

**FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**ROLL CALL of 2024-2025 Councilmembers**

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

**ABSENT:** none

President of Council Harrington introduced Boy Scout Troop 312 members Jamie Schieltz, Mack Hudson, and Timothy Haines who were in the audience and opened tonight’s meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. They are at City Council tonight to earn their communication merit badge. Filed.

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

Councilman Palmer moved to accept the September 17, 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-on and replace the following on tonight’s agenda, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor. Filed.

**ADD-ONS:**

- 1. Ra-Nik investigation and remediation summary letters from Civil and Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC) via Hancock Regional Planning Commission Director Cordonnier (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section**).

**REPLACEMENTS:**

- 1. Resolution No. 029-2024 AS AMENDED – Howard Run Ditch Cleaning (**LEGISLATION section**).

- SECTION 1:

FROM: <del>Emory Fort Findlay Playground #31931200</del>	<del>\$ 311,030.00</del>
TO: <del>Howard Run Ditch Cleaning #32549500</del>	<del>\$ 311,030.00</del>

*to now be:*

FROM: Emory-Fort Findlay Playground #31931200	\$ 301,614.00
TO: Howard Run Ditch Cleaning #32549500	\$ 301,614.00

**PROCLAMATIONS:** none

**RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:** none

**PETITIONS:**

**Petition for Annexation – 6434 CR 18 (Weaver)**

A petition for annexation to the City of Findlay filed by Phil Rooney, agent for the petitioner on September 24, 2024. A legal description for said property consisting of 1.480 acres is attached with the petition. The property requested (parcel no. 330001004487) to be annexed is currently in Marion Township, Hancock County. Referred to Law Director for Resolution of Services legislation. Resolution No. 030-2024 was created. Filed.

**Petition for Annexation – CR 212 (Cole)**

A petition for annexation to the City of Findlay filed by Phil Rooney, agent for the petitioner on September 24, 2024. A legal description for said property consisting of 48.987 acres is attached with the petition. The property requested (parcel no. 020001030984) to be annexed is currently in Allen Township, Hancock County. Referred to Law Director for Resolution of Services legislation. Resolution No. 031-2024 was created. Filed.

**Petition for Annexation – County Road 212/Township Road 99 (Vorheese)**

A petition for annexation to the City of Findlay filed by Phil Rooney, agent for the petitioner on September 24, 2024. A legal description for said property consisting of 160.429 acres is attached with the petition. The property requested (parcel no. 020001013866) to be annexed is currently in both Allen and Marion Townships, Hancock County. Referred to Law Director for Resolution of Services legislation. Resolution No. 032-2024 was created.

*discussion:*

Mayor Muryn pointed out that these three (3) annexations came out of the annexation process that the City had rolled out. They were properties that had requested to be annexed as part of that process. There are a number of other properties that have also requested to be annexed and are working through the paperwork. Phil Rooney is leading that process for the City. Council will be seeing a number of other annexations coming forward. They are all properties that were requested by the property owners to be included in this annexation process.

Councilman DeArment asked if these are related to a specific project. Mayor Muryn replied no. They are part of a clean up of pockets. The Weaver property is a clean up property. The Cole property is along that corridor that thinks it is more advantageous to be in the City. It is the same scenario for the Vorheese property. The other ones are more residential throughout town as well as a couple of island type properties coming in.

Councilman Wobser asked if these are part of the process that Mayor Muryn went through approximately a year ago. Mayor Muryn replied that is correct. Filed.

**Zoning amendment request – 0 Glessner Avenue**

Paul Taschler would like to change the zoning of 0 Glessner Avenue (parcel no. 560001008484) to CD Condominium. It is currently zoned as L1 Light Industrial. Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

President of Council Harrington informed Council of one (1) ORAL COMMUNICATION request that will be given during NEW BUSINESS of tonight’s meeting. 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 Whitson Hotel Operations LLC, dba Hilton Garden Inn, located at 1050 Interstate Drive W, Findlay, Ohio for a D5A and D6 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James Mathias, Chief of Police – Whitson Hotel Operations LLC, dba Hilton Garden Inn, located at 1050 Interstate Drive W, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no current criminal record on the following:

Shirlee Whitson

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

**Mayor Muryn – appointment to Blanchard Valley Port Authority**

Mayor Muryn is appointing Patrick Sadowski to serve on the Blanchard Valley Port Authority filling the unexpired term of Kirby Oberton who resigned effective September 30, 2024. Mr. Sadowski's appointment will be effective from September 30, 2024 through June 30, 2026. This appointment requires Council's confirmation.

Councilman Russel moved to accept this appointment, seconded by Councilman Hellmann.

*discussion:*

Councilman Wobser pointed out that there were a lot of discussions around this appointment and asked if the Port Authority Board agreed with this appointment. Mayor Muryn replied that she did not specifically request their feedback, but that they have worked with Mr. Sadowski and that a number of them are in support of his appointment. She did not ask the board for their endorsement. Councilman Wobser asked if this is the Mayor's appointment to make. Mayor Muryn replied yes it is. Councilman Wobser pointed out that there originally was some consternation from the Port Authority Board about this appointment because they had picked someone other than Mr. Sadowski and wondered if there had been any discussion about it. Mayor Muryn replied that she did not discuss that specifically with them, but that she had spoke with the candidate that they put forward who was fine with and supportive of Mr. Sadowski. Mr. Sadowski is also interested in getting involved with other boards while he gets re-engaged with the community. She did not hear from the chairman of the Port Authority on the appointment.

Councilwoman Frische asked if this is considered a conflict of interest because Mr. Sadowski is also on the Economic Development Board even though the Port Authority is separate, but works very closely with them. She asked who the other candidate was. Mayor Muryn replied that Mike Epps is a banker in town. One of the reasons she thinks Mr. Sadowski is a great candidate is because of his knowledge of economic development, the process, and because of his background as an attorney. Previously, Doug Huffman served on the board for many years who rolled off and did not want to be reappointed, so she would like to put an attorney back on the board.

All were in favor of this appointment. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – A1 Hangar Door Repairs, project no. 35242200**

The City of Findlay Airport is working to replace the existing hangar doors on Hangar A1. When the Airport sought quotes for the replacement, it was then found that only two (2) companies in Ohio sell Powerlift brand hydraulic hangar doors. Airport staff received quotes from the two (2) companies when it was determined that Metal Monkey Welding & Fabrication, located in Sugarcreek, Ohio, offered the most reasonable quote. As part of their quote, Metal Monkey will take care of everything from demo of the existing doors, replacement of necessary frames, and installation of the new doors. Due to the condition of the doors, the doors are restricted on how far they can be opened which limits the size of aircraft that can be stored in the hangar. In order to ensure that the doors will be replaced in a timely manner so that the Airport does not lose any additional revenue, it is desired to waive the formal bidding process and enter into contracts with Metal Monkey Welding & Fabrication to replace the hangar doors. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to waive all formal advertising and bidding requirements and enter into contracts with Metal Monkey Welding & Fabrication to replace the existing hangar doors. Ordinance No. 2024-116 was created.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische moved to read the letter in its entirety because of not following the process, seconded by Councilman Wobser. President of Council Harrington asked what process is not being followed. Councilwoman Frische replied the bidding process. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Russel. The Council Clerk read the letter in its entirety.

Councilman Wobser asked how much this is going to cost. City Engineer Kalb replied ninety-eight thousand five hundred five dollars (\$98,505.00), but that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) was appropriated for it. The other company does not do demos and only does framework and installation of the doors. The framework includes siding, soffit, etc. Metal Monkey Welding & Fabrication will do the soffit, siding, frame, demo the doors, and installation of the new doors. The power lift doors are a niche market and are one of the best brands out there for the hydraulic lift and the vertical lift which is why the Airport wanted to go with the power lift doors. Councilman Wobser asked if this is a niche market. City Engineer Kalb replied that there are a lot of horizontal doors that also go vertical that allow for the type of space the Airport has that will maximize the space of the hangars. They are already on other Marathon hangar doors at the Airport, so it is not a new brand. Besides liking the space savings of the doors, if the power were to go down, hydraulics from tractors can be hooked up to open the doors that way. There are multiple capabilities with it. This is the closest one in Ohio and is a very good brand. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – STRICT Center enhancements, project no. 31944900**

The City of Findlay Fire Department has received a one thousand dollar (\$100,000.00) donation from the Elaine and Gene Stevens Family to continue future enhancements at the STRICT Center. The donated funds will be going towards future enhancements such as, but not limited to, training apparatus, technology improvements, site enhancements, and training material. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-117 was created.

FROM: General Fund ( <i>donations</i> )	\$ 100,000.00
TO: STRICT Center Enhancements #31944900	\$ 100,000.00

Filed.

**Mayor Muryr – Immigrant Task Force 8/21/24 meeting minutes.** Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) amendment, project no. 35626200**

As discussed in the WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting, the City of Findlay Engineering Department is working with Strand Associates, Inc. to amend the Combine Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan. Legislation to appropriate the necessary funds in order to continue with Phase II of the long-term control plan is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-118 was created.

FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 217,000.00
TO: CSO LTCP Amendment, <i>Project No. 35626200</i>	\$ 217,000.00

Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – Howard Run Ditch Cleaning, project no. 32549500**

During the September 18, 2024 WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE meeting, the funding amount of this project was amended to cover only the cost of residents within the City of Findlay limits. This amended amount will cover the engineering, construction, and five percent (5%) maintenance fee that was assessed to the current residents within the City limits. It is requested to amend Resolution No. 029-2024 that received its first reading during the September 17, 2024 City Council meeting to now be amended to reduce the original amount of \$ 311,030.00 to now be \$301.614. Legislation to amend Resolution No. 029-2024 for its second reading during the October 1, 2024 City Council meeting is requested. Resolution No. 029-2024 received its first reading during the September 17, 2024 City Council meeting. Filed.

**City Engineer Kalb – transfer of ARPA Funds**

During the last City Council meeting, realigning some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to ensure that the funds are properly obligated prior to the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline was discussed. A number of the projects had money left over after completion, so those funds will be transferred out to additional projects. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and/or City Engineer to advertise for bids and enter into contract, as well as transfer and appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2024-119 was created.

FROM: ARPA Fund	\$ 63,402.31
FROM: General Fund ( <i>returned ARPA</i> )	\$ 20,111.09
FROM: Tree Planting ( <i>31925600</i> )	\$ 20,486.60
FROM: Emory-Fort Findlay ( <i>31931200</i> )	\$ 27,000.00
TO: City Mission ARPA Subgrant ( <i>31945600</i> )	\$ 131,000.00
FROM: ADA Transition Plan ( <i>31925000</i> )	\$ 1,200.00
FROM: Demolition Program ( <i>31925800</i> )	\$ 80,000.00
FROM: 2024 ARPA Police Vehicle ( <i>31932600</i> )	\$ 2,333.31
FROM: Tree Planting ( <i>31925600</i> )	\$ 2,759.10
FROM: General Fund ( <i>returned ARPA</i> )	\$ 3,707.59
TO: Raise the Bar ( <i>31945200</i> )	\$ 90,000.00
FROM: Tree Planting ( <i>31925600</i> )	\$ 22,640.00
TO: Police Command Trailer Equipment ( <i>31945100</i> )	\$ 22,640.00
FROM: Emory-Fort Findlay ( <i>31931200</i> )	\$ 2,527.09
TO: Bulk Trash & Tire Dropoff ( <i>31934300</i> )	\$ 2,527.09

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if this is the ordinance that the City Engineer sent an email on about the ARPA transfer stating that it is will involve new projects that have not been discussed yet. If so, she will make a motion to table the letter since it has not gone to the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE yet to know what these future projects are. There are a lot of different things going on that this should wait. President of Council Harrington replied that the legislation will go for three (3) readings, so there is time for a meeting in between that and to answer all of her questions. Mayor Muryn added that before making a formal motion, it might be helpful to know that an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting is going to be called to be scheduled for next Tuesday. It was part of the conversation with Councilman Wobser to be called, but for timing and processing of the ARPA money, it was requested to put this on the agenda in order for the ordinance to receive its first reading prior to that meeting being held.

Councilwoman Frische reminded Council that she made a motion to table either the letter or the ordinance and that next Tuesday for an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting does not work for her. She was not aware that Mayor Muryn and Councilman Wobser were having conversations about this.

Motion died due to a lack of a second to the motion. Filed.

**Hancock Regional Planning Commission Director Cordonnier - Ra-Nik investigation and remediation summary letters from Civil and Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC).**

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische noted that she had been asking for this for the last two (2) months and is glad that Mr. Cordonnier added it to the Council packet as an add-on. She pointed out that the final test boring results for the Ra-Nik property are in this. She has looked at some of these letters and noticed that there are some coronium levels still in there and does not know if that is to the standard for kids to play at that park once it is developed. Mayor Muryn replied that it is at safe levels and met all of the compliance factors for parks and open space requirements. As a reminder from the meeting with Mike Coonfare in which he stated that “they have to be able to eat dirt”. It will be clean. As they are doing the benching work, additional clean top soil will be brought into the area. Filed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Minutes of July 31, 2024 **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** meeting.

Councilman Russel moved to approve the committee meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Greeno. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on September 18, 2024 to discuss long-term control plan funding.

*We recommend an appropriation of \$217,000 out of the Sewer Fund for Phase II work on the long-term control plan.*

Councilman Greeno moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on September 18, 2024 to discuss Howard Run Ditch maintenance funding.

*We recommend:*

- allocation of \$301,614 to cover assessment and maintenance costs inside the City limits
- a MOU be executed prior to transfer of funds

Councilman DeArment moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Councilman Palmer.

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked if the committee addressed where they want the money to come from. She asked if it is coming from the Fort Findlay Playground allocation (ARPA). Councilman Russel replied that there is additional legislation on that that received its first reading. This simply changed the amount. The existing legislation stated to pull ARPA funds to cover the Howard Run Ditch.

Councilman Wobser asked if one hundred percent (100%) of the cost is being covered for this renovation. Councilman Russel replied yes, that is what is trying to be done. City Engineer Kalb took the information from the Hancock County Engineer inside the City limits which is why there is a small reduction in cost. It covers the prorated engineering fees for inside the City. City Engineer Kalb replied it covers the engineering construction and the five percent (5%) maintenance fee for within the City limits. Councilman Wobser asked if there are any concerns with setting precedence on covering the costs. Councilman Russel replied that the committee did discuss that and where future funds would come from and that future Councils can always change it at their discretion as they see what future economic conditions entail. For example, the City also did some funding for the Dazel Ditch and that the overriding factor for him and the rest of the committee's thoughts were that ditches inside the City are in essence stormwater and sewers without a pipe that serve the same function that should be the responsibility of the municipal government. The ditch goes across governmental boundaries which is why it is handled in a unique manner with State legislation on how ditches are maintained. This was discussed in some detail, but thought it was the proper way to go. Councilman Wobser replied that makes sense and helps with getting the ARPA dollars allocated per ARPA dollar rules timely before there are any issues with it.

City Auditor Staschiak added that whether this be Soil and Water or the County Engineer, when the City receives the invoice, the City Auditor's Office will be able to cut a check with the Administration being able to keep it moving in a timely fashion.

Councilwoman Frische referred back to Councilman Wobser's comment about setting a precedence and the discussion about it in that meeting because there was other discussion on a couple of ditches on how those will be handled.

Councilman Russel pointed out that the money is being spent to cover the expenditures of citizens within the City limits. So instead of them getting the bill for the maintenance of this project, that bill in essence is being paid for by the City of Findlay. It is not covering the cost for citizens who live outside of City limits who have a responsibility for ditch maintenance and repair and still bare that liability. This restricts coverage inside City limits.

Councilwoman Frische added that after doing the initial payment to get Dazel Ditch clean, there was an assessment to each property tax card of a minimal two to three dollars (\$2.00-\$3.00), so that same thing will be happening for this ditch as well.

All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on September 18, 2024 to discuss extending sanitary sewer to properties within City limits that are on a septic system *(continued)*.

*We recommend to continue by sending letters to identified property owners and continue to gather data.*  
Councilman Palmer moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Councilman DeArment. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on September 18, 2024 to determine policies and procedures for instituting utility billing rate changes *(continued)*.

*We recommend to clarify language in water rate review process document and incorporate into the water rates and sewer rules.*

Councilman Russel moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. All were in favor. Filed.

The **WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE** met on September 18, 2024 to review rates for water, sewer and/or storm water utilities.

*We recommend no rate changes to any utility in 2025.*

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

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 028-2024** requires three (3) readings

***second reading***

*(CR 220/99 Sheetz annexation – services City will provide if annexed in)*

A RESOLUTION STATING WHAT SERVICES THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, SITUATED IN ALLEN TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, AND BEING A PART OF THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, AND THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, T2N, R11E, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 21.724 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE CR 220/99 (SHEETZ ANNEXATION)).

*Second reading of the Resolution*

**RESOLUTION NO. 029-2024, AS AMENDED** requires three (3) readings

***second reading***

*(Howard Run Ditch cleaning)*

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

*Second reading of the Resolution*



**RESOLUTION NO. 030-2024 requires three (3) readings**

***first reading***

*(Weaver (6434 CR 18) annexation – services City will provide if annexed in)*

A RESOLUTION STATING WHAT SERVICES THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, SITUATED IN MARION TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, AND BEING A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, T1N, R11E, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 1.480 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE WEAVER 6434 COUNTY ROAD 18 ANNEXATION).

*First reading of the Resolution*

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

***first reading***

*(Cole (CR 212) annexation – services City will provide if annexed in)*

A RESOLUTION STATING WHAT SERVICES THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, SITUATED IN ALLEN TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, AND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, T2N, R11E, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 48.987 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE COLE COUNTY ROAD 212 ANNEXATION).

*First reading of the Resolution*

**RESOLUTION NO. 032-2024 requires three (3) readings**

***first reading***

*(Vorheese (CR 212/TR 99) annexation – services City will provide if annexed in)*

A RESOLUTION STATING WHAT SERVICES THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, BEING THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 32, T2N, R11E, ALLEN TOWNSHIP, PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 4 AND PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, T1N, R11E, MARION TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF OHIO, A TRACT OF LAND CONSISTING OF 160.429 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS OF WHICH 159.288 ACRES LIE WITHIN SECTION 32, ALLEN TOWNSHIP, 0.027 ACRES LIE WITHIN SECTION 4 MARION TOWNSHIP, AND 1.114 ACRES LIE WITHIN SECTION 5 MARION TOWNSHIP (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE VORHEESE COUNTY ROAD 212/TOWNSHIP ROAD 99 ANNEXATION).

*First reading of the Resolution*

**ORDINANCES:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-107 requires three (3) readings**

***third reading - adopted***

*(Municipal Building LED Replacement Phase 2)*

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING LED REPLACEMENT PHASE 2 PROJECT NO. 31942700, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Hellmann moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-107 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-111** requires three (3) readings

*second reading*

*(fifth 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 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.

*Second reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-112, AS AMENDED** requires three (3) readings

*second reading - adopted*

*(Airport fuel budget)*

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel noted that there were some concerns about how this was written and funded, and asked if everything is all set with this legislation as presented. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that he did some research and found ordinances back to 2018 that had the same language that is presented today. That language to put into the legislation comes from the Deputy Auditor, so he felt very comfortable the way it was written and why it was needed. City Auditor Staschiak added that the short answer is no, but that from his perspective, it is six of one half, a dozen of the other on this particular piece of legislation with regard to walking into a budget and pulling money from the General Fund which is something that will be done if the money is pulled out of the Airport Fund to subsidize the Airport in 2025. His point was simply that there would be an improvement in how this is looked at regardless of how historically it has been done in the last couple of years because in reality, if selling fuel, a profit is being made and generating revenue. There should be enough revenue to release those funds and move forward. From his perspective, he does not want to stop this just because that has not been done, but wants to make Council aware that if that much fuel was sold, that cash should be there and should be able to move forward because it has to go through the process of releasing the money through a recertification with the County similar to what is done with tax. It is a worthwhile process to keep the year to year operational look of the Airport in front of Council, especially with year-end fuel purchases when moving fuel, but is Council's call. He does not want to slow the Airport down.

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

*discussion:*

Councilwoman Frische asked how often every year this appropriation for fuel for either type of fuel needs to be done. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that approximately six hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$612,000) was budgeted in 2024 for both fuels. Per dollar numbers are ran and then it is forecasted what that is going to be. They will be doing that again this year. Because of some of the competitive buying that the City can do, some of the customer service and some of the improvements at the Airport via word of mouth to the general aviation groups, the City is selling more and more fuel, which is a good way of supporting that industry and is a good situation that the City is in.

In order to be competitive, when the market is right to gain a higher margin on the sale, the market is studied and fuel prices are analyzed in order to make that purchase quickly. In order to be able to do that, they ideally would like to have a super purchase order that would blanket this entire purchasing process, but that through discussions with the Deputy Auditor, her preference is to have multiple purchase orders for each vendor in order to keep it fair and equitable, which requires additional dollars in different purchase orders versus just one purchase order. It is a convoluted process, but has been traditionally been done every year around this time of year. Councilwoman Frische clarified that she understands that this is how it has been done around this time year each year and the City Auditor's way of wanting to release money, but that if it saves the City on the capital side, it could be something that can be worked through for 2025 to do the process a different way or if it will cause a problem with the bidding process to get competitive rates. Service-Safety Director Martin replied it is not going to cause a problem and as an example of how it was done in 2023, approximately five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) was budgeted in fuel that was sold and then informed Council of the good sales, etc., and are doing the same thing this year. He has legislation back to 2018 showing that the Airport had consistently done this. The Administration will look at what the 2025 and 2026 revenue projections will be based on fuel sales and will look at what the fuel markets are going to look like, making a best guess projection of a budget with the hopes to sell it and will come back to Council to have this conversation again. Councilwoman Frische asked if this Ordinance is passed tonight for this buy if it is above and beyond what was planned for, if there is a way next year to do an above and beyond purchase as the City Auditor is asking about releasing money and not having to pull from capital because she would like to not have to pull from capital if it is a doable process within the Airport that won't hold their processes up. She is going to vote in favor of this Ordinance, but wants to know if the Administration can better work with the Auditor's Office in an effort to save from pulling money from capital. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that technically, it is General Fund money and not Capital Fund money. He did not know that this was an issue because of past practice. Councilwoman Frische replied that she does not think it is an issue. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that legislation is vetted through the Deputy Auditor to make sure the proper accounts are listed on the legislation in order for the Administration to ensure things are done properly on the front end. Councilwoman Frische replied that she did not say that it wasn't being done properly and just asked if there was a better way. If there is an option to work together for 2025. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that he will work with the Deputy Auditor to see if it can be streamlined.

City Auditor Staschiak added that the Airport Supervisor will need to let the City Auditor's Office know where they are at in their process of acquiring fuel and if they think they will be short on their budget for moving forward to acquire fuel based on the quantity of sales around August-October, so that the City Auditor's Office is given a heads up, and then he will adjust those figures and submit them to the County and get the certificate back, and then the legislation will a combined appropriation to the Airport Fund of those monies that the Airport made selling that fuel and an expenditure appropriation for purchase of new fuel. It is a very simple process. The City Auditor's Office just needs to be informed ahead of time when the Airport anticipates fuel purchases within the next few weeks. He can get a certificate from the County Auditor within a couple of days.

President of Council Harrington informed Council that the Clerk of Council pointed out that SECTION 1 of the Ordinance should list the verbiage "and transferred" and that the header also needs to list "AND TRANSFERRING", so per Law Director Rasmussen, the Ordinance needs to be amended accordingly.

Councilman Wobser moved to amend the Ordinance, seconded by Russel. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russell, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance as amended, seconded by Councilwoman Frische. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted as amended and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-112 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-113** (*Bank St/S Blanchard St vacation*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**  
AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE BANK STREET VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-114** (*615 E Edgar Ave rezone*) **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 REZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY (REFERRED TO AS 615 EAST EDGAR AVENUE REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "R2 MEDIUM LOT RESIDENTIAL" TO "R3 SMALL LOT RESIDENTIAL".

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-115** **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**  
(*unimproved alley portion west of Sandusky St*)  
AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS THE UNDEVELOPED PORTION OF WEST SANDUSKY STREET VACATION) IN THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-116** (*A1 Hangar door repairs*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**  
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO WAIVE FORMAL ADVERTISING AND BIDDING AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH METAL MONKEY WELDING & FABRICATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING HANGAR DOORS ON HANGAR A1 AT THE CITY OF FINDLAY AIPORT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel asked what the timing is on this and if there is a pressing need to have it passed tonight or if it can go one more reading to add the dollar amounts in it. City Engineer Kalb replied it can probably go one more reading. It is just coming down to weather in that it could continue to be nice out or could turn to snow. He will amend it adding a dollar amount for the next Council meeting.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-117** (*STRICT Center enhancements*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading - adopted**  
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

*discussion:*

Councilman Russel thanked the Gene Stevens family for this donation. The STRICT Center secured a lot of funding from individuals from a lot of different sources because it is a good project that will have a good impact not just on City's Fire personnel, but also County-wide. The Stevens family recognized that. He is very appreciative of their support of first responders.

President of Council Harrington added that he has personally known the Stevens family, and that Gene was "one heck of a guy".

Mayor Muryn added that this is certainly wonderful and that the Stevens family is great. Elaine and her children were able to attend the STRICT Center ribbon cutting. Gifts were also received ranging from one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from individuals in the community down to people walking in donating fifty dollars (\$50), which signifies a great community project.

Ayes: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, DeArment, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2024-117 and is hereby made a part of the record.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-118** (*CSO long term control plan amendment*) **requires three (3) readings** ***first reading***  
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-119** (*transfer of ARPA funds*) **requires three (3) readings** ***first reading***  
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 IN ORDER TO TRANSFER AND UTILIZE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (HEREINAFTER REFERED TO AS ARPA) FUNDS ON ADDITIONAL PROJECTS, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*First reading of the Ordinance.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

***OLD BUSINESS:***

Councilwoman Frische reminded Council that Councilman Palmer had asked Council about a month and a half ago about food truck ordinances. She has had two (2) individuals reach out to her asking where the City is at with food truck licensing. She asked if a committee is forming for it or where it is at. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that there currently are different stakeholders in the Administration from Fire, Zoning, Income Tax, and other groups that are pulling their relevant information together. They are looking at the whole process of current solicitor license, peddlers, etc. to see if it can be streamlined because there currently is no license that actually says food truck and just falls under one of those categories. They are looking at the whole process and what other communities (Columbus, Toledo, Lucas County, etc.) do that have a streamline process. He had a conversation with Police Chief Mathias this morning about the current background check process versus a way he would prefer to do it. They are looking to go to a sticker of some kind so it can be identified and licensed in the City versus having to ask the vendors, which would be more visual and could be enforced more efficiently. The Health Department is involved because of what they have to be involved with.

It is an evolving industry that the City is dealing with that they did not have five to six (5-6) years ago. The City wants to be in front of some of the things that are happening. The Administration is working on this. He is hoping to have a draft process before Council for further discussion. Councilwoman Frische asked if that will be available before this year's budget hearings. Service-Safety Director Martin replied no. Councilwoman Frische replied that food truck vendors are looking for some direction on being treated the same because some are getting the ten dollar (\$10.00) permit and some are not. There is a lot of territorial turf going on. They want to be part of the discussion. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that he would like to get this hard-wired before the end of the year and roll it out in 2025. Only the alignment of what it is called and how it goes through the process is what will change and not the dollar amount of licensing and permitting. Councilwoman Frische asked if the process and enforcement will change. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that is correct.

Councilman Wobser asked if approval of any further licenses could be suspended until this process is put into place. He asked if licensing is on an annual basis. Service-Safety Director Martin replied they are on an annual basis typically starting in February or March when the spring season begins as most are a transient population. There are locals that are committed, but that there is a transient group that also comes in typically in the spring when the weather is more beneficial for them to be outside. Councilman Wobser replied that most after the Oktoberfest are starting to shut down for the season. He wants to make sure that this new, well-thought out process is in place prior to reissuing for the next season. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that is the goal.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the new process will be rolled out before February. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the Administration is working diligently to have the process done so that it is clean for 2025. Councilwoman Frische asked if it would be helpful if a Council committee was formed to help reach the Administration's goal. She is just trying to help citizens out. The Administration has been gathering information for a couple of months now and that it is sometimes helpful to get recommendations to get things going so food truck vendors have some direction before starting into the new season. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that the Administration gets a lot of feedback from the food truck vendors themselves who come in and have these conversations, as well as the Fire Inspectors that go out and talk to them. Food truck vendors have shared with the Administration that they want a consistent process. The Administration is working through this and will move forward the proper way.

Councilman Wobser asked if it were to get to the point that the process is not flushed out, if the City would suspend any licenses until this new process is in place. Those he has talked to say it is more of a competitive issue because of vendors that come in town without a license can operate because the enforcement is not in place yet. He would like to see that taken care of before issuing any licenses. Mayor Muryn replied that she is not in favor of delaying anyone's ability to have their livelihood and are not trying to prevent anyone from being able to operate food trucks. The City is enforcing, if notified, but that it is hard to do, which is why this is going towards being a visual ticket and better communication. Some will come in and register with the Mayor's Office when they are asked for certain documentation claiming that they have gotten that from the Health Department in which the City will hold their application, but that they cannot operate until the City receives it from the Health Department only to find out that they were operating and did not have it yet. Those are the types of things that need cleaned up. The City is not seeing a wide abuse of it. Those that want to come in and serve Findlay's market sometimes come in and place their food truck in a parking lot that they do not have permission to be in and shouldn't be in, and that no one had called the City to let us know, so an Officer cannot go out to them. The process needs to be cleaned up so it is very clear with very clear penalties when they are not compliant.

After the information is gathered, they will bring feedback to Council in early December with the goal of implementation in early February. All of the pieces right now are administrative functions, so those departments need to tell the Administration the best way to handle it. Filed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Muryn recognized Chuck Younger who passed away over the weekend. Many interacted with Chuck and MaryAnn over the years. They were very influential people in the community both as community leaders and giving back. Chuck was a great friend and mentor to her and an encourager to many in the room. He will be missed. Filed.

Mayor Muryn pointed out that immigration continues to be a top subject in the community. There are continued communications that needs to occur and are still gathering information to wrap their arms around the issue. Her message about immigration has been consistent in that as Mayor and as City Councilmembers, there are issues that they have the ability to influence and issues that they can control. Immigration is an issue that has come to the community that is outside of the City of Findlay's control. As she has continually stated, the Federal immigration policy needs fixed. She is all for immigration, good policy, and good process. Those coming in on Federal status that are legal, puts the City of Findlay in a position that there is nothing she can do. She cannot go to anyone and tell them they have to get out of here. That is not how this Country works and is not the position the City of Findlay is in. As Mayor, she is responsible for the community and keeping people safe, setting a vision, and doing all of the things that she does. She has to figure out what elements the City of Findlay can control. She is open to feedback. What she has heard often is how to mitigate the impact to the community and how to help the productive members of society assimilate it as quickly as possible so that they are not a burden. She wishes she had more easy answers and she wishes this wasn't a problem that is on Findlay's doorstep, but it is the reality that Findlay is now in. People are coming to the United States and are coming to Ohio. The City of Findlay is not bringing them here and are not recruiting them. She knows some disagree, but that she is telling the truth. The community is doing what they can to address it to make sure people are safe, provide education on traffic enforcement ensure that Officers are paying attention. She is aware of the allegation against one of the staffing agencies on human trafficking, which is simply an allegation. There have not been any red flags raised in the community other than the fact that they are living in bad conditions, but that housing is available. The Administration is working through it. She has not spoken with Senator Vance, has not heard from Congressman Latta, or from many elected officials recently on this issue, but that Governor DeWine is aware. She has been talking with him for quite awhile and that he understands the frustration that Findlay is seeing. When people call her asking how they can help, she tells them first and foremost to talk to their legislators at the Federal level because they control this issue. They will determine if volunteers are needed and that conversation partners are being utilized for English as a second language class, as well as what resources are out there that are needed at a State or Federal level to help offset some local costs. She does not like having to do that, but that she also does not like having local resources being used for something that local government does not control. She will continue to share what information is given to her. A website was created with information related to the City's efforts and how they are addressing it. She has been talking to the healthcare system, public health, and the schools on a regular basis as they are the three (3) most impacted entities.

Non-profits are not seeing a huge utilization of their services and that the burden is the translation and helping them navigate our system. The City is not seeing an increase in crime and are not seeing issues with staff. She is aware of the gentleman that has allegations against him who is working through the process and has not been convicted of a crime, so she cannot speak to that situation. She is not overall concerned for the community's safety. She is aware of concerns of individuals going to grocery stores and feeling uncomfortable with different things, so she is trying to provide some education around cultural differences and not to be following or congregating in areas where it is not typical. Filed.

City Auditor Staschiak informed Council on the combined mid-year review/budget meeting today (via COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE) stating it would be naïve to state that this issue is limited to those components because he wants to encourage Council to consider where they have some control in the community as to how the community develops. If Council continues to develop ground with jobs that people are not interested in filling and companies spending millions of dollars investing in that ground to put a company in, they are going to find the labor they need to fill those jobs regardless of whether those jobs are above or below the average wage in the State. That is done through zoning, initiatives, and strategic planning. Council does have the ability to impact what is happening in the community over time and what the community looks like. Silicon Valley got its name because they developed it that way. It was intentional. Findlay has the opportunity to do that as well, but cannot just say this is going to happen. If jobs that are less than twenty dollars (\$20) an hour are just willy-nilly put in that our citizens do not want to fill, then those companies are going to have to do something to protect their investment. He is not saying that is right or wrong, but that Council has the ability to control, to some extent, what type of development happens in the community. He encouraged Council to think about that more as Councilmembers regardless of the political aspects of this. There is an economic aspect that Council has a role in. Mayor Muryn replied that she always loves talking about economics because that is what her degree is in. There will be a STRATEGIC PLANNING meeting scheduled for next Tuesday to discuss Tax Increment Financing Districts which provide an ability for additional control. A number of proposals she has will be discussed. When looking at the economy, it is important to look at job variety price points, variety of jobs at different skill levels, and the businesses that are being brought in, including positions of line workers, management, etc. One of the most recent developments is the Sheetz project that will provide fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000) positions and above. They will be bringing in people and will provide benefits. They are not just willy-nilly positions. Warehousing is needed to help support the investments that other businesses are making because they cannot make product if they do not have somewhere to warehouse. There is a variety of things that the City can do looking forward and can invest in. While she is not at liberty to say some of the things that will be discussed, she agrees that higher paying jobs need to be brought in, but that it does not discount other positions that people are interested in, are skilled for, and are able to fill. The immigrant problem across the United States will take positions that are open and is just a small piece of the overall picture of the community that the City of Findlay is building. People are entitled to disagree, but will see how it works in the long run. Filed.

Councilman Wobser: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting on Friday, October 11, 2024 at 3:00pm in the third floor conference room beside the Mayor's Office (CR1).

agenda: ARPA Funds via Ordinance No. 2024-119.



Councilman Wobser: **STRATEGIC PLANNING** meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 5:30pm in the third floor conference room beside the Mayor's Office (CR1). Andrew Brossart, Municipal Financial Advisor, will be invited.

agenda: Tax Increment Financing (TIFF) Districts

Councilwoman Frische circled back to the topic that was being discussed before the scheduling the last two (2) upcoming meeting in which Mayor Muryn had asked two (2) questions: how to mitigate and how to simulate. The City seems to be focusing a lot on the educational portion of English and the cultural barrier of the language and feels that City government has lost their focus of what their responsibility is. She had expressed that during the discussion after the last meeting. Council's responsibility as City Government is public safety. Council does not have to target it specifically to immigration as there are problems that happen in the City every day that do not necessarily have to do with immigrate per se. Yes, there is an influx in population causing a lot of challenges, but that City Council can be addressing some of it with public safety and its safety services. Increasing public safety could be done by increasing Police force which is something the City has the ability to do going into budget season. The City could be more proactive by having more Officers on the street instead of being reactive. Also, by addressing fire safety with many people in a hotel room. The City is not meeting the benchmark for its citizens because citizens are uncomfortable and not feeling safe in the community. That is what Council could be addressing. She is fine with continuing the Immigration Task Force meetings because there are purposes for those groups, but that Council's purpose as City government is to change hats and look at public safety as a whole which is something she is hoping the Mayor will be addressing and increasing on the budget. If not, then City Council needs to help strongly encourage her to do so. Mayor Muryn replied that she would like to know specific actions that Councilwoman Frische believes are not being taken by the City's safety services at this point in time. Police and Fire believe they are currently able to meet the needs of their current staffing and current staffing plan. There have been many babies born within those departments which puts some strain on staff and that she would like to know the specific things that Councilwoman Frische would expect from increasing headcount, which would not necessarily mean that they would be addressing her concerns. Councilwoman Frische replied that she does not think that either the Fire Chief or the Police Chief will state that they cannot work within the means that the City is giving them, but that Findlay has not had a Police compliment since the mid-1980s with sixty-three to sixty-seven (63-67) Officers. Properties continue to be annexed into the City of Findlay which increases the population because of the way economic development is operating and because the situation of low paying jobs that are not being filled in the community which is not being addressed but that the City continues to turn their heads and ignore the conversation of bringing more of a new population into the community. The Mayor states that she is not a part of that, but she is. Every time that Findlay works to bring in another warehouse or a low-paying job, it puts a strain on current companies who made Findlay their home, and puts a strain on public safety services. She is hearing from citizens who go to block watch meetings with the block watch officer stating that Findlay is in reactive mode because they cannot keep up, they need support. Crime has changed nationally since the 1980s, and the community has changed. The types of crimes out there are not stealing a candy bar anymore. Bigger crimes are happening that the City of Findlay has to be proactive about that sends a message to the community that if someone wants to come here, live here and work here, they have to be a good community partner or the City will help them move along.

Councilman Wobser asked Councilwoman Frische how the City will help them move along. He asked if the City will take them to the County line and tell them not to come back. Councilwoman Frische replied that the City of Findlay makes it too easy for them to be here. She recalls when former City Treasurer Robert Sprague had some drug dealings going on for a long time over on South Main, in which the citizens in that neighborhood were proactive by calling the Police making them aware of what was going on. Those committing the crimes did not like light being shined on them, so they moved along. She is not saying to target anyone and is talking about public safety as a whole.

Councilman Bauman pointed out that some of the members of Council have their crosses of gold, but that the unfortunate part about this whole conversation is what it has developed into, which is a fear of the other. That is the problem that the City is facing. Police and Fire have continually reported that it is not the concern that citizens are making it into. He thinks it gets very political.

Mayor Muryn informed Council that she talks the fears of citizens very seriously, but that she does not believe that the solution is to just increase the Police compliment. Over the last five (5) years, the City has increased funding to the METRICH Enforcement Unit seeing great results. She has talked with the Officers about adding additional canines. Some of these types of things are not discussed with Council and instead, she just takes them on herself as part of her responsibility as Mayor, but is sharing that with Council tonight. She has talked regularly with safety forces, and has discussed it with Council, the necessity of headcount when annexing property into City limits. When annexing land in, it does not necessarily mean annexing people. Populations in Findlay have been relatively stable and have probably even gone down a little over the last forty (40) years. Staff structures have changed to have more enforcement in higher time periods such as late afternoon/early evening when people are going home. They have looked at optimizing communication and dashboards to have Officers positioned throughout town where higher incidents are known, and are looking to establish more block watch programs. Many things have been done to recruit more people. She does not want to get into politics, but recalled an elected official coming to Council asking to find a new opportunity to put people in jail because half (1/2) of the jail was shutting down, which is unacceptable. She does not want people coming to the community thinking they can get away with it. She has met with a public official who did not want to put someone in jail and have to pay for it, and instead just not catch them and let them go. That thinking is not what anyone wants. She is all ears on making sure the community feels safe. Zoning enforcement is also an important part. The broken window theory is to ensure the community is safe, part of which is making sure they are clean. She is listening to what others think should be done. She is happy to have that conversation, but that public safety and public perception of safety is not solved by just adding more Officers. She is open to other recommendations on what to do. Councilwoman Frische feels this matter is not going anywhere. She would like to see this matter go to committee that addresses public safety on the Administration side and also Council's side because it is not currently meeting the bar. She appreciates when the new K9 unit and the METRICH unit make a bust, but that there are a lot of folks coming to Findlay that are in the jail and are not needed here. Even though the City's population is not growing, bringing in companies that cannot fill their jobs causes individuals to drive into the community. It is her hope that they are working and not doing other things. She is not suggesting to just increase Police force. Fire safety in motels should be addressed because it is not safe having twelve (12) to a room, so enforcement in that sense should be enforced. There are things that can be done. No one is saying the City is doing a terrible job of public safety, but can do better and change priorities a little bit because of what is being seen in the community. Sit on that. Think on that. Work on putting a committee together between Council and the Administration to do great things together.

Mayor Muryn replied that the State Fire Marshall is the entity in charge of monitoring the hotels and motels. The City has had multiple conversations with them who have done inspections finding no violations. That is what they monitor. There is a major interstate running through the community. The State Highway Patrol is probably the best in the State of Ohio. They are on top of it. She is open to ideas of those coming into the community on how to keep criminals from coming in to try to sell drugs out of this community as the City does not have a wall to keep unwanted out of the community. She personally does not feel bad if they are in jail because that means they have been caught and are off the street. Filed.

Councilman Niemeyer informed Council that budget hearings will be on December 10, 2024 and asked what time they will begin. President of Council Harrington replied they will tentatively start at 5:00pm. Filed.

**(ORAL COMMUNICATIONS) - immigration**

The ORAL COMMUNICATION requestor (from the audience) declined to provide her ORAL COMMUNICATIONS tonight stating that it is getting late and that she will request to speak at another City Council meeting. Filed.

Councilman Niemeyer moved to adjourn City Council at 7:20pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

---

CLERK OF COUNCIL

---

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL