

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 4, 2020

The First monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday,
November 4, 2020 at 7:41 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, Davenport, Lawrence, Moton, Scott, Falquette, and Mears.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

MONDAY DEADLINE

COUNCILWOMAN BURNS: I move with respect to bills 20-243 that the rule requiring legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00 pm be suspended and that bills 20-243 be allowed on the floor this evening. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0 (Meier was absent for vote)

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.

APPROPRIATING SUM FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUND

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-229 * Amended

ORDINANCE# 20-230

Appropriating the sum not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) from the unappropriated Downtown Improvements Fund (#425) for the purpose of downtown improvements, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, Bill 20-229 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 SUM FROM UNAPPROPRIATED DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUND

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-230

ORDINANCE #20-231

Appropriating the sum not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the unappropriated Downtown Improvements Fund (#425) for the purpose of downtown improvements, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-230 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 PWD TO ACCEPT GRANT: HIRING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERN

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL# 20-231

ORDINANCE# 20-232

Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept a Grant from the Richland County Foundation in the aggregate amount of two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100) for the purpose of hiring an intern in the Community Development Department, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-231 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 LAW DIRECTOR'S ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FOR CRIME VICTIMS ASST. PROGRAM

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-232

ORDINANCE# 20-233

Approving the Law Director's acceptance of a grant from the Ohio Crime Victims Assistance Office to be used for the purpose of the Crime Victims Assistance Program administered by the Law Director's Office

in the total amount of forty-nine thousand, four hundred thirty-five and 66/100 dollars (\$49,435.66), appropriating the funds to be expended in 2020, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-232 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 MAYOR AND PWD TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH AIRPORT WEST I, LLC

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL # 20-233

ORDINANCE # 20-234

Authorizing the Mayor and the Public Works Director to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with Airport West I, LLC, for certain tax incentives under Ohio Revised Code Chapter § 3735.66 for the construction of a new 160,00 S. F. Industrial Building at 1750 Airport West Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport, that Bill 20-233 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 MAYOR AND PWD TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH AIRPORT WEST I, LLC

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL # 20-234

ORDINANCE # 20-235

Authorizing the Mayor and Public Works Director to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area School Compensation Agreement with Airport West I, LLC, and Madison Local Schools to authorize general compensation and income tax revenue sharing on new municipal income tax revenues, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 20-234 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 THE ZONING DISTRICTS MAP TO REZONE TWO LOTS

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-235

ORDINANCE # 20-236

Amending the Zoning Districts Map of City of Mansfield, Ohio (Ordinance #04-208) to rezone two lots at South Main Street and Ford Avenue, from Zoning Classification MF (Multi-Family Residential District) to Classification B-1 (Neighborhood Business District).

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-235 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 ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR HAULING AND DISPOSING OF SLUDGE

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL# 20-236 *Amended

ORDINANCE# 20-237

Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for the hauling and disposal of water treatment plant sludge, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence that Bill 20-236 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. SCOTT

BILL#20-237

ORDINANCE #20-238

Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and enter into an agreement for the use of certain Airport property for agricultural purposes, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott, Bill 20-237 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 ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH MG ENERGY, INC.

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-243

ORDINANCE #20-239

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract, with MG Energy, Inc., according to its winning bid, for the replacement of the Mansfield Municipal Building's boiler, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-243 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: NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT MEARS: That's the last piece of legislation is there anything else to come before Council this evening?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilman Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: As I'm sure Amy's going to be preparing the calendar for next year I would like to request that the instance where the primary and general election falls on a City Council evening that we, again next year, in 2021 that we move those meeting to the following Wednesday night, if that would be acceptable. I don't remember if we did a motion or anything, but I wanted to talk about it before a calendar goes out and we have to change a calendar. If we could just change that calendar portion.

PHILLIP SCOTT: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes.

PHILLIP SCOTT: If that is in the form of a motion, I agree and I would second that motion. If we need a motion I would second it.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. I think that might need some research, unless you know off the top of your head Amy. I believe the legislation passed for any election dates that occur on a Council night. Is that something you know right away or is that something that we have to do for a primary?

CLERK AMY: I think the primary was a little different, because presidentials it falls in March and regular it's May. I'll have to look at it though, but I'll pull it and look at it.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Amy. Much appreciated.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: And Mr. President, if I could please.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Councilman.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Something else that, when we're talking about the calendar, that we may need to consider. I know the Finance Director had a problem with the tax budget last year and when it was due over at the County Courthouse and this falls under the Ohio Revised Code. Now I'm going to have to double check, but I do believe that she had to ask for an extension and maybe two, because of the way that our second council meeting in July fell; which is not real good. I'm going to have to double check with that, with the Finance Director, but I think we might have to go back to where we were before, even though it's so close to the Fourth of July weekend, because we have a problem with the deadline with the Ohio Revised Code. I will double check on that because we got...

CLERK AMY: Yeah, double check that, because the year before I think we did it in June.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: And could have been, Amy. Could have been.

CLERK AMY: I believe it was the last meeting in June, we did it the year before that.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: And that could have been, the whole thing is, is the Finance Director going to be prepared to do it the last week of June, I don't know why not, but then I don't have to prepare the budget either. So, I think it's worth looking into. Just so that we don't fall in the end...the second meeting in July. We're going to have to look into that. But, thank you, I think you're right, we did do it at the end of June.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilman.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes. Councilman Falquette, something else?

DAVID FALQUETTE: My only additive comment would be, let's give the Finance Director seven months warning to have that done for the second meeting in June [chuckles from Zoom audience and see if she can pull that off, because it just seemed to make so much more sense to take the Fourth of July holiday and the City Council holiday altogether, the first week of July then...it was just difficult, because people weren't taking off the first meeting because they had plans and different things were going on, then we were off the second meeting, so we had two or three member that maybe had a difficulty, and we didn't see them at all for the whole month of July. It's not a huge problem, it just seems smoother and more continuous with the meeting flow to have the holiday and the vacation day the same.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: And I can't argue that Mr. Falquette. We need to have a discussion. I'll talk to the Finance Director. We got plenty of time to take care of that. That just came to mind because we were talking about the schedule.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Yeah.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: ...Schedule again.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Good to clear this up now, absolutely.

PHILLIP SCOTT: And I would agree. If could do it around the Fourth of July, that makes it much easier.

PRESIDENT MEARS: I think that's better for all concerned. Anything else to come before Council tonight?

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

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Mr. Weiner.

JAMES WEINER: I just want to give you guys a quick update on the upgrades to Council Chambers.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Does this include the voting software, Mr. Weiner?

JAMES WEINER: It does indeed, Mr. Mears.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please speak up, we want to hear that.

JAMES WEINER: (laughs) So, starting with the upgrades in Council Chambers; the tv's have been mounted the cameras have been mounted, new microphones have been installed, they sound pretty amazing. If you haven't had a chance to stop into Council since the upgrades have been done, I encourage you stop in and check it out. I think we're going to be very happy once everybody's back together. So, everything is kind of progressing there. We do have a few odds and ends to finish up before it's going to be completely functional, but we're getting very close. In regards to the voting software; Amy, and I were able to take part in a meeting this afternoon with a final demo. There was one little tweak that they still needed to fix for us. It's very smooth...looks like it's going to work very easily. There's a couple decisions I need to make yet, on how we're going to host that software...looking into a few things. However, we would like to potentially do a test run, with Council, at the next meeting. So...

PRESIDENT MEARS: Well, that's pretty good news.

JAMES WEINER: So, I will send out emails to Council. My intention is to have each of you maybe give me a call sometime, maybe early next week, or, you know, Monday of the week after. It will only take me a couple of minutes. I just need your laptop online, so I can jump in, have you logged in and I can give you the shortcut. All it is, is a shortcut to a website. You'll log in and I'll give you your user name and password. You'll log in, it's very simple, the bill number and the bill title will appear on your screen and you'll have the option to vote yes, no or abstain. It's really that simple. So, we're going to do our best to try and have this out at least for a test run. I do suggest that we make sure that Council's able to record votes a secondary way, just in case we have any issues with that software next week. Assuming the testing goes well, we should be able to implement that after the next meeting as our full voting piece. So, just want ed to give you guys the update on that.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you, Mr. Weiner. That's good news and I applaud you, because you have so much new equipment in there; so much software that you're dealing with and you and Amy, you make the technical side of these Council and Caucus meetings, just seamless. So, thank you for what you do and I know that you got your hands full with everything that you're taking care of these days, but it is much appreciated.

JAMES WEINER: Thank you, Sir.

PHILLIP SCOTT: I'll second that, Mr. Mears, the comment about what James and Amy do...it makes this easy for us, so, and thumbs up.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, very much so.

PHILLIP SCOTT: The only other comment I would like to make is, the sooner we can get back into Council Chambers and use that equipment, the better.

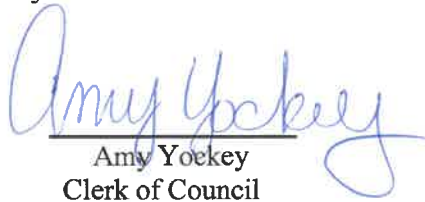
PRESIDENT MEARS: Absolutely.

JAMES WEINER: Well, actually, in that regards, Mr. Mears, at some point, maybe this week, we need to have a discussion. I would like, once we get that... some testing done on that equipment, it would be my opinion that we would be in a position to have, maybe, a handful of Councilmembers actually come to a Council meeting, spread out, socially distant, of course, have the remainder of Council actually Zoom in do some testing with the Zoom equipment to where we can actually start that process. That's a conversation that you and I will need to have and kind of figure out what you would like to do. That'd be your call.


PRESIDENT MEARS: Wonderful. Great. Making strides. Anything else to come before Council tonight? At, let's see what do we have, at 8:06 can I have a motion for adjournment?

END OF DISCUSSION

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



Amy Yoekey
Clerk of Council



Cliff Mears
President