

## FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

AUGUST 20, 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### ROLL CALL of 2024-2025 Councilmembers

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

**ABSENT:** Warnecke

President of Council Harrington notified Council that Councilwoman Warnecke informed him that she would not be in attendance tonight. Councilman Russel moved to excuse Councilwoman Warnecke, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

President of Council Harrington 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 August 6, 2024 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman DeArment. All were in favor. Filed.

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

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

#### ADD-ONS:

1. letter from City Engineer Kalb – CyberOhio Local Government grant program (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section**).
2. Ordinance No. 2024-105 – CyberOhio Local Government grant program (**LEGISLATION section**).

**PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** none

### PETITIONS:

#### Alley vacation request – undeveloped alley off West Sandusky Street

Cam Brown is requesting to vacate a portion of the undeveloped alley between parcel no. 580000243480 Lot 4107 (owned by 2B Investments LLC) and parcel no. 560000182180 Lot 3408 (owned by 2B Investments LLC). The alley currently dead ends into parcel no. 580000243490 (owned by Ashland Oil & Refining). Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

President of Council Harrington announced that there is one (1) individual wishing to speak towards a non-agenda item this evening that will be addressed under the NEW BUSINESS:

1. Danny DeLong – Howard Run Ditch Project.

President of Council Harrington will call him to come up to the podium when it is time for him to speak. Filed.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** none

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

**Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control** for Pramukh Traders LLC, dba Smoke N Stuff, located at 8013 County Road 140, Findlay, Ohio for a C1 and C2 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James Mathias, Chief of Police – Pramukh Traders LLC, dba Smoke N Stuff, located at 8013 County Road 140, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no current criminal record on the following:

Viralkumar Patel  
Rikenkumar N. Patel

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

**Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control** for Shashtri Karuna LLC, dba Smoke N Stuff, located at 1406 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio for a C1 and C2 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James Mathias, Chief of Police – Shashtri Karuna LLC, dba Smoke N Stuff, located at 1406 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no current criminal record on the following:

Viralkumar Patel  
Rikenkumar N. Patel

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

**A set of summary financial reports for July 31, 2024:**

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of July 31, 2024
- Open Projects Report as of July 31, 2024
- Cash & Investments as of July 31, 2024
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of July 31, 2024

Filed.

**Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report** – July 2024. Filed.

**Treasurer’s Reconciliation Report** – July 31, 2024. Filed.

**Findlay Police Department Activities Report** - July 2024. Filed.

**Chief of Police Mathias – funds to Findlay Police Department from the Ohio Attorney General**

The Findlay Police Department has been approved to receive a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000.00) grant from the Ohio Attorney General Drug Abuse Response Team (DART) grant program. The purpose of this grant is to assist local agencies in their efforts to combat the opioid/fentanyl problem in their communities. The Findlay Police Department has collaborated with the Family Resource Center in operating a team called the Quick Response Team (QRT) that has been in operation since late 2017. Within seventy-two (72) hours of a person experiencing a drug overdose, a Coordinator from the Family Resource Center and a Findlay Police Department Officer will attempt to contact that person. The purpose of this contact is to make the person aware of the opportunities available for treatment and recovery.

These funds from the Ohio Attorney General will be used to reimburse the Family Resource Center for the salary and expenses of a Coordinator. This is the fourth year that we have been awarded the grant. There is no match for the grant. Legislation to be given all three (3) readings during the August 20, 2024 Regular Session City Council meeting to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-101 was created.

FROM: Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Diversion Program Grant           \$ 50,000.00  
TO:     PD Quick Response FY2025 (*Project 31944300*)   \$ 50,000.00

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel asked if the effectiveness of this program is tracked and if individuals that they talk to have a tendency to avail themselves of the services. He asked if they have a less frequency of repeat. He asked how the effectiveness of this is tracked. Service-Safety Director Martin replied yes, it is tracked. It might not be the first time for the individuals involved, but the effectiveness of this program and how quickly they are able to make points of contact with the individuals is tracked. Part of the conversation during the Opioid Task Force Medical Committee meeting last week was that trends of overdoses and deaths from overdose in the community have been drastically down over the last three (3) years since becoming an epidemic in the last five (5) years. These services are still in place and that they would like to validate that those services are what caused the effectiveness and progress that has been made in the community. The numbers are down because of the effectiveness and availability of them to be there to reach out to the individuals that are in need. Councilman Russel asked if the City would still find a way to fund this if the State would choose to no longer make grant dollars available. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that is the conversations taking place now.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the County also funds this as it states that funds are used to reimburse the Family Resource Center for salary and expenses of the Coordinator. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the money that comes from the State comes through the City and not the County.

Councilman Russel asked if the Hancock County Sheriff's Office participates in this with their resources going out to anyone not within city limits or if representatives in this program go outside of city limits. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that it has been awhile since he has been involved with this, but that his understanding is that City law enforcement goes out with the QRT team. He cannot answer about outside of city limits. Filed.

**Hancock Regional Planning Commission Grant Administrator Kaysie Penzinski – ODNR NatureWorks grant program Round 30 application and obligation of funds**

Hancock County, Ohio is eligible to receive a project award of up to forty thousand nine hundred sixty-four dollars and no cents (\$40,964.00) as part of Round 30 of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' NatureWorks grant program. NatureWorks projects are funded through the Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Bond Issue which was approved by Ohio voters in November 1993. The NatureWorks grant program provides up to seventy-five percent (75%) reimbursement assistance for local government subdivisions for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas. A twenty-five percent (25%) match is required. In partnership with the City of Findlay, Ohio Engineering Department, the Hancock Regional Planning Commission (HRPC) respectfully requests a resolution authorizing the City of Findlay, Ohio to file a NatureWorks application for a Swale Park Shelter naming Kaysie Penzinski of HRPC as the local coordinator, and obligating the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement.

The total estimated project cost is sixty thousand seven hundred dollars and no cents (\$60,700.00) with the City of Findlay, Ohio committing to a nineteen thousand seven hundred thirty-six dollars and no cents (\$19,736.00) match. NatureWorks requires this resolution of authorization to be submitted by September 15, 2024, therefore, HRPC is requesting that this legislation be passed through emergency procedures with the three (3) readings requirement be waived to meet the grant deadline. A new shelter at Swale Park will provide needed shelter and shaded space for park users. The proposed location will maximize the usability of the shelter house for softball/baseball tournaments, large family gatherings, and daily users of the park. Ordinance No. 2024-102 was created. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – disaster siren replacement**

As part of the disaster siren replacement project, the City of Findlay requested a quote from the vender to remove and replace all of the wood poles that the sirens utilize. Total cost to replace all of the poles for the disaster sirens is \$31,500.00. Funds are needed to replace the poles as deemed necessary, therefore legislation to transfer and appropriate funds is requested for this capital expenditure. Ordinance No. 2024-103 was created.

FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 31,500.00
TO: Disaster Siren Replacement, <i>Project No. 31941600</i>	\$ 31,500.00

*discussion:*

Councilman Wobser asked what kind of poles are being put up. City Engineer Kalb replied wooden poles are being put up to replace existing wooden poles that are there right now. As they go through the area, all of the existing poles might not need to be replaced, but want to be readily available if needed. Councilman Wobser asked if this appropriation request would replace them all. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. Filed.

**Fire Chief Eberle – FY2023 AFG grant award**

The City of Findlay Fire Department was notified on August 9, 2024 that the FY2023 AFG grant application was awarded. This grant application was authorized by City Council through Ordinance No. 2024-029, but that that ordinance did not authorize the City to accept the award nor did it appropriate the required ten percent (10%) local match funds. This grant will provide the necessary hands-on training for all fire suppression personnel. The training course is an intensive 40-hour Firefighter Safety and Survival course which is compliant with NFPA 1407. The grant provides funds to host this course four (4) different times with fifteen (15) fire personnel in each course to be held at the STRICT Center training facility in 2025. The total amount of this project is one hundred fifty-two thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars and no cents (\$152,575.00) which includes the tuition cost, as well as, the vast majority of the overtime costs for all personnel to complete off-duty. The AFG grant covers ninety percent (90%) of the cost or one hundred thirty-eight thousand seven hundred four dollars and fifty-four cents (\$138,704.54) with the remainder being a local match requirement of thirteen thousand eight hundred seventy dollars and forty-six cents (\$13,870.46). The deadline to accept or decline the award is September 8, 2024. Legislation to appropriate the local match requirement and authorization to accept the grant award is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-104 was created. Filed.

### **Police Sergeant Walters – Axon BWC and In-Car System 1 year review**

The City of Findlay Police Department has been live with their Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and Fleet 3 in-Car Cameras for one (1) year as of August 14, 2024. The following are some statistics of that program in the past year:

- 71 Findlay Police Department Officers and Auxiliary Officers have used the BWC system to submit evidence.
- 58,489 pieces of digital evidence has been uploaded to evidence.com by members of the City of Findlay Police Department.
- 11,927 photos and/or videos uploaded to evidence.com using Axon Capture.
- 2,568 photos and/or videos uploaded to evidence.com through 726 uses of Axon Community Request.
- 18.07 TB (terabytes) of storage so far on evidence.com.
- 6,079 pieces of digital evidence shared with partner agencies (County Prosecutor, Law Director, CSB) through 508 records requests.
- 12,988 pieces of digital evidence shared with individuals through 322 different public records requests.

The twenty-one (21) marked patrol vehicles were outfitted with the Axon Fleet 3 in-car camera system as of August 6, 2024 with training on this system completed in May and June with all sworn personnel. The City of Findlay Police Department has had five (5) charging docks replaced due to some of the charging bays not working, and have had seven (7) body cams replaced due to various issues with the devices. One (1) dash came was replaced due to internal errors. Axon support provided the Return Authorization within minutes of the request, and that the replacement devices all arrived within days. Overall, aside from a few minor learning curves, it has been a very successful program. Filed.

### **City Auditor Staschiak – Hancock County Budget Commission’s alternative method for apportionment of undivided local government funds “Local Government Fund Alternative Method”**

The City of Findlay received approximately eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000.00) in local government funding into its 2023 General Fund. The same is projected for 2024 under the Hancock County Budget Commission alternative funding formula that was last reviewed in 1999. The State of Ohio is once again requiring a review of the alternative funding formula which has been completed by the budget commission and now a majority of the recipients (townships, villages, County, and City of Findlay) must pass resolutions accepting the recommendation of the budget commission. The Commission members have requested the resolution be passed prior to September 1, 2024. Councilman Wobser was invited to attend the meeting in order to facilitate and understand the funding and are in agreement that this should be passed during the August 20, 2024 City Council meeting. Legislation to approve the Hancock County Budget Commission’s alternative method of funding formula is requested. Resolution No. 025-2024 was created.

#### *discussion:*

Councilman DeArment asked if Hancock County is just under three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the State General Fund and if it was determined twenty-five (25) years ago to use this alternative method versus the statutory method. He asked if this alternative method formula is in Findlay’s best interest as it has been done for a long time. City Auditor Staschiak replied absolutely it is in the City’s best interest to continue with this alternative method. It has been this way for a long time.

The State has not forced a review of it since 1999 and was overdue. It was discussed because of the development around the State. There are certain townships and certain communities that do not have the dynamic that we have and only have one County seat. Councilman Wobser also attended the meeting. It does work to the City's benefit and the township's benefit. It is relatively even. The County can max out at fifty percent (50%), but have been at forty-nine percent (49%), so the County is pleased where they are at with it. In order for it to apply, more than fifty percent (50%) of the entities that receive the funds have to affirm that this resolution is before City Council. If this does not happen, the County has a big job ahead of them that could ultimately impact those dollars for the City's budget next year. At this point, he is going with the formula and budget projections that Council approved last meeting. He asked Acting Law Director Feighner if the resolution requires one (1) or three (3) readings. Acting Law Director Feighner replied it requires one (1) reading. President of Council Harrington replied that tonight's agenda indicates that only one (1) reading is necessary. Filed.

### **City Auditor Staschiak – Resolution accepting millage rates and amounts**

The County Budget Commission has completed their work and returned our Certificate of Estimated Resources for our 2025 budget. Our tax millage has been certified exactly as submitted; 2.6 mills for the General Fund and 0.3 mills each for Police and Fire Pension Funds to a total of 3.2 mills, approximately \$3.7MM (three million seven hundred thousand dollars). Local government money is estimated to be \$704,000.00 for next year subject to likely adjustments by the State and potentially the budget commission. Council should now accept the amounts and levy the tax rates as certified by the budget commission. The proper Resolution must be adopted and returned to the County Auditor no later than September 30, 2024. Legislation for this is requested and only requires one reading. City Auditor Staschiak requests that this letter be read. Resolution No. 026-2024 was created.

#### *discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische moved to read the letter in its entirety, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes = 9, Nays = 1. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety.

Mayor Muryn pointed out that local government funds are a regular topic with the Ohio Mayor's Alliance and with the State Legislature. Those funds come back to the community with little to no restrictions, so the City is always advocating for that to be increased back to some of the levels that it was a number of years ago to continue to bring those dollars back. It is a topic that the City keeps a close eye on and advocates for.

City Auditor Staschiak added that a complete history is available on how that revenue comes in that is divided into two (2) parts with the larger part coming from the State through the County to the City through what was just talked about, and the second part comes to the City directly from the State, which is a good history. The difference was dramatic when the recession had hit and the State had slashed it to pieces. The City will fight to bring it back because it was an agreement from a long time ago when the State went after collecting the sales tax and a few other things. The State, in currently history, is not honoring the agreement of its past and it is correct that different groups are lobbying to try and bring that money back. All of this is in the budget books that are given to Council during the budget sessions in December. Filed.

### **City Engineer Kalb – CyberOhio Local Government Grant Program**

The City of Findlay, Ohio is eligible for grant funds from the State of Ohio through the CyberOhio Local Government Program. This grant is offering twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to local governments to help develop, defend and recover cybersecurity incidents in order to protect Ohio's information technology infrastructure and data. The City of Findlay would be utilizing these funds to consult with a cyber security consulting firm to perform simulated real world attacks on the City's networks to find any weak points in our system. Based on their findings and/or successful hacks, the consultant would provide the City with information on all vulnerabilities found and provide solutions to eliminate the weaknesses. This grant will cover eighty percent (80%) or up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) of consulting cost and the City being required a twenty percent (20%) local match. From a recent quote, a third party consultant would cost approximately thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to perform the necessary task. This grant has an application deadline of September 16<sup>th</sup>. In order for the City to apply for this grant opportunity, legislation will need to be passed at the next City Council meeting. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to apply for grant funding from the State of Ohio through the CyberOhio program, as well as enter into a grant agreement with the State of Ohio. Ordinance No. 2024-105 was created.

#### *discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if software is already used that has cyber security. She asked if this request is a one-time annual thing that the City is adding in. City Engineer Kalb replied that the City does have cyber security within its systems, but that this request is for a third party consultant to come onboard to perform real world tests on the City's infrastructure, etc. to make sure there are no weak points within it. From that, they would be able to tell what the weak points are and what solutions would be needed to ensure no cyber attacks would take place within the City's system. This was filtered from the Department of Homeland Security down to the State through this CyberOhio program that was presented to the City. It is for local governments like Findlay to make sure they can have a third party to test that the City does not have the capabilities to run advanced real world cyber attacks on themselves. This will allow for someone else to come in and run those penetration attacks on and tell the City what needs to be fixed. Councilwoman Frische asked how often this will be done. City Engineer Kalb replied that this request is just for this program, but is always something that the City looks at doing. There is no timeframe of when it has to be done, but is something that should be done. The City's Computer Services Office is who determines how often it needs to be done. This is an opportunity that came to the City that had been looked at to do in the future. It is a great opportunity to fix any weak points.

Mayor Muryn added that in 2019, the City worked with the Ohio National Guard who has a cyber division that is set up to do similar testing on penetration and provide an improvement plan that the City has been working through. It will include a number of measures to help protect the City. It is good to do this on a semi-regular basis for outside consultant to be brought in to do. With a number of cyber security attacks happening around the country and in the state of Ohio, the City wants to continue to be well prepared.

Councilman Wobser asked if this includes the ancillary or websites that the City sends data back and forth to. Mayor Muryn replied that they will test the vulnerabilities of the connections of all of the systems that are connected and linked on the City's website ensuring there are no vulnerabilities coming from them to the City's systems. The City regularly tests those links and run security scans on them to ensure there is no penetration from outside sources.

Councilman Bauman asked if this request is just to apply for funding and not the City committing any money. City Engineer Kalb replied that in order for the City to commit to any money, he would have to come back to Council and ask for an appropriation of funds. Filed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** none

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 023-2024** (DFID – renewal petition) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ENHANCED PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE DOWNTOWN FINDLAY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel informed Council that there is a requirement for the DFID legislation to be adopted by the first Monday in September, so he will make a motion to also give this its third reading tonight.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the resolution its third reading, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser. Nays: Frische. The resolution received its third reading. Councilman Russel moved to adopted the resolution, seconded by Councilman Hellmann.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if there is any increase on the amount to be collected on for the DFID properties to contribute more appropriate dollars since the City has taken on the task of doing all of the maintenance downtown by one City employee that costs the City a lot of money. City Auditor Staschiak replied that when this came over to the City from DFID's attorney Phil Rooney, there was no request for any increase, so the sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) that they assessed themselves has been in place since its inception. He is unsure if the agreement between the City and the DFID has changed, so he is deferring that question to the City Administration. Mayor Muryn replied that at this point in time, there has been no discussion of changing the agreement, however, moving forward, it is something that she is interested in dissolving. The City has received a lot of benefit from having a clean and safe downtown and maintaining the aesthetics that provides a benefit to the community as a whole. It would be more beneficial for the City to absorb that and continue to maintain and expand that into that corridor and have DFID dollars focused on specific additional improvements that the City may not opt to invest in, but would provide additional benefit such as improved lighting, pedestrian alleyways on private property or shared property, additional aesthetic improvements, etc. Because of some of the tracking that has to be done because of chargebacks, it would be cleaner to not have the level of detail of what all the City is doing while still ensuring that anyone's time is appropriately tracked in the enterprise fund that they need to be tracked in. It is not a conversation she has had yet, but will have that conversation going into budget season. Councilwoman Frische noted that she used to manage a property in the downtown when the DFID was originally formed that took care of snow removal, beautification of flowers, etc. She asked if the City has taken over all of that. She asked for costs related to the one (1) City employee doing that work plus the equipment that is purchased for it. Council is not readdressing this dollar amount and used to be that businesses could shovel their own sidewalks and maintain things. While it is nice that the City does things in the downtown area that is beautiful, but that the cost factor, especially when talking about the river along the Riverwalk going through downtown where there is trash, individuals sleeping, etc. that would be appropriate for the City to be addressing via tax dollars than doing the full focus of the City absorbing the cost. She asked if the sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) is hundred percent (100%) for what the City does in the downtown or if it is only a portion of it. They were behind on payments and that different things were going on for awhile.



City Auditor Staschiak replied that he informed the DFID that City costs were well in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00). There have been some challenges in getting the information needed to track it properly, but now has that in order. It is not just individual time. For example, a komoto was purchased, so fuel for it and water coming from it is a cost and should be metered to figure out costs. That will continue to be tracked. Whether the costs are taken out of the General Fund, Parks Department, or Street Department, it is not a park. It is private property and is not a street. Federal tax dollars would not be appropriate and will make sure that all time, equipment, and operational expenses are tracked so that it is recorded and reported to Council properly every budget year. There are a lot of other items that the City gets requests to do that are in the downtown, so since the City is spending money on the downtown, other areas of the City want to know why the City is not spending in those areas too. Mayor Muryn added that the City is always making sure that they are tracking things properly and when things are brought to the Administration's attention, they work to resolve them to ensure the City is following proper legal processes. The City has consulted attorneys looking at pedestrian right-of-ways and the ability of funds to be used on them. The entire DFID funds do not come to the City of Findlay, but that they will continue to buy the flowers and are also compensating the City of Findlay approximately thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) towards the individual employee's position. Having that City employee help maintain the downtown and being able to expand his scope in the downtown area is something that is being looked at. Continuing to do that will be beneficial and serves the entire community. That will be a more in-depth conversation and is not something she is bringing up tonight. Councilwoman Frische feels that Council has not done their due diligence on this resolution and ordinance, and that suspending the statutory rules is inappropriate and should be thoroughly discussed because she would assume it can be negotiated or that the City can request a certain amount of money, even if the City wants to absorb those costs or not. Council has not had that discussion. When there is snow, the City has removed snow on business properties down Tiffin Avenue, but not through the entire town, which is not following the ordinance. She would like to table this legislation until the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE can fully vet the two (2) pieces of DFID legislation and go from there because those discussions have not taken place.

Councilwoman Frische moved to table the Ordinance. Motion dies for lack of a second.

*discussion:*

Mayor Muryn replied as a public edification, this is a group of property owners that have completed paperwork to tax themselves to receive those funds for their distribution to improve the downtown. City Council is simply the body that is the conduit for them to be able to do that.

City Auditor Staschiak pointed out that a protest letter from one of the members of the DFID who is objecting to the assessment has been received. He will need a letter from the Law Director or his office that allows him to move forward because under protest, there is a set of rules that kick in. He is unsure at what point they kick in and that a review has to happen where a decision or arbitration has to happen in some cases, but that he will need a letter in order to move forward with the assessment should the rest of the DFID legislation pass before it is due to the County.

Motion to adopt the resolution:

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 024-2024** (no PO) requires one (1) reading

**first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE AUDITORS OFFICE ON THE ATTACHED LIST OF VOUCHERS WHICH EITHER EXCEED THE PURCHASE ORDER OR WERE INCURRED WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING THE STATUTORY LIMIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D).

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

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked what this company is for Utility Billing. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that there is one vendor that processes the bills and one that actually sends the bills. It was a clerical issue of a purchase order being created for the proper amount to the wrong vendor. This is just to clean it up and pay it appropriately.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 025-2024** requires one (1) reading

**first reading - adopted**

*(Local Government Fund Alternative Method)*

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HANCOCK COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION'S ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR APPORTIONMENT OF UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO BE CALLED "LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALTERNATIVE METHOD".

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 026-2024** (millage rates & amounts) requires one (1) reading

**first reading - adopted**

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

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

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-084** (CUBE bldg generator) requires three (3) readings

**third reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY CUBE BUILDING GENERATOR PROJECT NO. 31923000, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-084 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-087** requires three (3) readings

**third reading - adopted**

*(fourth Capital Improvement appropriation of 2024)*

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 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.

Councilman Greeno moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-087 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-090** *(DFID - certify assessments)* requires three (3) readings **second reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE PROVISION OF THE ENHANCED PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE DOWNTOWN FINDLAY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel for the same reason as Resolution No. 023-2024, he will make a motion to also give this its third reading tonight.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by Councilman DeArment. Ayes: Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-090 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-091** *(DIFD postage costs)* requires three (3) readings

**second reading**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-093** requires three (3) readings

**second reading - adopted**

*(Washington Ave storm sewer upgrades phase I)*

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

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel informed Council that the contractor is ready to start moving on this project and that this ordinance is to appropriate funds for this project and that there is also some grant funding available to help cover this. So, in order to let the contractor begin the work, he is going to make a motion to get this through.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading, seconded by Councilman DeArment. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-093 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-095** (*Covington Greens replat #2*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**  
AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DESIGNATED AREA AS SHOWN ON THE COVINGTON GREENS SUBDIVISION 1ST ADDITION REPLAT #2 WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-096** (*Dale Park Subdivision final plat*) **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**  
AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DESIGNATED AREA AS SHOWN ON THE DALE PARK SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-099** **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**  
(*CDBG administration for years 2024-2026*)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HANCOCK REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS HRPC) AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS ODOD) TO PROVIDE SERVICES RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) PROGRAM YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2026 RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-100** **requires three (3) readings** **second reading**  
(*Health Care 3rd party administrator change*)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO CONTRACT WITH MEDBEN AS THE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TPA) AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PLAN RELATED SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY'S HEALTHCARE PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-101** **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**  
(*Ohio Attorney General Drug Abuse Response (DART) grant program*)

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel noted that this is a simple transfer of grant money to the appropriate fund that allows the City to enjoy the use of it, so he is going to make a motion to suspend statutory rules to give the ordinance all three (3) readings tonight.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman DeArment. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-101 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-102** (*NatureWorks grant*) **requires three (3) readings** ***first reading - adopted***

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND SIGN ALL APPLICABLE GRANT AGREEMENT(S) OR RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE OHIO PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Wobser pointed out that this is just to apply for a grant, so he is going to make a motion to suspend statutory rules to give the ordinance all three (3) readings tonight.

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

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if this is for Swale Park for a new shelter house. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. Councilwoman Frische asked if this was in the capital planning. City Engineer Kalb replied this and the restrooms are in 2027's capital planning, but then this grant opportunity came up which is the best way to effectively utilize grant funds. Councilwoman Frische asked what the total amount is in the 2027 capital plan. City Engineer Kalb replied that fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) is in the capital plan, but with inflation and prices that are out there now, sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) is what is now being requested. Councilwoman Frische asked if the forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) will go towards the full amount or if it will also go towards other things. City Engineer Kalb replied the forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) will go towards it. Councilwoman Frische asked what is wrong with the shelter house. City Engineer Kalb replied that there is no shelter house there.

City Auditor Staschiak asked if the City has done their due diligence on this knowing it is an underlying dump there so that the City does not breach any of its fiduciary agreements with the Ohio EPA as it moves forward. City Engineer Kalb replied that as per any construction project, the City will ensure that any EPA requirements or environmental problems will be solved or remedied before proceeding too far.

Councilwoman Frische asked if there is a rush on this application. The City is applying for a grant and that the philosophy is that the City does not want to apply for things that they are not going to accept because it looks bad and then sometimes do not get grants down the road. She would hate for the City to get into a sixty thousand dollar (\$60,000.00) project that would end up being expensive. City Engineer Kalb replied that restrooms were just built at Swale Park through grant funds. There also is a ball field there with pylons going into the ground. There are soil borings within the area. This is going to be close to the playground and the new restroom, so he feels fairly confident on what is being proposed.

Councilman Bauman would like to think that there is a lot of common sense on the other side of the room. He asked if the City does not get the grant funding if this is a project that the City would pass on. City Engineer Kalb replied if that were to happen, it would be looked at in 2027, but that this is a high usage park with the new restrooms and playground, it is a great opportunity to have a project planned out in the future to utilize grant funds to pay for as much as possible.

Service-Safety Director Martin added that Swale Park used to just be an overflow park, but as the community continues to grown with tournaments that come here and benefit the community week after week throughout the summer, it is now a premier park for ball diamonds to be utilized there. It is best to invest in the restrooms, even through grant money, as this is a great opportunity to put another layer of improvements into existing City parks.

Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-102 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-103** (*disaster siren replacement*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**  
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-104** (*FY2023 AFG grant*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ACCEPT AWARDED GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG), ALONG WITH THE CITY OF FINDLAY'S TEN PERCENT (10%) MATCH FOR THE PURCHASE OF VITAL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel pointed out that there is an early September deadline on this, so he is going to make a motion to waive the statutory rules and give this Ordinance its second and third readings tonight.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Palmer, Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Russel, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-104 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-105** **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**  
(*CyberOhio local government grant program*)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS AND ENTER INTO GRANT AGREEMENTS OR RELATED DOCUMENTS WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE FUNDS FOR THE CYBEROHIO LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Bauman asked if this ordinance is just allowing the City to apply for grant funding similar to the NatureWorks grant. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct.

Councilman Bauman moved to suspend statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman DeArment. Nays: Wobser, Greeno, Palmer, Russel. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Hellmann, Niemeyer. The motion was defeated.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilman Wobser asked if the intersection at State Route 237/State Route 224 is the City's project. City Engineer Kalb replied, no that is the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) project (State project). Councilman Wobser asked if the City is involved with any of it. City Engineer Kalb replied that the City has an agreement with ODOT with the City maintaining the signals once the project is done. ODOT works with the City and uses the City's equipment, but that it is one hundred percent (100%) ODOT's project. Anytime a piece of equipment needs fixed, ODOT pays for it with the City maintaining it because it is within the City's system. Councilman Wobser noted that ODOT is making good progress on it. It will be nice to have the traffic light out there. It may be a good to place for an electronic sign for a period of time when the project is done because motorists tend to increase their speed as they are heading towards Tiffin Avenue, so it would be a good idea to forewarn motorists of the new traffic light. City Engineer Kalb replied that he will talk with ODOT's Project Manager to see if they are going to put up a new signal ahead sign. Filed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Danny DeLong (ORAL COMMUNICATION) – Howard Run Ditch project**

Mr. DeLong is before City Council tonight to discuss the Howard Run Ditch project that was petitioned by Mayor Christina Muryn. He began with some history on the Howard Run Ditch that has been in existence for decades, but has not been cleaned for years. Maintenance of the ditch was in the City budget from 2013-2017 for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00)/year. In 2018, it was not in the budget, was to be determined (TBD) in 2019-2021, twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) was in the 2022 budget, and six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) in both the 2023 and 2024 budgets, which all adds up to approximately (\$287,000.00) in the budget that was not used for ditch cleaning. He, along with two thousand four hundred fifty-six (2,456) other property owners received notice this month from the County that they are going to be assessed the full cleaning amount of four hundred ninety-eight thousand four hundred seventy-two dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$498,472.39). He attended the County Commissioner's August 6, 2024 meeting when he was told that there was no money from the City and no grant money. He checked with the County Commissioners today if there was any money in their maintenance fund, in which according to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 6137.02, there should be a maintenance fund, but that there is no money in that fund. He sent a letter to Mayor Muryn on August 6, 2024 asking her to search for grant money for Howard Run in which she responded that it was already under maintenance and stated that the City had paid the cost for the initial cleaning to decrease the cost for the citizens and that the annual maintenance cost is very minimal, and further stated at that time that she had not received any notice from property owners to the City. At that time, Mayor Muryn's statement was wrong and that she was uninformed in giving incorrect information. He attended the August 6, 2024 County Commissioners meeting to ask them for a delay of the final meeting on August 22, 2024 so that they could search for grant money. He had asked that because at that time, Lucas County had a project for Swan Creek Ditch that they had delayed for a year in order to search for grant money. They also had a project last week for the Ten Mile Ditch that they have delayed until March for the same reason. He asked Findlay City Council to strongly consider contributing substantially to the cleaning of the Howard Run Ditch instead of the full burden falling on property owners. Flooding has always been a major concern for the City. A past Service-Safety Director stated that ditches are as important as sewers, but that they just do not have pipes. Flooding has always been a problem in the Howard Run area.

It was reported that costs of cleaning the ditch were paid for the Ten Mile Ditch by the Village of Ottawa Hills and the town of Sylvania and did not go to the property owners. Howard Run Ditch is an urgent matter, with a final date of August 22, 2024 set by the County, to move forward on the project and assess property owners. He asked how it is decided what ditch(es) are going to be/not going to be funded. He is now asking the City Administrators to ask the County Commissioners to delay the project to have time to search for grant money for 2024 or wait to see if funding would be available for 2025. This project has been in the process for the last five (5) years, since 2019, and asked how a few more months would delay it.

President of Council Harrington notified Mr. DeLong that his allotted four (4) minutes were up, but that he may continue to speak if he is about finished.

Mr. DeLong continued by reminding Council of the urgency of this matter, knowing that August 22, 2024 (this Thursday), the County is going to make a final decision and asked Council to consider helping out with funds and talk to the County Commissioners to put the project on hold until something is decided.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that this project is in the County Commissioners lap and are making that vote on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. She is not aware of the City being able to get any grant dollars for ditches, but that she has had a lot of individuals ask her about the whole ditch situation. It appears to be a one-time maintenance project. Some have compared this to Dazel Ditch, which is what the Mayor referenced it to instead of Howard Run Ditch, in which the City did contribute to that. The Dazel Ditch project was a hot mess. Some created devices to try to take care of the problem from going into their basements, flooding roads, etc. The City contributed approximately three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) to that project in October 2017. She asked if Council wants to have a discussion on helping out with the Howard Run Ditch or what else can be done to delay it. She asked why it was originally petitioned other than it needed to be on the books. She asked if there is a project assigned to it and/or if there are any problems going on with it. Mayor Muryn replied that she had inaccurately referred to the Dazel Ditch project because she was not as familiar with this project since it was originally petitioned in 2014 and that she was not Mayor at that time. She took office in 2019. A big problem with the ditch petitioning process is that it is so lengthy, spread out, and so regimented that there tends to be a lot of turnover in Administrations and Council when these finally come up for the assessment part of it. When she first took office in 2019, she talked about this one because the City received the phone call as a petitioner and have to present. The City has filed petitions on all of the ditches because they are a critical piece of the City's infrastructure and storm water management and have not been under maintenance. The longer it waits and gets build up, and are not being maintained appropriately, it is going to cost a lot more. When this was originally petitioned in 2014, Council had a conversation about putting money towards it, but voted not to and just paid the initial six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) to start the process, filed the paperwork, and obtained the petition documents. There were no capital funds put towards the project. Unfortunately, the City did not receive any figures or mailings at that point in time, but did later get a copy from the County Commissioners Office. The only reason the City got that was because it owns property along the ditch, so she received the City's notice to pay on the initial construction assessment and the maintenance assessment. The construction assessment is a one-time process and the maintenance assessment is an annual process that goes into the fund and is used for projects to maintain the ditches. For example, every couple of years, the Dazel Ditch banks are checked and cleaned removing any significant items. She does not recommend holding off on the Howard Run Ditch Project as it is a very regimented process. The County is voting on Thursday to continue the regimented process.



Council can look at what the City can do to help, but that she is not familiar with grants and is something the County typically does because there are so many ditches across it that it would be unmanageable. The City has only applied money to ditches when there were significant issues that needed construction management that were going to be an unfair burden to some of the property owners. She would not be in favor of the City putting money towards this.

Councilman Russel asked if the long-term control plan incorporates ditches into their study. City Engineer Kalb replied no. The long-term control plan looks at how the sanitary system handles the storm water. Councilman Russel replied that the City gave capital dollars for the Dazel Ditch project to pay the City's portion and that City of Findlay citizens are to help with their portion. Storm water maintenance projects could be considered during capital budget discussions. He concurred with Councilwoman Frische that Dazel Ditch was a mess that caused significant flooding and generated significant construction within that ditch by property owners. It was a more significant project. Council and the community could entertain discussions on the Howard Run Ditch during capital budget discussions.

Councilman Wobser asked Mr. DeLong what dollar amount his assessment is. Mr. DeLong replied that it is under one hundred dollars (\$100.00). He is asking about this for everyone in the City.

Councilwoman Frische noted that part of the reason the Dazel Ditch project got into such a mess was because there were a couple of property owners that had a large portion of that area that had very high assessments that they did not want to pay because the problems with the ditch were not all their fault which is why it never went anywhere, but when it got completely out of control, Council decided to move it forward and agreed to the appropriation during the process of the petitioning of the ditch to move it forward. If the County Commissioners move the Howard Run Ditch project forward, property owners will have to pay it by September 12, 2024 and would then know that they do not owe it instead of it being assessed to their taxes and charged interest. While Mr. DeLong has a smaller assessment, others might have larger assessments because of larger properties in the County. Farmland owners would have a larger section of a burden. She would prefer to have the discussion now versus later because later would involve reimbursing the property owners who have already paid their assessments, which would be backwards.

City Auditor Staschiak is not commenting on whether Council should or shouldn't consider helping, but is instead just informing them of the process. Government entities do not normally use their own money that is going to be reimbursed. There will be issuance cost for the money. It tells the property owners that the government entity is going to give them a chance to pay it up front before the issuance cost is incurred. For those who don't, it is assessed to their taxes. Councilwoman Frische is correct that there will be some challenges if this is looked at after the fact.

Councilman Hellmann asked if only property owners that immediately abut a particular ditch or the whole watershed are assessed. City Engineer Kalb replied the whole watershed.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that if Council is going to have this discussion, it needs to be moved on because there are two (2) more ditches that need maintenance. If this is something Council wants to do inside the City limits, Howard Run needs to be addressed now and the other two (2) ditches at the same time so that there is more of a game plan. She asked the Administration if they could communicate that to the County Commissioners to see if they would delay the Howard Run Ditch project until the City figures out what they want to do. She does not know if it would change the process if the County delayed their meeting. Mayor Muryn replied she is unsure. It would be a question for the County Engineer. She wishes that they would have reached out to the City as a heads up before the notices went out to the property owners. The last meeting on it was in 2019.

She will reach out to them tomorrow and let Council know by Wednesday if something can be done mid-day Thursday so that City of Findlay Representatives could attend the County's meeting and be able to communicate that to them if that is something the majority of Council wants. She will communicate to Council what she finds out from the County and then Council can make a decision on how they want to handle it. Councilwoman Frische asked Council if the majority of Council wants to look at the portion inside the City limits and have Mayor Muryn do some leg work and then add the other two (2) ditches into the conversations, or if Council does not want to work with citizens on this assessment.

President of Council Harrington pointed out that this can be referred to a committee.

Councilwoman Frische asked what Mayor Muryn needs from Council for this. Mayor Muryn replied that she will call the County Engineer and find out from him what the game plan is and when the City would need to have an answer to them on funding. She will then call Councilman Wobser, as the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE chair, about her findings and will also notify all of Council. She agrees that she would like it to be a discussion point on that ditch, but that it needs to be consistent with all ditches. A small amount of money was set aside for the Oil Ditch process that the City allocated funds for in the past at the beginning of the process, but that is not nearly enough money to help with the Howard Ditch project as it moves forward. The City has been waiting on that one for seven (7) years. The Dazel Ditch project was also different, so she would like to see some consistency in how it is managed, and at what point in time, money is considered to be put into the game. She will gather information and let Council know.

Mr. DeLong replied that he is before Council tonight to let them know what is going on and that the City did spend money on the other two (2) ditches with the City appropriating one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000.00) to one of them. Filed.

Mayor Muryn hosted twenty (20) Mayors from the Ohio Mayor's Alliance last week who had a wonderful time downtown. They had great productive conversations on issues and how Mayors set communities up for success, moving forward, and work with the State Legislature. She was not surprised that they all were very impressed with Findlay. A number of them are already looking at weekends to come back and visit. She was very proud to show off the community and the great work the City is doing. She appreciates Council's work to continue to move the City forward. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak asked Councilman Wobser if he wants to declare a meeting for the healthcare TPA issue via Ordinance No. 2024-100. Councilman Wobser replied that there is a placeholder for September 3, 2024 at 5:00pm. The meeting is anticipated to last approximately forty-five (45) minutes.

Councilman Wobser: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING** on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 5:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1)  
agenda: City of Findlay Third Party Administrator (TPA) Medben

Councilman Palmer moved to adjourn City Council at 7:05pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL