

## FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 18, 2022

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### ROLL CALL of 2022-2022 Councilmembers:

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

**ABSENT:** Russel, Mayor Muryn

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

President of Council Pro-Tem Wobser explained that Mayor Muryn is in Washington attending her duties there, therefore, Council President Harrington moves over as Acting Mayor per Council's Rules of Procedure, and since President Pro-Tem Russel is absent who would be sitting in for Council President Harrington, Councilman Wobser becomes Acting President.

President of Council Pro-Tem Wobser opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

**PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** none

**PETITIONS:** none

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

#### **Benjamin Cutler, Columbia Gas, 1800 Broad Avenue, Findlay, OH – Columbia Gas projects**

Mr. Cutler handed out a couple of maps of the project locations that Columbia Gas will be doing this year. Mr. Cutler is a Public Affairs Specialist for Columbia Gas covering the Findlay area and the northern half of the state. Two (2) large projects that Columbia Gas will be working on are referred to as "Yates" and the "McConnell" projects. The Main and Yates project started last week and the McConnel project is anticipated to be underway next week. He provided an overview of what they are doing, why they are doing it, and what can be expected. They are part of a replacement project. This project has been done in Findlay before and will be done again the future. The current old infrastructure has served them well, but over time, it has corroded and decayed. It still serves them well, but the cost to maintain and repair is actually more than putting in the new, more modern pipe. Columbia Gas is putting in new plastic that includes new enhanced safety features that can bend to the contour of the earth to expand and contract with shifting temperatures. It is anticipated to last for the next hundred (100) years. It is a much sturdier pipe. Once they are done with these projects, residents of the area should see less of the Columbia Gas crew and will have a good, long-term investment. The Main and Yates project that started last week is on Washington between Lima and Yates. On Lima, it will go west to Main Street and will go to Woodley Terrace on the south part of the project. It includes approximately sixteen thousand feet (16,000 ft) of pipe for approximately three hundred (300) customers, so it is a large project. That project is expected to last about four to five (4-5) months, possibly shorter, depending on crew availability. The McConnel project that will start next week is in an area that is bounded by the railroad including Tiffin Avenue, G Street, and McManness. It will include nine thousand two hundred feet (9,200 ft) of pipe affecting two hundred ten (210) customers which is a smaller project than the Main and Yates project. That project is predicted to last three to four (3-4) months. The Main and Yates project falls in Wards 4 and 5, and the McConnel project falls in Wards 3 and 4, which is split between the two. The phases of the project will begin with the pre-construction phase which is where they will mark the underground facilities where they are most often questioned about the flags in yards which is just for OUPS. Columbia Gas asks residents to keep those flags in until they are done so that they do not inadvertently hit anything. The first phase is the mainline where they put in the main artery on one side of the street in the right-of-way. Once that is done, by appointment, they will do service lines for individual customers teeing off the main area and running into the house, and will move the meter outside which takes about two to four (2-4) hours per home. The biggest concern residents have during the winter is the hour gas disruption. The updates are done by appointment, so they work with the residents on when to do the updates in their area, and will not do the updates on cold days, and will instead postpone appointments on those days. The majority of the questions they receive has to do with restoration in making sure they get their property returned back to its original condition. They will do temporary restoration as the project goes to ensure safety and accessibility, and then as they reach conclusion, will do a permanent restoration (concrete asphalt, leveling, laying down topsoil, grass seed, etc). They take a video of the area above ground and below ground before the project starts so that they know what the area looked like before they began so that they can get it restored back to its original condition or better. The biggest concern of the property owners is that they get antsy in that they do not see their yards back to the way they were before the project began in the timeframe they feel it should be. It takes time to restore properties back to their original status. They will fix any issues, after the fact, once the project is completed. He is available for any questions or concerns either tonight or what may come up after tonight. He is before City Council tonight to make sure everyone knows him and knows Columbia Gas and provide access to them if needed.

#### Discussion:

Councilman Hellmann asked what the diameter of the pipe is and what kind of pressure it is under. Mr. Cutler replied that he is not an Engineer, but will follow up with Council on it after he verifies it. The diameter of the main line is a little bit larger than service lines. He believes the lines on Main and Yates will be six inch (6"), but wants to verify that and will get back with Council on it. The pressure will be going from the IP to the LP to the MP (medium pressure) which will allow for additional capacity for generators, pool heaters, etc. as part of this project, in addition to, the reliable system and enhance safety features that will allow for some increased capacity for those that want to add devices or services. They have seen many want to add generators. He will follow up with Council on the exact diameter of the pipe.

Councilman Wisener asked what the amount is that is being invested financially. Mr. Cutler replied that he does not have the information with him tonight, but will follow up with it with City Council. He believes both projects are over a million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Councilman Wisener asked how the areas that are involved with these projects were determined. Mr. Cutler replied that Columbia Gas is in the middle of a twenty-five (25) year initiative to replace twenty thousand (20,000.00) miles of pipe across their service area. Their Engineers look at the entire scope of facilities and identify areas that are more prone to leakage and are more prone to corrosion areas where they have a lot of calls that their operations groups respond to leaks there. These are not the first projects in Findlay. Last year, they had Phase I and Phase II projects and will have more projects in the future. This year, their Engineers identified these two (2) areas as areas they want to get things swapped out. It is all based on leakage. Eventually, they will replace everything, but will be very gradual over time. The older pipes that are in the ground are still serving well and could get more mileage out of them, but have been in the ground since the 1950s or 1960s, so they are old. With leakage, it is better to replace them now. They do not take out the old facilities and instead abandon them in place because having to lift out the entire old system would be very difficult for restoration. The new system consists of plastic and will sit next to the old system.

Councilman Bauman asked if the pipeline for the piping will cross the street like it did with the Lima Avenue project. Mr. Cutler replied that there will be some areas where they have to cross the street for the Main and Yates project that is already under way. There will be a crossing on Main Street that will be coordinated with the Engineering Department because when crossing, their excavating is more of a combination of boring and open cutting. They directional bore where they can when they can obtain good camera work, but more often tend to have to open cut. When they are open cutting and crossing other facilities, they do not want to cross bore. If they are able to obtain good camera work and are able to be certain of the alignment of facilities, there's a chance they may be able to bore, but are not there yet. He is unsure how many crossings there are on each project. Councilman Bauman asked if there are any pavement repair stipulations. City Engineer Kalb replied that Columbia Gas has been working with the City on these types of projects. If there are excessive crossings, the City works with Columbia Gas for repairs to ensure they will repair it the same way the City would. The City (sometimes the City's Street Department) walks through the entire project with them. Columbia Gas has been great to work with. A lot of the streets in the current Columbia Gas project area have not been resurfaced yet and are on the radar to be looked for resurfacing, but the City wants Columbia Gas to finish their projects first. The streets on the older side are more prevalent because some of those streets have already recently been resurfaced and are nicer roads, but it is just the ways things go sometimes. When working underground, it is uncertain how long a project will take. The City will continue to work with Columbia Gas on repairs. Mr. Cutler added that they follow the City's standards for restorations. The City provides them standards that they follow. It is their privilege to work in the community, so they need to follow the permitting guidelines and standards that are provided to them. Any questions or concerns about that can be directed to their Engineering and Street Department direct phone lines to get things worked out. If they take up any sidewalk, they will be replaced. Anything they touch is restored back to its original condition, if not better. Filed.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** none

**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:**

**Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report** – December 2021.

Discussion:

Councilman Wisener requested information on the City's responsibility of its inmates that are currently housed here from out of county and the number of inmates transported per month so that Council could see that data moving forward. They will start including that data in their monthly reports. That information will be a benefit to Council and the public. Filed.

**Findlay Fire Department Activities Report** – December 2021. Filed.

**City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report** – December 2021. Filed.

**Findlay Police Department Activities Report** – December 2021. Filed.

**City Planning Commission agenda** – January 13, 2022; **minutes** – November 10, 2021, December 9, 2021; **staff report** – January 13, 2022. Filed.

**Mayor Muryn – Shade Tree Commission appointment**

Mayor Muryn is appointing Haley Belisle to the Shade Tree Commission to fill the unexpired term of Brian Bauman. Her appointment will be effective through December 31, 2022. This appointment does not require Council confirmation.

Discussion:

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

**Service-Safety Director Martin – annual Community Park Improvement Program grant**

The City of Findlay has received grant funds in the amount of eight thousand four hundred sixty-four dollars and no cents (\$8,464.00) from the annual Community Park Improvement Program grant through the Hancock Park District. These grant funds will be used for assistance in the restoration of Riverside Park Shelter #15. The restoration will include removing loose defective mortar joints, power washing, tuck and point all defective joints and then seal the building using H-177 sealer by BASF. Legislation to appropriate funds for the restoration of the Riverside Park Shelter #15 through grant funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2022-005 was created.

FROM: HPD Grant \$ 8,464.00  
TO: HPD Grant FY2022 #31913800-other \$ 8,464.00

Filed.

**Precipitation and Reservoir levels report – fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) quarter October-December 2021.** Filed.

**Traffic Commission minutes –December20, 2021.** Filed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** met on January 11, 2022 to discuss PlanningNext.

*We recommend continuing to move forward with the strategic planning process.*

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser informed Council that the next STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE meeting will be on Thursday, January 27, 2022 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the University of Findlay College of Business Building, room 120. The STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE members and all of City Council are invited to attend. It will be the first meeting of the Communications and Outreach Group

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

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Country Club Acres Inc. to rezone 0 South Main Street (parcel no. 620001022082) from C2 General Commercial to M2 Multi-Family, High Density.

*We recommend to approve the request to rezone 0 South Main Street from C2 to M2 as requested. Ordinance No. 2022-006 was created.*

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

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Philip Rooney, Agent for the Petitioner, to vacate Heartland Court from Technology Drive to the west dead end lying between Lots 5, 6, 8 and 9 in the Findlay Commerce Park.

*We recommend to approve the request to vacate Heartland Court between Lots 5, 6, 8 and 9 as requested. Ordinance No. 2022-007 was created.*

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

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 005-2022** (no PO) requires one (1) reading

*first reading - adopted*

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE AUDITORS OFFICE ON THE ATTACHED LIST OF VOUCHERS WHICH EITHER EXCEED THE PURCHASE ORDER OR WERE INCURRED WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING THE STATUTORY LIMIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D).

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

**ORDINANCES:**

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

*second reading*

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-005** (HPD Community Park Improvement Program grant) requires three (3) readings

*first reading*

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-006** (*0 S Main St rezone*) **requires three (3) readings**

*first reading*

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1100 ET SEQ. OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE BY REZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY (REFERRED TO AS SOUTH MAIN STREET, PARCEL NO. 620001022082 REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL" TO "M-2 MULTI-FAMILY, HIGH DENSITY".

First reading of the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-007** (*Heartland Court ROW vacation*) **requires three (3) readings**

*first reading*

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE FINDLAY COMMERCE PARK 4TH ADDITION HEARTLAND COURT RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

First reading of the Ordinance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS** – none

**NEW BUSINESS**

Fire Chief Eberle informed Council that there will be legislation on the agenda for the next Regular Session City Council meeting to reallocate funds to purchase a six hundred thousand dollar (\$600,000.00) demo fire truck. Legislation to appropriate funds for it was already adopted during a City Council meeting in October last year, but in order for the funds to carry forward into the next fiscal year, it had to be encumbered onto a purchase order which was not done. As part of the year end process, Deputy Auditor Sampson informed him that the funds went back into the Capital Improvements Fund and will need to be reallocated by Council this year. Legislation to reallocate the funds will be on the next agenda and will need to be passed that meeting as the truck will be done in the middle of February and they will want a check for it. Councilman Hellmann asked where the demo fire truck was bought from. Fire Chief Eberle replied Columbus, Ohio by the Suffolk Corporation which is the same location as their 2018 purchase. There are several manufactures of fire trucks, but Columbus is the closest to Findlay.

Acting Mayor Harrington noted that COVID tests are now available via mail. In order to obtain any, they have to be registered online through the U.S. Postal Service. Up to four (4) per address will be shipped, and is not based on per occupant. They will not ship them to business addresses, only to residential addresses. There have not been any available locally for quite awhile. He has received questions on why they are not available at the Library which is nothing City Council can do.

Councilman Wisener asked if there have been any signage changes with any of the local schools. Jacobs is in his ward. He has noticed some changed hours with the preschool and seems like there are a lot of parents coming and going around the noon hour. The posted signs are more for morning and late afternoon hours. City Engineer Kalb replied that it is something that could be discussed at a TRAFFIC COMMISSION meeting and the City could talk with the schools to find out. Restrictions go through TRAFFIC COMMISSION. Councilman Wisener replied that he has talked with some of the schools and found out that there have been some changes. He drives by Jacobs daily and has noticed a lot more noon traffic with parents coming and going, possibly because of the preschool instead of the kindergarten through third grades portion. City Engineer Kalb replied the City can reach out to the schools and see if there are any kind of restrictions that they are needing. That can go through TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

Councilman Bauman moved to adjourn City Council at 7:30pm, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM