

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 5, 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL of 2024-2025 Councilmembers

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

ABSENT: Hellmann

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel explained that he is the Council President Pro-Tem tonight because the Mayor is out of town and when the Mayor is out, the President of Council becomes Acting Mayor and he becomes President Pro-Tem. Filed.

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

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

ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

Councilman Palmer moved to accept the February 20, 2024 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman DeArment. All were in favor. Filed.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

Councilman Wobser moved to replace the following on tonight’s agenda, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

REPLACEMENTS:

- 1. Ordinance No. 2024-033 – first 2024 Capital Improvement appropriation (*LEGISLATION section*)
 - header: CAPITAL
 - SECTION 1:

- FROM: Water Fund	\$ 451,000.00
TO: WTP Roof Replacement (2024) #35740800	\$ 451,000.00
- FROM: Sewer Fund-Stormwater Restricted Account	\$ 25,000.00
TO: 2024 Manhole Adjustment Program #35641300	\$ 25,000.00

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Muryrn – Developmental Disabilities Awareness month.

WHEREAS: The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities was established in October 1952; and,

WHEREAS: The mission and purpose of Ohio’s county boards of developmental disabilities remain as strong as ever, with county boards continuing to provide vital supports and resources to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families; and,

WHEREAS: The more than 700 people with developmental disabilities served by the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people; and,

WHEREAS: The most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone’s active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual’s contribution; and,

WHEREAS: Policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and opportunities offered that allow people with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible in our community; and

WHEREAS: We encourage all citizens to foster and support such opportunities that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities.

NOW THEREFORE, I Christina M. Muryrn, Mayor of the City of Findlay, Ohio, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as:
 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in Findlay, and offer full support to efforts that assist people with disabilities to make choices that enable them to live successful lives and realize their potential. I further encourage all citizens to join in this celebration by spreading awareness of the many contributions offered by people with developmental disabilities in our community. Filed.

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 011-2024 (*Deidre Ramthun retirement*) **requires one (1) reading** *first reading - adopted*
 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DEIDRE RAMTHUN FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF HER SERVICES TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

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

Discussion:

City Engineer Kalb, City Auditor Staschiak, and Councilman Bauman all provided comments.

Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, 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:

Kim Meador (1895 Jessica Drive) – oil ditch update

Ms. Meador lives in West Park. The petition she provided Council is a handout of what she is talking and is outlined in light green. In October, the Mayor came to their block watch meeting and asked them if they would help her get this petition to get the ditch cleaned up. She has worked on this since November, first finding out that there were three (3) ditches instead of just one (1). The first ditch goes through the wetlands and into Oak Woods, but that she is not going to discuss with Council as this time. The second one is Aurand Run that is scheduled for work in 2025 that goes under 75. Her understanding from talking to Mr. Parker is that it comes out from under Bliss and has nothing to do with Oil Ditch. It comes out from Carlin through Bliss under 75 and goes down 75. It is something that can be worked on in 2025. Oil Ditch runs all through Findlay, but that this petition is for the area that they are working on. It has been petitioned numerous times. It has been on petition since 2017 with funds of one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) that the Mayor provided to be put aside to have it cleaned up. At first, the neighborhood thought it was an EPA problem because of an oil spill there, but was cleaned up with the EPA archiving it in 2015, so it is known that that problem was taken care of. It is not on the EPA's list right now as one of the top five (5) spots here in Findlay. That has been resolved. They then looked at a few other things and that she thinks there is another lawsuit, so the neighborhood talked to the Mayor who told them that she did not think there is a lawsuit. So, they did some more digging and found out that yes, there is. Mayor Muryn called and talked with one of the Commissioners who called around and called her right back telling her that yes there is a lawsuit that has been pending with Centrex Plastics. She then asked the Commissioner who she needed to contact about it in which she did so and obtained some information about it and where it stands today. It is in litigations with Centrex. The only reason this ditch has not been cleaned up since 2017 is over a bridge. There is a bridge that Centrex uses to get from their factory to the warehouse. It is in litigation because the bridge has to be knocked down in order to clean this ditch. On the second page of her handout, the properties that involve this are highlighted where the project begins and ends. All of it cannot be cleaned out because of the litigation with this bridge. That is where it stands today. She asked them why it requires eminent domain to just knock the bridge down and that they could simply put up another bridge. The Mayor had asked her where this stands today, so that is her update to give to the Mayor.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked Ms. Meador who “we” is when she talks about litigation. She asked if that is with the City. Mr. Meador replied no it is in the County Prosecuting Attorney's hands. The County has had this since 2017 and has been going back and forth.

Councilman DeArment asked if this ditch can be cleaned with the bridge in place. He asked if the bridge has to be taken out. City Engineer Kalb replied he is not sure as this is a County petition ditch. The County is in charge of maintaining and cleaning the ditch. He cannot speak to why the bridge needs to be removed.

Councilwoman Frische noted that regardless if it is a County thing or not, water has been backing up in West Park since 2017 within the City limits and asked if there is a way the City can work with County to help move this along as the City has an interest in its citizens that are being impacted, if in fact cleaning that ditch is going to fix that water issue which is what the impression has been for several years. City Engineer Kalb replied that he will never say that it will solve the problems one hundred percent (100%) and that he cannot guarantee one way or another. Any little help with that would improve any kind of drainage movement through there.

Councilman Greeno asked Ms. Meador if the County mentioned why the bridge is to come down. Ms. Meador replied no. Councilman Greeno asked if there was any conversation about that at all. Ms. Meador replied that they did not want to talk to her about that. Councilman Greeno replied that it is unusual that a bridge has to be torn down to clean a ditch. Ms. Meador replied she does not know why either and that it is not that big of a bridge. She does not know what the problem is.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the City can reach out to the County about this. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that every two (2) months or so, the City reaches out to County Engineer Doug Cade asking for a status update and what the City can do to help. The City has money reserved to help facilitate it. The City is actively trying to keep this on the front burner, but that they keep getting the litigation answer. There is no good answer at this point, but not for lack of trying to keep it on the front burner.

Councilman DeArment asked if it is a culvert or a bridge. He asked if it really is a bridge. City Engineer Kalb replied that from what he remembers being out there on a previous project, it's a box culvert type thing. So if they are cleaning the ditch, they will have to bench it back and put rip wrap down. It probably deals with the grading. He does not believe it is a pre-stretch bridge and is more of a box culvert. Councilman DeArment replied that it seems like they should be able to clean it without tearing it down.

Councilman Russel asked if a follow up conversation could take place with County Engineer Cade to find out about that restriction and give Ms. Meador and Council some answers on why the rest of it cannot be cleaned with the bridge in place. He would like some follow up on it. City Engineer Kalb replied that Ms. Meador has talked with Kyle Parker, so he will again talk with him since he is heading that project to find out the ins and outs on it. Ms. Meador replied that she has also talked with the Commissioner, but that he will be leaving office soon. City Engineer Kalb replied that Kyle is the Project Manager on this, so he will get with him. Ms. Meador replied that he has all the pictures that she has taken of all the ditches.

Councilman Wobser thanked Ms. Meador for all her hard work and putting all the information together on it to bring this to light. Filed.

Haydee Sadler (220 Defiance Ave) – freedom of speech and smart cities

During the last Council meeting on February 20, 2024, she challenged this Administration, and Council as the elected officials, reminding everyone of the republican values the community stands on. In that ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, she requested Mayor Muryn's resignation, but rather than letting her speak, she was gavelled down by President of City Council John Harrington for salacious speech. Salacious meaning obscene, grossly, indecent. In the landmark case of New York Times versus Sullivan 1964, the United States Supreme Court stated that first amendment rights protect freedom of speech. Judges wrote: this nation is founded on the profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues shall be uninhibited robust and wide open, and that it may well include vehement, caustic and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials. Council and the Administration do not have to like it, but she is well within her rights to speak freely against the policies of this Administration. When our forefathers wrote freedom of speech as number one, it was by design.

Next, she spoke on smart cities. She addressed the issue that has also been denied by the Administration. She took a close look at PlanningNext, the firm out of Columbus that facilitated Findlay's strategic plan. She shared some highlights of projects they are working on. All these cities have smart city initiatives and are smart city driven:

- Cuyahoga County. According to Clevelandohio.gov, Cleveland is part of the smart city accelerator. Cleveland is to receive technical support to develop a smart city strategic plan.
- University City of Missouri. This city is a pilot program for smart cities. In 2020, they received a technology company completed the test for smart city technology.
- Knox County, Tennessee. Part of Knoxville's smarter cities partnership and launched in 2013 with the grant from IBM. Knoxville is prepping for 5G and smart city initiatives.
- Wayne County: Part of the thirty-three (33) smart mobility corridor. A corridor to conduct real time, real testing that can transmit real time testing.
- Montgomery, Alabama. Piloted a rubicon city which is technology for a smart city.
- Dayton, Ohio. 2020 Dayton Ohio's Oregon district in the City of Middleton will be the latest to go online as smart cities or technology that uses interconnected sensors to gather information and manage assets.

A few other cities for PlanningNext: Lebanon, Ohio, Overland Park, Kansas, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama all have smart city initiatives. While Mayor Muryn continues to deny, her research proves otherwise that Findlay is building a smart city. She asked if it is a coincidence that the Nordic Edge smart city road map lines up almost perfectly with Findlay, Ohio's strategic plan. From the words attractive city and connected city to an active community. She asked if it is a coincidence that all the globalist companies that are being used in Findlay for its infrastructure such as MetroNet's 5G and Suez North America for its water area are all smart cities infrastructure driven. She asked if it is a coincidence that Findlay's smart electric meters and smart water meters are produced by companies that connect to the internet of things and use real time data. She asked if it is a coincidence that software used to run these devices, a part of the meshwire network that connects us all in real time for smart cities. She asked if it is a coincidence that PlanningNext, who prepared Findlay's strategic plan . . . President Pro-Tem Russel interrupted informing Ms. Sadler that she has thirty (30) seconds left of her ORAL COMMUNICATIONS . . . Ms. Sadler continued: has prepared plans for cities with smart city initiatives. She asked if it is a coincidence that the U.S. Department of Transportation invested in the smart city challenge won by Columbus, Ohio. It is the home of the implementation plan and is the home of PlanningNext. She asked that from this information if it can be proven that Findlay is not building a smart city. She asked how many coincidences there will be before the City admits that they are following the Nordic Edge road map to smart sustainable cities. President Pro-Tem Russel informed Ms. Sadler that her four (4) minutes were up. Filed.

Michael Arabucki (500 Fox Run Road) – new park and wrongdoings in our city

For the first time last week, he watched the City Council meeting on YouTube when he heard John Harrington telling somebody that if he didn't like their tone or whatever, he'd have them removed from the meeting. Actually, he thinks Mr. Harrington should resign because of that. Per the first amendment, Council cannot take away rights. Secondly, he asked to the rest of City Councilmembers if they understand the first amendment and why no one else said anything. Lastly to the park, he asked if he is correct that one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) is being requested for a study of the new park. He asked if the City is going to put out one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for a study and what the chances are that it'll get turned down.

Discussion:

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel noted that in Council's Rules of Procedure under public communications, WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS and ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, there are some communications that are not appropriate for Council meetings such as promoting of political candidates. Another is simple advertising. Under part V of this is other prohibitive remarks which is defined as any person who causes actual disruption by making personal attacks, slanderous remarks or disruptive conduct while addressing Council shall be barred from further participation in the meeting by the presiding officer unless permission to continue is granted by a majority vote of Councilmembers present. The purpose of City Council meetings are to conduct statutorily required City business and that it is would not be an infringement on freedom of speech by having these restrictions on comments that are applicable or allowable at a City Council meeting. Council cannot tell the public what they can or cannot say in the public square, but that in Council meetings, these rules control the discourse which is what Council President Harrington was remarking at the last meeting. With that, Council will move on to the next ORAL COMMUNICATIONS. Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating that she has a question/comment. President Pro-Tem Russel continued announcing the next ORAL COMMUNICATIONS name. Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating that she has a question/comment since President Pro-Tem Russel was able to make a statement to the citizens, then she would like to make a statement. President Pro-Tem Russel called upon Councilwoman Frische to speak. She apologized to Mr. Arabucki for what he has to see here in this Council (*speaking to Mr. Arabucki in the audience*).

Council should and will, if there is proper Council people in office as president and president pro-tem, give people their constitutional right and that Mr. Arabucki is correct in the statement that he said, and that she fully supports him and that she tried to say that, but that if he has one more comment since he did not use his four (4) minutes, she would be glad to hear it on the record (*audience clapping*). President Pro-Tem Russel again introduced the next ORAL COMMUNICATIONS . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating point of order . . . President Pro-Tem Russel again called the next ORAL COMMUNICATIONS up to the podium . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating point of order, here we go again. President Pro-Tem Russel called Ms. Ewing to the podium . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted asking Ms. Ewing to please give one moment to Mr. Arabucki that he would greatly appreciate it. President Pro-Tem Russel struck the gavel stating Councilwoman Frische is out of order . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating that President Pro-Tem Russel is out of order and that this is ridiculous and asked to please let Mr. Arabucki speak. Acting Mayor Harrington stated that per the rules, it has to be a majority of Council . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating that he is not Council President tonight and is Mayor. She asked what he said (*asking Mr. Arabucki in the audience*). Mr. Arabucki in the audience replied that Council's policies do not overrule everyone's first amendment rights (*audience clapping*). This is a public meeting. He asked Acting Mayor Harrington if he will hold the City harmless if there was a Federal lawsuit and if he would indemnify the City. Acting Mayor Harrington replied that he will not make any comments. Filed.

Laura Ewing – Ordinance No. 2024–032

Ms. Ewing is a Planner with the Hancock Regional Planning Commission. She is before Council this evening to discuss and answer any questions about Ordinance No. 2024-032. On February 8, 2024, the City Revolving Loan Fund Committee reviewed and approved a five (5) year loan in the amount of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) as requested by Beckett's Burger Bar Findlay. This ordinance appropriates and approves that loan. The City Revolving Loan Fund uses Federal funds that originated with HUD. The Loan Fund does not use any City of Findlay funds. As has been practiced in the past, they are requesting that City Council waive the three (3) readings and pass the ordinance on an emergency basis. This is so the loan can be completed in a timely manner and be closed by March 22nd or March 29th.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council that he serves as an ex-officio member on the board as a voting member. It was nice to see the RLF Fund get used again. It has been some time. He emphasized that there has been a lot of talk in the community, particularly from the Economic Development at the Alliance that they want to see incentives. This is a phenomenal incentive program. Basically, the purpose of the RLF Fund is when there are gaps. It is gap funding. When someone buys a business, growing a business, or is trying to do something that the City wants to encourage and the banks won't fund the entire project, they come to the RLF Fund through the Hancock Regional Planning and ask for City monies to augment those funds. In this case, there is a specific percentage. The rates are very discounted. As Jim Ferguson stated in some of these meetings, they are supposed to give money to people that nobody is going to give money to because they want to see it happen. He wants to put that in Council's mind that they do have a phenomenal incentive program here that he would like to see HRPC promote it a lot more, particularly with the balances in that account right now. There is a lot of money that should be used for this that should not be given up for anything other than RLF type incentives. It is a great thing that got many through COVID and a few other things. Filed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

McComb Mayor Cathy Schroll – administer Village of McComb income tax collection services

McComb Mayor Schroll is thanking the City of Findlay for considering McComb's request to have the City of Findlay provide income tax collection services to the Village of McComb. Nearly three (3) years ago, their current Fiscal Officer reached out to the Findlay Income Tax Department via email to inquire about services they could provide for tax collection. She was informed that Findlay was in the process of researching new software and might entertain adding McComb once the software was installed. They had a long-standing Tax Administrator and that they were beginning to explore options if and when needed for the future. On October 9, 2023, without notice, their Tax Administrator resigned during a Council meeting. The following morning, the Village contacted City of Findlay Income Tax Administrator Price to see if the City of Findlay would consider taking on McComb as had previously been discussed. Ms. Schroll sent a letter to the City of Findlay Income Tax Board on October 18, 2023 requesting consideration to administer McComb's income tax collection services. McComb's Fiscal Officer and Mayor Schroll attended the City of Findlay Income Tax Board meeting on November 1, 2023 where the tax board voted not to accept the Village of McComb, but still wanted additional information. It was discussed that a special meeting in December took place in which the Village of McComb held out hope that the City of Findlay would be open to accept McComb. Unfortunately, the City of Findlay Tax Board meeting did not materialize and the Village of McComb waited until their next scheduled meeting on January 11, 2024. At that meeting, the vote was to accept the Village of McComb with additional information still being requested by the City of Findlay Tax Board. The requested information dealt with RITA and CCA who handles tax administration. In October, the Village of McComb looked at both options and decided that they preferred the convenience and personal service the City of Findlay would provide to their residents. For example, if someone had to call in to speak to someone at the Findlay Income Tax Department, it is likely they would just talk with fewer people or the same person. RITA and CCA are very large companies, and it would be just a name and a different person every time. The City of Findlay would be the best scenario for McComb's taxpayers who are used to personal service when needed. Also, with the close proximity to McComb, this would make the transition less stressful for their residents. The McComb Council passed Ordinance No. 2024-02 on February 12, 2024 authorizing the McComb Mayor to enter into a tax collection services agreement with the City of Findlay. Ms. Schroll attended the City of Findlay Council meeting on February 20, 2024 in which she appreciated City of Findlay Council's attentiveness to this critical matter. Unfortunately, due to meeting time constraints that started nearly six (6) months ago, it has now become a matter of utmost importance for McComb's small village who relies almost exclusively on their income taxes for revenue. The Village of McComb sincerely feels that working together would be a win-win for both entities as many of the taxpayers may be filing with both the City of Findlay and McComb. If the City of Findlay were to take on the Village of McComb with an estimated eight hundred (800) taxpayers, it would only be a two and thirty-five hundredths percent (2.35%) addition to the City of Findlay's current thirty-four thousand (34,000) accounts. Realizing that this is a service agreement and that there are costs associated with this collection, the Village of McComb is willing to pay those associated costs. As the Village of McComb is now approaching tax collection deadlines, it is their hopes that the City of Findlay will consider this request in a timely manner. Ordinance 2024-025 received its first reading during the 2/20/24 City Council meeting.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische moved to read the letter in its entirety, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes = 7; nays= 2. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

President Pro-tempore Russel – Ad-Hoc Committee on 2024-2025 Council Rules of Procedure Review

President Pro-tempore Russel is appointing an Ad-Hoc Committee to review Council’s current Rules of Procedures. He is appointing the following members to serve on this committee: Josh Palmer (chairman), Dan DeArment, Dennis Hellmann. The creation of this Ad-Hoc Committee requires Council’s confirmation.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser moved to approve the formation of this Ad-Hoc Committee, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke.

Councilwoman Frische asked for the reason for redoing Council’s Rules of Procedures since it was just completed. She asked for the detail of the agenda. Councilman Russel replied that most everyone can agree that the last City Council meeting was not their finest hour. After the meeting, he heard from eight (8) of the ten (10) Councilmembers requesting that an AD-HOC COMMITTEE be called. The purpose of Council meetings are to conduct City Council business as required under Ohio Revised Code, therefore, he is calling for the formation of this AD-HOC COMMITTEE. Councilwoman Frische asked what the eight (8) of the ten (10) Councilmembers are trying to accomplish by re-opening Council’s Rules of Procedure. She asked what the goal of reopening it is. Councilman Russel replied to ensure that meetings run in the smoothest way possible and to ensure that . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted asking if it is to change rules. Councilman Russel replied that is correct. Councilwoman Frische asked if it is because of the citizens. Councilman Russel replied because eight (8) of ten (10) Councilmembers asked that he form an AD-HOC COMMITTEE. Councilwoman Frische asked if one (1) of the three (3) members on the AD-HOC COMMITTEE could inform her on what the goal is and if it is to try to not allow citizens to speak, trying to change how the Council President operates, or what. She asked what the goal is. She would like to know what the eight (8) Councilmember’s concerns are that are enough to address Council’s Rules of Procedure yet again.

Councilman DeArment replied that the committee would like to improve the public input process. City Auditor Staschiak replied stating with that being said, he would like to share something that is a concern for him that Council changed in their rules some time ago. Findlay has active, aware, and intelligent citizens in the City that have expressed their views several times in the past on projects that the City has done, sometimes major projects such as downtown improvements, bump outs, etc., some even going to vote. Council changed their rule, which doesn’t make sense to him as an administrator and an elected official, and that the public deserves to know that if someone objects and writes a letter to Council that is properly named, addressed and is a Findlay resident, that objection is not read into the record unless a majority of Council that is voting probably against the objection, allows it to be read into the record. The end result of that has been many topics that people in the community object to. This are no historic records of their objections. As an elected official who is concerned and sees that happen and loves history, it is unfortunate. It is his hopes that this committee would take a look at that issue as well because there would be some benefit in reconsidering how Council approaches letters even when they object to what the City might be doing. He offers his comments respectfully and objectively for Council’s consideration.

Ayes = 7, Nays = 2. Motion to accept the formation of this AD-HOC COMMITTEE is adopted. Filed.

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Findlay Arco Incorporated, located at 1831 Fostoria Avenue, Findlay, Ohio for C1 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James H. Mathias, Chief of Police – A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:
Sukhjinder Singh

Councilman Wobser moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

Hancock Regional Planning Commission (HRPC) Director Matt Cordonnier – City of Findlay Revolving Loan Fund request for appropriation (Beckett’s Burger Bar Findlay)

On February 8, 2024, the City of Findlay Revolving Loan Fund Committee awarded a loan to Beckett’s Burger Bar Findlay in the amount of \$120,000.00. The funding will provide funds for the purchase of equipment at 1801 Broad Avenue for their restaurant. The anticipated closing date is March 29, 2024. Legislation to appropriate funds on an emergency basis in order to accommodate the timeline of business and bank that are involved in the financing of the project. The appropriation of City RLF funds have historically been passed on an emergency basis in order to accommodate the time sensitive needs of businesses. Ordinance No. 2024-032 was created.

FROM: City of Findlay Revolving Loan Fund \$ 120,000.00
TO: Beckett’s Burger Bar Findlay, project no. 31941400 \$ 120,000.00

Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – first capital improvement appropriation of 2024

The City of Findlay is currently working through the ten (10) year Capital Improvements Plan with department heads and the City Auditor’s Office to ensure a well-thought out plan. There are a couple of projects and equipment that will need to be moved on in order to keep the project moving in a positive direction and take advantage of the current pricing. The projects listed below are projects that have long lead times or have deadlines in order to complete the project in a timely manner. All of the projects and equipment are listed below (as well as attached document) and included in the 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and/or City Engineer to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for construction, as well as appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-033 was created.

FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account \$ 249,000.00
TO: Street Department #22040000-other \$ 169,500.00
TO: Police Department #21012000-other \$ 50,000.00
TO: Dispatch #21015000-other \$ 30,000.00

FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 80,000.00
TO: Water Pollution Control #25061000-other	\$ 80,000.00
FROM: Sewer Fund - Stormwater Restricted Account	\$ 137,500.00
TO: Street Department #22040000-other	\$ 137,500.00
FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 279,994.00
TO: Patrol Car Camera System #31940700	\$ 54,494.00
TO: FFD No. 1 Air Condition Replacement #31940900	\$ 25,500.00
TO: Airport Shop Roof Replacement #35241000	\$ 20,000.00
TO: Riverside Toy and Surface #31941100	\$ 150,000.00
TO: West Park Toy #31941200	\$ 30,000.00
FROM: Water Fund	\$ 451,000.00
TO: Roof Replacement #35740800	\$ 451,000.00
FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 75,000.00
TO: 2024 Manhole Adjustment Program #35641300	\$ 75,000.00
FROM: Stormwater Account	\$ 25,000.00
TO: 2024 Manhole Adjustment Program #35641300	\$ 25,000.00

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak asked if there is a target date for the capital improvements meeting. He would like to share that with the new Municipal Advisor. City Engineer Kalb replied that he has been talking with Councilman Wobser on it. A meeting will be set tonight. He is ready to go on it. It takes awhile to get everything ready. Once the City Auditor gets his books closed, then he can get his revenues and get his starting year balance. It is a time consuming thing on his end, but he is ready and will work out a date on it that all of Council will be invited to.

Councilman Wobser added that a couple of items for the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE are coming up tonight and are trying to decide where it fits in to get it done as soon as possible. It is anticipated to take approximately an hour to go through it and will get is scheduled within the next week or so. It will be an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting, but that all of Council is invited to attend if they would like.

City Auditor Staschiak noted that the Municipal Advisor is scheduled to be in town on the 11th as he has a meeting with the Mayor earlier in the day, and then a meeting with Bond Counsel that afternoon. It would be convenient to have it that day since they are coming from out of town. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – 2024 annual street resurfacing/curb repairs, contract A (concrete), project no. 32840100

By authorization of Ordinance No. 2024-009, a bid opening was held for this project on February 22, 2024. Bids were received from four (4) potential contractors with bid amounts ranging from \$1,015,302.47 to \$1,164,632.98. The lowest and best bid was received from Newcomer Concrete Services Inc. of Norwalk, Ohio. This is the concrete portion of the annual street resurfacing program that the City bids out annually. The asphalt portion of the work will be appropriate in an upcoming City Council meeting. Legislation to appropriate and transfer funds for construction, inspection and contingency to commence the concrete portion of the project is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-034 was created.

FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvement Restricted Account	\$ 1,150,000.00
TO: 2024 Annual Street Resurfacing/Curb Repairs, Project No. 32840100	\$ 1,150,000.00

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that the City has contracted with Newcomer Concrete Services Inc. again and asked if they are ready to go and if an early start for them would put the City in a position to potentially do some add-ons in the summer/fall if economic conditions warrant it. City Engineer Kalb replied that right now, they are planning to start on the 21st if this is approved on the 20th. If so, the ordinance for this will be able to receive two (2) readings, but that he will have to get contracts turned around in a day. Newcomer is wanting to take advantage of the warm weather and would have the City as the first project for them this year. There is a lot of work out there right now and also a lot of private work, so the City will not see prices go down any faster because there already is a lot of work out there right now. The sooner he can get them rolling and moving on projects, the sooner he can get asphalt in and that there are plans to do a couple of alternates with that. Councilman Russel pointed out that this is standard procedure and asked if passed tonight, if they could start before the 21st. City Engineer Kalb replied yes. They could start saw cutting, bringing in cones, etc. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – 2/5/24 Immigration Task Force meeting minutes. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request for an introduction municipal advisory services, Andrew Brossart.

We recommend no recommendations.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on February 21, 2024 to discuss West Park capital project review and update on specific addresses identified by West Park Block Watch.

We recommend:

- *informational meeting*
- *Kalb presentation to be attached to minutes*

Councilman Palmer moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel thanked City Engineer Kalb and his team for their work in putting together the presentation. It was a very good meeting that lasted about an hour and a half. He tips his hat to Robin Welly and her group for participating in the meeting. He left the meeting feeling good that a lot of questions were answered and that it was a successful meeting.

Councilwoman Frische asked if any samples were taken today being that it was a rainy day. City Engineer Kalb replied that he did not, but that he talked with the Sewer Department. He is unsure what day it was, but that it was after the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting in that there was another rain event when samples were collected. Since the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting, he communicated with the Sewer Department Superintendent who informed him that they are collecting samples when they can.

All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on February 21, 2024 to discuss the Hancock County Commissioners request concerning Eastgate (Hickory Lane) Subdivision sanitary sewer.

We recommend the County to continue to explore grant funding for the construction of an 8" zero (0) gravity sewer estimated to cost \$850,000. The committee was generally in support of the Engineering concept.

Councilman Palmer moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

Discussion:

Councilman DeArment noted that this was a good meeting with Commissioner Pepple and his staff. Eastgate is on the south side of 224 across from the Birchaven campus. There are fifteen (15) properties on Hickory Lane that use grinder pumps and a pressure system that currently feeds into the City's sanitary system. The system is owned and maintained by the County. It is an old system with increasing maintenance costs. Their preferred option is to install an eight inch (8") gravity sewer at a cost of eight hundred thousand to eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$800,000-\$850,000). This would be the County Commissioners project. They are trying to secure grant funding, so once the debt is retired, they would like to transfer that sewer line to the City. The committee was generally in agreement with it. It was a good project, but has a lot of details to work out. There is no further action required on the City's part at this time.

All were in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 011-2024

See page 1 (RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS section)

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-017 (HAN-Greenway Trail Phase II) requires three (3) readings

third reading - adopted

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

Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-017 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-020 (Blanchard Street waterline, Phase II- OPWC) requires three (3) readings

third reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHERE REQUIRED AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BLANCHARD STREET WATERLINE, PHASE II-OPWC, PROJECT NO. 35740500, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman DeArment. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-020 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-021 (*sale of 515 Prospect St parcel no. 570000921770*) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading-adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO SELL CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 515 PROSPECT STREET (PARCEL NO. 570000921770) BY PUBLIC AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-021 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-024 (*administrative leave for City employees – total solar eclipse*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO CREATE A BANK OF EIGHT (8) HOURS FOR EACH FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO FOR THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE EVENT ON APRIL 8, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked what the difference is with it being administrative leave versus an extra holiday. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the reason it is administrative leave is because it can be put into a bucket and does not deal with overtime when talking about holidays or accruals, or anything like that when dealing with vacations. Some employees are going to be off that day and do not want them to feel obligated to use their vacation time that they have earned or accrued overtime. Some employees, because of their role, are going to have to work that day and did not want to get into the situation of paying someone holiday pay and someone staying home, and felt this was fair and equitable to be able to provide for all employees, regardless of what their role is, eight (8) hours of administrative pay. It is fair and equitable and is not overtime or vacation accrual. He worked with Deputy Auditor Sampson to create a bucket that will be used this year for those that stay home that day because their office is closed and will be using that eight (8) hours that day. Firefighters, Police Officers, Public Works employees who will be working that day will be paid for the hours they work that day for the services they are working and will have eight (8) hours at another time in the future to use within 2024 in order to try to keep equity across the table without creating holiday pay or time and a half pay, or anything that would have to be worked out with labor practices.

Councilman Palmer asked if this needs to be passed tonight. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the timing of this being adopted at the next meeting will work out. For clerical purposes, it would be better to have it adopted sooner rather than later so that the City Auditor's Office can create the buckets and establish it. This ordinance was timed out so that there would be enough time before April 8, 2024 to get this done.

Councilwoman Frische moved to suspend rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-024 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-025 (*administer Village of McComb income tax collection services*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF McCOMB TO ADMINISTER, ENFORCE, AND COLLECT TAXES LEVIED BY McCOMB ON CERTAIN INCOMES AND NET PROFITS OF RESIDENTS, NON-RESIDENTS, AND BUSINESS ENTITIES OPERATING OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN McCOMB, OHIO IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID VILLAGE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked if it would be beneficial at this point to get this put into place in that April 15th is looming. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that it would be beneficial to have it passed tonight so that she can get with the software vendor to get everything squared away because they cannot do anything with the software vendor until this is passed, and cannot do anything with McComb until she has gotten with the software vendor. It would be beneficial to have it passed tonight, but it is Council's choice.

Councilman Russel asked what kind of ramp up time is needed upon passing of this ordinance. He asked how long it will take before Findlay can begin accepting returns from McComb. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that will rely a lot on how long it takes the software vendor to add all of the McComb accounts to Findlay's software. They made it seem like it would not take very long to add McComb's few accounts to Findlay's system and will be a matter of being able to do that. Councilman Russel asked if McComb has been working with the software vendor in anticipation of a positive outcome so that McComb is prepared to take advantage of this. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that she has been working with the software vendor to make sure that they have all of McComb's information in the event that it does pass.

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische thought from the last meeting that the best thing to do would be to help out McComb and get them on Findlay's system, but also think it is important in the City Auditor's view to make sure numbers are adding up, but that has not been done. Findlay has multiple villages that they handle. She asked Income Tax Administrator Price if she has worked on any of those numbers. Income Tax Administrator Price replied yes. She has a couple proposals of service fee scenarios that she hopes to bring to the next Income Tax Board meeting. Councilwoman Frische asked if they are considerably different compared to where we are at. Income Tax Administrator Price replied yes. It is going to make more revenue for the City, but not to where we lose any of them.

City Auditor Staschiak asked if McComb is aware so that they do not enter into something they might want to walk away from in that the City would have a busy year putting a lot of time into this. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that McComb is aware that the City is re-evaluating their services fee structure.

Councilman Palmer asked if the other villages that Findlay performs tax services for are aware of that as well. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that she has not informed them yet, however, in the annual contract, it is stated that the City is allowed to re-evaluate and restructure, but have to give McComb six (6) month's notice which is by June.

Councilman DeArment noted that the City Auditor noted that the City is taking some of them to court and asked if Ms. Price is looking at how it is structured to get reimbursed for City Lawyers to take them to court. He asked if those administrative fees have been looked at and also on collections. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that court costs are eventually turned back and charged to the taxpayer regardless if it is Findlay or a village. It is just the taxpayer paying for the court costs. Councilman DeArment asked about the Lawyers time. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that they typically just go through the City Law Director who signs garnishments, etc., but that can be re-evaluated if it is requested.

Councilwoman Frische asked what the cost is to bring a village online. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that they have not given her a quote yet, however, McComb has agreed to pay the startup fee and have said that with eight hundred (800) accounts, it would be minor. Councilwoman Frische asked if they have that in a form of a different contract than everybody else. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that when Findlay took on the new software vendor, the rest of the villages were already in the system, so in order to charge the existing villages, they are being built just for the 2023 regular billing process which is divided amongst the villages with the operating expenses total. The other villages are paying for the new software. Councilwoman Frische asked if there is an estimated cost. She feels like the Income Tax Department is flying blind with this. Income Tax Administrator Price replied that she cannot say because she has not received a quote for adding McComb.

Councilman Wobser asked if they have agreed to pay the start up costs. Income Tax Administrator Price replied yes. Councilman Wobser asked if the City is covered regardless. Income Tax Administrator Price replied yes. City Engineer Kalb added that he is dealing with this with the GIS that plays in with this too. When there is a system that is already built and are adding someone else in and do not know how much input or manipulation with the data needs to be done, if it is all hand placed in or can be directly uploaded in that some estimates are not given until they see the hard data and see how much hard work has to go into it. An estimate could be way off until it is known how much work has to be done. Business cannot be run that way because no one will go with that software if it is a guess every time. Once that data is obtained and McComb agrees to cover it, Income Tax Administrator Price will provides a quote from the vendor to McComb of how much it is going to cost to bring them into our system. It is tough to give a dollar amount to quote. Councilwoman Frische replied that good business practices would be to let McComb know what the City is charging and feels like both McComb and Findlay are flying blind. Numbers are being given to the software vendor, so somebody has to know something more in order to sign a contract and what the fee will be to start up. It is a contract that matches everybody else with the understanding that the City will re-evaluate in June and change everybody's rates to whatever the Income Tax Board agrees to. They deserve it and the City deserves it so it is known that everyone is on the same page so that it is collected and is a fair and reasonable number, and then the contract is separate. She asked if the ordinance is for the contract to match what is being done with other villages. Income Tax Administrator Price replied for their collection services. Councilwoman Frische asked if a resolution done for the other part on what they are agreeing to pay even though they do not know yet. Law Director Rasmussen replied that the City has collected taxes for other villages for a number of years. Councilwoman Frische replied that she is not questioning collecting. She is questioning the startup costs that the City is going to transfer to them to come into our new system. They do not know it. She does not know it. She does not have a problem with the contract. Law Director Rasmussen replied that he does not know that number either.

Councilman Bauman moved to call the question, Councilman DeArment seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that McComb Mayor Schroll is in the audience and has a question.

McComb Mayor Schroll introduced herself as the Mayor of McComb. In the letter that she sent to all of Council, she stated that the village of McComb is aware that there will be a start up cost for input. Since it is in the file, it is their word that they will pay the City of Findlay for whatever the cost will be to add their clients.

Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-025 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-027 (*extend current contracts for City insurance policies*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO TAKE BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AIRPORT LIABILITY, AUTOMOBILE, BOILER MACHINERY, CONTRACTOR'S EQUIPMENT, CRIME INSURANCE, POLICE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY, PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S ERRORS AND OMISSION LIABILITY, REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-028 (replace 2010 sanitary vactor) **requires three (3) readings**

second reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHERE REQUIRED AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT SANITARY VACTOR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Greeno asked if the money last year was to buy a vactor, but that there were no vactors available to buy at that time and asked if there is a vactor ready to purchase now. City Engineer Kalb replied yes. There is one waiting for the City to make the purchase. It came towards the end of the year, but that he could not get the money appropriated and decided to wait because they will hold it until the next year (this year). There is one readily available for immediate purchase.

Councilman Wobser asked if this was part of the 2023 capital budget. City Engineer Kalb replied yes. Money was appropriated for it last year but was never spent and went back into the account, and now have to re-appropriate it.

Councilman Greeno noted that since this is such a valuable piece of equipment for Water Pollution Control and Sewer Maintenance, he is going to make a motion to adopt it tonight.

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked if the cost changed from what was budgeted. City Engineer Kalb replied it went up approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from what was appropriated last year.

Councilman Wobser asked if this is replacing a vactor and if it is taking one out of service. City Engineer Kalb replied that the Sewer Department will have two (2) vactors. The 2010 will be rotated down to the Public Works Department because they use it on manholes. They have an older model (2004 or older) that will be auctioned through govDeals. The fleet will be updated throughout the whole City without having to purchase new ones. Councilman Wobser asked if the City will ultimately end up with two (2). City Engineer Kalb replied yes, the Sewer Department will have two (2). The Sewer Department has a storm one and a sanitary one. Public Works will take this old sanitary one. Councilman Wobser asked if that gives them their first and if the City will have a total of three (3). City Engineer Kalb replied in the whole City, there is a total of four (4) right now. One (1) at Water, two (2) at Sewer, and one (1) at Public Works. Councilman Wobser asked if the City uses all of them all the time. City Engineer Kalb replied the City is using them more and more with hydro-excavating and on emergency calls (fiber lines, telephone lines, etc.). They are being used more and more just to get repairs done as soon as possible.

Councilman Greeno clarified that the sanitary sewer vactors are used almost every day to clean sanitary sewer lines. There are miles and miles of sewers. The same with storm catch basins. Those are used every day by the Sewer Department.

Councilwoman Frische asked if they are intermixed. Since there are vactors in four (4) different departments, she asked if they are used by other departments. City Engineer Kalb replied that the water vactor should not be used for the sanitary sewer lines, but can be switched if there was an emergency situation such as the Public Works Department one would need to be used to do a repair which would be a simple call to the Public Works Department telling them that their vactor is needed right away for a major pipe that needs repaired. Councilwoman Frische asked if the sanitary vactor does more which is why it costs more. City Engineer Kalb replied they can do root cutting, jetting, etc. They do more than just suck up dirt. They do a lot of other work within the pipe itself.

Service-Safety Director Martin noted that the City is in the process of doing a City-wide evaluation of its fleet to look at economies of scale, if there is an opportunity to consolidate the four (4) vactors, possibly eliminating one and work through the logistics of optimizing the time that they are being utilized versus just sitting. The goal is to eliminate some things and create more efficiencies.

Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-028 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-029 (FEMA FY23 Assistance to Firefighters grant) **requires three (3) readings**

second reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Palmer pointed out that since this is just an application to file with the Department of Homeland Security, he is going to make a motion to adopt this tonight.

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

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked if this will help with certifying some of Findlay's Firefighters to be able to teach some of the classes out at the new STRICT Center. Service-Safety Director Martin replied yes. That is the intent behind this. Councilwoman Frische asked if a final plan has been put together and if it will be limited to just the City's staffing to do the training classes or if other agencies will be able to come in and do training without using Findlay's staffing. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that there have been conversations with the Ohio Fire Academy and the Ohio Chiefs, and with Bowling Green Fire School being just up the road, there are opportunities in the future for others to be able to utilize this space and train our City and County Firefighters together and bring in external training. The initial intent is for our Firefighters, our trainers, and our instructors to be able to instruct our individuals. This new training will train the trainers and then can have that cycle of training in the future be right here in Findlay.

Councilman Russel asked if there is an opportunity for County volunteers to also participate in this training or if that would be subsequent once our guys are trained. Service-Safety Director Martin replied this will train our Findlay Firefighters here, go through the train the trainer, and then the opportunity would subsequently be there for the Hancock County Firefighters.

Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-029 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-030 requires three (3) readings

first reading

(Strong Ave vacation - 60' unimproved ROW on the west side of Strong Ave north of Blanchard Ave)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN STREET (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE STRONG AVENUE VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-031 (Sixth St vacation - 15' unimproved ROW on the west side of Strong Ave) requires three (3) readings

first reading

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE SIXTH STREET VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-032 (Beckett's Burger Bar Findlay RLF) requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TO UTILIZE AWARDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Warnecke noted that she is on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Board who was able to sit down with Beckett's Burger Bar and discuss this coming in. It sounds like it will be a pretty exciting addition out there. They would like to do this with one reading so that it will align with the loans coming from the bank.

Councilwoman Warnecke moved to suspend rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilwoman Warnecke moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-032 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-033 (first 2024 Capital Improvement appropriation) requires three (3) readings

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHERE REQUIRED AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2024 DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT LIST, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR SAID CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-034 requires three (3) readings

first reading - adopted

(2024 annual street resurfacing/curb repairs, contract A (concrete) project no. 32840100)

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

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that this is done annually and is generally with Newcomer Concrete Services Inc. of Norwalk, Ohio who likes to get started early, especially with the warm weather to take care of as many street pavings as possible, including add-ons.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Greeno, Niemeyer. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-034 and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

City Auditor Staschiak requested a correction to be put into the record: the City has certain disclosure requirements on some of the bonds that are out there in that the disclosure requirements are Federal. The Mayor recently gave a speech and stated that the City started the year with a General Fund unappropriated balance of approximately thirty-three million four hundred thousand dollars (\$33,400,000) which is not correct. The correct amount the City started the year with was approximately thirty million five hundred thousand dollars (\$30,500,000). After budgeting, the City is starting this year with a budgeted unappropriated balance in January 2024 of twenty-seven million five hundred fifty-six thousand dollars (\$27,556,000). That large balance is primarily due to one-time funds from the windfalls in business tax through the happenings with a couple of corporations and large amounts of Federal dollars coming into the City's coffers. Had those things not happened, the City's balance would have been around fifteen to twenty million dollars (\$15,000,000-\$20,000,000) and nowhere near twenty-seven million dollars (\$27,000,000) and would have likely had a year of deficient spending. That is an important correction. Filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Frische had a recent conversation with Councilman Wobser about dissolving the PARKING AUTHORITY a couple of years ago. She asked if anyone recalls why that subcommittee was removed other than removing parking meters prior to that and that they just didn't really meet. She recalls Councilman Niemeyer and former Councilman Slough served on that committee. There is a lot happening in the downtown with parking and that the Service-Safety Director appears to be busy with a lot of things because she has had a couple parking issues coming up at the last quarter of last year that are still not resolved. One was that there was one hundred eighty-seven (187) individuals ticked for parking outside the lines on Main Street near Marathon because the lines were changed. That is not resolved. The other issue that parking is a 2-hour minimal parking that is not posted or known to the public in that someone cannot park more than two (2) hours in a given block area, even if someone is coming and going. She earned a parking ticket. There is also an appeals process that the Service-Safety Director did not know about, but that it is online. She paid her ticket because she did not have time to do that at the last minute. Those things, plus the fact that the County and the City are having some discussions on City and County employee parking with the new court building, she thinks the PARKING AUTHORITY needs to be brought back to work together to address the issues in the downtown. She asked if she needs to make a motion for this and that she would be glad to serve on a committee with who would be interested and/or if the public might be interested. It is an important discussion as there is a lot going on with downtown parking. She would love to hear the history of this if anyone has any input. Councilman Russel replied that the PARKING AUTHORITY had a bunch of different organizations in it. It was in the Codified Ordinances of the City of Findlay. When the PARKING AUTHORITY was eliminated, it had not met for probably a decade. It listed organizations as being part of the PARKING AUTHORITY that no longer existed in the City of Findlay. For that reason, Council thought it was best to eliminate the PARKING AUTHORITY ordinance in the City's Codified Ordinances. The consensus at that time was that any type of parking issue could be handled by the STREET, SIDEWALK AND PARKING COMMITTEE. If it needed to go to other working organizations, it would have been addressed at that time. Councilwoman Frische asked if her request of concern should go to the STREET, SIDEWALK AND PARKING COMMITTEE. Councilman Russel replied that was Council's reasoning at the time that the PARKING AUTHORITY was eliminated. Councilwoman Frische asked who chairs that. Councilman Russel replied Councilman Palmer chairs the STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PARKING COMMITTEE. Councilwoman Frische asked Councilman Palmer if he would be willing to take her request to that committee to help out the Service-Safety Director to lessen his load and have some more ears to help the parking downtown issues. Service-Safety Director replied that he appreciates Councilwoman Frische's comments and that she has emailed him with some of her issues with parking downtown, as well as the H lot, but that he has been very responsive to hers, as well as other individual's concerns. The City has been very active in conversations trying to address parking before the building to the west of the municipal building was built. The City has addressed the H and I lots and continues to work downtown to optimize the parking situation that has been presented to us. The City has been working actively with the Public Works Department to try resolve the different paint and sandblasting in front of Marathon that didn't work, etc. The City has continued to work on this and have not ignored the situation, and are making adjustments to optimize the parking downtown. It has nothing to do with his workload, his bandwidth or his time management that Councilwoman Frische did not get the answer she wanted. The City is working through it and are not ignoring it. He asked Councilwoman Frische to be patient. He is sorry that she got a ticket because she did not follow the ordinance. Councilwoman Frische replied that this is being made personal which is unfortunate. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that Councilwoman Frische is who is making this personal by bringing it up tonight. Councilwoman Frische replied no, she is not making it personal. She wants to support the Service-Safety Director and help him. The City did have a Parking Authority and there is a lot happening in downtown. The fact that she got a ticket for parking for thirty (30) minutes and leaving, and then coming back forty-five (45) minutes later and parking for an hour, but that she got a ticket for two (2) hours and twenty-three (23) minutes is silly. The public does not know that policy. Every sign that is posted in downtown says two (2) hour limit parking. It does not explicitly share that additional information in which motorists are getting tickets for. It is the same thing when motorists are getting tickets for parking on Main Street. While she agree that she followed up with Service-Safety Director Martin repeatedly, they went ahead and sandblasted and had asked him if the City as going to ticket motorists on Main Street. This is not an argumentative discussion and is supposed to be a constructive discussion. Bringing the committee back is only to help Service-Safety Director Martin and is not to threaten him in any way which is why she asked for it to go to the STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PARKING COMMITTEE if the City does not want to bring back the PARKING AUTHORITY. Her question before she and Service-Safety Director Martin went back and forth was to Councilman Palmer to see if he would be interested in having that discussion for the public and not for her. Councilman Palmer replied that he would be willing to have a committee meeting in which Service-Safety Director Martin would be invited to get proper information and decide what next steps will be.

Acting Mayor Harrington informed Council that he sent all Councilmembers an email informing them that he has been charged with appointing a Councilmember to the 911 Program Review Committee. It has previously been one (1) meeting a year, but that there are a couple of issues that need to be addressed. One being that the City will be transitioning into a NG911 System in which that committee needs to have a representative from the City on it. The Mayor will chair that meeting and will discuss any budgets, etc. at that time. He has not heard back from any Councilmember and had mention that if he did not hear back from anyone that he will assign someone. Councilman DeArment raised his hand to volunteer. He will let the Mayor know that Councilman DeArment will be the Council representative for that committee. There isn't a scheduled meeting, but as soon as one is scheduled, he will let Councilman DeArment know. Filed.

Councilman Wobser: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting on ~~Monday, March 11, 2024 – time to be determined~~. The next day, this meeting date was changed to Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 4:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1).
agenda: capital budget

President Pro-Tem Russel moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with no action to be taken after the Executive Session at 7:35pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser. Councilman Wobser moved to adjourn out of Executive Session at 7:50 pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Councilman Palmer moved to adjourn City Council at 7:51pm, seconded by Councilman DeArment. All were in favor.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM