

## FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 2, 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### ROLL CALL of 2024-2025 Councilmembers

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

**ABSENT:** President of Council Harrington, Wobser

President of Council Pro-Tem Russel notified Council that President of Council Harrington and Councilman Wobser informed him that they would not be in attendance tonight. Councilman Greeno moved to excuse President of Council Harrington and Councilman Wobser, 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. Filed.

### ACCEPTANCE/CHANGES TO PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

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

### ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

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

#### ADD-ONS:

1. Letter from City Engineer Kalb – West Park sanitary extension-septic removal, project no. TBD (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section**).
2. Ordinance No. 2024-046 – Sheetz/Hat Trick/Buchanan annexation – accept and approve the annexation (**LEGISLATION section**).
3. Ordinance No. 2024-047 – West Park sanitary extension-septic removal (project No. TBD) (**LEGISLATION section**).

### PROCLAMATIONS:

#### Mayor Muryn – Parkinson's Awareness Month

WHEREAS: Parkinson's disease affects one million people in the United States, it is the second most common neurodegenerative disease, is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, and is a leading cause of death according to the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that Parkinson's costs the United States \$58 billion every year, of which the federal government shoulders \$29 billion, leaving American families to cover the remaining \$29 billion every year. It is estimated that, by the year 2037, the number of people with Parkinson's in the U.S. will nearly double, and the disease will cost the United States at least \$79 billion every year; and

WHEREAS: The symptoms of Parkinson's disease can include movement issues such as balance, slowness in gait, "freezing" in place, speech and handwriting difficulties, and non-movement symptoms of depression, dementia and cognitive impairment, speech difficulties, losing the sense of smell or taste, and swallowing challenges, and a variety of other symptoms; and

WHEREAS: Numerous clinical drug trials and research by the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the Parkinson's Foundation, the Davis Phinney Foundation and others are working hand in hand with federal and state efforts to identify causes of Parkinson's in an effort to one day prevent Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS: More research and increased education and awareness and community support services are needed to find better treatments and a cure as well as maintain dignity for those living with the disease today.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christina M. Muryn, Mayor of the City of Findlay, Ohio, do hereby proclaim April 2024, as:

PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH

In Findlay, Ohio, and encourage citizens to increase their understanding of the disease and support people living with Parkinson's.

*discussion:*

Barbara Matheny accepted the proclamation stating that she is grateful for the opportunity to address City Council today to collectively recognize April once again as Parkinson's Awareness Month. She extended her heartfelt appreciation to the whole City of Findlay for joining communities worldwide in this important recognition. It is fitting that we commemorate this month coinciding with the birthday of Dr. James Patterson whose pioneering work laid the foundation for our understanding of this disease. One year ago, she embarked on a journey to cultivate a greater awareness and support for individuals living with Parkinson's. Today, she is proud to report on the strides that have been made in advancing this cause, including the formal founding of their non-profit organization, the Hancock County Parkinson's Network and throughout 2023, their efforts on raising awareness and providing education about Parkinson's. Those with Parkinson's achieved significant milestones including the first declaration of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. They also had radio spots, the newspaper covered them, and informal tables at key community locations. In collaboration with 50North, they hosted a free luncheon followed by an informative presentation on the big and loud program. They provided participants with a book from the Davis Phinney Foundation for free. They call it the Parkinson's bible. Their dedication to outreach extended beyond traditional channels with informational tables at local events such as farmers markets, Veterans Empowerment Fair, and other health fairs. They also launched some initiatives like the red tulip bulb fundraising sales symbolizing hope and unity within the community. Soon, the red tulips, the symbol for Parkinson's, will be blooming around town. Her tulips are about three inches (3") tall. As the founder of the Hancock County Parkinson's Network, she is proud to lead an organization committed to empowering individuals affected by Parkinson's and their caregivers. Their mission is to provide resources, education and support while fostering community awareness about the disease. This year, they continue to spread awareness through broader distribution of this book, and will embark on a new chapter with the very first inaugural Parkinson's and Power Walk scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> and hosted by 50North. This event illustrates their collective commitment to empowerment and understanding as they come together to acknowledge those living with Parkinson's. They have received overwhelming support already for this fundraiser, and she invites everyone to join them. More details are available on their website [hcparkinsonsnetwork.org](http://hcparkinsonsnetwork.org). This declaration will continue to advance their mission to improve the lives of the many people in the community who have Parkinson's disease. As an ambassador for the Davis Phinney Foundation for Parkinson's, she leaves Council with a quote from their website: *imagine living in a community where Parkinson's leadership is strong, where everyone living with Parkinson's, such as herself, has access to quality care, support and resources so that they can live well with Parkinson's every day, where people affected by Parkinson's have a sense of belonging and purpose, feel seen and supported and are engaged in civic life, are having a great quality of life despite having a chronic illness is prioritized by all.* This is a reality they hope to create in this community.

Mayor Muryn noted that part of their awareness campaign, and as part of the annual planting last fall and with the help of Linda DeArment, the City of Findlay planted red tulips on many City properties and around the welcome to the City of Findlay signs showing their support. The red tulips will spring up as part of the spring floral décor.

Councilman DeArment added that two thousand five hundred (2,500) red tulips planted to be exact. He is pleased to say that theirs are six inches (6") tall. He pointed out that Ms. Matheny has worked tirelessly for a year. He is proud of what she has accomplished. Filed.

**RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** none

**PETITIONS:** none

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Haydee Sadler – smart city awareness**

Ms. Sadler is before City Council tonight to continue her mission to inform Councilmembers and the public about smart cities and what they mean for the future. In order to implement a smart city or smart 15-minute city, local governments need to imagine how cities function. This vision can be found at the Mayor's Leadership Institute of Smart Cities on the United States Conference of Mayors website. Smart Cities are based on many things like the internet of things on data surveilling technology, but is also built with the narrative that it will help reduce greenhouse emissions by reducing electricity and heat production. It is said that in order to fight radically against climate change, City transformation is necessary for reducing emission of CO<sub>2</sub> by transportation and optimizing uses of buildings by increasing tree shade and tree canopies, which is why we have the Shade Tree Commission. Smart cities need expanded transportation options that are cleaner with more accessible mobility options such as e-scooters and greenway trails reallocating road space to pedestrians and cyclists, and investing in nature-based solutions must be pursued. Findlay is pursuing all these things because of the City's smart cities initiative, Findlay denies it is following. She has also raised concerns about radiation emission from all the smart infrastructure. Councilman Hellmann recently commented that he believes the radiation she brought to people's attention might be a scare tactic. The fact is that many health related problems brought forward through awareness campaigns such as breast cancer awareness, mental health awareness and Parkinson's Awareness Month. Other campaigns include anti-bullying campaigns, men's health campaigns, healthcare, and healthcare public awareness campaigns. Her focus on radiation being emitted by all the new smart infrastructure could probably be defined as an awareness campaign for the residents of the City of Findlay. The future a smart 15-minute city is a mechanism for surveillance and control that combines digital ID, central bank digital currency, vaccine passports, and carbon footprint tracking data through digital public infrastructure. While this has the potential to greatly benefit the people, it would require the people to have trust in governments that keep our best interests at heart. I trust that has not been earned by any government. Perhaps, Council is unaware that it is unelected officials at the United Nations and World Economic Forum that are pushing these smart cities and their initiatives. The public infrastructure playbook of June 2022 states that people-centered smart cities need accessible, secure and fair digital public infrastructure that powers digital services and ensures everyone has equal opportunity to fully participate in civil life. She asked Council if they were aware that this infrastructure is geared towards restricting goals like what we consume, what we purchase, and where we go. She asked Council if they were aware that these restrictions will eventually lead to social credit scores, carbon credits and health in climate lockdowns. Restrictions that can be mandated whenever governments decide to grant themselves emergency power for any given crisis. Apparently, we are still in a crisis since most of the ordinances are passed through City Council declaring an emergency. We are going down a dangerous path set up by an elite group of people that want to completely control our lives. A plan that citizens need to be made aware of and as our local government, Council needs to follow that plan with precision. No better example than the AD-HOC COMMITTEE meeting that has been created to silence their voices and any criticism of the Mayor or elected officials. We are not speaking to royalty and should be able to address those that serve us, not that rule over us. A smart city is a communist city and the more she speaks, the more evident it becomes that this is the path we are on. In response to Councilman DeArment's comment of a certain person campaigning for political capital that she was referring to herself, but that the only campaign she is running is for campaign awareness for the City of Findlay residents to see exactly what the City is planning for the future.

*discussion:*

Councilman DeArment asked Ms. Sadler if she sent her data on radiation to Dr. Kose. Ms. Sadler replied no. She got that email last week and has to collect her information, but has plenty of it to send. Filed.

### **Patty Klein – Ad-Hoc rules**

Ms. Klein pointed out that Councilman Wobser is not in attendance tonight to ask questions about the different rules that came out at the last AD-HOC COMMITTEE meeting, so she will now talk about a couple of concerns she has with some of the meetings. City Councilmembers have expressed fatigue when residents speak repeatedly on a topic. Under the new rules, she would not be able to stand at the podium right now because she had spoken at the last one, but things have evolved over the couple of meetings, so there is more to say, more information, and more perspectives and is wondering how the new rules will deal with that because there is more to say when things change. She has stood before Council and talked about the park in question, and since then, things have changed. Design plans change, so one time to talk about opposing a very expensive park doesn't seem like enough, especially when plans change, cost changes, and everything that can go along with that. A resident who is passionate about a topic who may have new information or a new perspective during subsequent meetings. She and others also have concerns about the sixty (60) minute rule. The concern is that there could be a filibuster if there is a topic at the end of a Council meeting that Councilmembers are not passionate about or do not really want to hear about and is wondering how Council would handle the possibility of filibustering people right out of non-agenda items and how that would be addressed. She hopes Council would address that because when someone prepares something to speak, she knows from the times she has been here, that they put time into it and to be filibustered out of non-agenda items of that six (6) minutes, four (4) minutes or whatever amount of times is decided, doesn't seem like it would be fair to lose that. Also, the other rule that is concerning is allowing the public to address the Administration. She does not understand that one. The Mayor has participated in conversations that have happened here, and asked if the Mayor would no longer be able to speak if the public cannot speak about something that she is addressing. If the public cannot speak to her, if she will be allowed to speak to the public. She is just asking how that would be handled if the Mayor has something to add. She asked if it is a two-way street or if it is just a one-way street.

There have been comments made during and after meetings regarding the small group of people who have made an effort to interact with their local government regularly. They are not little people or insignificant and may not be a minority. The number is growing. It is rude and degrading to make rules limiting what we all are supposed to be doing which is interacting with local government. These meetings are about the community and the people who live here. If there are people in the community who don't agree with the vision put forth by the Mayor, former Mayor, or even the governor of the State, it is Council's duty to listen as many times as it takes.

#### *discussion:*

Councilman DeArment pointed out that Randy Oterman had the same comment as Ms. Klein about speaking three (3) times in a row and that the committee was open to taking that out. The thought was that it would be repetitious, but that Ms. Klein is correct that it does evolve, so that is going to be taken out. The sixty (60) minute suggestion came from the public on their petition and never really thought about the filibuster issue and will think through that. Ms. Klein replied that she has seen it happen before. Council spent a lot of time with her the last time she spoke and she would hate to see that type of input be taken away at the expense of someone that might have something new to talk about. Councilman DeArment pointed out that the committee will have to figure out the suggestion of being able to address the Mayor. There will be more discussion around that. Filed.

### **Danny DeLong – Ad-Hoc Committee**

Mr. DeLong lives in Ward 7. He is before City Council to address the AD-HOC COMMITTEE meetings. These meetings seem to be pre-programmed with agreed upon talking points prior to the meetings. It feels like the committee has already decided how everything is going to go prior to the meeting. Not allowing the public to speak at these meetings is not consistent about what these meetings on public input are all about. Even during the second meeting when a Councilmember addressed the committee, they were told not to speak even though they seem to know more about the subject than the committee members. He asked when Council does not respect their fellow Council people, how citizens feel. He brought up the question to the Chair of the committee of when a question is asked to Council, why it was stated they do not have to answer. Communication is a 2-way street. Respect your constituents by answering the question or state that someone will get back to them with an answer.

In case it was not noticed, citizens are taking a more active role in being involved with governing of the City. A Council meeting on February 7, 2023 on YouTube had one hundred thirty-seven (137) views. On February 20, 2024, that Council meeting had one thousand seven hundred (1,700) views. His only concern about that is that comments are turned off. He asked why the comments are turned off. He asked if anyone is afraid of the comments or if it is a problem of trying to answer the comments. Maybe if that comment is directed to a specific committee, that chair of that committee can answer the comments, or if it is a general question, maybe the President of Council can assign that to a Councilperson to address the comment. Council has chosen under the Open Meetings Act to allow public oral communication in Council meetings, but want to restrict what is allowed. He asked why not have oral public comments at committee meetings. He does not understand that at all. It is allowed on one, but not on others. He asked if the twenty (20) minute meeting, which was the last one that took place, if there were early supper plans and really didn't want to hear anyone talk. He asked Council to respond to his questions.

*discussion:*

Mayor Muryn addressed the comments being off of the YouTube videos. That was originally set up during the COVID pandemic and because of a variety of rules around it of not being an actual Council meeting, and were holding the meeting in order to make it available to the public, but because of records laws and responses, they didn't want to have that on because it would cause confusion with people thinking they were participating in the meeting. That is why it was originally off. Now it is off from a pure management of resources. The City does not have people to be able to manage and have a hard time managing the social media, let alone trying to respond to those. That is why on the account that they tell people if they have questions or comments to email them. Mr. DeLong replied that is why he thinks people should be allowed to make the comments so the City knows what they are saying. Mayor Muryn replied that from a management standpoint, Mr. DeLong can call, can show up to the meetings, can call the Mayor's Office, or can email so that there are other avenues for communication. It would be very cumbersome. Mr. DeLong replied that there would be no record of that question ever being answered. Mayor Muryn replied what question. Mr. DeLong replied of any questions being answered on the comments for the YouTubes. Mayor Muryn replied that is because the comments are disabled as Mr. DeLong mentioned. Mr. DeLong replied that is what he is saying. That is the record they have as citizens that Council and/or the Administration is hearing their questions. If he calls a Councilmember and talks to them, in which he talked with Councilman Palmer about speaking to the committee as far as being able to get a response back, but that Mr. DeLong does not know the answer. Mayor Muryn replied that there are lots of other avenues, but from a people management and trying to maintain those records, it would very cumbersome and something she would not be very supportive of. Mr. DeLong replied that there is no record, it is just there. If it is not answered, it's not answered. Mayor Muryn replied that from a public records standpoint, if someone wants to be provided copies of every single video comments, the City would have to do that. They have to be archived and cannot hide them. There is a lot of different rules that go in place that make it very cumbersome. Anytime someone does a public records request, there are systems in place to archive and do that. YouTube is a different animal that would take a lot of effort for the City to manage, so she does not think it makes sense for the City to try to do that with the small staff the City currently has. Mr. DeLong replied that he thinks that it actually makes a lot of sense as it is open communication. He hears the word transparency spoken often, so this would definitely be transparent, but that it sounds like the City wants to hide something. That is why the comments are turned off. They do not want to get responses from citizens. Transparency. He mentions that word again. Mayor Muryn replied that she is sorry Mr. DeLong feels that way, but that it is not the intention.

Councilwoman Frische hears Mr. DeLong's frustrations and sees the Mayor's concern and thinks part of this is that at the committee meeting, it was discussed that citizens cannot address the Mayor, City Auditor, or Law Director and that they want to turn the podium to face whom they are allowed to speak to, and said that if they have a question to go the Mayor's Office, City Auditor's Office, or Law Director's Office to which some of the responses she has seen and heard are that they go there, but that nobody is available and do not get their question answered. She thinks Mr. DeLong looks at this as no different than Facebook in that comments on the City are allowed on the Facebook page, but is unsure if the questions are always answered or not as there are sometimes a lot of comments and sometimes not. She asked if those have to be archived the same way or if it is differently.

She asked if that is already being done for one type of system/product (YouTube vs Facebook), how hard it would be to do that for this. Mr. DeLong replied that Councilwoman Frische is correct. Councilwoman Frische pointed out that citizens want to know why they cannot address the Mayor since she is an elected official, because if they are able to address Councilmembers, they should be able to address the Administration. Mayor Muryn replied that a solution to the concern is that the YouTube recording of the meeting can be posted on the City's Facebook page because there already are systems in place that archive all of the comments and questions on the City's Facebook page that has a much better system for the City to be able to keep record of it and that YouTube would be a whole other animal to take on and would be a lot of work. There are rules that the City has to comply to that would be complicated, but can give citizens the same avenue of the comments by posting the YouTube video on the City's channel and can be embedded so that the commentary can occur on the video or on the Facebook page. When people call or email, they do not necessarily have a record, but that she sends a follow up email recapping a conversation that both she and the requestor would have a record of that occurring. If someone sends her an email, she does not necessarily always get the emails and is unsure if it is caught up in the spam filter or what, but that there are records of those that can always be asked for. The Administration will work on a solution for the streaming of it, but that she does not think it will be through YouTube just because of all of the behind the scenes efforts that the City has to comply with. Mr. DeLong replied that he does not do Facebook and that YouTube is open to anybody that has internet, but that someone has to join Facebook and that he is not particularly fond of Facebook. He does not want anyone knowing his business. He does not do Facebook, so to him, that is not a solution.

City Auditor Staschiak noted that he knows it wasn't Councilwoman Frische's intent to do a generalization, but that he is very proud that he has always had the opportunity and ability to respond to people when they communicate with him. If anyone in the public listening ever feels he is non-communicative with them, he encourages them to contact any councilmember, specifically one that gets mad at him regularly so that they give him a hard time during a meeting because he would deserve it. Filed.

#### **Randy Otermat – Ad-Hoc Committee rule changes**

Mr. Otermat is before City Council to give some opinions on the AD-HOC COMMITTEE. He has been to all the meetings. He appreciates the fact that the committee is committed to making sure citizens still have the right to address Council. He heard Mr. Feighner make some comments in the original meeting outlining some of the restrictions that they have in Columbus, Toledo, and other cities, but that those here tonight do not live there. If they wanted those kind of restrictions, that is where they would live, but that they live in Findlay and there is a reason for that. He has witnessed firsthand as he has been to all the meetings recently and what brought this on in the first place, so he understands there needs to be some guidelines to ensure that Council can be run efficiently, and that some of the ideas that have been presented will help with that, particularly some of the ideas presented by Ms. Klein at the last meeting regarding the signup sheet and making that more accountable to a particular Councilmember and also what she had to say tonight, which was a lot of what he was going to talk about. The real issue he has that he discussed with Councilman DeArment after the meeting last time was about not being able to speak on the same topic in consecutive meetings in which he seems to have taken that to heart. As long as that item is on the agenda, citizens should be able to talk on it as many times as they want until it is resolved because it does evolve and change. Most legislation has a first reading, second reading, and third reading that people will want to make different comments about and may wish to present different ideas as it moves along. He echoed Ms. Klein about the sixty (60) minutes rule and the ability for interaction. That has been seen tonight with interaction since they started talking which counts against their sixty (60) minutes at the end. There could be modifications to that in that when someone comes to the podium for their four (4) minutes, Council's interaction with them is off the clock. That way, it is not counting against them and can be taken right out of the equation. Findlay has a large number of citizens who are becoming more involved than what is going on in local politics. There are a couple of reasons for that. A large number of people are very disgusted with what is going on about issues that are being discussed and what is going on at the State and National level. Citizens cannot do a lot about that, but can come in here and make changes and have direct input with Councilmembers on a local level which is what they want to do.

He overheard someone at the last meeting talking with an individual saying that they do not represent a lot of people and that it is a small group that shows up for City Council meetings. He does not think that is true. He has the utmost respect for Mayor Muryn, but that if he were to go back to last year's primary election, it is known that one thousand two hundred (1,200) individuals out of three thousand (3,000) voted for someone besides her. He does not know why, but that there are a lot of people out there that feel this way and is not just a small number of people. These people feel that they need to have a voice. There is some stuff out there that is not presented to Council. Ms. Sadler and Councilwoman Frische post a lot on Facebook, some that he may not agree with, but that their posts should be at least be looked at to see what is going on and what they are talking about. Hopefully, the end result of the AD-HOC COMMITTEE will be to create an environment that satisfies citizens. Filed.

### **Renee Leguire – grants**

Ms. Leguire is before City Council as a life long citizen of Findlay. It is disturbing to see many Councilmembers mishandling the City and with such little regard for their God-given rights. The overall lack of knowledge of the U.S. Constitution is also very disturbing. The City's ordinances and laws do not trump the United States Constitution. When she last spoke to City Council in the Council Chambers, she made it clear that she does not think Council is stupid, however, she did accuse them of being ignorant. With access to information in this age of information, there is really no excuse for Council's ignorance. Many were at the Republican dinner on November 5, 2023 and had the privilege of hearing Alex Newman speak. Mr. Newman is an award-winning international journalist, educator, author, speaker, investor, nationally syndicated radio host and consultant who seeks to glorify God in everything he does. He brought evidence of the bipartisan, satanic plot to destroy America and how there are dark forces that want to destroy our freedom and liberty. The complete destruction of the United States of American is their goal. If someone were to do the research, they would find plenty of information to confirm all the things that Mr. Newman presented. His presentation of the state of our nation was alarming and somewhat frightful. If we continue to abandon the laws of nature and of God will, we will soon lose the freedom and liberty we have enjoyed as a nation these last one hundred fifty (150) years. Our country is not sustainable at the current rate of government spending in grants and giveaways. We, as a City, have no business applying for government grants that are only adding to the demise of this great nation. We need principled unity among republicans in our community and our state to safeguard our freedom and our republic from the forces that would destroy them. Governmental grants and handouts only weaken our nation putting us further and further into debt. Attending City Council meetings has brought her to the realization that there is corruption embedded in the political system and the political process, even at the local level. It needs to change for the sake of our republic and future generations. We need true patriots in the community and state to safeguard our freedom and our republic from the forces that would destroy them. She prays that Council as leaders would realize the crisis we are in a as city, state and nation and would stop making unconstitutional ordinances, zoning laws, and resolutions. That they would educate themselves on the history of our great nation, the sacrifice our founding fathers made to ensure our freedom and liberty. She suggests that Council educate themselves on communism and socialism as our country is rapidly leaning towards those disastrous forms of government. The Mayor has stated that she will continue to apply for grants telling the citizens that the money received in grants is our tax money and that she is simply bringing it back to the community. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that those are not our tax dollars. The Federal Government is thirty-four trillion dollars (\$34,000,000,000,000) in debt. These grant dollars are only adding to the debt while also increasing the size and scope of our big brother. She closed with a couple scriptures: *(Ephesians 6:12) for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms.* Also, as resurrection Sunday just passed, she is reminded of this conversation in *(John 18:37) you are a King then said Pilate. Jesus answered you say that I am a King. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.* Jesus stated that there are two (2) distinct sides to this cosmic battle of good and evil. The side of truth and the side of lies and asked which side Council is on.

*discussion:*

Councilman Hellmann was offended by the fact that Ms. Leguire stated that Council is ignorant and that they are criminals. Ms. Leguire replied that she did not say that Council is criminals nor did she state they are communists. Councilman Hellmann replied that then there is nothing to talk about. Filed.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Barbara Matheny – declaring April “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”.** Ms. Matheny spoke right after the Parkinson’s proclamation was read instead of now.

**Cathy Weygandt – noise ordinance.** Filed.

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

**City Engineer Kalb – AIP-35 (North Apron Rehab Alternates), Project No. 35225200, ODOT Aviation Fund appropriation**

As previously discussed in City Council last year, the bid alternates for the North Apron Rehab project are being paid through the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program (FAA AIP) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Aviation grants. The City of Findlay has received the grant funds from the FAA that covered ninety percent (90%) of the construction cost and has received an additional five percent (5%) match from ODOT Aviation. Last year, the City of Findlay appropriated funds to cover the construction cost of the North Apron Alternates and this ODOT Aviation grant is the last step towards the City of Findlay being reimbursed for the cost of the alternates. With the funds that the City has received from the FAA and ODOT Aviation, the City of Findlay is only responsible for five percent (5%) or ten thousand five hundred nine dollars (\$10,509.00) of the construction costs for the two (2) alternates. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-041 was created.

FROM: ODOT Aviation Grant (B24-11)	\$ 10,509.00
TO: AIP-35 (North Apron Rehab Alternates), Project No. 35225200	\$ 10,509.00

Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – replace 2010 sanitary vector resolution to transfer funds**

As part of Ordinance No. 2024-028, funds were appropriated for the purchase of a new sanitary vector that is used by the City of Findlay Sewer Maintenance Department. When the allocated money was appropriated into the account, it was transferred to the Water Pollution Control account instead of the Sewer Maintenance account. Since the fuel and overall maintenance for the vector comes from the Sewer Maintenance budget, the allocated funds will need to be transferred to the Sewer Maintenance account so that it can be properly accounted for. Legislation to transfer funds that were already allocated for the replacement of the 2010 sanitary vector from the Water Pollution Control account to the Sewer Maintenance account is requested. Resolution No. 013-2024 was created.

FROM: Water Pollution Control #25061000-other	\$ 600,000.00
TO: Sewer Maintenance #25048000-other, replace 2010 Sanitary Vector	\$ 600,000.00

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if the vector that is going to be transferred over to the Street Department is not properly suctioning and was supposed to have a lot more poundage to be able to draw that up to three (3) pounds and asked if it is able to be fixed. City Engineer Kalb replied that it still has the suction power the Street Department needs within their cleaning abilities because of the root cutter and all that jetting. Like a small vacuum, as they get older and get used more and more, it starts to lose a lot of power. With the work that the Sewer Department is doing, they are needing a higher powerful vacuum, and with the work the Street Department does, they do not need that higher power. The power that is on the current one that is being transferred down will fit the needs of the Street Department. Councilwoman Frische pointed out that that it is not working. She asked if it is able to be fixed.



City Engineer Kalb replied that it is working, but has lost its full potential power. Councilwoman Frische asked if it can do its job at three pounds (3#) of pressure or if it needs to be fixed. City Engineer Kalb replied it is losing its seals, but is working which is why it is getting transferred down as it is still a good piece of equipment that another department can utilize and is being fixed so that the Street Department in two (2) years does not have to come to Council for another vector if the one getting handed down fits their needs. Councilwoman Frische asked if any repairs are being done to it. City Engineer Kalb replied that there are some repairs being done on it, but will not get a full suction on it because it is pretty much a new VCR machine on it. Councilwoman Frische summarized stating that there are repairs and asked if they are significant or if they are less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and if the repairs are worth it to make it workable for the Street Department. City Engineer Kalb replied yes it will be. He cannot say what the total repair costs will be, but that compared to the current model at the Street Department, it is worth repairing it to have there for them. They do not want to send a broken piece to them. Councilwoman Frische asked if she could have those numbers. City Engineer Kalb replied yes he will provide them to her. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – FDY rehabilitation runway 7/25 construction FAA grant authorization (3-39-0034-036-2024)**

The City of Findlay will be submitting a grant opportunity through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fund the construction portion of the rehabilitation of runway 7/25. Through this grant opportunity, the FAA will be covering ninety percent (90%) of the construction cost and the City of Findlay will be responsible for a five percent (5%) local match. Just like the previous Airport project that received FAA funding, the City will also be submitting a grant to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Aviation to cover the remaining five percent (5%) of the construction cost. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and/or City Engineer to apply for grant funding from the FAA Airport Improvement Programs (3-39-0034-036-2024), as well as enter into a grant agreement with the FAA, is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-042 was created. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – second capital improvement appropriation of 2024**

The second Capital Improvement allocation of the year is to transfer funds into capital projects for startup money and to departments so they can order equipment with long lead times or are readily available for use. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to advertise for bid and enter into contracts, and to appropriate and transfer funds is requested.

FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 762,265.00
TO: Police Department #21012000-other	\$ 97,000.00
TO: Fire Department #21014000-other	\$ 34,265.00
TO: Recreation Functions #21044400-other	\$ 131,000.00
TO: Street Department #2204000-other	\$ 340,000.00
TO: Traffic and Signal Lights #22043200-other	\$ 100,000.00
TO: Airport #25010000-other	\$ 60,000.00
FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 50,000.00
TO: Sewer Maintenance #25048000-other	\$ 50,000.00
FROM: Water Fund	\$ 20,000.00
TO: Water Treatment Plant #25050000-other	\$ 20,000.00
FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 732,727.00
TO: Disaster Siren Replacement #31941600	\$ 259,727.00
TO: Kiddie Corral Parking Lot #31941700	\$ 60,000.00
TO: Kiddie Corral Basketball Court #31942100	\$ 20,000.00
TO: FFD No. 1 Signal Replacement #32841900	\$ 60,000.00
TO: A-Row Hangar Roof Replacement #35241800	\$ 63,000.00
TO: A1 Hangar Door Repairs #35242200	\$ 100,000.00
TO: South Main Street/Front Street Signal Upgrade #32842400	\$ 75,000.00
TO: Seating Area Renovation and Drainage at Diamonds #31942000	\$ 35,000.00
TO: Rawson/Cooper Ballfield Lighting Upgrade #31942300	\$ 60,000.00

Ordinance No. 2024-043 was created.

*discussion:*

City Auditor Staschiak pointed out that Councilman Wobser scheduled a special meeting so that Mr. Brossart could be brought in to be the City's municipal advisor. He had come because it was Councilman Wobser's intent that the five (5) and ten (10) year plans are thoroughly discussed not only generally, but that directionally on where we are going with the City. He asked if there could be some consideration on that and to set a time when those things can be discussed in detail for all to share, because just looking at them on a spreadsheet or book does not give the picture of where the City is going and the things that need to be talked about. He and Mr. Brossart would benefit greatly from that information.

Councilwoman Frische echoed City Auditor Staschiak's comments. She does not have the full capital book yet and that this was sent to a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting and not an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. It is appropriate to now send it to the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE to get a committee report vetting it the rest of the way. She will ask Councilman Wobser about that. City Engineer Kalb replied by asking Councilwoman Frische if she received the pdf copy. Councilwoman Frische replied that she received it, but that it was sideways and unreadable (very small font). City Engineer Kalb replied he understands but that he wanted to get it out to Council and that the books are being printed now and will be distributed hopefully this week which is the same thing as what Council has already received. Councilwoman Frische replied that Councilman DeArment thought that there might be something wrong in one of the pages that he had, possibly because he hadn't see the full book yet.

Mayor Muryn noted that Council was given the printout at the meeting and had originally requested it as an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting and would not recommend it go to the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE now to approve something that was already discussed and that is on a timeline. If looking at future years, that would be fine. As she mentioned at the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting, it is the intention to have more in-depth conversations about some of the longer strategic planning and financing. She will follow up with Councilman Wobser to determine how he'd like to handle that. Councilwoman Frische replied that she appreciates her opinion, but that Councilman Wobser and Mayor Muryn do not get to make the final decisions for Council. While they did go through the one year plan, it would be appropriate to now go to the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE because in past years, several years out were looked at. Mayor Muryn is welcome to give her opinion, but that it is up to Council as a committee of appropriations to determine if they would like to meet and discuss as it would be beneficial to have the municipal advisor there to get some additional input, especially sitting through the water committee yesterday where there was a lot of discussion on spending money and figuring out who is onboard with doing some studies that did not involve the Auditor from what she could tell, and that there was a small conversation about going out for bond versus another way of doing things. So, having the municipal advisor in those discussions is completely appropriate and is a well use of tax dollars that have been spent through the City Auditor's Office.

Councilman DeArment asked if City Auditor Staschiak's request is to look at the five (5) and ten (10) year plans is just with the staff or in another COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. He asked who needs to be involved to bring him up to speed. City Auditor Staschiak replied that he is not going to speak for Council, but that the conversation he had with Councilman Wobser was that the meeting was actually moved from the prior week before to that date intentionally so that almost two (2) hours would be available to discuss not only the one year, but also the five (5) year plan conceptionally where the City is going. He had asked in that meeting if maps and areas can be seen that were opening up for development, and also need to talk about TIFFs, there is no legislation yet, etc. As the City's Fiscal Officer, he is not getting the greater picture that is needed. There are a lot of people planning on how they want to see how the City's money is spent, and those that are ultimately supposed to spend it, aren't getting information that would benefit everyone. Ultimately, it is whatever Council's pleasure is. Councilman DeArment asked if he is suggesting a meeting of the whole that he is to be included in. City Auditor Staschiak replied he would like to go through and discuss five (5) and ten (10) year long range plans, concepts, where we are going, what we are opening up, what we want to see, etc.

Mayor Muryn asked City Auditor Staschiak if anyone he is aware of that are planning on spending the City's money to provide her a list of those individuals at his earliest convenience. Related to the long-term planning, she was not aware of the intention of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting a couple of weeks ago and that if she was, that her team would have been happy to prepare that in more detail and would have gone through with more information. They were preparing to go through the one-year capital plan at an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting that Mr. Brossart was involved with. They provided the full ten (10) year spreadsheet to him and asked him for feedback on it to which he replied that he is just there to listen to what we had to say because we were in good shape. She would be happy to forward those emails to any Councilmember. If that was not the plan for the meeting, it should have been communicated to the Administration who is responsible for presenting that to Council in advance.

Councilman Russel noted that in the absence of President of Council Harrington and as President Pro-Tem, he will work with the Auditor to get a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting scheduled to discuss this in detail. He will look to schedule that so that there is enough time to dig into the topics appropriately. He will send out some emails working with City Auditor Staschiak and Council to get that scheduled. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – West Park sanitary extension-septic removal, project no. TBD**

As discussed during the April 1, 2024 WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting, the City of Findlay is going to proceed forward with installing a new sanitary line on Newell Street and Tappan Street. The Newell Street section has already been designed and the project is ready to be sent out to bid. To ensure that the City can take advantage of the current pricing, it is desired to send this project out to bid within the week or so. In order to satisfy all Ohio Revised Code requirements, funds will need to be appropriated to the project so that the project can be properly advertised. At this time, the project does not have a project number through the City Auditor's Office, so when a project number becomes available for this project, the assigned number can be recorded in the Ordinance. 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. 2024-047 was created.

FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 1,000.00
TO: West Park Sanitary Extension-Septic Removal, <i>Project No. TBD</i>	\$ 1,000.00

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische thought there was going to be a committee report with this that would match up when people are reading this letter. Councilman Russel replied that the committee reports got signed today and will be on the next City Council meeting agenda.

Councilwoman Frische moved to read the letter in its entirety, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety.

Councilman Russel summarized the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting concerning this issue. The West Park sanitary was part of the projects presented at the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting and has been part of the capital project. The committee yesterday wanted to ensure that the project was cost beneficial and was the appropriate path to take. It was discussed in great detail. There were representatives from Hancock Public Health. Robin Welly's husband was also in attendance who has a lot of experience in this area who added a lot of valuable insight. The end result of the committee in essence of these projects was to do nothing and let the projects stay as they had previously been proposed, but that in conversation with City Engineer Kalb who informed them that he could get this one out as soon as possible at a cost savings to the City and the taxpayers, the committee then, in essence, didn't object and told him to do whatever he thinks would be best which is why there is this add-on letter and corresponding legislation. It is his opinion that it would be cost effective by going out to bid as soon as possible on the parts that he has designed because people are looking for work in that the City could provide them work and take advantage of good rates. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct.

Councilwoman Frische clarified that it was a good meeting even though she missed the last five (5) minutes of it and pointed out that Tappan and Newell Streets are a project from 2015 that there is money already appropriated for them. City Engineer Kalb replied that there is no money appropriated to it. The Newell Street section was an alternate that was bid sometime in either 2015 or 2016 and does not know why the decision was made to make it an alternate. There is a design for it, but that there are no funds appropriated. There are funds set aside in the Capital Plan, but that the funds are not appropriated yet, so the one thousand dollar (\$1,000) request is for advertising. As soon as he gets a contractor, he will submit another letter to Council to appropriate funds into it. Newell Street is the first section that will be pushed out because he has a set of plans ready to go. Filed.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 to discuss the 2024 capital budget. Councilman Palmer moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke. All were in favor. Filed.

An **AD HOC COMMITTEE** met on March 26, 2024 to continue discussions from the March 13, 2024 Ad-Hoc Committee meeting on reviewing the 2024-2025 Council Rules of Procedure.

*We recommend further discussion, receive feedback, and finalize draft for rules of procedure for Council procedure.*

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

#### **LEGISLATION:**

##### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 013-2024** (*replace 2010 sanitary vector*) **requires one (1) reading** **first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

##### **ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-030** **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**

*(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.

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

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked how much of the alley is left that is not being vacated. City Engineer Kalb replied this is the whole right-of-way.

Councilman Russel further clarified that there are a couple of right-of-way vacations on tonight's agenda. Normally there would be a public hearing for this before tonight's meeting, but because all adjacent property owners were notified and agreed to this vacation, there was not a requirement for the public hearing.

Ayes: DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-030 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-031 requires three (3) readings**

**third reading - adopted**

*(Sixth St vacation - 15' unimproved ROW on the west side of Strong Ave)*

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

Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-031 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-033 requires three (3) readings**

**third reading - adopted**

*(first 2024 Capital Improvement appropriation)*

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.

Councilwoman Frische moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if the first capital improvement is only for equipment and not for any projects. City Engineer Kalb replied that there are a couple of startup appropriations of a couple thousand dollars for projects on it, but that the majority of it was equipment (i.e. police cams for the cars, roof replacement at Water Department for CIT Fund, patrol car system, new patrol car camera system, fire station #1 air condition, Airport shop roof replacement, Riverside toy replacement, West Park toy, insulation, and a project for manhole adjustment program).

Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-033 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-037 requires three (3) readings**

**second reading**

*(2024 annual street resurfacing/curb repairs, contract B (asphalt))*

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

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-038 (Swale Benching property) requires three (3) readings**

**second reading**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HANCOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PURCHASE REQUIRED LAND WITHIN THE BENCHING AREA IN ORDER TO FINISH PHASE I OF THE BENCHING PROJECT, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-039 (moratorium amendment) requires three (3) readings**

**second reading**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-035 THAT AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 2022-119 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO EXTEND THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT BUSINESSES IN ORDER FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO CONSIDER INCORPORATING THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS INTO THE CURRENT ZONING CODE AS OUTLINED BELOW BEFORE ENACTING THEM AS PART OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-040** (YMCA vacation) **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading**

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

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-041** **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading - adopted**

(AIP-35 North Apron Rehab Alternates Project No. 35225200 ODOT Aviation Fund appropriation)

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische informed Council that she is going to make a motion to suspend rules and give the Ordinance all three (3) readings tonight because it is moving ODOT dollars into a project.

Councilwoman Frische moved to suspend rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Palmer moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-041 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-042** **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading**

(FDY Rehabilitate Runway 7/25 Construction FAA Grant authorization (3-39-0034-036-2024))

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE REAHBILITATION OF RUNWAY 7/25 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PORTION OF THE REHABILITATION OF RUNWAY 7/25 CONSTRUCTION AT THE CITY OF FINDLAY AIRPORT, AND IF FUNDS ARE AWARDED, TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Palmer asked if there is a deadline to meet that this should be passed tonight. City Engineer Kalb replied that he does not need it tonight, but that probably will need it by the next meeting because it needs passed by the end of April. Council will see the ODOT portion of this at the next City Council meeting.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-043** (second 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. 2024-044** (Tall Timbers 3<sup>rd</sup> Addition subdivision plat) **requires three (3) readings**

**first reading**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DESIGNATED AREA AS SHOWN ON THE TALL TIMBERS 3RD ADDITION SUBDIVISION PLAT WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-045** (*Sheetz/Hat Trick/Buchanan annexation zoning*) **requires three (3) readings** *first reading*  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1100 ET SEQ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE BY ZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY AS I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE SHEETZ/HAT TRICK/BUCHANAN ANNEXATION).

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-046** **requires three (3) readings** *first reading*  
(*Sheetz/Hat Trick/Buchanan annexation – accept and approve*)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ALLEN, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, AND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 32, T2N, R11E, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 77.808 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE COUNTY ROAD 230/212 (SHEETZ/HAT TRICK/BUCHANAN ANNEXATION)).

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-047** **requires three (3) readings** *first reading - adopted*  
(*West Park sanitary extension-septic removal*)

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 INSTALLATION OF A NEW SANITARY LINE ON NEWELL STREET AND TAPPAN STREET, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to suspend rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Russel, Warnecke, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-047 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

City Auditor Staschiak reminded Council that years ago there was a special assessment done on Hunters Creek Subdivision. He forwarded the information to Councilman Russel and to Law Director Rasmussen. For audit, the City Auditor's Office needs a decision made on an outstanding balance. Basically, the City assessed putting in improved drainage out there for storm water. All the properties that were assessed were basically done with that debt issuance and that assessment with the exception of a piece of property that was a pond. That pond was included in the assessment. There was a homeowners association out there. The City never received even a dime from that association. He does not know if that even still exists. The association's total assessment was about one thousand one hundred sixteen dollars (\$1,116.00). He needs the committee to get with Law Director Rasmussen on the improved drainage assessment to determine whether it is collectable and if the City is going to pursue it. He needs something for the audit file on it. Councilman Russel asked if the money is owed and is a property tax why it isn't being pursued through any other means when a property tax is not paid. City Auditor Staschiak replied that he will refer it to the committee which might be a conversation to have outside the purview of tonight's meeting.

Councilman DeArment asked if they are paying the taxes on the rest of the property. City Auditor Staschiak replied there is no tax being paid on that parcel at all which is part of the issue. While he will not speak for City Engineer Kalb, he assumes he does not want to own any retention ponds. City Engineer Kalb replied he does not. Councilman Hellmann asked if it is owned by the homeowners association. City Auditor Staschiak replied he does not know if it even still exists. He cannot just write it off the books or tell the Auditors that the City is never going to collect it.

Council, in cooperation with the Director of Law, has to decide how they want to pursue it, if it is pursuable at all and if not, provide him with some direction so that he can tell the Auditors what the City has decided to do with the one thousand one hundred (\$1,100) that is outstanding. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak pointed out that he was not able to attend the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting last night due to a conflict, but that he was very concerned and heard some comments today from the community. Councilman DeArment was misinformed on something very serious. He has come to believe that there is a flaw in how some of the City's fiscal or financial information is processed and how information is gathered. It is his hopes that Council and the Administration as a group work to improve as he is not pointing fingers at anyone, but thinks they can all work together to do things better. While he does not have the answer at this point, he thinks something needs to be done. Council specifically asked a question about the City's water and sewer reserve wanting to know if there is a three (3) month reserve, if it is in place, and if it is protected. The City of Findlay Council has never resolved or codified any reserve for the Water and Sewer Funds. There is nothing in place. It is important that Council knows because they are going to make some big decisions based on where it is at. Councilman DeArment asked what City Auditor Staschiak meant when he said codified. City Auditor Staschiak replied that it means Council has not passed an ordinance. Council passes resolutions and ordinances. Resolutions resolves things meaning the City is going to try to do something. When an Ordinance is passed, it is codified meaning the City is doing it. There was a statement made that if the City were ever to get into real trouble, they could go to the General Fund. If Council ever goes to the General Fund to put money into the Water Fund or Sewer Fund, it will decimate the City's bond rating. There are a lot of things going on. The structure of these meetings is a concern. He thinks the City is doing things in a way, regarding communications, that the public is seeing and that he is seeing as the City's Fiscal Officer, that is not allowing the City in certain situations to have conversations, and that the City pivots off that information. Sometimes its cumulative, sometimes a statement is made which may or may not be true. If it is not true and the City pivots off that piece of information, they have gone down a path that could be a big problem, particularly if there isn't an opportunity to correct it. Councilman Russel asked a great question in that he specifically asked if the City has a methodology. City Auditor held up a file of several hundred thousand dollars of results that the City spent to thoroughly determine the impact effects and what is done with the City's water and sewer systems and what rates the City should charge. In one example, the City has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this model that goes way beyond what rates should be. They laid a basis for doing things. Maybe that basis is obsolete, maybe it is appropriate, or maybe it is the framework for where the City wants to go in the future, but the way the City is approaching things is not giving everyone the opportunity to be as well considered as the community deserves. He wants everyone to work together to do that.

Councilman Palmer pointed out that City Auditor Staschiak stressed that it would be a bad idea to go to the General Fund to transfer money to the Water or Sewer Fund. It was clearly stated that it would be a terrible idea. The way it was portrayed by him was unfair to the committee. City Auditor Staschiak replied that he does not think so based on the fact that it was considered at all. He is not discussing the aspects of it. If someone says they think it is a bad idea, someone else might think it is still an option, but that it is not an option. As long as he is the City's Auditor, Council is not going to do it. It is the way it is going. He is not being accusatory. He is using examples that the dialogue that is taking place on some of the City's fiscal matters isn't as thorough or as complete or a roundtable type discussion in a manner that would be most beneficial. He wants everyone to be better and just wanted to share that tonight. Councilman Palmer agreed that everyone should work together and get these things right, but that he still stands by his initial assessment of how he portrayed what was said in the meeting.

Councilman Hellmann is surprised that City Auditor Staschiak is bringing this up now and accusing Council when in fact, he is the Auditor that Council depends on. City Auditor Staschiak replied if Council gives him an opportunity to be in a meeting and share and communicate, they will be able to depend on him. Councilman Hellmann replied that he does not know that City Auditor Staschiak has been excluded. City Auditor Staschiak replied that Council structures meetings in a manner where he cannot speak nor is he asked if he is able to attend.



Council is having meetings where they are discussing serious financial information and are quoting things he has said whether they are in context or out of context. He would love to be the Fiscal Officer for Council, but in order for that to happen, some things need to improve. He is not pointing fingers or accusing anyone, but is simply saying that we all can be better, including himself. He wants to be better too. He truly believes that in government, if you are doing an above average job, the community is going to think you are average and are just doing their job. We have to go above and beyond to be considered as good as we can be, and that he wants to be part of that, but that that he is seeing some flaws in how considering money is approached. He could provide some examples that would infuriate some, but would be true and would be bad. The City just needs to move forward and continue to improve. He wants to be part of that improvement. Councilman Hellmann replied that is a great idea, but wants to know who out of the ten (10) Councilmembers that is overseeing this. City Auditor Staschiak replied it is not Council that is doing it. What is happening is that information is being parsed and is being brought to the table in sections, in bits and pieces, sometimes presented partially. Deceit by omission. He is not saying people are being deceitful, but is a term used where only pieces of information are shared that ultimately in the end can be obtained. During yesterday's meeting, he would and could have contributed a lot of history, a lot of current knowledge, and a lot of thought that he would have loved to contributed, but that he wasn't available and was never given the opportunity because the meeting was set and structured in a way that there wasn't public comment or administrative comment other than those who spoke. If that is Council's pleasure, that is fine. He is just saying what is happening today, he thinks everyone can improve. He is not pointing a finger because it is tough to do things. We are all human beings and can all do better. The public has his heart tonight because he is hearing what they are saying and he wants to be better too. He brings this up with regard to the reserves and that the conversation is the main example. The reserve thing was misleading and takes a direction that feels safe, but is not. There is no reserve. This is a point and an example that needs to be shared tonight. Councilman Hellmann replied that if City Auditor Staschiak feels he has not been excluded and should have been included because he has a wealth of information or something that would shed some light on something that the ten (10) Councilmembers might be ignorant about, he encourages him to speak up. If he is part of a committee that the Auditor wants to address, he would allow the City Auditor to contribute, he ought to be there.

Councilman Russel noted that the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting called for April 1, 2024 at 4:00pm was called at the last meeting on February 5, 2024 and was publicized since then. Tonight, is the first he has heard that the City Auditor desired to attend, but was not able to. As part of that conversation, he made it a point that the City's reserve policy would not be discussed because it was not in the scope of the meeting. The meeting was called specifically to discuss the process for analyzing policies and procedures around rate changes. The context of the reserve question was if there is reserves, the rates have to ensure that they are funded and was not whether or not the City should or should not have reserves, or reserves to a specific level. It was simply a statement by Councilman DeArment that if there are reserves, then the City has to account for that in the rate model.

Mayor Muryn believes that was referencing fund balances. At the bottom there is the minimum carryovers, minimum reserves, as a note that is based off the EPA's requirement of three (3) months of operation which is what the City continues to base it off of. The City Auditor is correct that nothing has been codified beyond that because it is already in the Ohio Revised Code as a requirement. This Administration, as well as many Councilmembers, have had lots of conversations diving into the numbers and have reached out regularly to the Auditor making sure everyone understands everything. City Auditor Staschiak replied that he wishes that were more true. He does not get a lot of inquiries on the numbers, but would like to get more. Everyone is welcome to contact the City Auditor's Office on a regular basis as they go above and beyond to make sure those questions are answered, and that it is important to continue to move forward and work on this serious matter. Filed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Muryn informed Council that the City is continuing to monitor the rain moving through the area as well as the river levels. The City team has been keeping an eye on it all day. Eagle Creek was expected to crest out at the very low of the moderate level that is looking to recede pretty quickly because there wasn't as much rain this afternoon and are seeing the benefit on the Blanchard River with the Phase 1 benching and are definitely seeing the impact in their forecasting models that is currently not accounted for because they still do not have enough data to be able to truly allow that to be in the projections. The City is keeping an eye on that and do not expect it to reach moderate flood stage at this point, but will continue to monitor it and update the public accordingly. She is grateful that there was no significant storm damage in the area and will keep an eye out on the storms throughout the night, but that they appear to have shifted south. Filed.

Mayor Muryn notified Council that the City is well prepared to show off for the community, the total solar eclipse on Monday. She asked Council to continue to share the Findlay solar eclipse 2024 website with individuals if they have questions about how to enjoy it safely, and that the City is well prepared for an influx of people. Everyone can still go about their business and enjoy the event and take advantage of our community, but will need to be a little more patient than they would normally be. Motorists will not be able to get across town in ten (10) minutes and will need to plan a little longer commute time. She has no clue what it is going to look like, but can assure everyone that the City is prepared. The City team is ready to show off. Filed.

Councilman Palmer: **AD-HOC COMMITTEE** meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:30pm  
agenda: finalize changes for 2024-2025 City Council rules of procedure  
Filed.

Councilman Bauman: ~~**PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE**~~ meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 12:00pm.  
agenda: 116 Laqueneo Street rezone (tabled)

Councilman Russel suggested not to meet on this until May 2024. It is not worth bringing everyone in just to do a lift off the table and remove, unless there is other business. Councilman DeArment seconded the suggestion. Filed.

Councilman Russel asked for information on the term "Pack Your Patience". Service-Safety Director Martin replied that two (2) slogans have been used "Manage Your Expectations", wherever you are going to be, and "Pack Your Patience". Filed.

Councilman Russel reminded Council that on April 27, 2024, there will be a Parkinson's empowerment walk which is a collaboration between the Hancock County Parkinson's Network and 50North. Filed.

Councilman Bauman moved to adjourn City Council at 7:30pm, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL PRO-TEM