FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR SESSION

AUGUST 1, 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 Pro-Tem Russel explained why he is Pro-Tem tonight and what his role is. When Mayor Muryn or President of Council Harrington are absent, he moves from that side over to this side and runs the meeting. Mayor Muryn is absent tonight attending to family emergency business. He asked for prayers for Mayor Muryn and her family.

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel 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 July 18, 2023 Public Hearing meeting minutes for the FY24 Estimated Revenues, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.
- Councilman Bauman moved to accept the July 18, 2023 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA: none PROCLAMATIONS: none RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

PETITIONS:

Zoning amendment request –200 West Lincoln Street

Findlay City Schools would like to change the zoning of 200 West Lincoln Street to R3 Small Lot Residential C3 Downtown Commercial. It is currently zoned C3 Downtown Commercial R3 Small Lot Residential (these were transposed on the agenda). Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel explained that there are eight (8) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS requests for tonight, two (2) of which are on a different subject, and six (6) of them are concerning the West McPherson Avenue rezone. He is unsure what side of the issue (for or against) the six (6) for the West McPherson Avenue rezone are on. Council's rules state that there can be three (3) in favor and three (3) against a subject and asked Council to waive those rules and allow all six (6) wanting to address Council on the West McPherson Avenue rezone issue to have the ability to do so. Councilman Wobser moved to allow all six (6) West McPherson Avenue rezone ORAL COMMUNICATIONS requests to speak tonight, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

Ashley Donaldson – traffic law enforcement specifically pedestrian safety downtown

Ms. Donaldson noted that she is one of the two not speaking about the West McPherson Avenue rezone. She asked Council if they ever expected someone with a CDL to come before Council to ask that traffic laws be enforced, but that is what she is asking for tonight. She had her closest call as a pedestrian this morning as she was crossing Main Street at Sandusky Street towards the park on the corner with the walk light, where an elderly man in a silver pickup truck with his handicap placard hanging from his mirror, did not stop until she screamed and flailed her arms. This has happened multiple times. Two (2) pedestrians across the street watched this, as well as countless cars. Her first call was to a friend she had just seen and said goodbye to across the street telling him it was very nearly their last goodbye to which he informed her that a mutual friend had been hit on her bicycle Sunday night by a drunk driver, also on Sandusky Street. She came out much better than her friend who has a fractured vertebrae and potentially additional injuries. This truck stopped about a foot away from her. Another friend's father was hit crossing Lincoln Street by the Hancock Hotel a couple of years ago. The hotel shared sidewalk and driveway are also a huge hazard for pedestrians. On February 23, 2017, a mobile meth lab crashed into the exact location where she was nearly hit this morning which caused a second wreck at that time. That incident came on an oddly warm February evening when downtown was really busy and could have been a lot worse. It took six (6) years for the damage from that accident to be fixed at the park, and now a multi-million dollar park is being proposed just a few blocks away with the hopes of increasing activity in downtown Findlay. She is constantly on high alert when walking as drivers never stop unless it is to shout a threat or physically threaten her with their vehicle, which has happened , that she reported to the Police. When she made that report, the Police asked why it took her so long to report it and then never said a word about it. Despite Marathon having cameras facing where this happened, she had to reroute her walk between home and work on North Main Street after being verbally and sexually harassed. She stopped and spoke to a Police Officer driving past shortly after that incident to which he told her the Police know the particular address is a problem, but that nothing more has been done. She asked Council to imagine their daughter or wife telling a Police Officer that she is being consistently sexually harassed at the same location, only to have the Officer state that they know followed by a suggestion to change her route. Using the address of 116 North Main Street, the approximate address of the proposed park, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office registered sex offenders database states that twelve (12) sexual offenders live within a half (1/2) mile radius of the proposed park, twenty-nine (29) offenders live within a mile. After she called the Mayor's Office this morning, she was encouraged to speak at City Council and to the Police. The Officer she spoke with this morning agreed with her statement that the drivers in this town are terrible. She told him that she does not feel safe when walking or driving her car.

Her car is small and the color of pavement, but is not an excuse for other drivers to treat it as invisible. The Officer told her he would make a request for more patrol downtown and at an alley where she has had numerous close calls. She asked why a civilian is having to ask for laws to be enforced. She is not the only person in this room who walks down Main Street. Downtown is already not safe for pedestrians or cyclists, or drivers for that matter. She asked that since the current traffic laws are already not enforced and drivers know what they can get away with, how pedestrians, cyclists, or other driver-safety is going to be guaranteed with the addition of a big park when they it is already not safe. She suggested enforcement of current traffic laws before another large space is added downtown encouraging more to be walking and driving down Main Street. It is a State route. The Hancock County Sheriff's Office and the City of Findlay Police Department could and should help enforce these laws, etc. Filed.

Tom DeMuth - water & sewer report

Mr. DeMuth is before City Council tonight about the water and sewer rates. The billing for those lately have caused some issues for residents. The Administration and City Council have failed the City of Findlay with water billing and lack of readings. It is already said and done and is "water down the drain". He is glad to see that City Council or a committee have done something about the billing. The twenty-four (24) month grace period is great. He is unsure about the five hundred percent (500%) variance or where it came from or if a dart board was used to come up with that, or if a formula was used. The seventy-five percent (75%) lost water being waived is great. He is curious where the five hundred percent (500%) number came from.

Discussion:

Councilman Hellmann replied that either City Engineer Kalb or Service-Safety Director Martin could answer Mr. DeMuth's questions. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that it is a significant percentage that was calculated by taking the first round of the transmitters that were installed and looked at all the variances where some had credits and some were spot on. Some had balances because of the estimates. When looking at the data, it was found that five hundred percent (500%), even though it is an obnoxious percentage, was the extreme and are trying to narrow it down to find a consistent formula to use, so those were the extremes. That percentage aligned with the extreme outliers of significant bills. There was a methodology behind it. When looking at the extreme outliers, that was the percent that aligned with it. Mr. DeMuth replied that he was curious where that number came from. Five hundred percent (500%) over a bill is big, but so is three hundred percent (300%). He just wondered why the City settled at five hundred percent (500%). Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the percentage is proportionate. Any hike in a bill is significant for anyone. Everyone has different incomes, so the City tried to find a balance because someone could have a really significant water bill on a fixed income and some are on a discretionary income. The City tried to find a balance that doesn't have a large impact and is equivalent across those that have these outliers. It is possible that someone had a one to four dollar (\$1.00-\$4.00) bill over those two (2) years, and then all of a sudden, they receive a five hundred percent (500%) increased bill. Their water bill might normally be a one hundred twenty dollar (\$120.00) bill, but that percentage comes into play. Extreme situation may be a multi-thousand dollar water bill because of leaks. The City looked at all the water bills that were reconciled through the first run installing the transmitters and found that the five hundred percent (500%) aligned with the extreme outliers. The City is working with all residents that are being impacted on this and are trying to find a method that makes sense because they are aware that it impacts people. It is a situation that we're in and are trying to work through. The City saw this coming and are now dealing with the situation because of it not being able to be communicated with the transmitters because of the technology. The City is dealing with the situation and are doing the best they can. The City fore fronted a five (5) year project to get this done because they wanted to get this resolved and are now trying to find that methodology so that the City can work with the customers as fair and equitable as possible.

Councilman Russel noted that he has seen the visuals of this and might be worthwhile to get with the Service-Safety Director and see the workout calculations versus him trying to explain without the visuals. Mr. DeMuth replied that even if someone has a small leak, most do not know how to look at a leak detector or do not have access to it, they have no clue if anything is leaking or not. Even before the City had the electronic system, Meter Reader employees went around and looked at meters finding where residents used way more than they usually did were told to get ahold of the City, but right now, if someone has a small leak, they do not know it unless they check their leak detector on a meter. He knows how to do that and what it is, but not everyone does. Someone could have a small leak and have a three hundred percent (300%) increase over their normal bill amount. Filed.

Linda VanDerMollen - proposed rezoning of West McPherson Avenue

Ms.VandDerMollen is before City Council to ask for Council to prevent the rezoning of 0 West McPherson Avenue. She emailed each Councilmember on July 18, 2023 regarding her valid concerns of the negative effects of the proposed zoning change will have on the Donnell neighborhood. She trusts that Council read it carefully. She tried to convey how special the Donnell neighborhood is and her concerns for safety, traffic and property values. The City must protect the property values of all existing investors. One fine investor's financial endeavor should not supersede the financial well-being of existing homeowners. She asked Council to protect all existing investors. She questions whether this project is an extenuation of the failed demolition grant proposed for the same structure. The grants were to benefit non-profit organizations with Mayor Muryn as a Board member. This same organization, with the Mayor still on the Board, will once again benefit by not having to pay for the demolition of the building on the property. The building was sold to the investor for one dollar (\$1.00), buying the McPherson Avenue property fully aware that it was not zoned high density, multi-family. The developer was given the approval for the rezoning from the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION, whose Chairwoman is the same Mayor. After inquiring about how best to approach City Council with her concerns, Mayor Muryn did not offer a suggestion on how to best to express her concerns and instead suggested that she negotiate with the investor. Her issue is in no way with the investor. Her issue is with Council. Council has been elected to represent their constituents. The City of Findlay's Zoning Ordinance states its purpose of "protecting and conserving the character, social and economic stability of the residential areas by securing the most appropriate use of land by preventing overcrowding of the land and undue congestion of population".

Rezoning this lot does not fulfill the Zoning Ordinance purpose and will alter the character social and economic stability of the residential area and is not the most appropriate use of the land, nor does it prevent overcrowding of the land and as indicated by the requested variance to ignore the ordinance in place 1126.05(A) requiring three thousand five hundred square feet (3,500 sq ft) of lot size per living unit. The rezoning does not protect undue congestion of population as it will double the current population on West McPherson Avenue. Mayor Muryn and the HANCOCK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION have proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance which is currently up for approval by Council. Those changes include Section 1115.05 of granting a variance. She quoted three (3) of the seven (7) factors it states:

In determining whether a grant variance, the Board shall consider the following factors

- A) Whether the property in question will yield a reasonable return or whether there can be any beneficial use of the property without variance. There can absolutely be another use of this property without the variance.
- B) If changing from sixteen (16) provided units and asking for twenty-four (24), reducing fifty-three (53) parking spaces to forty-one (41), is considered substantial. Whether the essential character of the neighborhood would be substantially altered or whether adjoining properties would suffer a substantial detriment as a result of the variance as the character of her neighborhood would be negatively impacted. The adjoining properties of this will suffer substantial detriment.
- C) Whether or not the property owner purchased the property with the knowledge of the zoning restriction, he certainly did.

The variance to the proposed zone change that this project requires should not be granted. Mayor Muryn and Mr. Cordonnier both approved the rezoning of 0 West McPherson Avenue as members of the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. They also promote and condone the aforementioned considerations to be vital to future rezoning. She asked if the law applies to everyone and if they only will be considered for future investors. She asked if there is a zoning ordinance that has been enacted into law that simply can be ignored when there is a project that will benefit a valued non-profit.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to allow Ms. VanDerMollen to continue, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor.

Ms. VanDerMollen continued stating that Councilmembers have been elected to represent their constituents and have been sworn to follow the laws of this City and cannot fulfill either of those obligations if they choose to vote for the rezoning of 0 West McPherson Avenue. She and her neighbors are imploring Council to vote against this rezoning. Filed.

Tom Romick – West McPherson Avenue apartments

Mr. Romick is before City Council to talk about the history of the Lake Cascades project. It was supposed to be for multi-family single units. The guy who developed that project lived beside him for awhile. There was a big affair at the mall and their renderings out there with Multi-family, single-family, businesses, etc. If that was in Lake Cascades it would be wonderful and there would not be any problems. It would be easy to make or easy to build. He does not know why Lakes Cascades has not developed, but has heard that there are areas for multi-family developments. He does not know why that was never followed through as it is the responsibility of Council, so someone has dropped the ball. It needs to be looked at what making the best use of it. Filed.

Deborah Pregibon – West McPherson Avenue apartments

As a resident of the Donnell neighborhood for over thirty-five (35) years, she objects to Mr. Yates's request for two (2) reasons: use variances and area variances in connection with the YMCA motel style of apartment building that is inconveniently located on the site of the YMCA's plant expansion. The use variance that was approved by the commission will allow Mr. Yates to move this motel style apartments to her neighborhood. The building lacks any charm, appeal or defining characteristics that will allow it to seamlessly integrate into their area. To make matters worse, the area variance will allow Mr. Yates to make an atrocious building even bigger, increasing the building's footprint by adding a third story. He will also be permitted to decrease the number of parking spaces by twenty-five percent (25%). Section 1113.18 of the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION's Rules and Procedures states that in all cases the burden of proof or persuasion is on the applicant to show that an applicant complies with approval criteria. The criteria for a use variance is outlined in Section 1113.27 which lists eight (8) factors, one being physical characteristics which effects neighboring property values. An impact on the environment such as congestion, noise, increased traffic, and most importantly - storm water management. Mr. Yates did not provide a thorough engineering analysis of the detention pond specific to the site to ensure the neighborhood from runoffs. Considering the structure will be in close proximity to Donnell Middle School, to the Donnell football stadium, and to the Donnell practice field, it is shocking that no studies were done in order to avoid congestion and safeguard children. Area variances: the applicable review criteria is outlined in Section 1115.05. It includes seven (7) things set forth by the Ohio Supreme Court known as The Duncan Factors. Mr. Yates failed to satisfy his burden of proof in this area as well. One of the factors is whether the essential character will be altered, which it will. Another factor is whether neighboring properties will be harmed, yes they will. Mr. Yates knew about the restrictions when he purchased the property. If Council chooses to approve these variances, Mr. Yates will first be required to submit a detailed report, evidence needed to satisfy his burden of proof. She urged each councilmember to consider the lasting impact that tonight's decision can have for generations to come. An apartment building of this size will change the look and feel of the Donnell community forever. It is imperative to cast a vote based on facts and not influenced by the desired outcome of special interests at the expense of the neighborhood. Filed.

Laurie Betscher – West McPherson Avenue apartment building

Ms. Betscher noted that a lot of her concerns have already been addressed tonight, but brought up a couple of things that have not been adequately addressed on this whole apartment building complex. She is concerned about parking, especially if this variance does pass. If there are twenty-four (24) units with two (2) individuals potentially living in each unit, it could potentially be forty-eight (48) cars, but parking will only allow for forty-one (41) parking spots. There was mention of some analytics that were put together for 1.5 individuals living in each apartment, but do not know the actual number until they move in. On West McPherson Avenue where this is located, there is no parking on that side of the street that the apartment building is on, nor is there any parking on the other side of the street directly in front of them. She asked where all these cars going to park, if visiting, will be parking in the street. She is also concerned about the traffic flow. Anyone that lives in the West McPherson area knows not to try to turn left onto Main Street because it is too congested and will find other ways to get to the downtown area. One of the quickest ways is to go around the curve and go down Hurd Avenue. Hurd Avenue is a narrow street with parking already allowed on the east side. Two cars cannot pass through with any cars parking on side parking too. It will congest the area. Motorists could be crossing over onto other roads just to get to the light at Baldwin Avenue. It amazes her that nothing was looked at about traffic flow, especially with the stadium, middle school and practice fields being constantly used. If twenty-four (24) units are put in, it will double the number of residents in a small area for the entire road of McPherson. It will be twenty-four (24) washing machines, twenty-four (24) toilets, twenty-four (24) showers, twenty-four (24) dishwashers, and twenty-four (24) sinks. All that stormwater has to go somewhere. Right now, if she there is more than two inches (2") of rainfall, she gets water in her basement. She did not have that issue until Donnell was built which is a whole different story. Residents are downhill from there which is a concern on how this is going to affect them. She asked what kind of studies were done for stormwater and sewage. The City's zoning limited this at one point to sixteen (16) units, fifty-three (53) parking spaces which is reasonable and is more than enough parking for sixteen (16) units and asked why increasing it and eliminating some parking spaces is even being considered. She asked if Mr. Yates could instead look where the zoning allows his wishes and put his building there. Filed.

Brooks Bosse - apartments on West McPherson Avenue

Mr. Bosse has lived on West McPherson Avenue for thirty-four (34) years, so he has seen a lot of things change in that area. He is before Council tonight to talk about three (3) different things: 1) trust and respect 2) traffic and safety 3) neighborhood beauty and ambiance.

1) Trust and respect:

The first time he heard about this project was when it was in the paper. When he heard that the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION voted in favor of it, he thought it will just go through and that he would not be able to stop it, until Tom came by and had him sign a petition, so now he thinks they have a chance. He thinks it's disrespectful to not put a descent sign in front of that property showing what is to be built. A yellow sign was placed there with the words "zoning, something, something". He drives by it all the time, but never noticed it and that it was not up very long and came down after the CITY PLANNIGN COMMISSION voted on it. He is relying on the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION to do the right thing and protect the neighborhood and maintain their property values. He feels that they failed them miserably. The only no vote by someone on that CITY PLANNING COMMISSION was someone who lives in that neighborhood, who loves the neighborhood, and understands how beautiful, sleepy and nice it is. There was some disrespect there and are now up against this really important vote tonight.

2) Traffic and safety:

Yesterday when the neighborhood met, they asked about traffic and were told that the apartments will empty into a 4-lane road, which was all that was said. He asked if that assessment by the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION meets Council's satisfaction. This apartment is going to be transient with young people who tend to drive fast. Marathoners will probably shoot down Hurd Avenue on to Lima Avenue on their way to Marathon and will have to go through Summit, Hurd, Stadium Drive and East Main Cross. There are kids all throughout that neighborhood which is a safety issue. Someone has to be an Air Traffic Control expert to turn left off of McPherson Avenue in order to find a gap. When someone finds a gap, they are still not sure they see everything and creep out into the intersection gritting their teeth with Main Street and Sixth Street traffic . . .

Discussion:

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel interrupted Mr. Bosse to let him know that his allotted four (4) minutes were up. Councilman Wobser moved to allow Mr. Bosse more time for his ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, seconded by the rest of Council. All were in favor.

Mr. Bosse continued stating that the City is on notice, not if, but when something bad happens from a traffic perspective. His basement floods when it rains heavily. It is the storm sewer connection on McPherson.

3) Neighborhood beauty and ambiance:

He asked Council if they have looked at what this apartment complex is going to look like. It will have white doors and will be a dark blue 3-story building. If painted red, it will look like a Red Roof Inn. He asked where the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION is to protect them from that. The National Lime & Stone Company's building is a beautiful structure, the Heritage Assisted Living building is also a beautiful structure. There are nicely taken care of houses around it with Donnell Park being the prettiest park in Findlay, as well as a beautiful stadium. Putting a 3-story Red Roof Inn that looks cheap and looks like a motel right in the middle is not desired. He has learned that you do not trust anyone very long because things change. He heard these new apartments will be 1-year leases and will be landscaped, but he thinks that will change. When business doesn't go well, the landscape budget goes to zero. The City has cut down forty percent (40%) of shade trees and American Electric Power (AEP) has put power poles in. Speedway respected the neighborhood by putting in a brick wall between Speedway and the neighborhood. It was for the neighborhood. It was their respect for the neighborhood. Speedway came to his house and asked for his support. No one from the City came to his house on this project.

There has been no respect from this project. Speedway owns two (2) houses on McPherson that are abandoned that are starting to look abandoned. He trusted them and look what happened. He asked City Council to not let something like this get built on McPherson. It is a beautiful street. The Mayor has mentioned McPherson twice in two (2) separate articles in the paper about the beauty that the neighborhood is losing slowly. Maybe the City and the developer can find land somewhere else, reducing his costs on land somehow. He would be okay with it if it was 2-story and not so huge. Anyone who looks at it will get stressed out, especially when sitting at a football game and look over. It is the highest point in the neighborhood. At night, it will be lit up like a Christmas tree. Filed.

Andrew Yates - rezoning West McPherson Avenue property

Mr. Yates lives in the area and has invested in the area. One of the challenges is finding areas that are attractive for potential residents that are zoned appropriately. It almost doesn't exist and is very difficult, especially closer to downtown. He spent a tremendous amount of time looking for options for the YMCA building situation that boiled down to two (2) parcels, one being in the flood zone, so that one was not ideal. The parcel selected is in a nice area that many in the audience tonight are here because it is their neighborhood. The same reason many enjoy the area is the same reason it would be attractive for prospective tenants. One of the challenges now is that everyone knows the demand and need for housing. He has talked to many young professionals that live outside of Findlay that work here, but cannot find anywhere to live in City limits. His goal in this is to try and provide something that Findlay desperately needs, not in a flood zone area, but in an area that can allow them views of Lake Cascades that others do not have. It allows some amenities that other apartments do not offer. He is aware there are concerns that were talked at length yesterday during the neighborhood meeting. He lives in Findlay so he knows Findlay. His track record is an asset to the community, so his intent is to do the same with this project as well. He will do everything in his power to address the concerns. Even if this passes tonight, he is still going to try and accommodate a lot of the concerns. One of them being that he talked with someone last night about - security. For example, in the past, he gave a discount for a Police Officer to live at one of his properties as long as his patrol vehicle was present when he was home which pretty much took care of the issue in a location that is not as nice as this one. He is willing to work with people to make the community as best as he can and also provide housing that Findlay desperately needs. Filed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Willard Camm – unjustified water billing

Email from Mike K. - street parking inquiry

Email and petition of signatures from Deb Pregibon – 0 West McPherson Avenue (parcel no. 600000302210) via Ordinance No. 2023-064 Email from Cathy Weygandt – new park

Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – June 2023. Filed.

Board of Zoning Appeals minutes – June 8, 2023. Filed.

Mayor Muryn - Norfolk Southern Railroad project

One of the five (5) primary flood mitigation projects that has been identified is the replacement and updated design of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge which crosses the Blanchard River just west of South Cory Street. In anticipation of this project beginning construction in 2024, the City of Findlay has been working with the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District, Hancock County Commissioners and Norfolk Southern to finalize designs, construction plans, and necessary legal documents. One step that is necessary for this project to move forward is a laydown agreement between the City and the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District for during construction. This agreement will then be an appendix to the construction agreement executed between the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District and Norfolk Southern. Legislation authorizing the Mayor to enter into the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is requested. The laydown area is highlighted in yellow on the schematic. <u>Ordinance No. 2023-073 was created</u>.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that this is for the lay down area for the rebuilding of the railroad bridge and that it is known that this is something that needs to get done and need to do something to accommodate this. He asked if the City is going forward with putting the City's Public Works garage on a property that is adjacent to this lay down area and if it interferes with that. City Engineer Kalb replied that where to put a garage for Public Works is on hold right now. It is a large sum for what is needed. A master plan will be created for next steps for the long term before diving into the project. It is on hold until the City master plans that area. The map of the lay down area that was included with the MOU shows a yellow area that is south of the City's greenwaste site driveway. The area that was being looked at to put the building was not within that area, so the driveway to the greenwaste site will still be maintained open. It is far enough south that even if that does proceed forward, it will have no effect going forward. Councilman Wobser noted that there is nothing listed in the agreement with the Maumee Watershed District and asked how that is going to be handled. City Engineer Kalb replied that Article 2, Section A states that once construction is completed, that everything will be restored to the previous condition of the conclusion. When this is done in construction projects, the City takes pre-pictures and videos that everyone has access to so that there is evidence of what is actually out there so that everything goes back to the way it was before. The City has to show proof of any damages. Councilman Wobser asked if the site is paved. City Engineer Kalb replied no, it is grass. Councilman Wobser asked if there is a reciprocal agreement between Norfolk Southern and the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. City Engineer Kalb replied that he has not seen one, but states within Section 2A that the Maumee Watershed is enforcing Norfolk Southern. He has not seen an agreement between those two, but feels comfortable with the enforcement they have and the agreement between the three (3) entities in that going forward, if it needs restored, it will be restored.

Councilman Wobser pointed out that there is a section in it that states if it needs to be expanded, then the agreement will go between the City and directly to Norfolk Southern and will not go through the watershed. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. Councilman Wobser noted that it puts a link in there that otherwise is not contractually taken care of. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. It would be something that would have to be negotiated with Norfolk Southern before proceeding forward. The only other property near that location without crossing the tracks would be the area of the future site of where the building could be. The City would have to sit down with them and review timelines and ensure that it does not hinder any other projects that the City has going on within its own property. As of right now, he is not concerned with them going in in the future, but if they do approach the City with it, that would be when the City will come back to Council with all the timelines. Councilman Wobser asked if there is a timeline set up yet. City Engineer Kalb replied that he does not know of one for this project. Filed.

Mayor Muryn - Carlin property opportunity

Mayor Muryn is requesting a COMMITTEE OF THTE WHOLE meeting to discuss a potential opportunity related to the property owned by the City of Findlay between Carlin Street and Interstate 75. The City of Findlay owns approximately twenty-six (26) acres (parcels #s: 610000051400 and 210001029225) that is typically bid out for farming and generates approximately four thousand five hundred (\$4,500) annually through the farm lease. The property purchased in 2008 for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) was bought with the idea to place the Public Works Department shop on the property, but it was recommended not to do so given the lack of a central location which is critical for the City's Public Works teams' execution of their daily activities. The Administration has discussed this property and does not see it as a viable location for other City operations. Mayor Muryn has been approached by representatives of Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County who are interested in this property for a development of "Hope Springs" a Habitat subdivision which would be built over the next ten (10) years providing nearly seventy (70) homes. Mayor Muryn would like to invite representatives from Habitat for Humanity to discuss the project in more detail at an upcoming COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting and discuss the possibility of the City of Findlay providing the land via the Blanchard Valley Port Authority. Additionally, there is an opportunity for the City of Findlay to focus some of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and other qualifying infrastructure grant dollars toward the build out of the infrastructure necessary for this development. Attached is additional information provided by Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County. <u>A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting is requested for the evening of either August 9th or 10th to discuss further. Filed.</u>

City Engineer Kalb – Fire STRICT facility, project no. 31994900

The Findlay Fire Department received a fifteen thousand dollar (\$15,000) donation from the Findlay Kiwanis Club earlier this year to go towards the Search House in the new STRICT Center. The donated funds will be going towards the building materials that will be needed to construct a simulated Search House inside the new STRICT Center. The Search House is planned to be constructed in late fall after the STRICT Center is completed and final punchlist are performed. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. <u>Ordinance no. 2023-074 was created</u>.

FROM:	General Fund (various contributions and donations)	\$ 15,000.00
TO:	Fire STRICT Facility, Project No. 31994900	\$ 15,000.00

Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE met on July 18, 2023 to continue discussing the Strategic Planning process.

We recommend to send the final draft of the strategic plan to Council for approval. <u>Resolution No. 018-2023 was created</u>.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser thanked everyone in the community that has spent time helping the committee with input on this strategic plan. This process started back in 2017 and has taken this long to complete. It was time well spent. The plan is concise and well thought out. It is a world-class plan and is very fitting of the community and top micropolitan city in the United States. He asked Council when they are reading through it and get ready to vote on it, to keep in mind that the overriding theme of it is that the plan is for the City and the things they do through the Administration, City Council, and all other elected officials. It is geared towards things that Council can control to do things for the City. When the reading of the Resolution for this is given, he is going to ask for it to be tabled to allow more time for the community to be able to read the final draft as it has slightly changed since doing the presentation at the Marathon Performing Arts Center. He thanked all involved to come to this conclusion of a draft agreement.

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

The WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE met on July 26, 2023 to discuss water billing adjustments.

We recommend the Water Department offer a payment plan of up to twenty-four (24) months for excessively high bills due to water transmitter project. Also, any accounts with a five hundred percent (500%) variance from the previous to most recent bill is eligible for up to seventy-five percent (75%) of lost water cost to be waived.

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that she is going to vote against this tonight only because of the portion of addressing only some Findlay citizens. The ORAL COMMUNICATIONS speaker tonight asking how the five hundred percent (500%) was determined had a valid question that she also had asked after the neighborhood meeting. It is not looking at whether the property owner had a leak or that arrived at the five hundred percent (500%), but was stated that if someone filled their swimming pool that year, they got it for half (1/2) price and that those that had a fifty percent (50%) water leak to their house and had to have a plumber come out, but had nothing to validate. Even those that had a four hundred ninety-nine percent (499%) bill increase still need to have an adjustment made. While she likes that there is a payment plan, everyone's situation needs to be addressed.

Ayes: Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Frische. Filed.

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss the Water Department truck purchase.

We recommend to Council to acknowledge that in Ordinance No. 2023-069, there will be an additional service bed from a different vendor added to the truck and purchase.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser explained that this meeting was scheduled quickly to make sure that it was understood exactly what it was that was being purchased for the Water Plant, bringing it to a good conclusion and a good price. Council is good to go with approving that expenditure.

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

Discussion:

Councilman Russel explained that this references Ordinance No. 2023-069 that Council passed at the last City Council meeting and asked if an amendment to the Ordinance is needed. Councilman Wobser replied that there will not be an amendment. The committee went through it and stayed within the same guidelines of the appropriated amounts and are well within what was previously approved that was certified by Deputy Auditor Sampson.

Councilwoman Frische informed Council that she will vote for this committee report to be accepted, however, acknowledging that there wasn't full disclosure happening when talking about waiving the price for bids on a pickup truck and that the City does not always do both parts at once, there is better transparency that needs to happen and better questions and answers that need to happen in the future with any vehicle in any department. Councilman Wobser replied that the term "transparency" in this is misfounded. Everything that was done was transparent, but that the process itself needs to be amended, which was discussed at the meeting, and will do a better job of that in the future. Councilwoman Frische clarified that in the Council meeting when the motion was made to waive the formal bid process, Council was told that the City was purchasing a certain type of vehicle and then when it was to come through, that it was a different type of vehicle which then led to this APPRORPIATIONS COMMITTEE to acknowledge that there was some changing taking place without discussing with Council and then went back to the original of what was discussed after change was seen.

All were in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 016-2023 (Phase 2 Benching Project - environmental work - testing) requires three (3) readings A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN APPROPRIATED FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2023 (adoption and implementation of Strategic Plan) requires one (1) reading tabled after first reading on 8/1/23 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK, FINDLAY FORWARD.

Councilman Wobser moved to table the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-043 (Phase 2 benching project) requires three (3) readings tabled after third reading on 5/16/23 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-063 (219 Hurd Ave rezone) requires three (3) readings

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 219 HURD AVENUE REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL" TO "R-3 SMALL LOT RESIDENTIAL".

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

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser pointed out that this has nothing to do with the McPherson property and is completely different.

Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-063 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-064 (0 W McPherson Ave rezone) requires three (3) readings

third reading - adopted 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 0 WEST MCPHERSON AVENUE, PARCEL NO. 60000302210 REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "O1 OFFICES/INSTITUTIONS" TO "M2 MULTI-FAMILY, HIGH DENSITY".

Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

pq 7

third reading - adopted

second reading

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that as the Chair of the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE, he wanted to make his position clean on this matter. The question before Council on any rezone request is pretty simple: if the proposed zoning is an appropriate use of the property. It is not Council's job to judge the merits of a particular project, the aesthetics, the colors, etc. That is the job of the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION during their site plan review. The residents in the neighborhood meeting last night said themselves that a duplex or triplex would be appropriate on this site, which means M2 zoning, which is what is being requested. The housing needs in Findlay and Hancock County are real. It is known that there are thousands of individuals who drive into town every day because they cannot find what they feel is adequate housing. To deny the requested zoning classification to effectively kill the realistic, productive and best use for this property would mean that this property would not generate any increased property tax revenue, will not provide housing for any citizens, will not provide income tax generation from the citizens who live there. The applicant brought a site plan with his request which was to his detriment. If the applicant simply asked for the M2 zoning without details of what he was looking to build, it probably would have gone through without an area of concern and then the conversations tonight would be directed at the CITY PLANNING COMMISSION during the site plan review, but instead, Mr. Yates did present them all at one time which is where it is at now. While he is not a developer and is not pretending to know the business of developing housing projects and that Mr. Yates, who appears to be a very successful developer specializing in Hancock County, would actually undertake this project if he did not think that there was demand for the units that he is going to build and if he didn't think that it would be successful. Based on Mr. Yates's track record that he constructs and rehabs into outstanding properties, and because the site plan is there, in effect, he will make the best use of it for this property. One reason a zoning variance has been requested is because of the concern of the size which is where those zoning variance concerns would be appropriately heard at the BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS meeting. To vote no on this means no to M2 zoning and that it will remain 01 Offices/Institutions which can house a 4-store building if desired which means that property will remain vacant for the long future. He is voting in favor of the ordinance because he is looking at what an appropriate use for the property is.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that she also sits on the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE. When this request originally came, she met with Developer Yates. He is a good developer that does nice things in the community. She likes the idea of having a local developer and not someone out of Columbus. She voted for the zoning change, primarily because there were no objections at the committee meeting for it and did not think it was going to be a big deal, but since that meeting, there has been a lot of communication and a lot of rumbling going on in the neighborhood. In her neighborhood, someone wanted to make a mother-in-law suite usable as an apartment in which she pointed out that her neighborhood is single-family zoned. The only time she has not seen a rezone go through while she has been on City Council was over on Spruce Drive behind Michael Eller Diamonds several years ago in which there was a small awkward lot backing up to three hundred thousand dollar (\$300,000) homes, but that no one was saying anything about it which puzzled her because she couldn't believe they didn't mind having that in their back yard. It was proposed to be a rehab facility, so she reached out to a couple of people in that neighborhood who responded to her that it would not happen, that the ordinance would not pass. She informed them that if they do not show or and give valid reason of why it should not be rezoned, not emotional reasons, she will not vote against it. She was unable to attend yesterday's McPherson neighborhood meeting, hearing it was lengthy, but it is her hopes that some questions were answered. What she gathers that the neighborhood got from last night's meeting was that some valid concerns have been brought forward for her to pause. It is a hard decision for her to pause because she wants to support the project at the same time because housing in Findlay is needed. There is a balance that the City has to have, but when discussing variances, traffic flow, water and sewer, etc., they are not part of the zoning change as stated by Councilman Russel, but that she would like to have more of that information figured out before making that zoning change because if it is going to cause a water/sewer issue or is going to cause a traffic safety issue, she did not think about the turn onto Hurd Avenue going down to two (2) lanes. She asked if the exit could be made to go out onto Cascade Parkway to help eliminate the traffic issue. Those are the types of questions to find the give and take for everyone. Developer Yates has a good concept, but moving the YMCA building over is going to be an ugly building, but does agree with the concerns of going through the whole demolition program and got into some muddy water and didn't move the project forward because the Mayor sat on a board, etc., and sees those types of concerns again for this project. She is torn on this and wishes it could be tabled and discussed further down the line before making the zoning change. If the zoning change is made and setbacks are made and all the requirements are there, a multi-family dwelling can be there.

Councilman Wobser appreciates Councilman Russel's perspective on this. He is one of the foremost experts when it comes to zoning in this City. He knows it better than anyone on Council. He appreciates the way Councilman Russel looks at this. Councilwoman Frische made some very good points. He is going to vote against this tonight because of the way the current rendering does not fit with that neighborhood. There were a lot of concerns brought up that he does not think are valid that need to be worked out. He appreciates them being brought forward, but that there is a lot of that that does not fit into that conversation as a valid point. With that said, there are some things that can be done with this that could turn it back into a good project to help the City with a very much needed housing, but will still keep in with fitting into the neighborhood better than what is currently being looked at. It is a tough situation. He appreciates all of those that came out and spoke their minds on this. It is part of being involved in government. He met with a couple of individuals last night that had never been involved in something like this and were upset that they didn't know about it. He challenged everyone that was at last night's neighborhood meeting and/or here tonight that spoke about this to think about how notification should work. Some did not like the yellow signs that used to be white. They became yellow so that they would be more noticeable, but stated that they were the same color as grass. He suggested the public take the opportunity, emails not phone calls, to let him know what notification should look like that would take away this issue of notification because this has come up before and will come up later in another conversation tonight. In a world that is more connected than ever, he has more individuals come to him more than every before saying they do not know anything that is happening. No one reads the newspaper anymore, nor does anyone get the newspaper anymore. He would appreciate input from the public on how to give notification so that everyone is aware of things happening in their neighborhood so that it can be handled in a way that everyone is satisfied.

Ayes: Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Bauman. Nays: Greeno, Niemeyer, Wobser, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-064 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-065 (ARPA Fund third appropriation of 2023) requires three (3) readings

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

Discussion.

Councilwoman Frische asked if this Ordinance includes funds for sidewalks or if there are already funds available for that. City Engineer Kalb replied no because that part of it would go to the STREETS, SIDEWALKS & PARKING COMMITTEE for discussion. This is not to just put in sidewalks or repair sidewalks. It is to allow for American Disabilities Act (ADA) access. Councilwoman Frische asked if it will be in this Ordinance to appropriate. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct.

Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-065 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-068 (annual bids and contracts) requires three (3) readings

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, WITH OPTION YEARS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, AND SERVICE AGREEMENTS NEEDED BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-068 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-071 (Downtown Recreation Area – design & engineering) requires three (3) readings

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STRAND & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES OF THE DOWNTOWN RECREATION AREA PHASE II BENCHING OF THE BLANCHARD RIVER, PROJECT NO. 31913700, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-072 (FCS storage unit MOU) requires three (3) readings

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GRANTING THE CITY OF FINDLAY PERMIISSION TO STORE VARIOUS CITY EQUIPMENT IN THE FINDLAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION'S VACANT BUILDING LOCATED AT 0 BLANCHARD AVENUE (PARCEL NO. 610001017675) AS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-073 (Norfolk Southern Railroad project) requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE MAUMEE WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT AS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wobser moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-073 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-074 (Fire STRICT facility donation) requires three (3) readings AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Bauman pointed out that this is just to accept funds, therefore, he will move to adopt it tonight.

Councilman Bauman moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Palmer.

Councilman Russel noted that as a long time member of the Findlay Kiwanis, he was extremely proud of his club when they accepted the challenge to fund the STRICT Center. The way this donation came about was during a conversation with Fire Chief Eberle who told him they were looking for funding for this and asked if the Kiwanis would be interested. To which Councilman Russel asked how much money is needed and was told five thousand dollars (\$5,000), but the club came back with fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) because they liked the project and saw the merit in it. The Kiwanis reflects the community. The Findlay Kiwanis Club was generous in their efforts because the community is generous. He is proud to be a member of the club and fully support what they have done and appreciate the opportunity to speechify on this.

Councilman Bauman echoed Councilman Russel's comments. He is also a proud Kiwanian. This is what the club is around for - the betterment of the community.

second reading

second reading

first reading - adopted

third reading - adopted

third reading - adopted

Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Russel. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-074 and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Wobser informed Council that he had the opportunity last week to sit down with Mayor Muryn, Craig Kutchbaugh and Tom Ross (head of the Findlay Area Apartment Association) which is the group that started the referendum that was ultimately pulled. Good conversations took place on the three (3) different referendums that were being put forth. He addressed one of the referendums that the overwriting theme of his and those that brought that referendum forward, was that they simply want to be heard. Those that attended last night's meeting for the McPherson meeting, as well as those here tonight speaking on that situation, it is incumbent as Council to give as much opportunity, within reason, to Findlay citizens to let their feelings and be known to Council and made publicly aware. He brought up to the full group that they need to let Council what notification looks like these days as it is difficult and thought a good job was done. He thought it was a good move for letters to go out per a radius around an area, but is still not good enough, nor are the yellow signs and need to find ways around that and hopes to get there. He had suggested to amend Council's Rules to go from four (4) minutes to speak to six (6) minutes. Prior to the change, it has been six (6) minutes that got skinned down. He does not propose any other changes except that one thing. Council has always given everyone the opportunity to speak if they needed more time, so he does not think this is an issue that would cause any problems with Council meetings.

Councilman Wobser moved to amend Section II.I.2 of Council's Rules of Procedure to six (6) minutes per person to address Council at the beginning of City Council meetings, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Councilman Wobser moved to amend Council's Rules of Procedure in Section I.2.2, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Warnecke is not for this. She has been on Council for four (4) years. Four (4) minutes seems to be fine. During that time, she has not seen where Council has not allowed someone to speak longer. She had to do four (4) minute speeches when running for office. A lot can be said in four (4) minutes and can lose track of your audience if speak too long. It is well known that a speaker needs to capture their audience's attention within thirty (30) seconds. She thinks four (4) minutes is fine. If Council's Rules are to be amended, it should come within Council instead of being asked for from outside.

Councilman Russel/President of Council Pro-Tem pulled up Council's Rules from 2014-2015. They are the rules he uses as a basis for reformulation. It was four (4) minutes at that time. To move to six (6) minutes gives the public more time to address issues. Councilmembers are capped at five (5) minutes per round. As proven tonight with Mr. Bosse's ORAL COMMUNICATIONS going over eight (8) minutes, Council is very open to public comment and unanimously allowed more than three (3) individuals to speak on the issue, as well as gave extra time to two (2) of the speakers. When the reason for the four (4) minute limit was reviewed by the AD HOC COMMITTEE for legislation that some citizens do not want, ORAL COMMUNICATIONS sometimes try to filibuster a meeting by lining up a lot of speakers, who are allotted four (4) minutes or six (6) minutes each to speak, so that is the meaning behind it possibly changing it from four (4) minutes to six (6) minutes. There will be an opportunity to address the time limit at the end of the year when an AD HOC COMMITTEE is formed to review Council's Rules again for the 2024-2025 City Council term, as well as the Committee Assignments for that term. That might be an appropriate time to look at it then.

Councilman Wobser thanked Councilman Russel for his comments and clarification. If Council wants to, they can limit discussion for or against any specific topic to three (3) individuals which is still in the rules. So, tonight, Council could have, but decided not to, have limited to three (3) individuals speaking against the McPherson rezone which would have eliminated the filibuster issue if Council wanted to.

President of Council/Acting Mayor Harrington explained that his role as President of Council is to enforce the rules that Council has come up with. He takes a lot of flack from Councilmembers and the public who sometimes accuse him of interrupting and not allowing them their free speech, which is not the case. Anyone who knows him personally, knows that is not the case. He is following the rules that Councilmembers have determined. He understands their concern, but is not certain if they understand that there is the opportunity by Council to extend their remarks as long as needed. While he agrees that he has never seen it not be agreed to by Council as a majority to allow anyone to continue to speak, it is not a free speech issue. Anyone that makes it a free speech issue does not understand the rule, and may not understand Council itself. He does not think it matters if it is four (4), five (5) or six (6) minutes for ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, because they will get to speak the time that they want. He sat in on the Rules Committee (AD HOC COMMITTEE) for a number of years where issues like this are addressed for a reason. It is not a trees or to stifle a conversation and has never been the case. He has never seen any Councilmember try to stifle conversation on any subject at any time, including himself as President of Council, or the Administration. It is up to Council to change the rules or not and he will enforce the rules.

Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Wobser. Nays: Bauman, Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke. Motion denied.

Service-Safety Director Martin announced that tonight is National Night Out (locally known as Flag City Night Out) at Riverside Park until 9:00pm. It is a nationally recognized event where Hancock County Safety Services get together and bring out demos with canines, fire trucks, ambulances, etc. The event also consists of races and food. Both the Police Chief and Fire Chief are not here tonight because they are at the event. It is a great way to thank those that serve the community in the darkest hours of the night. The community comes out and makes a great night out of it. It grows every year.

Service-Safety Director Marin noted that Council has been talking about body worn cameras now for quite some time with the Administration working through the logistics of items that need to be worked through for implementation and go live. It is scheduled to go live very soon in the upcoming weeks. He will be sending out a punch list of items in the next couple of days. Council will be informed before it is rolled out. It is a timing thing where the infrastructure had to be rolled out with wiring, etc. It went from not done to done in a hurry and are currently going through training. He will provide a lot more in-depth detail from the Police Chief in the next day or so.

Councilman Russel asked when it will be seen on a trial basis. Service-Safety Director Martin replied he is hoping to go live within the next two (2) weeks. If anyone has any questions or wants to discuss it, please see Police Chief Mathias or Service-Safety Director Martin who are more than willing to go through. Councilman Russel asked if it would be worthwhile to have a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting with a demonstration of the technology and how it works, etc. He asked if Council has an interest to do so. Councilman Wobser noted that there has been a request for a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting for the Carlin property (Habitat for Humanity), so those two (2) topics could be addressed. If so, would probably need approximately thirty (30) minutes to discuss the Carlin property with an additional thirty-five to forty (35-40) minutes to go through the body worn cameras topic. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that would be great.

Councilman Wobser: **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 5:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1).

agenda: 1. Carlin property (Habitat for Humanity)

2. demo of body worn cameras

Councilman Hellman noted that Oshkosh, WI has an annual Fly-In and Convention. There was an article in the newspaper that the airplanes for that stop in Findlay's Airport for fuel because the fuel is cheaper here than Chicago or Wisconsin and asked for details on that. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that he does not have specific statistics, but can get them. The big Fly-In is real. It is a nationally known event for aviation. Those coming through the east coast stop in. Findlay is known for a stop in for fuel and have the nicer amenities, fixed based operator (FBO), and snacks. Findlay Airport works very hard to make sure they are very competitive in the market in that small population of general aviation. Findlay's Airport is known to have competitive, if not lower, prices than other places, yet profitable in the process. There has been a lot of data analysis. The Airport Supervisor should sing praises for Airport Assistant Manager Kyle Inbody's ability of market analysis and being able to buy fuel when it is right for the City. It works out really well for the City.

Councilman Russel: PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 12:00pm in the first floor Council Office (CO).

agenda: 1. 200 W Lincoln St rezone

Zoning Code review

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische wanted the committee to know that she will not be in attendance for this meeting in case it causes a quorum issue.

Councilman Palmer moved to adjourn City Council at 7:37pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM