plan is fully approved. Funds on this ordinance are for startup to get projects ready and put them out to bid. Communities around Findlay generally push their projects out early, so he would like to get ahead of them. Contractors right now are eager to book projects. This would allow the City to obtain the cheapest prices possible for the City's projects. The projects he has listed in this Ordinance are what he wants to get out to bid to obtain the best pricing. Councilman Russel asked how quickly the work will be begin and what dollar amount will be saved by bidding it out early. City Engineer Kalb replied the savings vary. For instance, by bidding out last year's resurfacing project on Bright Road when he did saved the City money. If he had waited five (5) more days to bid it out, an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) would have been tacked on because of what the asphalt prices were and because of there being more projects out there. Contractors have to adjust their pricing according to what other projects they already have scheduled where material prices go up during that time. The Bright Road project last year was a seven hundred thousand-dollar (\$700,000.00) project. If he had waited five (5) more days, the City would have had to pay an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) on top of that just because of material costs. He is actively working on the upcoming resurfacing project with the hopes of getting it out to bid by the end of January. The other projects listed in this Ordinance have the same timeline being the end of January/early February. He is finishing up some surveying work that he will need money for advertisement.

Councilman Bauman asked if projects that are going out to bid now will be completed sometime between July to September and are competing for calendar space with the contractors. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. With the amount of projects the City does, he likes to plan everything out so that all big projects are not happening all at once, but unfortunately, does still sometimes happen. If a neighboring community would have the same resurfacing contractors as the City does, the contractors schedules could be filled and may not be able to bid on the City's projects because they do not have the schedule space. He likes to ensure the City is the first ones out to bid so that its projects are done first allowing for projects to keep moving.

Councilman Wobser moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Warnecke, Wisener, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Wisener, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2022-004 and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Russel: **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** meeting on January 13, 2022 at 12:00pm in the first floor Council Office of the Municipal Building (CO)

agenda:

1. 0 S Main St rezone (parcel 620001022082).
2. Findlay Commerce Park 4th Addition Heartland Court ROW vacation.

Councilman Wobser: **STRATEGIC PLANNING** meeting on January 11, 2022 at 2:00pm in the first floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1)
agenda:

President of Council Harrington welcomed new Councilmembers Bauman and Wisener. He suggested they read the new Council Rules of Procedures and the

Councilman Niemeyer moved to adjourn City Council at 7:49pm, seconded by Councilman Palmer.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT