

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 17, 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence

ABSENT: VanDyne

President J Slough opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

Councilman Monday moved to make the following changes to tonight's agenda. Councilman Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ON:

- Approval of March 3, 2015 Public Hearing minutes (Findlay City Schools proposed bus garage – Ordinance No. 2015-012)

REPLACEMENTS:

- March 17, 2015 City Council agenda
 - Replaced (*Tiffin Ave Signal Synchronization Project #32894000 ODOT PID #92452*) beside Ordinance No. 2015-018 to now be (*2015 Resurfacing Program Project #32850100*) (**LEGISLATION** section)
 - Replaced **tabled after first reading** to now be **tabled after third reading** for Ordinance No. 2015-018 (**LEGISLATION** section)
- Ordinance No. 2015-023
 - Changed first appropriation **FROM: GENERAL FUND** to now be **FROM: GENERAL FUND (OHIO EMS Grant)** (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS**)
- Ordinance No. 2015-024
 - Removed "statutory allowable amounts may be maintained" from SECTION 2 (**REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS**)

MINUTES:

- Councilman Monday moved to accept the March 3, 2015 public hearing minutes for the rezoning of parcels 210001029285 and 210001029286 (Findlay City Schools bus garage) as written. Councilman Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.
- Councilman Klein moved to accept the March 3, 2015 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes as written. Councilman Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

PROCLAMATIONS: - none.

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS: - none.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: - none.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Kelly Lowry – Workers' Compensation update

Ms. Lowry is with Comp Management. She has worked with the City's Workers' Compensation program for many years. She is before Council tonight to provide information on where the City was, where they are, and where the City is going in workers comp. She provided handouts to Councilmembers. One handout provided a retro history of the City's savings. From 2010 to 2013, the City was in a program called Individual Retrospective Reading where the City received a very deep upfront discount on their workers compensation premiums. In exchange for that, the City accepted dollar for dollar liability through claims for ten (10) years. There was a lot of liability, but a great savings on the front half. The spreadsheet she handed out shows how well the City performed in that program. She highlighted some areas of the City's numbers on the spreadsheet. It is estimated that the City will save \$758,797.41 in this program over four (4) years or an average of \$189,699 per year. That is calculated by what the City has paid in premiums, what is paid so far dollar for dollar in claims cost, and what the Bureau anticipates the City will continue to pay with a ten (10) year liability. The Bureau takes that away from what the City would have paid the Bureau if they had not gone into the program. It is a great program and a good choice made by the Auditor with a good solid savings in that program. Every year, the Bureau meets with the Auditor to determine which program is best for the City to go into. In 2014, a couple of things changed. The Bureau changed the Individual Retro program to make it a little less attractive for the City, but the Bureau is giving billions of dollars back. About two (2) years ago, approximately fifty percent (50%) of the premium was given back, and last year, fifty-six percent (56%) was given back. Those two (2) things made a different program called Group Retrospective Rating more attractive for the City. In that program, the City will not receive the upfront discount, but the City does not take on the dollar for dollar ten (10) year liability on claims. There is a small liability of fifteen percent (15%) premium compared to the two hundred percent (200%) premium that was on the Individual Retrospective program, so there is a small potential liability, but the City will retain the ability to save thirty to sixty percent (30-60%) of their premium back in a refund based on the performance of the group. For 2015 and, the Bureau is changing to prospective payments. They currently are collecting in arrears. In May this year, they will report the payroll for 2014 where the City will pay a premium on it. Ms. Lowry pointed out that she is unaware of any other insurance that allows its customers to pay the following year (i.e. car insurance, medical insurance, etc. – they require payment prospectively). The Bureau is changing to that next year. When they do so, they will give the City fifty percent (50%) transition credit, which means that in 2015 and 2016, the City will only pay half (1/2) of the premium that is owed. Despite that, under the Group Retrospective Program, the Bureau is going to give the City a refund as though they have paid the entire premium. This is a very good program. It was a good decision by the Auditor back in 2014 for the 2015 program. She does anticipate that the City would go with a different program for 2016 and most likely will make the same decision as they did last year. The City would not want to go into any other program accepting any other liability when they would get potentially more than what they are paying in that program.

Ms. Lowry then went over the second handout she provided saying the City is doing better than the Bureau had expected them to do. The Bureau sets a number on what they think a city of our size should do. Consistently over the past several years, the City has done better than the Bureau expected, which has allowed for a good solid program in place, but there is always room for improvement. There are things that can be done to improve the program and lower costs. The City's Auditor's Office is working with Comp Management House Systems to refine a reporting tool that looks at the safety and trends of each department to lower costs and better the program. She pointed out the last page of her handout highlights the City's savings. The City has saved \$1,300,000.00 in the Workers' Compensation Program since 2011 due to the City's Auditor selecting the right program and due to the Bureau doing their job.

Discussion:

Councilman Nichols pointed out that the City's savings are also in part due to the safety of the City workers. Ms. Lowry agreed that the City's safety program is a good one. She added that there are just a few things that can make it even better than it is now.

City Auditor Staschiak added that the report that his office and Comp Management are working on will give the Administration a department by department look on where that safety in those programs are paying off and where they can be improved. That ability was not available in the past. Comp Management has been wonderful working with us to define it. The Service-Safety Director has not seen it yet, but knows it is coming. The Auditor's Office has looked at it in the last about a week ago. It provides some very good information that will list how to improve safety even further. He agreed that it is not just his office that has helped with the savings, but the entire City (Safety Committee, employees).

Councilman Russel asked Ms. Lowry if she could compare the City's safety rating to other cities our size. Ms. Lowry replied she is able to compare what the City has lost compared to what other cities in similar size to Findlay have lost. Councilman Russel then asked how Findlay has done compared to others. Ms. Lowry replied that Findlay has done very well. The Experience Modification Rating (EMR) on page 4 of her handout shows that one (1) is where the average city is. Anything under one (1) is how much better someone is doing than the average city. Findlay's worst years were 0.97 in 2013 and 2014. Findlay did three percent (3%) better than the average city for 2014. For 2015, Findlay did eighteen percent (18%) better than the average city. This is not stated in her handouts, but she knows Findlay's stats.

Shawn Ochs/Michaela Breece/Justin Bowers – Community Reconsidered community conversion with youth recap

Ms. Ochs, Ohio State Extension Office in Hancock County, Family and Consumer Science Educator, asked City Council and everyone who is part of this community what their future is. They asked the youth of the community, ages thirty (30) or younger, where they see the next ten to thirty (10-30) years in our community. She was asked to assign a community leader, so she selected Heather Heilman from the United Way, as well as two youth leaders, Michaela Breece as the high school representative (14-19 years old), and Justin Bowers as the college representative (19-24 year old). These two (2) individuals lead an opportunity to see what could be determined and what could be done for the future of Findlay. He asked Michaela and Justin to share their experiences and what they have learned during an event they had with young people of this community.

Michaela Breece spoke first and informed Council on their role as leaders. She and Justin Bowers served as facilitators for the event. They had approximately twenty (20) participants that they divided into two (2) groups and asked them the same six (6) questions dealing with strengths, weaknesses, what they see as the future of the community, and what strengths are needed to have in the future of our community. They were intrigued at the perception that each of these participants had, even with the different age groups (high school students to young professional), and also from person to person. They all had very interesting perceptions that they were delighted to be able to hear. After those discussions, they regrouped the twenty (20) participants and the facilitators back together, and asked them how they saw this discussion moving forward and what they wanted to do to be active and if they wanted to take an active role to better the community for the future.

Justin Bowers collected all the data from those discussions and synthesized it. It was determined that the youth want to be empowered, but it is challenging for them to try to be empowered in a community because you have to speak to individuals who are given such power. That is rough and hard for youth to deliver the message they are trying to get across. They challenged the youth that day to get involved in their community, go to meetings such as City Council, be involved and be a part of that change. They took it upon themselves to also be a part of that change and bring that to Council to explain what they have done. They will also be meeting with others to explain what they have done. They are excited about what they have received from it. The perceptions the youth have are so intriguing and the data he collected from it was very interesting what one individual said compared to the other.

Ms. Ochs noted that her youth leaders would not be going into great detail tonight on their findings because it would take a lot of time. She encouraged Council to contact her at the Extension Office to discuss the data they collected. The youth are really interested in what their future is in this community. They want to get involved, but do not always know how to. Sometimes they feel that they are closed out of opportunities, not because of anyone deliberately closing them out, but because they do not understand the dynamics of decisions that need to be made by individuals in the community, and what goes into all of those. They talked about perceptions, finances, economy, retirements, businesses, and the role they all play in our community, but do not always understand how and how they can play a part in our community. If you want to know more, she highly encouraged Council to contact them as they would love to share more.

Discussion:

Councilman Harrington asked if the data collected will eventually be published and put on a website for the public to read. Ms. Ochs replied it will be. Justin Bowers did a phenomenal job taking all of the questions and documenting them into an Excel spreadsheet. This Community Reconsidered was initiated through the Ohio State Extension at the state level to help understand communities statewide. Hancock County is one of fifteen (15) top counties in the state of Ohio, so it is an honor to have the privilege to talk to this community.

Mayor Mihalik asked what affiliation or interaction this group has had with the ENGAGE Youth Council that is currently ran by the YMCA. Heather Heilman replied that individuals were selected based on them trying to find a broad demographic of people ranging from the age of 14-30 that consisted of young professionals, unemployed youth, and twenty year old college students who are not engaged with any organization, to prevent a common ground. They did not spend much time trying to find out what groups the participants were connected with, in fact, they made an effort to stay away from 4H groups (agricultural is a common ground) as much as possible because it would be easy to have similar conversations when everyone is like-minded because they would be comfortable with who they are with. There were some dynamic conversations and she saw some barriers come down. When she first approached one young man about being a part of this, he was very forth coming and negative, but by the time it was done, he had a chance to talk to someone who works with the health system here in Findlay where the barriers came down. Participants were encouraged to comment instead of being a silent contributor. They did not try to find out what the participants interactions were, but instead looked for different social groups. They were asked if they would be willing to volunteer in which they replied they would. Conversations about communicating opportunities began from there. One of the obstacles of volunteering is that they do not understand the channels to which she asked them if they had ever attended any of the Mayor's meetings or any City Council meetings. They do not understand those channels and many times do not feel welcome. They want to know that their voice matters.

President Slough welcomed Boy Scout Troop #338 in the audience who are working on their community badges. Their sponsor is St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

PETITIONS:

Zoning amendment request – 724 North Main Street

Robert Schuck on behalf of Lon McDaniel is requesting a zoning change for 724 North Main Street. The property is currently zoned C2 General Commercial. Mr. McDaniel would like to change the zoning to R2 Single Family Residential. Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

Zoning amendment request – 306 W Bigelow Ave

Philip Rooney is requesting a zoning change for 306 West Bigelow Avenue. The property is currently zoned R-1 Single Family Low Density Residential. Mr. Rooney would like to change the zoning to O-1 Institutions and Offices. Referred to City Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Committee. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – February 2015.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that the business income in this report is \$500,000.00 more than where it was last year. One (1) of the forty (40) businesses that are not paying quarterly tax estimates have been offered a new pilot program installment plan. Comments during the Appropriations Committee were made to go back and review item #5 and remove it from the Income Tax Department budget, and to have everybody pay quarterly tax estimates on time.

City Auditor Staschiak noted that the report shows a 19.51% increase but cannot be compared year to year to last year's report. A new set of benchmarks need to be set so that Council can get a feel for how much the tax is up or down. City Income Tax Administrator Andrew Thomas has another set of reports that he uses that is readily available. Councilwoman Frische noted that the installment plan option that started in the February Board meeting contributed to that. After she talked with Andrew, it was determined that he could not provide the exact amount, but that a \$500,000.00 increase is significant in her opinion. Filed.

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – February 2015. Filed.

Interim Fire Chief Matthew Traver – DPS EMS grant

The Findlay Fire Department has been awarded a non-matching grant in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Service. The funds will be used for training and equipment. Legislation to reallocate these funds from the State Grant account to the Fire Department is requested. Ordinance No. 2015-023 was created.

FROM: Ohio Department of Public Safety –EMS grant \$ 1,500.00
TO: Fire Department #21014000-other \$ 1,500.00

Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – February 2015. Filed.

Findlay W.O.R.C. Financial Analysis Report – January 1, 2015 through February 28, 2015. Filed.

Health Commissioner Stephen Mills – Project #31992400 Medical Reserve Corps Grant

The Findlay City Health Department received a continuation grant award in the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) from the National Association of City and County Health Officials. This grant award will enable the Findlay City Health Department to continue to develop and maintain an official Medical Reserve Corps in Hancock County. The Findlay City Health Department currently houses the local Medical Reserve Corps, which is a nationally recognized program that is dedicated to establishing teams of local volunteer medical and public health professionals to contribute their skills and expertise during times of community need. The Findlay City Health Department has utilized previous grant dollars awarded to recruit, train, outfit, and maintain a database of medical volunteers that could be called upon to respond to emergency situations in Findlay and Hancock County. An appropriation of funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2015-023 was created.

FROM: Medical Reserve Corps Grant \$ 3,500.00
TO: MRC Grant #31992400 \$ 3,500.00

Filed.

Health Commissioner Stephen Mills – 2015 Hancock County Community Health Assessment

The Findlay City Health Department is extremely pleased to be a part of an upcoming project to conduct a community wide health assessment in Findlay and Hancock County. This project is a collaborative effort of Blanchard Valley Health System, the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, United Way of Hancock County, Hancock County Health Department, Hancock County ADAMHS Board and the Community Partnership, Hancock County Family First Council, and the Findlay City Health Department.

A community wide assessment will gather physical, mental and social health related data relevant to our community. This health assessment will provide them with current data to serve as a guide for strategic planning and can help in the judicious use of resources. This assessment will be an invaluable tool in positioning our community for future grants to address the health issues identified in the assessment and data collection process. The process of coming together as community partners to finance and otherwise support the gathering of data that has built a collaborative foundation by which they can measure progress on our community health improvement plan to target the most pressing issues.

In order to conduct this assessment, they will be partnering with The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio. The Hospital Council has a reputation for thorough and accurate data collection, having completed assessments in twenty-seven (27) Ohio counties. This comprehensive assessment process will include a child (0 to 11 years), youth (12-18 years) and an adult survey.

The Findlay City Health Department has agreed to act as fiscal manager for this project and has already collected sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000.00). In addition, they have received a notice of award from the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation in the amount of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000.00). An appropriation of \$33,000.00 is requested so that activity may begin as soon as possible. Additional appropriation requests will be made as further contributions are received. Barbara Wilhelm, Deputy Health Commissioner, is acting as Project Director for the 2015 Health Assessment who can answer questions about this project. Ordinance No. 2015-023 was created.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Spence congratulated the Health Department for searching out these monies for wonderful programs for our community.

Mayor Mihalik noted that if anyone has not reviewed the previous health assessments that have been done in this community, this would be a great opportunity to refresh and see what the overall general health assessment is and what we will be able to see within 2015. The health assessment covers a wide range of things (i.e. childhood obesity, individuals in our community who have been involved in traumatic experiences, etc.). There are a lot of different assessment tools that are used within this report to provide an overall assessment of the health of our community. If anyone wants to know where we are and where we are going, answers can be found in the previous health assessment. She looks forward to seeing what kind of strides have been made in addressing some of the issues from the past in 2015.

Councilman Russel asked when the last assessment was done. Mayor Mihalik replied 2013. Councilman Russel then asked when they do the assessment and how long it takes. Mayor Mihalik replied that it is a collaboration of different entities with a lot of different things going into this particular assessment. It is not just the Findlay City Health Department.

Councilman Shindledecker is Council's representative for the Be Healthy Now Coalition who does the work. The coalition met last week who spent an entire morning and into the afternoon going through all the data, so it was just recently developed and is being assessed at the moment and should be ready within a few weeks. Filed.

City Auditor Jim Staschiak – summary financial reports

A set of summary financial reports for the prior month follows including:

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of February 28, 2015
- Cash & Investments as of February 28, 2015
- Open Projects Report as of February 28, 2015
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of February 28, 2015

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that there was a big jump in the unappropriated funds for the Water & Sewer Department which he has not seen happen too often. He asked what caused the increases. City Auditor Staschiak replied he will dig a little deeper and will get back to him. Filed.

N.E.A.T. Departmental Activity Report – February 2015. Filed.

Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – 2015 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #35652300

By authorization of Ordinance No. 2015-008, a bid opening was held for this on February 26, 2015. One bid was received from Insight Pipe Contracting of Harmony, Pennsylvania. Their base bid amount was \$215,853.00. An alternate in the amount of \$33,550.00 for grouting was also received, making the total contract amount \$249,403.00. This project is included in the 2015 Capital Improvements Plan with a budgeted amount of \$250,000.00. In January, \$10,000.00 was appropriated for project design and startup. \$250,000.000 is needed for the construction contract and allowance for contingency. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2015-026 was created.

FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 250,000.00
TO: 2015 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #35652300	\$ 250,000.00

Filed.

Treasurer's Reconciliation Report – February 28, 2015. Filed.

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – February 2015. Filed.

Parks and Recreation Board minutes – February 17, 2015.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked how the decision came about for the City to cover the loss up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) for the YMCA to run the Riverside Park Swimming Pool. She assumes there was a lot of discussion about it, but did not see that in the minutes. Councilman Nichols explained that when the weather is bad, attendance is very poor at the pool. As a result, the YMCA lost a lot of money. The YMCA cannot afford to operate the pool at a loss every year and they would like a little guarantee that the City will help out with expenses. When the City ran the pool, there were many years that profit did not cover expenses. With the YMCA taking it over, it has helped the City out a lot and has not cost near as much money as when the City was operating it by themselves. The YMCA is protecting themselves by asking for the funds. If they have a profitable year, it will not cost the City anything. If they do not have a profitable year, the City will support them up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) which is still a savings to the City. Councilwoman Frische then asked if the YMCA receives any grants to operate the pool and if it costs them any money when the pool is not open. The City invested money last year when the slide was installed; chairs and a building were put in, etc. While she fully supports the City partnering with YMCA, she feels thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) sounds as if the City is subsidizing a non-profit. She asked if this would be subsidizing with bed tax dollars to support a non-profit operation. Councilman Nichols replied that the City is responsible for recreation for the community. Not all recreational activities the City provides are profit-making. The pool happens to be one of those things the City sponsors for the general use of the public. The City will not make a profit on everything it does. It is a benefit for the citizens of Findlay to have a swimming pool. Councilwoman Frische agrees that it is a benefit, but feels increasing the rates or other options should be discussed to help cover the difference.

Mayor Mihalik added that the YMCA for the last two (2) years has had an issue with the cooler summer weather, so the attendance had dipped. They have a fixed cost for the amount of people that they have to provide for at the pool at any given time. The YMCA is able to operate the pool at a much lower cost than what the City would be able to. If the City was operating it, we would probably have a greater loss than what the YMCA has had over the last two (2) years. They have lost a total of approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). The YMCA has been a very passionate partner and supporter of Riverside Pool. It has been their contention and the contention of others on the Park and Recreation Board that the rates that the YMCA charges for entrance into the Riverside pool make it affordable and economical for those who cannot afford private pool memberships. If they increase the rate to attend the swimming pool, it would drive people away. The YMCA has been very passionate about making sure it is an affordable location for recreation in the summertime. All things considered, the

City did put a significant amount of Capital money into the pool to try to make it more attractive and something everyone can be proud of. The YMCA is trying to make sure that if bad weather continues to happen and affect attendance at the pool, they will have funds to fall back on. Because the YMCA is doing the City a big favor and are doing such a great job for the community by operating the pool, they are asking for the revised agreement to cover any operating loss of up to thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) which is not a significant amount to operate the pool. The benefits outweigh the costs. Councilwoman Frische then asked if the YMCA receives any grants to help operate the pool. Mayor Mihalik replied she does not think they receive any funding outside of what they are putting in right now, which most likely comes through their memberships. She does not see this as subsidizing a non-profit. She sees it as the City is paying for a service that the YMCA is providing this community. She feels the City should continue to do so. It is a great partnership that has had a very positive impact on families in our community.

Councilman Russel is in favor of the partnership between the City and the YMCA. He does not want to see them be in a financial position where they cannot continue to offer this service. If the City would open up the bid to see who else would want to run the pool, he is unsure if there would be anyone else who would want to do it. A youth YMCA member spends twenty-nine (\$29.00) for a season pass. A youth non-member spends thirty-nine dollars (\$39.00). He is unaware of anywhere else in the City of Findlay where someone can go for a summer of activities. The YMCA helps the City provide this wonderful service, so the City needs to work hard to make sure they are able to continue to offer this service. He fully supports this request of the YMCA. He congratulated the partnering of the YMCA with the City and wants to see it continue and be a long and successful partnership.

Councilman Shindledecker noted that the City is not subsidizing the YMCA, but rather contracting with a non-profit to provide a service. Another non-profit organization, for example, is the museum. If the museum were to have an agreement with the City to archive some past City records, they would go into a contract. It would not be a subsidy for the museum. It is a contract situation. Councilwoman Frische fully supports the YMCA and the partnership, she just did not see a lot of the comments in the Parks & Recreation Board minutes. She noticed that profits were taken out of the contracts, so only losses are being addressed, so she is just asking for clarification.

Councilman Harrington noted that the agreement is primarily the same as it has been in the past and are just adding this clause to give the YMCA a chance to possibly break even or make a little profit. To put the burden on their backs and not the City's back is not fair. It is not fair to have them operate the City's pool at a loss for two (2) years. He is surprised that they even came back to the table at all. He has not heard of any complaints on the service they provide. The weather is something that no one can predict. This is money well spent.

Mayor Mihalik challenges anyone to find a community with a pool that actually makes a profit. Pools are not cheap to operate. They are costly to fill with water, pay employees to keep children safe, etc. Pools are something that communities provide at a loss. They provide them for their community, and for their children and families to enjoy. That is what we do as managers of your tax dollars. Filed.

Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – 2015 Pool Operating Agreement with the YMCA

The YMCA has proposed a contract to meet the operational needs for the Findlay City Pool at Riverside Park. The agreement looks much the same as it has in years past, but there is a language change that the YMCA is requesting. In the past couple of years, the language stated that any profit would be split between the YMCA and the City. Based on the cool summers and poor attendance, the YMCA has shown a loss for the last two (2) years, totaling approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00).

The YMCA has expressed a desire to continue their mission of working with the youth of Findlay and keeping the pool at an affordable price, however, they have stated that if they experience cool weather again, they want the City to cover losses up to a maximum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

The agreement was discussed at the Parks and Recreation Board extensively. The Board moved to go ahead with the agreement. The synergy in operations between YMCA facilities gives the YMCA some flexibility with regard to staffing that the City would not have. It is also logical to assume that under the same weather conditions, the attendance would have been poor with the City running the pool as well.

Expecting the YMCA to bear the potential financial brunt of a cool summer for a third year in a row is not in anyone's best interest, and I would support moving forward with the agreement as presented. Should the attendance rebound, we can always go back to prior forms of agreement in coming years. Ordinance No. 2015-025 was created. Filed.

Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

The Service-Safety Director has been working on the completion of mandated MS4 legislation to gain compliance with EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. The last opportunity for Council and public's input was at a workshop performed last year. The workshop informed Councilmembers, contractors, consultants and members of the public that attended about the issues surrounding illicit discharge and storm water pollution prevention plans (SWP3). Comments from that workshop, the City's consultant, FEMA, and EPA have been considered to craft legislation sufficient to meet the requirements. A Committee of the Whole meeting is requested to revisit these draft ordinances at that meeting. Mitchel Heacock, MS4 Coordinator, will also be present to discuss the legislation and review the City's annual update for the NPDES permit. Referred to the Committee of the Whole. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE to whom was referred a request from the Service-Safety Director to discuss an appropriation of funds for the 2015 Resurfacing Program, Project #32850100.

FROM: Capital Improvements – CIT	\$ 1,390,000.00
TO: 2015 Resurfacing Program Project #32850100	\$ 1,390,000.00

We recommend the above request. Ordinance No. 2015-018 was tabled during the February 17, 2015 City Council meeting.
Councilman Nichols moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Klein seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE to whom was referred a request from the Service-Safety Director to discuss an appropriation of funds for the Capital Improvement Fund.

FROM: General Fund	\$ 1,500,000.00
TO: CIT – Capital Improvement Account	\$ 1,500,000.00

We recommend to approve the above request. Ordinance No. 2015-022 was created. It received its first reading during the March 3, 2015 City Council meeting.

Councilman Klein moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was requested that \$200,000 be de-appropriated from Project #32842100 to the Capital Improvement Account.

We recommend approval of the above request. Ordinance No. 2015-024 was created.

Councilman Klein moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to rezone 222 Center Street from R-3 Single Family High Density to C-2 General Commercial.

We recommend as C-1 zoning. Ordinance No. 2015-027 was created.

Councilman Shindledecker moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from the Hancock Regional Planning Commission to discuss changes to the City of Findlay Zoning Code.

Outcome: held discussions. Will give further consideration over coming months. No motion made.

Councilman Harrington moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Russel seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that the Planning & Zoning Committee will have a joint meeting with the City Planning Commission sometime in the near future to have both bodies discuss zoning code changes. He will let everyone know when it will be so that everyone can hear it at one time.

Councilman Harrington clarified that not only is the City trying to improve the zoning code by not only adding language, but deleting some language that is either redundant or unnecessary, and adding what is necessary. Plenty of time will be given within the next few months for everyone including the public to hear and discuss it. Anyone who is concerned about this matter should keep an eye open for a future Planning & Zoning/City Planning Commission that the public is always welcome to attend and voice their concerns and/or ask questions.

All were in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2015 (*Muni Bldg renovations/Court expansion project*)

second reading

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

Second reading of the Resolution.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-016 (*Twp Rd 99 & Technology Dr rezone*)

third reading

adopted

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 TOWNSHIP ROAD 99 AND TECHNOLOGY DRIVE REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL" TO "M-2 MULTIPLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY".

Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Spence. Abstain: Frische. Ayes: Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume VV, Page 2015-016 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-018 (*2015 Resurfacing Program Project #32850100*)

lifted from the table during Old Business

adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-019 (*W Park Sanitary Sewer project*)

second reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-020 (*BRWP grant*)

second reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, HANCOCK COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BLANCHARD RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP (BRWP) FOR THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE (GLRI) USDA FOREST SERVICE GRANT FOR THE BLANCHARD RIVER WATERSHED EAB MITIGATION TREE PLANTING PROJECT NO. 31954300, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DELCARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-021 (*Downtown Revitalization Project #31942400*)

second reading

adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, HANCOCK COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONSULTING AGREEMENTS FOR THE DESIGN PHASE OF THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT NO. 31942400, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading. Councilman Klein seconded the motion. Ayes: Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische. The ordinance was given its third reading. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Klein seconded the motion. Ayes: Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Harrington. Nay: Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-021 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-022 *(Capital Improvements)*

second reading

adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its third reading. Councilman Monday seconded the motion. Ayes: Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein. The ordinance was given its third reading. Councilwoman Spence moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Shindledecker seconded the motion. Ayes: Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-022 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-023 *(FFD EMS grant; Health Dept MRC grant; 2015 Health Assessment)*

first reading

adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Monday moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings. Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. Ayes: Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols. The ordinance was given its second and third readings. Councilman Klein moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Niemeyer seconded the motion. Ayes: Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-023 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-024 *(de-appropriation)*

first reading

adopted

AN ORDINANCE DE-APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Klein moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings. Councilwoman Frische seconded the motion. Ayes: Shindledecker, Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel. The ordinance was given its second and third readings. Councilman Klein moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. Ayes: Spence, Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-024 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-025 *(YMCA operate Riverside Swimming Pool)*

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT (CONTRACT) WITH THE YMCA TO OPERATE THE RIVERSIDE SWIMMING POOL FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED YMCA PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC AND RECREATIONAL USE FOR THE CITY OF FINDLAY FOR THE 2015 SEASON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-026 *(2015 Sanitary Sewer Lining project)*

first reading

adopted

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings. Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. Ayes: Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence. The ordinance was given its second and third readings. Councilman Klein moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. Ayes: Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-026 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-027 *(222 Center St rezone)*

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 222 CENTER STREET REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "R-3 SINGLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY" TO "C-1 LOCAL COMMERCIAL".

First reading of the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilman Monday moved to lift Ordinance No. 2015-018 from being tabled. Councilman Russel seconded the motion. Ayes: Frische, Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence. Councilman Monday moved to approve the Ordinance. Councilman Klein seconded the motion. Ayes: Harrington, Klein, Monday, Nichols, Niemeyer, Russel, Shindledecker, Spence, Frische. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume WW, Page 2015-018 and is hereby made a part of the record.

Auditor Staschiak looked over the YMCA contract that was emailed to him yesterday afternoon and recommended to add to the ordinance that received its first reading tonight, an appropriation from the General Fund to the Swimming Pool Fund, then from the Swimming Pool Fund to Swimming Pool #25076000-other. That will take care of the appropriation that is needed to handle the obligation that the contract would create if the ordinance is passed. Councilman Harrington asked what dollar amount should be appropriated since the amount is unknown. Auditor Staschiak replied that if Council signs the contract, they will be obligated for up to \$30,000.00. At the end of the year, if nothing was spent or some funds are left, funds would stay in the Swimming Pool Fund and the amount of the subsidy would be reduced in the following year. The net impact to the fund is \$0 over a two (2) year period, however, the conflict is that it will create an obligation based on the budget that was passed earlier in the year. There will need to be enough money in the fund to cover the obligation. This is how it would be handled if it was done at the beginning of the year. This is traditionally how it is handled. It would clean it up and keep it simple. The funds would be there and would keep us in line with statutory obligations. Councilman Harrington then asked if Auditor Staschiak's proposals have been ran past the Law Director. Auditor Staschiak replied that he does not normally run financial obligations past the Law Director. Law Director Rasmussen asked that the Auditor to give the project numbers to the Council Clerk. In order for the contract to be signed, the Auditor has to be able to say that the funds are there or are currently in the process of collections. We would have to obligate those funds.

Councilman Nichols moved to add the \$30,000.00 to the appropriate legislation. Councilman Niemeyer seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

Councilwoman Frische noted that a gentleman came before Council a few meetings ago about his water potentially being turned off for a N.E.A.T. issue. She has received some other inquires on it with the new zoning rules coming up. In talking with the N.E.A.T. Department, she discovered that this was something that Councilman Klein and Councilman Russel spearheaded. She asked that with the change to the Water Department rules and regulations, if someone would explain it to the public for the record so that it is known that their water may be turned off for noncompliance with zoning or the N.E.A.T. Councilman Klein replied that no changes have been made. It is still in discussion. No one has had their water shut off. Councilwoman Frische argued that there has been a change because she talked with the N.E.A.T. Department and then with the Water Department who gave her the rules and regulation changes that were made last year. Councilman Klein reiterated that no one has had their water turned off. Councilwoman Frische replied that no one has under the zoning code, but there was a rules and regulations change in the Water Department that citizens could potentially have their water turned off for noncompliance of N.E.A.T. or a zoning issue that gives other departments the right to turn off water. She would like the public be informed so they understand. Law Director Rasmussen replied that there was a change to add certain code enforcement. It did not spell out any enforcement, so there was not any way to enforce it at all. There were discussions with the Administration that was put that in there when the Zoning Officer was re-drafting the policy. It has not been enforced. It is exactly what we are trying to do when narrowing the issues that water can be terminated for. We are putting in an Appeals Board with a process to do a 2506 appeal to Common Pleas Court. With their water turned off for that, but nobody has had their water turned off for that.

Mayor Mihalik added that it is a tool that the City needs to be able to properly enforce the rules and regulations of the City of Findlay. We have had similar scenarios with property owners who do not want to comply with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There are flood hazard regulations within the City of Findlay that we are required to abide by because we participate in a Federally Subsidized Insurance Program for flood that have certain acts that we have to abide by. We were having a very tough time getting property owners to comply, and still do to this day. There are structures and properties that are not in compliance with the NFIP which is why we are having to go through hoops with FEMA for this potential community rating system application that we have with them. We have rules and regulations that we as a body have to enforce. There are those who believe that the rules do not apply to them. This is yet another tool that we have to be able to ensure that properties and adjoining property owners have their property values protected. If someone wants to live in a junk pit, then they can do so someplace else other than the City of Findlay. There have been a lot of conversations with property owners across the City who are tired of consistently calling in their complaints to N.E.A.T. because property owners are not abiding by the request to comply. This is an ability we have as a community to make sure that those rules are enforced and that we will do what we can to further clarify them for those who do not understand that. We have rules and regulations on the books that we are trying to enforce and we have to figure out a way to best do that which is why we are utilizing this strategy. Councilwoman Frische replied that she understands, but wants it to be clear to the public if a change is made and to give Council notice if a change is made. She was not aware of the changes while talking to the N.E.A.T. and Water Departments and wants it clarified that there is that change out there and that the public should be aware of it whether it applies to them or not. Councilman Klein reiterated that the changes are a work in progress right now. They had some good productive meetings with community leaders and citizens and are working towards something he feels they will be able to present down the road to Council and the community that will be invaluable to everybody. Councilwoman Frische noted that she was not aware of any meetings that should have been published on the City's website.

Councilman Shindledecker: **STREETS, SIDEWALKS, STREETLIGHTS & PARKING COMMITTEE** meeting on March 24, 2015 at 4:00pm at the Alliance. Members of the Alliance Committee will be present. They will discuss mutual goals and concerns of the Downtown Revitalization Project that is under way.

Councilwoman Spence: **AD HOC COMMITTEE** meeting on March 18, 2015 at 4:00pm in the Council Office, first floor of the Municipal Building (CO) to discuss salaries for elected officials.

Mayor Mihalik noted that the Recreation Summit will be held on March 24, 2015 from 5:30pm-8:00pm at the CUBE.

Council President Slough: **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting on March 31, 2015 at 5:30pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1).

agenda: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Spence made a motion to excuse the absence of Councilman VanDyne. Seconded by Councilman Shindledecker. All were in favor.

Councilman Russel noted that the City's website went live on March 12, 2015. The go live went very smoothly and had an immediate impact. There was a forty-seven percent (47%) increase in unique visitors and a one hundred fifty-three percent (153%) increase in pages viewed. There was a seventy-nine percent (79%) increase in mobile users. Of those mobile users, over a thousand of them saved the site as their home screen on their phone. Before the new website, seven (7) out of ten (10) individuals accessed the website on a mobile device and would go to the home page and then leave. The new website has decreased that by half (1/2). The effects of the new website have been immediate. It is a great tool that enables the City to communicate correctly with its citizens. Jay Yeater designed the new City logo and was the technical brains behind the website. He worked a day job then would communicate from home about the website with Councilman Russel until early morning hours. Genna Freed was the proof reader who also provided outside views. The City's IT Department employees Justin Weddington and Brent Schroeder worked persistently to make behind the scenes and technical changes to make it go live. The website is now posted outside of the City's server into external hosting which from a security standpoint is very important. A website class at Millstream taught by Laura Gillian who were the initial testers of the new website. Before the website went live, the class reviewed the website. The volume of things they found and the feedback that they gave was invaluable. There were other citizens throughout the community that had put in time and effort to make the new website happen. He is getting ready to completely turn the website over to the City to start using.

Councilman Nichols mentioned that there is a letter to Council requesting a street be made one-way. He asked if he should notify the individual to let them know their request will be forwarded to the Traffic Commission. Mayor Mihalik replied that the request (letter) will be submitted to the Traffic Commission and put on their agenda.

President J Slough adjourned Council at 8:47pm.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL