

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION **JANUARY 2, 2024** **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 notified Council that President of Council Harrington informed him that he would not be in attendance tonight. Councilman Hellmann moved to excuse President of Council Harrington, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.

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 December 19, 2023 Public Hearing meeting minutes to rezone O Keith Parkway (parcel no. 5700019010) via Ordinance No. 2023-126, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.
- Councilman Slough moved to accept the December 19, 2023 Public Hearing meeting minutes to rezone CR 99 (RaceTrac) annexation zoning via Ordinance No. 2023-103, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.
- Councilman Slough moved to accept the December 19, 2023 Public Hearing meeting minutes for Zoning Code updates via Ordinance No. 2023-115, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.
- Councilman Slough moved to accept the December 19, 2023 Public Hearing meeting minutes to rezone 315 Walnut Street via Ordinance No. 2023-105, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.
- Councilman Slough moved to accept the December 19, 2023 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.

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

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: none

PETITIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

Councilman Palmer moved to adjourn the 2022-2023 Council meeting sine die at 6:01pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
REGULAR SESSION **JANUARY 2, 2024** **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

ROLL CALL of 2024-2025 Councilmembers

PRESENT: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser

ABSENT: none

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel notified Council that President of Council Harrington informed him that he would not be in attendance tonight. Councilman Palmer moved to excuse President of Council Harrington, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Filed.

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

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

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

ADD-ONS:

1. Letter from The Community Foundation Chief Community Engagement Officer Kimberly Bash – Skate For All Grant (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS** section).
2. Ordinance No. 2024-005 – The Community Foundation Chief Community – Skate For All Grant (**LEGISLATION** section).

PROCLAMATIONS: none

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2024 (*Councilman Slough retirement*) **requires one (1) reading** **first reading - adopted**

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

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

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser - *the audio of the meeting was not available.*

Councilman Russel - *the audio of the meeting was not available.*

Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

PETITIONS: none

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

The audio of the meeting just began recording at this point in the meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Robin Welly – clarifying our statement. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals minutes – November 9, 2023.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that during the BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS meeting, there was a property on Blaine Street that is quite a large structure outside the norm. It is on Blaine Street and Elyria Street. If the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE is going to be addressing West Park’s concerns for 2024, that BOARD OR ZONING APPEALS should be aware of that when they are giving variances. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – 2023 annual sewer & manhole lining #35633600

As authorized by Ordinance No. 2023-079, a bid opening was held for this project on December 12, 2023. Bids were received from four (4) potential contractors with the bid amounts ranging from \$648,003 to \$696,492. The lowest and best bid was received from Insight Pipe Contracting, LLC of Harmony, Pennsylvania. Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) was previously appropriated to the project for design and advertising. An additional appropriation is now needed to cover the City’s portion of the construction cost and provide a contingency for the project. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to enter into contracts and to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-003 was created.

FROM:	Sewer Fund	\$ 700,000.00
TO:	2023 Annual Sewer & Manhole Lining, Project No. 35633600	\$ 700,000.00

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked if any bids were received from any local contractors or Ohio based companies. City Engineer Kalb replied that one (1) was received from Ohio. In the past, the City did not receive any from Ohio and have received from Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania and is the second time the City has worked with them. It is a niche program type thing. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – HAN-Greenway Trail Phase III, PID11709, Project No. 31931900, additional design services and right-of-way acquisitions

This project is for an extension of a ten foot (10’) multi-use trail along State Route 568 from County Road 236 to Township Road 241. The City of Findlay Engineering Department is currently working with a consultant on the design of the trail and through the design process, it was found that additional right-of-way plans will need to be developed per the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) manual. Due to some of the existing grades along the proposed path, temporary and permanent easements are needed for construction. Since this is an ODOT funded project, a full set of right-of-way plans are required for any temporary or permanent easements (or right-of-way takes) and a pre-qualified acquisition consultant will perform any negotiations. Additional funds are needed at this time to compensate the consultant for the additional design work and team up with an acquisition consultant to perform the necessary negotiations. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-004 was created.

FROM:	CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 120,000.00
TO:	HAN-Greenway Phase III PID117097, Project No. 31931900	\$ 120,000.00

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked if 236 to Township 241 is in the City limits. City Engineer Kalb replied no it is not. Councilwoman Frische asked if the City needs to have any agreements with the township and if the City will be working with the County on anything or if it is just because it started with the original bike path. City Engineer Kalb replied that this will be within State right-of-way, but the City will still look the plans over after it is determined where we are at and after talking with the County and the Township on it. Since the City is in the State right-of-way, the City has to get the State’s approval on this as it is a State funded/ODOT funded project. Councilwoman Frische asked if the City needs the County’s approval for anything. City Engineer Kalb replied no.

Councilman Russel asked where this project connects, from where to where. City Engineer Kalb replied that this is Phase III of the Greenway Trail that is from 230 on 568 from 236 to 241. 241 is the covered bridge east of town. This will go out to the Reservoir and will complete the Greenway Trail. It is a multi-use path as part of the City of Findlay and the Hancock Park District master plan that was put together in 2014. This works together with that. This is the final phase of it. It will be on the north side of the roadway as much as possible, and will have to make the jump to the south side which was one of Strand Associates, Inc. concerns (City's consultant for this) on how to get people across safely because of how much traffic is there which is why additional right-of-way is needed to ensure there is plenty of turning space for people to set up and make that crossing. This is the final phase of that Greenway Trail. Phase I was in 2020, Phase II is ninety percent (90%) finished as of now, and this Phase III will be completed in 2026.

Councilman Wobser asked where this will cross over 568. City Engineer Kalb replied at 241. The goal was to put it at a roadway crossing as drivers would most likely think that is where a crossing would be instead of a mid-block crossing. Councilman Wobser replied that he has seen a lot of people out on that road on the multi-use path wanting to go over the bridge.

Councilman Hellmann asked if there is a traffic light out there at 241. City Engineer Kalb replied no there is not. Councilman Hellmann asked if there will be. City Engineer Kalb replied probably not a traffic light, but there will be some kind of pedestrian crossing, depending on how much traffic is going through there, speed, etc. A rapid flashing beacon or something like that might be put out there. It will have to follow ODOT's guidelines. Councilman Hellmann asked if it would make sense to cross at 236 since there is a traffic light there now. City Engineer Kalb replied that was looked at, but it crosses so many houses and a fire station which is the township house there. Most of the right-of-way would not require any type of temporary easements or anything. The north side is not the cleanest side. That route was looked at, but in the long run, it will be better to keep on the north side as much as possible. Filed.

City of Findlay Police Department, Sergeant Walters – body worn camera overview

The City of Findlay Police Department went live with their Body Worn Cameras (BWC) on August 14, 2023 beginning with the dayshift at 0600 hours. The following are some statistics of that program as of December 15, 2023:

- 65 Officers, Detectives, Sergeants, or Lieutenants have used the BWC system to submit evidence.
- 12,139 individual BWC videos uploaded to evidence.com by members of the Findlay Police Department.
- 5,274 photos and/or videos uploaded to evidence.com using Axon Capture.
- Over 500 photos and/or videos uploaded to evidence.com through 195 uses of Axon Community Request.
- 5.26 terabytes (TB) of storage has been used so far on evidence.com.
- 28 videos have been shared with partner agencies (County Prosecutor, Law Director, CSB) through 6 records requests.
- 128 BWC videos shared with individuals through 42 different public records requests.
- Over 1,800 photos have been shared with partner agencies and records requests.
- City of Findlay Police Department Sergeants have reviewed 75 videos through Axon Performance Reviews (0.006% of all videos submitted).
 - 8 of those noted as great performance.
 - 3 noted for minor concerns.
 - The rest noted as no concerns identified.

Since going live, the City of Findlay Police Department have had issues with two (2) of the body worn cameras. The Axon support provided the return authorization within minutes of the request and the replacement body worn cameras arrived within three (3) days. The Signal Sidearm devices have been purchased and installed that will automatically activate any device within thirty-five feet (35') whenever an Officer's weapon is removed from the holster. Overall, aside from a few minor learning curves, this has been a very successful program. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Appointment to Local Board of Tax Review

Pursuant to 718.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, Mayor Muryn is appointing John W. Pinski Jr., CPA to the Local Board of Tax Review for the City of Findlay. Mr. Pinski has expressed a desire and willingness to continue to serve the community in this capacity. This appointment will be effective from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. This appointment does **not** require confirmation by Council. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – Hancock County Combined General Health District appointment

Mayor Muryn is requesting Council's confirmation on her appointment of Nancy Moody Russo to the Hancock County Combined General Health District. Ms. Moody-Russo has expressed a desire and willingness to continue to serve the community as a member of the Hancock County Combined General Health District. This appointment will be effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028. This appointment requires Council's confirmation.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to approve this appointment, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Filed.

Email from Councilwoman Frische – request legislation for the 1/2/24 Council meeting

City Council has not passed legislation designating authority to the Director of Public Service, any elected official or body designated by charter to raise water rates according to ORC 743.04. Because this has not been done, the fifty percent (50%) water rate increase cannot be raised on the citizens of Findlay. The public understands planning for the future, but citizens are also on budgets and any water rate increase must be validated with facts and not simply desires to want more cash on hand. City Council has an obligation to all the citizens and businesses to make sure any rate increases are warranted, justified and allowable by following process. Councilman Niemeyer (6th Ward) and Councilwoman Frische (1st Ward) are requesting immediate legislation in the form of an ordinance or resolution to stop any rate increase effective January 1, 2024 until an Ad-Hoc Committee can be formed.

The committee's objective will be to develop water rate increase guides, processes, and limitations. This committee will recommend who or what body will be granted the authority to raise water rates inside the City limits. Councilwoman Frische and Councilman Niemeyer are requesting this legislation to be in the City Council packet for 1/2/2024. They are requesting legislation to include:

City Council recognizes that ORC 743.04 does not specifically give authority to one person or body and that Council must pass legislation designating who has the authority to raise water rates inside the City limits for the protection of the citizens. City Council has the desire to form an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop water rate increase guides, processes, and limitations to protect the citizens of Findlay. City Council requires water rates inside the City limits to remain the same from 2023 with no increases in 2024 until legislation is passed (list 2024 rate chart).

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that her letter from December 27, 2023 requested legislation from Councilman Niemeyer and Councilwoman Frische regarding the fifty percent (50%) water rate increase to not implement it until legislation was passed and the proper body or person was determined to be making those decisions for the City of Findlay inside the City limits as noted last year. City Council passed legislation outside the City limits giving the authority to the Safety-Service Director, but not inside the City limits. The Mayor did recognize that legislation has not been passed and Councilman Wobser also acknowledged it, but had said that he did not want to discuss it until next year. All processes were followed to request legislation, however, the Law Director did not submit that, so she is going to request that legislation be on the next Council meeting agenda and is retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Councilman Wobser noted that he did not see a confirmation from Councilman Niemeyer that he approved this. He asked Councilman Niemeyer for his verbal approval. Councilman Niemeyer replied that yes, he approves of this. He is just trying to stick up for the constituents that voted for Council Representatives to be on City Council.

Mayor Muryn pointed out that there is a document in front of them tonight and will make sure that it is included in the packet and wanted to give it its due diligence. As was previously circulated when Councilwoman Frische brought up this question, the Assistant Law Director's Office had provided a document with a legal opinion stating that under Ohio Revised Code (ORC), because the authority has not been designated to a different body, and that the Public Service Director/Public Safety Director does have that authority, that was expanded upon, providing an opinion from the legal standpoint that the Service-Safety Director does have the full authority to make water rate increases. As what was discussed at the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE, as well as at City Council meetings, it is the full intent of the Administration and the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE to discuss and move forward with the process on evaluation, documentation, etc. It has been stated a couple of times that data has not been provided to justify the increase, but that it was provided at the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE that clearly outlined the projection of the expenses and needs to continue to invest in the plan, but how the revenues are not sufficient to do that.

Councilman Wobser pointed out that Councilwoman Frische's email is dated December 27, 2023 and asked Councilman Niemeyer if he sent an email out sometime after the 27th seconding her email. Councilman Niemeyer replied no he did not. Councilman Wobser noted that Councilwoman Frische's first to the motion and Councilman Niemeyer's second to the motion is actually tonight. Councilman Niemeyer replied no, but that on the record it is. Councilman Wobser replied that on the record, following Council's process, there is a motion and a second for legislation, so this legislation would be starting then on the next meeting of Council.

Councilwoman Frische is unsure why Council is getting into a bunch of back and forth. Councilman Niemeyer said it very well when he said the reason he supported her and that his name was at the bottom of her email, and that he was included in that email that went to Law Director Rasmussen on the 27th that was within the requirements of Council's rules, and that any time two (2) members of Council request legislation, that it is usually put on the agenda. The reason that this legislation was asked for is to be a voice for the people in the City of Findlay limits, and that the Mayor is choosing her way of describing it. Council has passed legislation for the Service-Safety Director outside the City limits, but have not inside the City limits. If Council and the Administration wants to go back and forth on who has the authority or who does not, she reads it differently, as do some citizens. There is an opinion that has been elaborated on and have managed to get that placed on the Council agenda, but not the legislation that was requested that followed process. If there would have been meaningful discussion with the Law Director's Office to ensure the right verbiage that they are requesting so as to not get hung up on interpretation of the legal opinion, because it comes back to just trying to do what is in the best interest of the citizens of Findlay inside the City limits, which also includes outside. Nobody is saying that the City should not raise water rates at some percentage. Yes, some information was provided, but that there is a lot more information that should have been vetted in that process. It is in the best interest of the citizens because once rates are raised fifty percent (50%), it isn't taken back later. Councilman Wobser acknowledged that at the last Council meeting and that Mayor Muryn acknowledged it in email, that there is not any legislation giving the authority to the Service-Safety Director. Whatever needs to be done to get this moving forward should be happening instead of getting into a back and forth debate with a letter thrown on Council's desk tonight. She is simply asking that the legislation she asked for and that Councilman Niemeyer seconded, be done instead of Council and the Administration nitpicking that Councilman Niemeyer did not send his own email, which is just plain silly. Let's us move forward and get the legislation. She and Councilman Niemeyer are willing to sit down with Law Director Rasmussen to make sure it has the proper verbiage and not calling anyone a liar or anything else and are working within the best interest of the citizens. It is unfortunate that the Mayor wants to nitpick and just keep moving forward with the fifty percent (50%). Mayor Muryn replied that she is perfectly fine with Councilwoman Frische's legislation moving forward, but that it will not be able to retroactively go back as stated in the legal opinion, as was vetted through the committees, and as the Administration has been working on for two (2) years of evaluating all the different options, how to save money, and how to make this work. As she has stated multiple times that no one wants to have to do this, but that the City has the responsibility to be the adults in the room to make sure the City is in a position that is financially sustainable. While she agrees that she is also tired of the back and forth, she is happy to provide any additional information and answer any questions to help everyone understand. Legislation can be put on for this.

The important part is to clarify that the Administration has the authority and have implemented it, that notification has gone out, and cannot now go back and change it. If Council wants to go forward with this and then pass legislation to change it in the future, that will be fine and that can be figured out, but cannot retroactively go back and change it.

Assistant Law Director Feighner came up to the podium and replied that this is something he has been working on. It came to his attention that there were some translation issues, so he will let Council review that on their own. This email is requesting legislation for City Council to recognize that Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 743.04 does not specifically give authority to someone to deal with water rates, but it in fact does, which right now, that is the City's Public Service Director. What the law allows for a Community, Village or City that has a water utility could create a Board or another person to do that. As of right now, as a default, the ORC gives that power to the Public Service Director. It is his opinion that if Council wanted to entertain a motion to form a committee to decide if the City of Findlay wants a committee to address water rates, that would seem to make sense. He does not believe it is appropriate for the Law Director's Office to draft an ordinance saying that 743.04 does not state authority when in fact it does strongly. The City can change that by ordinance anytime it wants by naming a committee or naming a whole different person to do it, but right now, the default is the Public Service Director.

Councilman Wobser asked if Assistant Law Director Feighner's interpretation is that Council could put together a separate body of some sort in whatever form that would have the ability to change water rates. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that is correct. It is a different fact pattern in case law that he attached to that, but that is what it says. It is not inclusive, exclusive or anything. Right now, that is the default. There was a time when the City had a Public Safety Director and a Public Service Director. If it were still that way (2 separate positions), the Public Safety Director would not have a dog in the race and would be just the Public Service Director addressing water rates. Council can change that anyway they want in which case law supports that. Councilman Wobser asked if that means a City does not have to be a Charter City to be able to do that. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied correct. That Statute is saying that if a City is unchartered, then it is the Public Service Director. If the City is chartered, then that charter is going to have to appoint a person or a body to do so.

Councilwoman Frische appreciated Assistant Law Director Feighner coming before Council and reiterating his letter that was put on Council's desks this evening. She pointed out that at the last City Council meeting, she brought this discussion up and stated that she was bringing legislation, she submitted legislation and asked for communication from the Law Director's Office because if Council is mis-stating ORC as part of the reasoning, then they need to change that. She finds it very hard to believe that the Mayor is saying that Council cannot fix something because there is always an opportunity to rescind things or change things. They learned that when they had the 830 East Sandusky Street issue several years ago. So, maybe Council needs to eliminate the discussion of the ORC that she and Councilman Niemeyer have focused on and maybe retroactive the decision that was made by the Service-Safety Director who does not have the authority under ordinance with the City of Findlay and form that committee and wait until Council has the proper information to determine the proper policy and procedure to make sure the City is doing what is best for the citizens of Findlay inside and outside the City limits. She feels like she is on the defense mode when she simply asked to do what was best for the community, but that the Mayor seems to be on her own path and is focusing on the ORC code. She apologizes if she was wrong to use the ORC for the legislation. What Councilman Niemeyer and Councilwoman Frische are asking for is to make sure that they are rescinding and retro activating everything back until the process can be fixed and do what is right. Maybe Council needs to sit down and do a retroactive policy. She asked if that can be done. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that he does not know about the retroactivity, but right now, there is a law that states that the City Public Service Director is the water rate guy. Councilwoman Frische replied that there is an ORC code, but that there is not a City of Findlay Ordinance and asked if that could be acknowledged. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that he would imagine that is true. The next thing Council can do is to put an ordinance together if they want a different body or a different person to be in charge. Councilwoman Frische replied that is what she and Councilman Niemeyer were asking for by forming an AD-HOC COMMITTEE as stated in the letter: an AD-HOC COMMITTEE to develop a water rate increase guides, processes and limitations to protect the citizens of Findlay. She hopes that everyone in the room is on that same page.

Mayor Muryn reiterated that that WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE already has that on their agenda to work through in 2024. The best interest of the City of Findlay is to have a Water Fund that has operational funds to maintain safe clean drinking water which is a core service. It is the City's responsibility to vet those numbers and go through it, propose it, and share it with Council. They have done that and will not dwell on the errors of the past to fix that. The Administration hears Councilwoman Frische loud and clear that she disagrees with what Mayor Muryn is saying, but when the Administration is saying to fix the errors, it has not been stated that at this point in time, the water rates moving forward, if legislation is passed, will take effect at that date and time which can dictate who they want to determine the water rates. If Council designates it to someone else such as the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE and they change the rates, it is not a retroactive rate implementation. They can change the rate, can decrease the rate back down to an amount, but are not going to be able to go back and credit people back unless a rebate structure is determined. Looking at the finances of the Water Fund is not prudent. It would not be possible. The City does not have the funds in the Water Fund.

President Pro-Tem Russel struck the gavel stating that there does not to be comment from the audience. This is a City Council meeting for discussion amongst City Councilmembers and asked the audience to refrain from comment.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that Mayor Muryn indicated that the City's Water Fund is not healthy and that the City does not maintain the system, which is not true. The City is always improving its water and sewer projects throughout the entire year, are upgrading things in the system, and are always doing things. The sky is not falling if tomorrow, the City doesn't have the fifty percent (50%) water rate increase. Going back in history from eleven (11) or twelve (12) years ago when water rates increased, the City had a Safety-Service Director that validated the reasoning of why. That reasoning back then was because the City lost RCA/Harris who was one of the City's number one (#1) water users, so the City had to figure out a way to fill that gap. The Mayor stating that she just wants to have more cash on hand is not a fifty percent (50%) rate increase validation in her book or most citizens' books. She thinks this discussion needs to end and have the legislation.

If Assistant Law Director Feighner or Law Director Rasmussen are telling City Auditor Staschiak or Councilwoman Frische that they are not using the right verbiage to retroactive and slow things down to get to the right point, then that is what they are here to help with. She is sure that can get done if they work together. She asked for a commitment on that from one or both of them. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that he does not know about the retroactivity. Councilwoman Frische replied that is what their goal is for the best interest of citizens. She is over going back and forth. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that parliamentary procedure would allow for a motion to be made to consider forming a committee to address water rates. If that committee were formed, then an ordinance that formally adopts that committee to handle water rates can then be done. Councilwoman Frische asked if Assistant Law Director Feighner is saying that when two (2) members of Council follow Council's policy and procedures requesting legislation that the Administration is not a fan of, cannot be done unless it is sent to a committee and just kick the can down the road and that he does not want to sit down and work through this. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied having a meeting would be great, but that it cannot go around procedure. He suggested forming a committee for the City. Councilwoman Frische replied that she is not looking at going around procedure as she is all about procedure. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that the way her request was formed was to acknowledge that the City does not have anyone in authority, but in fact it does. Councilwoman Frische replied that is her and Councilman Niemeyer's opinion and that no one responded to her email or created legislation. She and Councilman Niemeyer followed the process to create the legislation which then could have had discussion and committee meetings further down the road if need be, but that instead a road block took place.

President Pro-Tem Russel clarified that Council has Councilwoman Frische's letter and acknowledge it. In the past, when a letter from Council requesting legislation comes in a form of an actual letter signed by individuals, it is placed on the agenda. The legislation has been requested. The next time Council would expect to see it is the second meeting of January at the next City Council meeting. Between that time, there can be discussions between Councilwoman Frische, Councilman Niemeyer, Assistant Law Director Feighner, and Law Director Rasmussen. The letter has been received and has had plenty of comment. Filed.

President of City Council Harrington –Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC)

Pursuant to Section 5709.85 of the Ohio Revised Code, President of Council Harrington is appointing Councilmember Jeff Wobser to serve as Council's Representative to the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). His term will be effective from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. This appointment does not require Council's confirmation. Filed.

President of City Council Harrington/President Pro-Tem of City Council Russel – Local Board of Tax Review

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 718.11 (A)(2)(HB5), the legislative authority of any municipal corporation that imposes tax on income shall maintain a local Board of Tax Review of which two (2) members shall be appointed by the legislative authority of that municipal corporation. President of City Council Harrington and President Pro-Tem of City Council Russel recommend that Patrick Sadowski be appointed to continue serving on this committee effective January 1, 2024. Mr. Sadowski is a practicing attorney in Findlay and has indicated a willingness to continue to serve in this capacity. This appointment requires Council's confirmation.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to approve this appointment, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

The Community Foundation Chief Community Engagement Officer Kimberly Bash – Skate For All grant

The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation authorized a grant totaling three thousand seven hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$3,738) to be awarded to the City of Findlay to support a free afternoon and evening of ice skating at the CUBE in early 2024 as part of the Fun for All series of free community events. Funding source: Madeleine Thomas Schneider Fund. The Community Foundation is asking the City to sign the enclosed grant agreement and return the entire document to the Foundation office as soon as possible indicating the City's acceptance. No check can be issued until the signed grant agreement has been received by The Community Foundation. A financial and narrative progress report, as required by the grant agreement, will be due March 31, 2024 – Final Written Report. Reporting forms can be found at www.community-foundation.com. Contact Ms. Bash with questions regarding the enclosed grant agreement. Be sure to include the above referenced grant numbers on all reports and any correspondence regarding the grant. For publicity purposes (*Publicity Guidelines for Communicating Your Grant* and *The Community Foundation's Branding Guidelines*) can be referenced on The Community Foundation's website. Ordinance No. 2024-005 was created.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

An **AD HOC COMMITTEE** met on December 27, 2023 to continue discussions on 2024-2025 Council Rules of Procedure.

We recommend adoption of rules as circulated.

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

Discussion:

Councilman Russel pointed out that by approving this committee report, also approves Council's Rules of Procedure for 2024-2025.

On the next AD HOC COMMITTEE report concerning committee assignments, the committee thought it best to increase the number of members on the WATER AND SEWER standing committee to five (5) members from the current three (3) members. Doing so would require a change to SECTION V. COMMITTEES, PARAGRAPH B. STANDING COMMITTEES, subparagraph 5. Water and Sewer. Assuming that the Council subcommittee assignments are also adopted, the rules will reflect that change as it was overlooked during the AD HOC COMMITTEE meeting.

Councilman Wobser amended his motion to include changing the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE from three (3) members to now be five (5) members, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that he will remove the watermark and will make the changes as defined. He will circulate a final copy of the rules to members of Council and the Council Clerk for posting on the City's website. Filed.

All were in favor. Filed.

An **AD HOC COMMITTEE** met on December 27, 2023 to continue discussions on 2024-2025 Council committee assignments.

We recommend committee assignments as circulated.

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

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that he will remove the watermark and will circulate a final copy of the committee assignments to members of Council and the Council Clerk for posting.

Filed.

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss the Sheetz property development project.

We recommend that Council allow the Administration and the Engineering Department to spend up to \$250,000 of previously appropriated funds for the Sheetz/TR230 roadway and utility extensions project for project design, surveying and geotechnical work prior to the completion of the annexation process.

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that she was not aware of this committee meeting. She did not get an email and did not see it published in The Courier. She asked if notice of this committee meeting went out to all of Council and if it was published in the Courier. Council Clerk DeVore replied that yes notice of the meeting went out the day before the committee meeting prior to the required twenty-four (24) hour notice requirement and that she will forward the email to Councilwoman Frische.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that back in the October meeting, she had asked about the 629 Funds and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) dollars, and if it were up to date with all of the meetings through the Comp Control Board. She asked if the City has those dollars yet. City Engineer Kalb replied that those funds have not been appropriated to the project, but do have the agreements through ODOT and through 629, but he has not appropriated those funds into the project yet. Councilwoman Frische asked if the funds have come to the City yet. City Engineer Kalb replied that he has not done the process of appropriating them to the project. The City has the agreements. In their eyes, the City has the money, but that he has not done the legislation to make the funds go into the project. City Auditor Staschiak clarified that the City did not get the money per se. These grants are going to require draws. City Engineer Kalb replied that the money is appropriated in. The City does not just get the money and spend it from there. There is a draw process that it has to go through. The City spends it and then gets reimbursed. His requests to appropriate funds is to show that the funds are going into which project. Once he receives the agreements, he does not have to appropriate the funds right away. He is holding off for construction. The funds in there right now can cover his design for geotechnical for payment design, etc. that he needs to get done now to stay on schedule. City Auditor Staschiak asked for clarification from either the Director of Law or the Assistant Director of Law for audit that he has done his due diligence – there is a committee report with members of committee under old Council which was adjourned and no longer stands, and that this committee report is being reviewed by a new Council. It may be splitting hairs, but that he wants to make sure that this should move forward and approve this, and those funds be put into a voucher or purchase order, that he has the ability to pay those and that there are no concerns. Assistant Law Director Feighner replied that Council shouldn't have to start over, so the process would continue on. There is a committee report from prior, and now have new Council looking at it now, which is okay. City Auditor Staschiak replied that he is asking on the record for audit if he is good to go with it. Assistant Director of Law Feighner replied that is correct.

All were in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 001-2024 (*Internet auctions - authorization to use*) **requires one (1) reading**

first reading - adopted

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

Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked if this is once a year request. City Auditor Staschiak replied yes. The City used to have in-person auctions, but when the City switched to internet auctions, the rules changed and it has been reviewed annually ever since. He estimates that internet auctions have taken place for the last five to six (5-6) years.

Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2024 (*advances on County tax settlements*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE TAX ADVANCES DURING THE YEAR 2024 PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §321.34.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked if this needs to be passed tonight. City Auditor Staschiak replied that this does not need to be passed tonight. He hopes the City never gets into a situation where this is needed. If the City were to end up in a tight cash flow, this allows the City access to money that the County Auditor has collected on the City's behalf to be released throughout the year.

First reading of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2024 (*ODOT Aviation - Airport Improvement Program Grant SPY24*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF AVIATION, FOR AN OHIO AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT GRANT FOR SFY 2024.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked what the timing is on the grant, when the application is due and when he needs Council's approval of it. City Engineer Kalb replied that approval for this application was given last year via an ordinance, but while he has been working with the new ODOT Aviation Project Manager, they wanted it to go through as a resolution instead as an ordinance, so this is basically repeating the request to make sure the City has the proper documents that they want. He does not necessarily need it tonight and will find the ordinance that was adopted for it last year. The same thing has already been passed as an ordinance, but that ODOT Aviation now wants it in a Resolution form. All future ODOT Aviation grant legislation will be resolutions instead of ordinances. It is how the new Project Manager is wanting to see them.

First reading of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2024

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

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-001 (*appropriations for current expenses & other expenditures for 2024*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS WHERE NECESSARY FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that this is legislation that Council passes on the first City Council meeting of the year so that the City can continue to operate.

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

Discussion:

Mayor Murn pointed out for clarification that the description on the agenda states this as 2020 and should be 2024. Council Clerk DeVore replied 2020 is an error and will be corrected in the minutes.

City Auditor Staschiak reminded Council that they requested three (3) changes at the budget meeting that were inserted into this document for Council's approval: thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) for Raise the Bar, forty-five dollars (\$45.00) for PLANNING & ZONING, and fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for chairs and various things for City Council.

Ayes: DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-001 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002 (*Sewer Fund*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that this needs to be passed tonight so that the Sewer Plant employees get paid.

Councilman Wobser moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-002 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-003 (*2023 annual sewer & manhole lining #35633600*) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004 requires three (3) readings

first reading

(HAN-Greenway Trail Phase III, PID11709, Project No. 31931900, additional design services and right-of-way acquisitions)

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

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-005 (Community Foundation grant agreement – Recreation Dept) requires three (3) readings

first reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

adopted during OLD BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Palmer noted that this is grant money so that a free ice skating event can be held at the CUBE. He moved to suspend the statutory rules and give Ordinance No. 2024-005 (*Community Foundation grant agreement – Recreation Dept*) its second and third readings, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel thanked the Community Foundation for sponsoring another free skate night at the CUBE.

Ayes: Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-005 and is hereby made a part of the record.

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council that as City Auditor, it is sometimes brought to his attention when there has been an omission that are sometimes omitted for political reasons, sometimes are intentional, sometimes they are accidental, and sometimes they are just omissions. It has been brought to his attention that during last meeting of last year when Council passed the legislation authorizing not only the acceptance of the properties in the benching area, but more importantly spending the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) to begin architectural work. There has been a significant change that Council needs to be aware of. He checked the records today to make sure that at this point in time there were no purchase orders or vouchers entered into the financial system, so in theory, no work should have processed, and found that the County did not apparently have control of one of the parcels (parcel no. 580000243250 on Clinton Street immediately north of the RaNik property that is being worked on). It went to a foreclosure sale last week and was bought by private group that is in a LLC now. He does not know what they intend to do with it or if it will have an impact on the ability to move forward in the manner that Council is under the assumption that the City will be able to move forward on. He wanted to make sure Council was aware of it. It has been recorded in the County Auditor's Office. He pulled a copy of the courthouse sheet today when he was verifying that there weren't any purchase orders against it. Councilman Wobser chairs the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE that vetted and considered the going ahead and spending some of that money to get this going. He wanted Council to know in case they wanted to consider that or at least be aware of it. Councilman Wobser replied that this is still a go to go forward with the project. He asked if that property is in the floodplain. Mayor Muryn replied yes. She was also made aware that Tom Ross purchased that property at auction last week, so it is very unfortunate that the County wasn't able to secure it as they had originally planned as she was under the impression that they were going to do, however, the City will work around that property. The project is just entering into the design process, so there will be limited to no development that would be possible on it, but that he had the right to purchase it. It is unfortunate that there wasn't better communication between the County and City so that the City could have ensured that moving forward as had originally been discussed, but that the City will work with it. It does not impact the City's property.

Councilwoman Frische asked if it is certain that there are no other properties that could end up getting purchased by somebody else because Mayor Muryn had confidently told Council that they had control of all the properties, so if that is not true, maybe Council should de-appropriate those dollars and take it back to the APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE to figure out what is going on. There is now this, and then there is the environmental issue at RaNik, and there are some other minor environmental issues that the Administration went over just in the last couple of weeks, but that Mayor Muryn was confident and Council trusted that. Mayor Muryn replied that she validated with Project Manager Steve Wilson, but that unfortunately with this property was a state forfeited property that then went to the County Auditor. She was informed by the County Prosecutors that it was their intention to have that property transferred to the Commissioners to be a part of the project, but for whatever reason, that did not occur and she is very disappointed as she had been led to believe that the property was secured. The other properties in rest of the area have been secured or were already in negotiations and have good faith agreements with the properties that have not yet been transferred, so she is not concerned about any other items. She reiterated what was shared at the last meeting and at the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting that the environmental issues that were brought up are all going to be addressed as part of the benching project which is what the City should be doing regardless of what the City invests into the downtown area. The contract that is being entered into with Strand is for work actually provided with an out clause. As previously stated and as everyone agreed, some level of investment needs to be made in this area given it is in the downtown. It needs to be improved and it needs to move forward with the design to determine those specific elements and work with the public on what specific elements they want to see and which are going to be engineeringly feasible. The money that was appropriated still makes sense for the betterment of the community. Councilwoman Frische asked if there are other properties that are not secured yet or are still waiting to be secured either by the City or County. Mayor Muryn replied that there is one (1) property that the County is still negotiating on. It is the Huntington parking lot parcel. The Administration is working with them to determine the specific location, but have their word that they are going to work with the City and is just determining the terms of the transfer.

Councilman DeArment asked if the property is north or south of Clinton Street. Mayor Muryn asked if he is asking about the one that was acquired by Mr. Ross. Councilman DeArment replied yes. Mayor Muryn replied it is south of Clinton Court when looking at the downtown recreation area footprint that goes from Main Street to the east to the railroad tracks, and then from Clinton Court down where the park path entrance, first or second property in from that. The City would be able to butt up against the parking improvements along the roadway, but wouldn't cause any significant issues.

Councilman Hellmann asked how large it is. He asked if it is a residential lot or small lot. Mayor Muryn replied it is forty to fifty feet (40-50') wide and approximately one hundred fifty feet (150') deep. It is not a significant place when looking at nineteen (19) acres or property. Councilman Hellmann asked Mayor Muryn if she is confident that the City will be successful in getting the piece of property or if it has to go through eminent domain. Mayor Muryn replied asked Councilman Hellmann if he is asking about the property Mr. Ross now owns. Councilman Hellmann replied yes. Mayor Muryn replied that she has no intent to negotiate with him to get that property and will instead do the project around it. Councilman Hellmann asked if it would end up being an eminent domain situation. Mayor Muryn replied that it is her understanding that parcel would not provide any significant modification to the flood benefit that the City would be receiving from the benching, therefore, she would not recommend with moving forward with eminent domain. Additionally, part of that would cause significant delays in the project both from a flood mitigation standpoint and any potential work the City would want to do, so it would not be in the best interest of the community. City Engineer Kalb added from a design standpoint, it would be similar to a Phase I where it moves in and out of where the City's property was. It is going to change how the hydraulics go through there, but that is why there are Engineers to design that kind of stuff. It will change how flow goes through there. They might have to change the slope on it, and will just have to look at the hydraulics on it. It will be something that can be designed around.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the property is on the perimeter or if it is surrounded. She asked if it is an outside parcel in the project. She asked if there is anything to the north, south, east or west of it. Mayor Muryn replied it is in the footprint. It is along Clinton Court, so things can be dropped around it which is probably what the City will end up doing and will work through the design. It is not necessarily on a roadway. Councilwoman Frische asked if it is to be benched or if it is just for the City's design area. Mayor Muryn replied it would have been benched to some degree because it would have been lowered just below road, but is not anything significant that would create a monumental impact on the hydraulics. Councilwoman Frische asked if the City has to access that property for anything. Mayor Muryn replied that the City will work through the design elements and shift accordingly.

City Auditor Staschiak thanked Council for allowing this project to slow down in order to complete the environmental. It was clear at that last meeting that there is contamination throughout this area and that they intend to not remove all of the contamination and that the public shouldn't think that they will. They will remediate down to the level they need to be and that there has to be clean dirt to put down. It is his hopes that they will do things to make sure that if there is erosion from the waterway or flooding or anything else, that the two foot (2') buffer is maintained for the safety of the public. By Council allowing the process to slow down was key for the City to get to know this as it was clear from Mr. Wilson in that meeting that he already has his specs done and was ready to move to bid, but now because of that, and if the proper fiduciary is hired as the committee report states needs to be hired, then those specs will be adjusted to account for the environmental issues and contaminant that was reported on through this process. He again thanked Council for slowing this down so that a proper due diligence could be done as part of this. The City will protect the interest of the City moving forward.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the engineering portion needs to be redone before starting the design portion. City Engineer Kalb replied he believes Councilwoman Frische is talking about two (2) different projects. The hydraulics will have to be looked at for the benching project. What was presented to Council on the park project was conceptual of what could be in that area. That area was mainly a parking lot which is an easy thing to widen or move around. Even though it is a floodplain area, it can be developed on, but will most likely be a grass area or green space of some sort. It is two (2) different projects that will have to be looked at. One is the hydraulics to make sure that what they need to accomplish in Phase II benching is being accomplished, even with that property being there, which can still easily be done. Just the flow going through there will change. As part of the City's design process with the downtown park project, now that it is known that project is there, the conceptual will have to be changed to make sure that it can accommodate now that that property is there. Councilwoman Frische asked if that has been done already. City Engineer Kalb replied no. That is what the one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00) that was approved is for. It is for engineering to do that work. No engineering has been done for that yet which is why the thirty percent (30%) is needed since it has been identified. Filed.

Councilwoman Frische reminded Council that at the last City Council meeting, there was a letter from Service-Safety Director Martin about Columbia Gas and asked if there is any more information on it to explain to the public on the rate increase. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that he reached out to a Columbia Gas Governmental Affairs Associate and that they are scheduled to come to Council the second meeting in January. Mayor Muryn added that it is a State-wide thing. It was a notice that went out to all of their users and not just a Findlay specific notification.

Councilman Bauman provided an statement of his eligibility to be on City Council while holding an Administrative position with Congressman Latta's Office:

In light of recent questions regarding my eligibility to hold public office, I thought I would take this opportunity to refer you to the U.S. House of Representatives Ethics Manual, the Holding Local Office section, which can be found on pages 213 and 214.

"At times House employees will wish to hold an elected or appointed local government office. While there is no statutory provision or House rule that absolutely prohibits a House employee from holding local office while remaining on the House payroll, the applicable provisions of state or local law on eligibility for office must be consulted. In addition, House employees must take care to avoid any undertaking that is inconsistent with congressional responsibilities."

"A staff member considering running for or serving in a local office should first consult with his or her employing member on the matter and should refrain from doing so if the member objects."

Because as the manual states, there is no federal statutory provision or House rule that precludes my service as a member of this body, it would seem the deciding factor would be my employing member's preference. Given that Congressman Latta administered my first oath of office at the onset of my first term, one can conclude with almost certainty what his feeling would be on this topic.

Please also be advised that on the first two occasions in which I sought to serve on City Council I consulted with the Law Director regarding the presence of any applicable state and local laws relating to this issue.

If I may, I would again call your attention to the U.S. House of Representatives Ethics Manual, in the Campaign Work by House Employees section, whereby the Hatch Act is specifically referenced on page 145.

"Executive branch personnel are subject to restrictions on partisan political activity by the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. § 7321 et seq.), but those restrictions do not apply to congressional employees."

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have additional comments or questions you may direct them to the appropriate government agency.

Filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Wobser: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2025 at 4:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building beside the Mayor's Office.

agenda: 6815 Interchange renovation of that interchange

Councilman Bauman moved to adjourn City Council at 7:25pm, seconded by Councilman DeArment. All were in favor. Filed.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM