

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 18, 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2022-2023 Councilmembers:

PRESENT: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, 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 Slough moved to accept the April 4, 2023 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

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

ADD-ONS:

1. Ordinance No. 2023-043 – Phase 2 benching project (*LEGISLATION section*).
 - omitted Exhibit (list of properties)

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

PETITIONS:

Petition for Annexation – CR 212/236

A petition for annexation to the City of Findlay filed by Philip Rooney, agent for the petitioner on March 31, 2023. A legal description for said property is attached with the petition. The property requested to be annexed is currently in both Marion and Cass Townships, Hancock County. Referred to Law Director for Resolution of Services legislation. Resolution No. 012-2023 was created. Filed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – March 2023. Filed.

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – March 2023. Filed.

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – March 2023. Filed.

Precipitation and Reservoir levels report – first (1st) quarter January-March 2023. Filed.

City Planning Commission minutes – March 9, 2023; **agenda** – April 13, 2023; **staff report** – April 13, 2023. Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – March 2023. Filed.

A set of summary financial reports for March 31, 2023:

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of March 31, 2023
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of March 31, 2023
- Open Projects Report as of March 31, 2023
- Cash & Investments as of March 31, 2023

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Maumee Watershed Conservancy District MOA

Over the past decade, our community has lived in fear of storm events which could result in flooding, causing damage to property and significant financial and emotional distress. In the past five (5) years through the efforts of the Hancock County Commissioners, Maumee Watershed Conservancy District, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership and the City of Findlay, we have made significant progress through the below projects which together will lower the flood waters in downtown Findlay by approximately three feet (3 ft) in a one hundred (100) year storm event which would have kept Main Street dry in 2007. These projects provide even greater benefits in small storm events and benefit the entire Blanchard River Watershed.

- Completing transportation corridor improvements to ensure accessibility throughout our community specifically for safety services.
- Completing the phase 1 benching near Swale Park **(0.8 ft benefit)**.
- Secured a Federal RAISE/BUILD Grant of \$7MM to support the modification and replacement of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge which is expected to begin construction in late 2023 or early 2024. **(0.3 ft benefit)**
- Secured \$60MM in State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources funds to pay for construction of the Eagle Creek Basin which is slated to begin construction in 2024. **(1.5 ft benefit)**
- Working with Commissioners and ODOT to reconfigure 68/15 interchange to ensure accessibility.
- Secured the necessary properties and plans for completing the phase 2 benching in downtown Findlay which is expected to break ground in late 2023 or early 2024 **(0.3 ft benefit)**.
- Working to complete all projects with prioritization focused on gaining greatest benefit most quickly.

The City of Findlay has been in communication with the Hancock County Commissioners, as well as, the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District to organize the transfer of properties to the City of Findlay, as well as, the long-term operations and maintenance of the projects.

The Phase 1 properties have already been transferred and are being maintained by the City. As part of today’s agenda, two (2) separate pieces of legislation are being requested: 1) for the transfer of parcels from the Hancock County Commissioners associated with the phase 2 benching in downtown Findlay. 2) To enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District for the transfer of properties at the completion of construction of the Eagle Creek Basin. **(Exhibit B)**.

A couple of items of note specific to the Eagle Creek Basin:

- There have been questions on the legality of utilizing stormwater funds for the operations and maintenance of the basin. The Law Director has already an opinion on this matter, but per the Auditor’s request, Mayor Muryn is working to gather an outside opinion, however, this legislation does not define the specific way the City will cover the cost. This allows flexibility to determine the method in the future on whether it may be General Fund dollars or other funds. To ensure forward momentum on this project, Mayor Muryn is comfortable with the execution of this Memorandum of Agreement. The Maumee Watershed Conservancy District requested that this discussion be in process prior to their May 5, 2023 annual meeting.
- Projected Expense breakdown from the Engineering Firm **(Exhibit A)**.
- It has been questioned whether property assessments are appropriate for this project. The Administration has been opposed to that method and continues to be. Additionally, that is not an option at this point.
- Upon completion of the various flood mitigation projects listed above, approximately two thousand (2,000) parcels are expected to be removed from the floodplain.
- The City of Findlay and Project Manager Steve Wilson have been in communication with FEMA regarding the flood redraw. All projects have to be significantly complete prior to requesting FEMA begin this process. The Administration are keeping a close eye on this and will begin as soon as possible. This project is projected to take approximately eighteen (18) months to complete.

Ordinance No. 2023-041 was created. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak – retirement settlements

The City of Findlay has experienced five (5) retirements so far this year with five (5) additional occurring in the coming weeks. These retirements were not included in the development of the 2023 budget appropriations as official written notice had not been received from the employees at the time. Legislation appropriating funds in order to pay these retirements that have already occurred and the known upcoming retirement settlements is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-042 was created.

FROM: Severance Payout Reserve Fund	\$ 395,000.00
TO: Severance Payout Account #22090000-personal services	\$ 395,000.00
FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 125,000.00
TO: Water Pollution Control #25061000-personal services	\$ 125,000.00
FROM: General Fund	\$ 70,200.00
TO: Airport Fund	\$ 70,200.00
FROM: Airport Fund	\$ 70,200.00
TO: Airport #25010000-personal services	\$ 70,200.00

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Miracle League donation

The City of Findlay received a donation of five thousand five hundred two dollars and two cents (\$5,502.00) from the Miracle League to go toward the purchase of security cameras to be installed at the Blanchard Valley Health System Miracle Park. These funds have been deposited in the General Fund. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-044 was created.

FROM: General Fund \$ 5,502.00
TO: Recreation Functions #21044400-other \$ 5,502.00

Filed.

Mayor Muryn – appointment to Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority Board; Parks and Recreation Board

Mayor Muryn is appointing Dionne Kinninger to serve on the Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority Board. Her appointment will be effective through December 31, 2026. She is also appointing Greg Meyers to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. His appointment will be effective through December 31, 2025. These appointments do not require Council’s confirmation. Filed.

Fire Chief Eberle – Firefighter Hazmat training

The Ohio Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) offers a Hazardous Materials Training and Planning Grants Program which can be used for tuition cost of Hazmat training for Firefighters. The program is a reimbursement grant and the application period closes on May 31, 2023. The application is for twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500.00) that will host two (2) forty (40) hour Hazmat Technician courses scheduled for the fall 2023 and spring 2024. The grant program covers one hundred percent (100%) of the cost with no local match required. Award notification is not anticipated before August of this year. Legislation to apply for and accept the grant, if awarded, is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-045 was created. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** met on April 4, 2023 to continue the Strategic Planning process.

We recommend continuing the strategic plan process (minutes attached).

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak noted that the minutes attached were not approved by the committee. Some comments he had made were not transcribed correctly, but he will reserve that detail for the committee. Councilman Wobser replied that the minutes are a translation from Jaclynn Hohman whose main reason for taking the notes was to indicate the votes, which are correct. The full 90-minute translation is available via YouTube. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on April 11, 2023 to discuss stormwater rates.

We recommend the City Administration continue to develop the stormwater rate plan update.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak noted that through the training he received with the State Auditor’s Office, the detail of what happened in this meetings should be included with the committee report. He confirmed with Council Clerk DeVore that the graphs and items that were passed out during that committee meeting, as well as his report on the internal controls, are not attached to the committee report and suggested they be included so that the report conforms with the intent of the rules.

Councilman Russel moved to attach the documents to the committee report and adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Wobser. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on April 11, 2023 to review the City of Findlay Utility Billing audit.

We recommend the City Administration continue to work on recommendations from the internal control evaluation and report to this committee the progress..

Councilman Russel moved to attach the audit to the committee report and adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Daniel Maciejewski Insurance Agency to rezone 315 North Blanchard Street from R3 Small Lot Residential to C1 Local Commercial.

We recommend approval as requested.

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

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** met on April 13, 2023 to continue January 5, 2023, February 9, 2023 and March 9, 2023 discussions on Zoning Code changes.

We recommend that Hancock Regional Planning Commission (HRPC) initiates a process to adopt zoning code changes by sending a letter to City Council announcing the proposed changes.

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

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 012-2023 (CR 212/236 annexation – services the City will provide if annexed in) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

A RESOLUTION STATING WHAT SERVICES THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, SITUATED IN MARION AND CASS TOWNSHIPS, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, BEING A PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 33, AND PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, T2N, R11E, CASS TOWNSHIP, ALSO BEING PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER, AND PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 4, MARION TOWNSHIP, T1N, R11E, ALSO BEING PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, AND PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 3, MARION TOWNSHIP, T1N, R11E, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 15.043 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

First reading of the Resolution.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-032 (WTP Generator Replacement) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT GENERATOR FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY WATER TREATMENT PLANT, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-032 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-033 (ARPA Fund 2nd appropriation of 2023) **requires three (3) readings** **third 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 THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS LISTED BELOW, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Russel. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-033 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-035 (moratorium amendment) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-119 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO EXTEND THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT BUSINESSES IN ORDER FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO CONSIDER INCORPORATING THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS INTO THE CURRENT ZONING CODE AS OUTLINED BELOW BEFORE ENACTING THEM AS PART OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische. Nays: Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-035 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-036 (amendment to salary ordinance) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ONE (1) SECTION OF CODIFIED ORDINANCE NO. 2022-81, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND REPEALING ALL OTHER PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-037 (STRICT Center GMP #4 - appropriation/transfer funds) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**

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

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that the City is doing a great job with the STRICT Center, but asked if there is a need to suspend rules and pass this Ordinance tonight. Originally when this project started, she was on City Council when two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) was appropriated to exceed the account to build a one million dollar (\$1,000,000.00) STRICT Center consisting of two (2) buildings, and over six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00) was raised through the community, and then somewhere along the line, the discussion changed that the two (2) buildings were being separated out for CDBG funds. She does not understand the reasoning behind that, so she reached out to City Engineer Kalb who referred her to Assistant City Engineer Rausch because of a conflict that he did not want to be involved with. A couple of meetings ago, legislation was passed to allow the Administration to enter into a contract with Clouse Construction. The entire process of the STRICT Center has been a completely different process than what is usually done with all the phases and committed the City to spending another eight hundred thousand plus dollars (\$800,000.00+) on the project. She reviewed the capital discussion, not finding any discussion on adding an additional amount to capital planning for the STRICT Center. The project is over budget. While she is not against the center and feels it will be a great facility in Findlay, she is concerned about the transparency of it. Assistant City Engineer Rausch's email stated that it has always been two (2) buildings, so when she retrieved the documents on the City's website that lists it as one structure, but two (2) buildings as a one million dollar (\$100,000.00) project. Another red flag is that Council usually receives a letter in a packet asking for legislation with an explanation, but in this case, there was no explanation, so she is disappointed in that transparency. Even if the cost of material went up, it should not have gone up by that much. She supports the project, but is disappointed that the City is not being transparent in communicating what is really going on. Mayor Muryn replied that she appreciates Councilwoman Frische bringing up her concerns as the City always wants to be transparent. This project has been going on over a significant period of time. When the City made an initial introduction towards the project when it was presented back in the capital plans, there was additional money planned for the construction. The goal was to fundraise the rest of it and be able to gain support in which a number of groups did step forward and supported the project. The cost did inflate, but not as significantly as Councilwoman Frische is implying and did separate the projects out which was not the original intent, but when the CDBG dollars came up that could help, the project was separated out because it is cleaner for reporting purposes which is how it was requested both by the State for those funds, as well as by internal controls with the City Auditor's Office. So, while the cost did go up, this project had been planned for a number of years. All of the costs were estimates back in 2017 when conversations about the STRICT Center first started, but things have changed significantly. The reason that another letter was not included with tonight's legislation is because it was in the last Council packet that Assistant City Engineer Rausch brought up that there was a mistake when he submitted the letter to Council Clerk DeVore requesting the legislation be drafted to enter into a contract, but did not have a request for an appropriation of funds, which is the reason for this ordinance. The STRICT Center has become more expensive than originally planned, but are not hiding anything. This ordinance is how money is moved around to best leverage resources. Planning in past conversations has been brought up where the City was going to have to put in more than just the initial seed money.

Councilman Bauman pointed out that a mistake like this could happen to anyone. Council had already passed and moved legislation, so the intention was already there to move this money, and asked if this legislation technically has had five (5) readings. Service-Safety Director Martin replied technically yes. This legislation went through its three (3) readings and was passed, and then when it was time to move the money through the City Auditor's internal process where Deputy Auditor Sampson pointed out that the legislation that passed did include appropriating money, so now an appropriation of funds ordinance is needed. Technically, this is the fifth (5th) time the GMP4 phase of the project has been addressed.

Councilwoman Frische asked why CDBG funds had to be separated out and what is different about it being a project that those funds cannot be used. Mayor Muryn replied that CDBG dollars have very specific criteria where data has to be provided because of the live burn function related to the training in order for the State to give a certain amount to the overall project, but from a reporting standpoint, it would be providing a specific safety training related to live fire burnings, so the data that supports the funds would be better related to this. The funds could have been given to the general project, but it will score better when funds are requested and applied to just the live burn building based off of the run rates and live fire response.

Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-037 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-038 (*Street Dept operating budget*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that this is an accounting change to ensure that funds are pulled from the General Fund versus the SCM&R Fund.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by councilman Palmer. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-038 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-040 (*contract extension with ACP GREENE & ASSOCIATES, LLC dba Planning NEXT*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH ACP GREENE & ASSOCIATES, LLC DBA PLANNING NEXT TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES AND IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-041 (*Maumee Watershed Conservancy District MOA*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE MAUMEE WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CONTINUED FLOOD MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS IN AND NEAR THE CITY OF FINDLAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-042 (*retirement settlements*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

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

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-043 (*Phase 2 benching project*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ACCEPT PERMANENT OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTIES IN ORDER FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO, TO TRANSFER THE PARCELS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-044 (*Miracle League donation – security cameras at BVHS Miracle Park*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel pointed out that it is common practice for Council to suspend rules and pass legislation when an organization donates money to the City to improve infrastructure for something like this.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-044 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-045 (*Firefighter Hazmat training*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND SIGN THE NECESSARY AGREEMENT(S) TO ACCEPT AWARDED PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO (PUCO) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING AND PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR TUITION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HAZMAT TRAINING FOR CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO FIREFIGHTERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that it is common practice for Council to suspend rules and pass legislation when applying for grants.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-045 and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Wobser informed Council that after going through the ARPA demolition program and taking out the YMCA properties and then voting down the total program, he received several emails and phone calls from citizens who were concerned about the other properties that were on the list that did not get much notice and/or discussion mainly because the YMCA properties consumed most of the discussion. He asked if there are any thoughts of re-introducing legislation to handle the other properties. Mayor Muryn replied that it was communicated to the other properties what happened to the program and discussed internally the best way to move forward. The City received quite a bit of publicity from it when quite a few other properties reached out who are interested in the program. The Administration will gather more information from those that have shown interest in the program and come back to Council on how to address it. There are no specific plans to move forward at this time, but will gather their thoughts and come back to Council on it. Councilman Wobser understands it was a difficult situation for everyone involved, but provided good discussion amongst the community and feels there is still some good that can come from that program that would benefit the City. He was surprised by the amount of calls and emails on properties that were not involved with the YMCA renovation that were received after the YMCA withdrew their properties. Mayor Muryn asked Council to provide her with ideas on how to tweak the program to ensure that it is serving the intent and meets the need of the community.

City Auditor Staschiak would like to see a summary of any potential environmental concerns or issues via Ordinance No. 2023-043 that did or does exist on the properties north of the river that saw different types of use, industrial use or commercial use, over one hundred fifty (150) years a summary by parcel of any outstanding issues on Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 on those parcels. That due diligence should be done prior to approving this ordinance and accepting the properties in City coffers so that the City does not end up with any outstanding liability long-term which may or may not have been done. Mayor Muryn replied she can put something formal in writing. This is the area the County Commissioners will be benching, so they will be doing significant dirt work and are responsible for any remediation. The City worked with the County Commissioners and the Hancock County Regional Planning on this. The County Commissioners applied and received a grant through the State of Ohio for Brownfield cleanup specific to the Ranik properties. There has been significant environmental work done on this area to ensure that it is in clean, appropriate condition before the City would accept it. She will work with the County Commissioners before providing formal documentation of them.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Muryn thanked the City Income Tax Department for their dedication and hard work as they have been inundated the last two (2) months, especially today and this week as they have been collecting income tax. They do a wonderful job. Any kind words to their department would be much appreciated. They are also gathering information and preparing for the implementation of their new software scheduled to kick off within the next month. They are very excited of the capabilities of that system and how it will bring the City up to date with technology and will meet the needs of the public.

Councilman Bauman informed Council that the Shade Tree Commission, in conjunction with Wilson Vance Intermediate School, will be hosting an Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting Day this Friday 4/21/23 @ 2:00pm at the school.

President of Council Harrington reminded everyone that due to the primary election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, the next City Council meeting is on *Wednesday*, May 3, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Councilman Wobser: **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** meeting on *Wednesday*, May 3, 2023 at 4:00pm in the first floor Council Chambers of the Municipal Building (CC).

Councilman Russel moved to adjourn City Council at 6:35pm, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT