

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 4, 2020

The First monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday,
August 4, 2020 at 7:19 PM via Zoom Meeting,
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Council.

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 COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT MEARS: So, here's the public comment section, if any of our Council members have received feedback, input or comments from the public, now's the time to come forward and read those or state those. Anyone?

CHERYL MEIER: I did have an email. Amy do you have the email that you can bring up, or should I...?

CLERK AMY: Which one is it?

CHERYL MEIER: Sarah Russell.

CLERK AMY: Yeah, I'll get it here in a second.

CHERYL MEIER: Okay. Or, I can get it off my phone. I have it here. Okay. "Dear Mansfield City Council and Council person Meier, shutting down parks is easy. Perhaps too easy. The act of closing down actively used parks should be more in depth. Have you surveyed the residents who live around these parks to see if they are being used? What is the basis for determining if parks are being closed? I have seen photo evidence of Newman Park being used by kids in 2020. Why is this on the list for closure? While some of the purposed closures make sense, taking away play areas from children, many of whom are no longer getting play time at school, due to the pandemic, seems very short sighted. I understand there are budget issues, but where is the oversight of the Park's Department spending? As an active dog walker who lives between Maple Lake and South Park, I can tell you that a mountain of cash is wasted by having a team of men mowing areas that could be planted with ground cover or wild flowers and not need mown. It could be planted with trees and then woodchip pathways used by pedestrians, again, no mowing, or it could just be mowed less frequently. No one is playing golf in these places. We don't need the grass kept at putting green height. The large field behind the basketball courts at Maple lake Park was mowed all summer long. I observed a group of girls using it for soccer practice only on one occasion and I walk past it with my dog every day, morning and evening. Why is this being mowed? Plant some trees and give it back to nature. It's not like the City's ever going to invest in turning it back into a baseball diamond. Please survey the residents around the Park, scheduled for closure and make the information you gather public, before taking such drastic actions. Sincerely, Sarah Russell. 790 Maple Street."

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Meier. Any other comments that have come forward for this point in our meeting?

JEAN TADDIE: I have one here that came in from Pam Sellers. She's on 8th Avenue, in my Ward, near Liberty Park and a friend of Liberty Park member. "Hi Jean, I reviewed the Parks Master Plan and here are my thoughts. Overall, a pretty good plan with a few exceptions. Newman Street Park is used quite a bit by the children in the neighborhood, I think it needs to stay. Hamilton Park could be sold by the City and money go to back into other parks. There may be groups looking for large areas to develop our housing. Maybe Linden Pool area also. Liberty Park needs to be an in and out drive or two lanes. I see too many chances for accidents if it is one lane, then turn around, especially with the aquatic center at the top. [Give me second here, I'm trying to get my people out of the way...Okay. (experiencing technical difficulties) ...talking about the need for better traffic management and driveway management]. I think a pool is needed, not just a splash pad. Pool needs to be handicap accessible, would create more usage. Please, keep the stone bridge. It could be repaired. Much of our past beauty is being removed throughout the City; it could be repaired. Do I understand they are keeping the pool house and turning it into restrooms or a multi-use building? That would be great. The pond does need to be dug out and remove those rock barriers in the creeks that created havoc downstream for homeowners. With those barriers, the creek will flow better and the pond will fill up and there won't be such a buildup of silt. Please, keep mowing the area on Grace 5th Avenue. I know it's a large area, but would be breeding ground for mosquitos, snakes etc... It's a better sled riding hill than behind the basketball courts; the hill is bigger and faster. The front pavilion can be repaired and used year-round. Safety is an issue, not just at Liberty, but at many of the parks. That is City-wide issue, as you know. Many family and friends have expressed the same thoughts, but did not want to come forward. Thanks for being the voice of....." Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay.

JEAN TADDIE: So. I would also say that I did talk to some children there, when I went to take a look at the court and such, and their comments were emailed to my colleagues that their mom wouldn't let them go further to Liberty Park; that they do play at that park all the time and that they reminded me that they lost the playground at Newman School and the school itself. So, I guess I would want to keep them kids in mind. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Taddie. Any response on that, from any Council member? Okay. Are there any other comments that have been received from the public for the public comment section? Okay.

CHERYL MEIER: President Mears? I'm sorry, I do have one. I was on mute.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes.

CHERYL MEIER: There is one other email.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay.

CHERYL MEIER: "Dear City Council, my name is Latonya Palmer and I writing to express my feelings about turning over ten park parcels to the Richland County Land Bank. I suggest re-thinking the Master Plan and work on ways to keep some of the neighborhood parks open. Namely, Newman Street that is safe for the children in the neighborhood. The children that...in that area are more likely living in poverty. In many low-income communities, parks may be the only place for children to be physically active. Physical activity is important for children's development, but only if they can reach them. Parks can only reach their full potential if every household can access them. Below, you will find some benefits of play and I pray you take these benefits seriously. 1. Play builds creativity and imagination. 2. Play fosters cognitive growth. 3. Play reaps emotional and behavioral benefits. 4. Play encourages greater independence. 5. Play facilitates group interaction. 6. Play relieves stress. 7. Play heals emotional

wounds. Thank you all for your time and I pray that the wellness in low-income neighborhood, who are already burdened with stresses of poverty, be taken into consideration, and they will continue to have safe places to play. Sincerely, Latonya Palmer.” And she is at 119 Lind Avenue. That’s all I have.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilwoman Meier. Any other comments for the comment section?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilman Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you. I feel this Newman Park’s getting quite a bit of attention tonight and there’s quite a few people that’s come forward and voiced their opinion. And I guess maybe right before this vote, I sure hate to throw it up at the last minute, but... If it’s going to pass, fine. If it’s going to get a bunch of no-s over one park, maybe we should consider pulling that one park out of the ten. So, I’m going to throw that down for public comment and it sounds like once you start the meeting it’s going to be the first one up for final discussion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Sir. Thank you very much. Anything else for public comment? Alright we’ll move on.

END OF DISCUSSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

DIRECTOR REMY: I have an update on the water meter project. I’m getting information every two weeks now. So, I can furnish that to you. There are a little over 3,500 meters installed. They are, in a very short period of time, going to have fourteen teams of installers. They’re right doing right around 70 meters per day on an installation basis. They are going to move to Saturday installations, at least the time being, for one Saturday per month. If the demand increases then they’ll go to multiple Saturdays during the month and then they are scrapping out old meters for us and, as of today’s date, we received a little over eighty-five hundred dollars in scrap brass from the old meters that have been turned in. That’s a short up-date on the Meter Project.

PRESIDENT MEARS: That’s good information. Thank you, Public Works Director Remy. Thank you very much.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilman Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: May I extend a question back to Mr. Remy. How are the commercial installations coming along?

DIRECTOR REMY: Those meters...Mr. Falquette, those meters are scheduled to be received at the end of this month and or the very beginning of November and once we receive them that installation will be done. Okay.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you.

DIRECTOR REMY: Again, I should say.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. That's good stuff for all of us to know.

END OF DISCUSSION

MONDAY DEADLINE

COUNCILWOMAN BURNS: I move with respect to bills 20-221, 20-222 and 20-223 that the rule requiring legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00 pm be suspended and that bills 20-221, 20-222 and 20-223 be allowed on the floor this evening. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: 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.

APPROVING ADOPTION OF THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL # 20-185 * Amended

ORDINANCE# 20-186

Expressing approval and support for the adoption of the "Parks Master Plan" plan created by EMH&T Engineering, Surveyors, Planners & Scientists encompassing all city-owned park land.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier, Bill 20-185 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:7 Nays: 1 (Taddie)

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

DISCUSSION: NONE

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF 10 PROPERTIES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PARKS

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL # 20-186 *Amended

ORDINANCE #20-187

Authorizing the City of Mansfield to transfer to the Richland County Land Reutilization Corporation ten properties located within the City, specifically identified in section 1 of this Ordinance, which no longer serve a public purpose and are unneeded and no longer required for public park purposes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier that Bill 20-186 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: 6 Nays: 2 (Taddie, Falquette)

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

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there any discussion?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilman Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: In a final, final, final statement here. I would suggest that we remove the Newman Street parcel from this legislation and id someone...I'll make the motion, but if you're going to second the motion, I guess my thought is that that's really important that we take that off. Otherwise, just leave my motion die and we'll move on. So, I move that we amend section 1 and we remove the Newman Street parcel.

LAURA BURNS: Second.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay, we have a motion and a second to remove Newman Street from Bill 20-186. Any discussion on the motion?

LAURA BURNS: I would like to say something, maybe in defense of all these late comments that we've gotten. You know, we've all been talking about this project for a very long time and I have to wonder if maybe the urgency was not necessarily communicated. I know I probably didn't do a great job when I was talking to people in my Ward about how quickly this vote could have come up. So, I know that it's frustrating to get a whole bunch of things right at the last minute, but there just may have been that they didn't realize and that it wasn't communicated.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay.

CHERYL MEIER: President Mears, may I make a statement?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, please do.

CHERYL MEIER: While I tend to agree with Councilwoman Burns, the longer things are out there, the more public becomes aware of what's happening and not to diminish the comments that were sent in this evening, that were read, but if you'll notice the three comments were not from people that lived in that neighborhood and I guess that's what I would like to say.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Meier. Any further comments about the motion to remove Newman Street from Bill 20-186?

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Yeah, I would just like to get some clarification in regards to...so if we pass this amended piece of legislation and it goes back to the Board of the Land Bank and they decide not to move forward, what's the next step after that?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Did you want to address that Councilwoman Meier?

CHERYL MEIER: I'm not sure I have an answer. Mr. Abrams or Amy are you still on the line to be able to speak intelligently about that?

MAYOR THEAKER: If I may, please, Sir?

CHERYL MEIER: Mayor...

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Mayor Theaker.

MAYOR THEAKER: If the Land Bank votes it down, then it would be back on Council's responsibility to either amend it and allow Newman Street to added back in or it would be put in as a Newman Street leaves out and there's no agreement between the Land Bank. But, that would be on Council's shoulders after the Land Bank would vote, if the Land Bank would vote not to accept it.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Mayor. Any other comments or discussion?

CHERYL MEIER: I, Sir, may I ask a question?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilwoman Meier, please do.

CHERYL MEIER: Do we have any inkling on a time-frame, on when it may go before the Land Bank? I mean, could it be as quickly as their next meeting or would it have to be a month out and this doesn't come back to us until, potentially the first of next year? Or...do we know that?

AMY HAMRICK: Miss Meier, may I speak? This is Amy Hamrick.

CHERYL MEIER: Please...

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Amy.

AMY HAMRICK: Our next board meeting is November 4th and that's when it would go in front of the board. I honestly think they will accept it as amended, but I can't speak...you know, I can't say that for sure.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Amy. Any further comments or discussion, on the motion I mean.

JASON LAWRENCE: Yes.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilman Lawrence.

JASON LAWRENCE: President Mears. This is Councilman Lawrence. So, in speaking to the motion, we would...if the motion goes down then the Newman Street Park stays on, correct? As a point of clarity.

PRESIDENT MEARS: That would be correct.

JASON LAWRENCE: Okay, and I think our Parks Director addressed that, if we keep this park we would have to put more money into it that could go to Liberty or other parks...I just feel like it's time that we release this park. That's my thoughts.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Councilman. Any further comments on the motion?

JEAN TADDIE: Yes, if I could Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: I would just like to add, that, I'm really excited that there's development happening and houses being built and as I mentioned there's high probability that this property has buried remnants of the former Saint Mary's church on it, but if going forward the City would like to get out from underneath additional mowing responsibilities, we own lots of properties that are non-park properties and perhaps the administration could look into, you know look into paring off some of those funds, because one way or another we're still paying to mow a lot of properties. Particularly in the Chamber District that the City had acquired in the past.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Taddie. Any further discussion, questions?

MARK ABRAMS: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Mr. Abrams.

MARK ABRAMS: Mr. President, if I may please?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, please do.

MARK ABRAMS: Just for a point of clarification. The issue is not mowing. That is not the issue. I have three people that take care of these three hundred and ninety-six acres and as you can see by the emails, by the public comment, mowing's obviously not an issue because they're complaining we mow too well. So, that's not why this legislation was brought forward. This legislation is a budgetary issue; that we can live within our means and try to make our park system better. That's all I wanted to add.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Abrams. Any further discussion on the motion to remove Newman Park from the bill?

JEAN TADDIE: Well, if I could make one final...one response to that?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Councilwoman....

JEAN TADDIE: Mr. President, it's a matter of timing that we won't be putting twenty-nine dollars on all at once, so we don't have to spend money on Newman Park before we fix up Liberty Park. It could be at, potentially, the bottom of the chain and by the time all these other great parks are built and the Community Center, that has been promised over the years, is up and running, you know, it may make the need for Newman Street Park obsolete. So, until then, seems reasonable to give ourselves the option for later.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Any further comments?

MARK ABRAMS: Again, Mr. President, not....

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, go ahead.

MARK ABRAMS: Mr. President, if I may?

PRESIDENT MEARS: One last comment.

MARK ABRAMS: I think...I think this has been misconstrued. This is not about the twenty-nine-million-dollar Park Plan. This is about the eight hundred and six-teen thousand dollars a year that the Park Department receives a year to maintain thirty-three parks. In order to make the other twenty -one parks that are left, or whatever that number ends up being, we have to shrink our footprint in order to stretch our budget to improve the parks. It's not about the twenty-nine-million -dollar Park Plan.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Abrams. Hopefully, there's no more discussion so we can move on with the vote on this motion. Anything further? Any last comments? Okay. I will call for the vote on removing Newman Park from Bill 20-186.

END OF DISCUSSION

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: A motion was placed on the floor to amend Bill 20-186, Section 1., to remove the Newman Street Parcel and was seconded by Laura Burns. The vote was taken and results were as follows: Ayes: 4 Nays: 5 (Meier, Van Harlingen, Lawrence, Scott, Mears)
Motion did not pass.

HONORING TELECOMMUNICATOR RETIREE: H. LEE ROBINSON

BY: MR SCOTT

BILL# 20-221

ORDINANCE# 20-222

Honoring Telecommunicator H. Lee Robinson upon his retirement from the Mansfield Division of Police.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, that Bill 20-221 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:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there any discussion?

JEAN TADDIE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: I believe a messaged popped up earlier, that Mr. Robinson thanked us for the recognition, perhaps he was watching on Facebook, and if that's still the case I just want to extend my thanks for all the years serving our residents. We're so glad you chose to spend your career with the City.

PRESIDENT MEARS: I will echo that as well. Any further comments?

PHILLIP SCOTT: And I will echo that too and thank him for 32 years of service to the City of Mansfield. So, great work.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you very much for your service, Sir.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay.

MARK ABRAMS: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Sir.

MARK ABRAMS: I would like to say something. For eighteen years of my career, with the City of Mansfield, I worked with Lee Robinson for a short period of time he was my supervisor. I probably drove him to an early retirement, but I'd like to congratulate him that he made it to the end; him and I had a lot of good times together....so, congratulations Lee, you earned it. I know your old second shift crew is proud of you. So, congratulations.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Also, Mr. President I would like to say a brief word or two. I would like to congratulate Lee, Mr. Robinson, for his 32 years of service. He worked in a very challenging division with the City of Mansfield. Thank you, Sir, for your time.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Anything further? My thanks as well, Mr. Robinson. Thank you very much.

END OF DISCUSSION

HONORING K-9 RETIREE: FERRO

BY: MR. SCOTT

BILL # 20-222

ORDINANCE# 20-223

Honoring K-9 dog Ferro upon his retirement from the Mansfield Police Department.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, that Bill 20-222 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

APPROVING DISPOSITION OF POLICE K-9 DOG: FERRO

BY: MR. SCOTT

BILL # 20-223

ORDINANCE # 20-224

Approving the disposition of Police Department K-9 dog Ferro, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, that Bill 20-223 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

APPROVING APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF TAX APPEALS: RON ABRAMS

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-224

ORDINANCE # 20-225

Approving the appointment of Ron Abrams to the Board of Tax Appeals for the City of Mansfield.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-224 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

APPROPRIATING TRANSFER OUT CLASSIFICATION: \$1,368.12

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-225

ORDINANCE # 20-226

Appropriating the sum of one thousand, three hundred sixty-eight and 12/100 dollars (\$1,368.12) from the unappropriated Regional Community Advancement Fund (#205) to the Transfer Out to General Fund (205.62.01) Transfer Out Classification, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-225 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

AUTHORIZING PWD TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT: DROP ZONE LEASE

BY: MR. SCOTT

BILL# 20-226

ORDINANCE# 20-227

Authorizing the Public Works Director to execute Supplement Agreement No. 1, to the Drop Zone Lease Agreement with the Department of the Air Force, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott that Bill 20-226 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

GRANTING LICENSE TO CARROUSEL PROPERTIES: RIGHT-OF-WAY INSTALL

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL#20-227

ORDINANCE #20-228

Granting a license to Carrousel Properties LLC, 80 West Third Street, Mansfield, Ohio, to use the public right-of-way for the installation of concrete, planters and canopy's, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence, Bill 20-227 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

AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE: TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-228 ORDINANCE #20-229

Amending Chapter 195 of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances (Transient Occupancy Tax) to extend the tax through December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-228 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 Mrs. Burns. 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:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there any discussion?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: I may have a quick one, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Sir.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: I think ought to, maybe, promote that our little three percent tax is pretty reasonable. Some of the places that I've stayed in past years; I always have a bad habit of looking at the receipt and it's a bit more than three percent. So, I think we need to promote that. It's a cheap place to stay.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Good point Councilman, very good point. Any other comments or discussion?

END OF DISCUSSION

CLOSING COMMENTS:

JON VAN HARLINGEN: What happened to Mr. President?

DAVID FALQUETTE: It's his video feed.

JEAN TADDIE: Sorry, things froze up.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Oh!

JEAN TADDIE: I missed your comment.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Am I not there?

JEAN TADDIE: I wasn't here, I think.

CHERYL MEIER: Cliff and Jean both froze.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Oh. Am I still out of....

CHERYL MEIER: No, you're fine.

DAVID FALQUETTE: You're back.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Alright. Well, I do want to acknowledge that this is Councilwoman Taddie's last meeting with us. I want to wish her well in her position. I'm sure we all do. So, I do want to mention that.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Do you want to make a statement Councilwoman Taddie?

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you, yes. I just want to say how much of an honor it's been to serve the residents of the City of the 6 Ward. It's been great working with this team of folks you see on this Zoom screen here. We may not always have voted alike, we may not always thought alike, but I never questioned that we all had the community at heart and that in our best and sincere attempt we were doing our best to serve the community. So, I will continue...I'm happy to say in this time of COVID and unemployment, I have landed a really terrific job and I will be serving in a totally non-partisan manner and all political activity will be ceasing. Except voting! Of course, every American gets to vote....as I take on a new role supporting our community's transit system and there'll be more released about that in a couple of days I believe. But, I'd like to say to my colleagues, if the meetings go a lot shorter without me, I'm sure it's going to be because we get that voting software and not because, 'Jean quit asking all them questions'.

ZOOM AUDIENCE: Chuckling and laughing by all.

JEAN TADDIE: So, thank you. It's been a joy. I wish I could say it was always fun, but it certainly has been rewarding. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Jean. Anything else to come before Council? Any last comments?

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Sir.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: I wish we could have ended with Jean there, but I do want to acknowledge our Administration. In a particular Director Cope and Chief Porch. As we all know, last week, we had an unfortunate event transpire between one of our officers and a citizen of the City of Mansfield. Two short weeks after our Code of Conduct was signed. The Code of Conduct was an attempt to create security and create peace of mind to the community as well as our officers. And put guidelines in place that would create confidence in each other and one of the things that Chief Porch had said during the signing was that if there was an officer that stepped out of line, he would do what was right. Unfortunately, at times, those events will happen and when they do, it is comforting for the community to know that our Administration will step up and so what is right in those times and Chief Porch did, unfortunately. I wish suspension on no one, because one; it means one of our citizens was wronged, if you will, and it also means our short staff...our already short-staffed police department is missing an officer. But, this case did warrant that and I applaud Chief Porch and Director Cope for standing up and doing what is right. I also want to clarify and emphasize; our Code of Conduct is not a one-way street. It is a document geared to guide our officers as well as our community and the community must understand that. The community must take head to that and understand our responsibility in these interactions. A lot of that...it falls on me, because it is my responsibility and the coalition that we created, to get that out to the public and we intend to do that. So, there will be a Town Hall this Friday to discuss, to the community, our responsibilities within the Code of Conduct. It is not only about the officers it also is about the community's responsibilities in those interactions. So, I just wanted to acknowledge our administration as, I believe, we are leading the County in Police/Community relations and this unfortunate event just illustrates how we are doing so.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilman Davenport. Thank you for those comments. Anything further...?

CHERYL MEIER: Yeah, President Mea...

PHILLIP SCOTT: Mr....

CHERYL MEIER: Can I make a statement?

PHILLIP SCOTT: Go ahead Mrs....

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yeah, Councilwoman Meier. Go ahead.

CHERYL MEIER: I just...I just wanted to say, thank you, Jean for your service and it...I agree with what you have said, as far as we all come together and try to put our best foot forward and represent our constituents to the best of our ability, but it's been a pleasure working with you over the last year, so I wish you the best of luck in your new position.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you. (Visual, audio did not pick up.)

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Councilwoman Meier. Councilman Scott.

PHILLIP SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. President. I too, would like to speak to Jean. You know it seems like it was just a few short, two years ago that I swore you into the unexpired term of Garnetta Pender and I really appreciate your dedication and service to the City of Mansfield and I know your whole heart and soul was in it and I could tell that by the way you conducted yourself and you know, I've been proud to have served with you these two years and I really hate to see you go, because I think you've brought a lot City Council. But, I know that light you'll also bring a lot to your new position with Regional Planning. So, wish you the best of luck and I'm sure you're not going to be a stranger to us, so we'll see you down the road, so, thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Councilman. Anyone else? Any other comments? (Inaudible)
(Zoom noise)

JASON LAWRENCE: Councilman ...Mears?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Go ahead, Councilman Van Harlingen, I think you might have been first.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Oh, I just also would like to thank Miss Taddie, well...Jean, also for her service with the City of Mansfield City Council. Her heart was definitely in her job. But, then a bittersweet moment I would also like to congratulate her on her new position. I think she will be very happy working with the people across the street.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you. (Visual, audio did not pick up.)

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Councilman. Councilman Lawrence, now.

JASON LAWRENCE: Thank you, Mr. President. To Councilwoman Taddie, thank you for serving the 6 Ward like you did. You came to us before you came to Council. You've been an active community member and now through Council and I know you'll be here afterwards. You'll be sorely missed. Again, like you said, we didn't always think the same and agree on the same, but, you done a fine job in communicating the needs of the 6th Ward. So, we'll miss you and congratulations again on your new position and best of luck moving forward. Also, I would like to echo what Mr. Davenport said; just a thank you to the Administration: Director Cope, Mayor Theaker, Chief Porch...that was a fine job done with a very challenging situation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Councilman. Any other comments? Any of Council?

JAMES WEINER: Mr. President, may I address Council?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Mr. Weiner.

JAMES WEINER: In response...first of all, Miss Taddie we will miss you. Thank you for your service and congratulations on the new position.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you. (Visual, audio did not pick up.)

JAMES WEINER: But, she brought up an interesting point; that was the voting software. So, I thought I would take a quick moment to give you an update on where we are with the technological updates that we're doing for Council. First of all, on Thursday, I have scheduled a company to come in to begin replacing some equipment within Council chamber that will allow us, not only to, hopefully, enhance our streaming capability for Council meetings, but will also give us the ability to, once we get to a point where we can all come back into Council Chambers, that will be able to continue these live-streams, for remote access and to allow members who aren't comfortable to Zoom-in and join the rest of Council, as we're all together or partially together. So, that installation is beginning on Thursday. As for the voting software, we, Amy and I, have actually had a couple meetings with some demos of the software. I think you're really going to like it. It's really simple to use. I tried to keep that as low of a burden as possible on you guys, just because I know you have a lot going on as it is. It's going to be pretty slick. I think you're going to like it and we anticipate that within the next 30-45 days we'll be able to roll that out to you to be able to begin using that remote software. So, we'll see if the length of the Council meeting's is actually Miss Taddie or if it's the voting itself.

ZOOM AUDIENCE: Laughing by all.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Well, thank you for the update, James. That means I won't have to be calling everyone's names so many times, every meeting, correct?

JAMES WEINER: Correct. (Visual, audio did not pick up)

PRESIDENT MEARS: Wonderful. Thank you very much. Anything else to come before Council tonight, before I make a motion to adjourn?

DIRECTOR COPE: Mr. President, may I speak for a moment?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please, do.

DIRECTOR COPE: Thank you. So, just in reference to Councilman Davenport's comment. We appreciate that very much and to the members of Council that reached out to us and prayed with us for clarity and assistance in a very difficult situation, I think it goes to show this Code of Conduct that Mayor Theaker and myself and the members of the community and Councilman Davenport's group got together and signed is more than just words and it's a feel good we all signed and everyone's great, but when the rubber hits the road and it shows us to put our money where our mouth is, we all came together and absolutely took this seriously and worked together as a team and we know eventually something would come up, that it wasn't a fix-all, but, it worked exactly like we had hoped, which is a basis for guidelines and we're seeing that now. It's unfortunate and we want to definitely move on. We're down, now, to 79 Officers and so... we're just going to move forward from here and thank you again for all your support. Thank you, Mr. President.

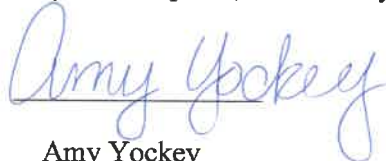
PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Director Cope.

DIRECTOR COPE: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Any other comments before we call for an adjournment? Okay, I do want to again, as I like to do, thank Amy and James for handling the technical side of this. You make it smooth and flawless and I do want to point out, before I ask for a motion for adjournment at 8:03, that, as a reminder to those listening we will not be meeting on a Tuesday for our next meeting because of Election Day. We will be meeting on Wednesday, November 4th, for the first time. We're not meeting during Election Day, due to legislation that we passed last year. So, I think that's a good move. Could I have a motion for adjournment?

END OF DISCUSSION

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