

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 5, 2020

The First monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday,
May 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom Meeting,
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Councilman Lawrence led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered present at roll call, via Zoom: Burns, Meier, Van Harlingen (in Chambers), Davenport, Lawrence, Taddie, Scott, Falquette, and Mears.

There being no objections, the reading of the Journal and Correspondence was dispensed with.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NOTE: All emails are currently being read proxy by ward Council members due to COVID-19 requirements.

PRESIDENT MEARS: At This point we will welcome public comment are there Council people who have received input from their constituents that you would like to read at this point in the meeting?

JEAN TADDIE: I, for one, do.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: Alright. Thank you. We received email through the Public input process. This is Don and Margie Ford of Education Place. "We are over the 6th Ward neighborhood watch. Our complaint is about the dumping in the alley between South Adam's Street and Franklin Street. There are several bags of garbage. Couches, mattresses etc. There's also bags and bags of garbage in the rear of 55th East Arch Street. This is close to our downtown area but there are several areas in our 6th Ward. We understand that we are in a crisis and most departments are not working. We have made several complaints and even reached out to our Mayor. We just want to get a handle on this, before the dumping gets completely, out of control. Your attention to this problem will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Don and Margie Ford. May I make a follow-up comment to this?"

PRESIDENT MEARS: Absolutely.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you. Well, I feel like we have a perfect storm going on right now. Um, normally in April, May and the planning leading up to that, we have dozens of organizations mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to volunteer thousands of hours. For thirty some years we've been doing the community clean-ups and that's been called off. That's strike one. Strike two is we already had a back-log of clean-ups orders, as you know, um, we no longer have labor in our Codes and Permits, so our clean-up orders have to go over to the Service Complex. Who obviously have to deal with the crisis and streets and all that first. So, we already had a log of back-up orders. A page and a half long. Single spaced. One name per line, back in February. And now we have half the crew that we had before. So, I guess that I would call this a perfect storm and at some point, that this is an essential situation that we do need to address. So, I would invite further conversation. We have Zoom technology. We have some legislation pending about the first pass of

things that we can do here at Council. Our Solid Waste District has offered some possible enforcement help and also, our State has offered guidance on how our Law Enforcement; when they see someone hauling, say, more than ten tires, should know right away that's a criminal offence and they can pull them over. So, I'm open to having a meeting with the powers that be that would like to see this as the essential situation that we have.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you for your public comment and your follow-up comment Councilwoman Taddie. Is there anybody on Council that would like to comment on this further? Okay. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT:

(PWD) DAVE REMY: I do. I'll take my opportunity now to talk about the Water Meter Replacement Project. Which we're going to start to gear back up. The testing portion of it. Test installations is scheduled to begin May 28th and the mass deployment installation is scheduled for late June. The people who are going to do the installation will be sending out cards; contact cards and information cards about who, how to call in and schedule appointments. The company that is going to be doing it is, uh, has sent me all the information that I need to show that they are in COVID-19 compliance with PPE and sanitation, keep, in being mindful of that. So, the test area for those Councilmen... the test area that we have chosen to start in is basically the Cook Road Trimble Road area and the reason why we chose that, is because the houses in that area are relatively new stock, are newer stock houses. Installation will be easier and less problems and troubles during the testing period. And they want to try those types of houses and so those types of houses in residences to uh, get down what they have to do, the planning and the logistics of it. They will, they are going to encounter a lot of difficult situations, in the downtown area and in some of the older areas of town, but they wanted to get their deployment schedules down and their logistics down by starting in that area of town. So, that's the area that they will be starting in. Again, it's the Cook Road, Tremble Road area. Um, and those cards should be, notice cards and appointment cards, should be going out within the next week, or so, to schedule, for the testing period. They want to attempt to do, roughly, between a hundred and a hundred and fifty homes during the testing period, that will be before they disperse the mass deployment in June. I am going to send out a Press Release, probably Thursday or Friday to let the public know what is coming and kinda give them a time frame and give them the name of the company that's going to be doing the installation and what to look for when they get a card in the mail. Uh, the card that comes in the mail in addition to having our, will have our logo on it. So, it will be something that officially authorized by the City. That's part of the reason that the City's logo's going to be on it, in addition to the company that's going to be doing the installation. It's called Ekalara. That's all I have to say.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Director, that's great information. I know I've gotten calls myself, about the status of that project, so that's good to know and I appreciate the update. I'm sure the rest of Council does as well.

END OF DISCUSSION

MONDAY DEADLINE

COUNCILWOMAN BURNS: I move with respect to Bills 20-095, that the rule requiring legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00 pm be suspended and that Bills 20-095, be allowed on the floor this evening. Seconded by Falquette. Ayes: 8 Nays: 0

SUSPEND RULES

COUNCILWOMAN BURNS: I move with respect to all the bills that the rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended and that each bill be read one time by title only, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

HONORING PATROL CLERK CHERYL MCCLAIN UPON HER RETIREMENT

BY: MS. TADDIE

BILL# 20-085

ORDINANCE# 20-080

Authorizing the Honoring Payroll Clerk Cheryl McClain upon her retirement from the City of Mansfield Finance Department.

Upon motion by Ms. Taddie, that Bill 20-085 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION:

JEAN TADDIE: I wonder if, by chance, Cheryl is in the meeting at the moment? Any chance of that?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Doesn't appear to be. Hopefully Ms. McClain is watching us on Facebook-Live and appreciates the honor by Council.

END OF DISCUSSION

ODOT BRIDGE REPAIRS FOR SR 430 OVER MAPLE RUN

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL # 20-086

ORDINANCE # 20-081

The following Ordinance enacted by the City of Mansfield of Richland County, Ohio hereinafter referred to as the City, in the matter of the stated described project.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence, that Bill 20-086 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

AUTHORIZING PWD TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS & CONTRACT FOR SALT SUPPLY

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL # 20-087

ORDINANCE # 20-082

Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for salt supply, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence, that Bill 20-087 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS (\$240,640.74) FROM OCJS FOR METRICH OPERATIONS

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-088

ORDINANCE # 20-083

Authorizing the Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate funding from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Service (OCJS) in the amount of two hundred forty thousand six hundred forty and 74/100 dollars (\$240,640.74) for METRICH Operations and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-088 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS (\$10,000) WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND (#101) FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-089

ORDINANCE # 20-084

Transferring appropriations in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) within the General Fund (#101), for the purchase of computer equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-089 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS (\$3,700) WITHIN THE GRANT FUND (#224) FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

BY: MR. VANHARLINGEN

BILL# 20-090

ORDINANCE#20-085

Transferring appropriations in the amount of three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$3,700) within the Grant Fund (#224) for the purchase of computer equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-090 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE O.R.C. ESTABLISHING DESCRIBING BOUNDARIES OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT, DESIGNATING ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSING OFFICER, CREATE A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL # 20-091 *1st Read

ORDINANCE # 20-086

An Ordinance implementing sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code, establishing and describing the boundaries of community reinvestment area in the City of Mansfield, designating a housing officer to administer the program, and creating a community reinvestment housing council and a tax incentive review council.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport, that Bill 20-091 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette.

DISCUSSION: NONE

CONTRACT FOR FAIR HOUSING SERVICES WITH RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND R.R.P.C.

BY: MS. TADDIE

BILL # 20-094

ORDINANCE # 20-087

Authorizing the Mayor and Public Works Director to enter into a contract for Fair Housing Services with the Richland County Board of Commissioners and the Richland County Regional Planning Commission, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Ms. Taddie, that Bill 20-094 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AGREEMENT WITH ALLIED TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR INSPECTION AND CLEANING OF C.W.T. PLANT SERVICE LINE

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-095

ORDINANCE # 20-088

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into an agreement, without competitive bidding, with Allied Technical Services, Inc. for the inspection and cleaning of the City’s Water Treatment Plant service line, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-095 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS:

CHERYL MEIER: Mr. Mears?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes?

CHERYL MEIER: I’m curious if Chief Strickling is still on, uh, if he has any kind of an update for us, regarding the Corona Virus?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Good question. Are you here with us, Fire Chief Strickling?

CHERYL MEIER: Up, no...maybe he’s already gone.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Checking my list of who’s online. It shows... I show that he’s still on.

CHERYL MEIER: I thought it shows he was too, but...um...

PRESIDENT MEARS: Chief Strickling, are you available for an update? Uh, apparently, he's away.

CHERYL MEIER: Okay.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Good point though. Is there anything else to come before Council this evening?

PHIL SCOTT: Uh, President Mears?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Sir.

PHIL SCOTT: Uh, there was nothing mentioned about what's being done with the budget tonight. It was announced today that, what, the Governor, what, they're slashing the State budget by seven hundred and seventy-five million dollars. I was just wondering if there's any updates on what the City's planning to do? I'm sure there'll be a short fall due to all the COVID and businesses closing and stuff.

CHERYL MEIER: I wondered the same thing.

MAYOR THEAKER: I'd just like to....

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there anybody...oh, I'm sorry...

MAYOR THEAKER: No, that's alright. Just like the last time, we've cut down, or cut back on hiring, training, purchases, and all that so far, and then we will be formulating a plan once we get a little bit closer to finding out what our short-fall is.

PHIL SCOTT: Okay. So, possibly at the next Council meeting we might a little better idea, what we're doing?

MAYOR THEAKER: It all depends on basically when we can start to get uh, more firm figures.

JEAN TADDIE: If I could throw in there, as I recall, and again I'm sure Mayor you're keeping an eye on things day by day, but the Finance Director thought that mid- May was a time frame that we would have a better look at it; we just took a broad 20% and see, so Mr. Van Harlingen do you think it would be a good time to bring our Finance Director back for a second up-date, or Mr. Mayor do you have any suggestions on that?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: I personally, thinking back, what the Director said, Director Steward, from one thing the income tax dead-line was pushed way out, which is a little bit of a concern and the time frame, the lag time, with the taxes coming in, I'm not so sure, and this is totally up to the Administration and Director Steward, I'm not so sure that we're going to have some good solid numbers until we get to the end of the second quarter. I... I'm not too sure. We'd have to talk to the Director again, Director Steward, 'course the Mayor, you're right there in the middle of all this, but I don't want to make any rash decisions, real quick, because of what everybody else is doing. I want to see exactly where we're at and try and get a better idea.

MAYOR THEAKER: I agree a hundred percent.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Any questions or comments? Anything else to come before Council?

PHIL SCOTT: I mean, I agree with a lot of that, but if there's some cuts that we could do now that maybe could maybe minimize some cuts that we possibly might have to do, come later, I think with this... I don't know, just seems if we could do some of the cuts now we could minimize some of the drastic cuts that might have to happen later on. That's just...

MAYOR THEAKER: That's exactly what I said earlier. That we are not hiring. We have a hiring freeze, except for essential. We're not training. We're not traveling. We've cut some costs.

PHIL SCOT: Okay.

JEAN TADDIE: Well, if I could throw in I know...the question I asked two weeks ago, is what are we getting from the State or Feds, during this time of crisis and FEMA money still coming in for some of the work when we uh, when our first responders transport etc... but I saw the State opened up some Grants for the local Government and Law Enforcement and even Non-Profits can apply for this. Is this something that we're moving towards at the City?

MAYOR THEAKER: We're reviewing all those. Another thing that uh, with the second uh, package that what, that the Federal Government passed, there's a little over four billion dollars coming to the State. Two point eight some of that, I don't know exactly, is going to be kept by the State, but the rest of it's going to be distributed throughout the State. So, there could be anywhere from, about one and half three quarters, uh two billion dollars, that's coming to local counties and municipalities. We don't know exactly what that is. And another thing I've been in communications with um, U.S. Congressmen and there's another package that's out there, that is going to be targeting local Governments.

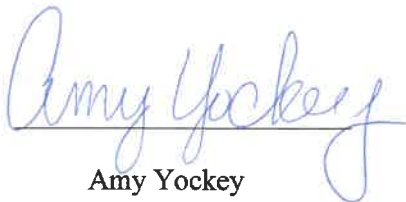
PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Anything further, from anyone, anything else? Further discussion on this or anything else to come before Council before we adjourn? Okay, I do want to...

DAVID FALQUETTE: I motion to close the meeting.

PRESIDENT MEARS: But before we, before we vote on the motion, I once again would like to thank Amy Yockey and James Weiner for having, uh, putting all this remote meeting together. It was basically trouble free as the last one so, hats off to the both of you.

(Various voices of thank you.)

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Falquette, seconded by Mrs. Meier and passed by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.



Amy Yockey
Clerk of Council



Cliff Mears
President