

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2023

The first monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on
Tuesday January 3, 2023 at 7:51 pm in the
Council Chambers of the City Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Eleazer Akuchie led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered present at roll call: Burns, Meier (excused absent 7-0), Akuchie, Davenport, Diaz, Moton, Zader, Scott, and Falquette.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: And we have three people signed up this evening to speak before council. First up is Mr. Miller on Coleman Road. If you can state your name and your address and we have 3 minutes per person tonight. There's a button in the middle of that stand, yep you got it.

ERIC MILLER: Hi Mary Miller and I live at 693 Coleman Road in Mansfield, Rev. El Akuchie's ward. And I'm here to urge you to vote for the water rate increase that has been discussed in Council. And you folks have all received two letters from me concerning this matter. And...and, so we need to assure a safe and reliable delivery of water to our citizens and that has to begin with passing the rate increase. Now we currently pay less than a nickel a gallon for water and sewer and after the rate increase goes through it will still be less than a nickel a gallon. Now that's mighty low and that's a low price for something we have to have. Now if you look at what bottled water costs and that's if you're buying it by the...by the skid load, a skid of gallon bottles, two bucks a gallon if you have to buy your water...your bottled water.

Now I know some of you are holding back because you have questions about whether or not there's an unjustified delay in installing new water meters. Water meters might be a problem, I wouldn't claim to know about that. But sometimes you have to solve more than one problem at a time. You can't hold up this rate increase because you have concerns about water meter installation. You have to assess the risk of a massive catastrophe and we're playing that game by risking a total shutdown of the water system. A total loss of pressure over an extended area. We have old pipes that rely on internal pressure to resist the force of gravity. And if those pipes drain out and we lose pressure you could have pipes that, currently aren't leaking, that crack and start to leak. And that means that when the water is finally back on you still have a huge problem. Including pollutants that enter in these cracked pipes that lay there for perhaps days at a time. Again, I know a lot of you are holding out because you have constituents who are worried about any increase in any of their bills. And that's a tough thing for them to go through I'm sure, but if they have to go without water it's two bucks a gallon, minimum, if someone else is delivering it for them on a pallet. That's 40 nickels a gallon.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Miller you're not quite out of time but your real close.

ERIC MILLER: ...ok, that's 40 nickels a gallon and it's hard to come up with that many nickels if you've lost your job because your employer has closed because he doesn't have water. Okay, Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. Miller. And the other names I don't see in the audience anymore. So we have no one else to speak before council. Are there any committee reports? Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR THEAKER: No Mr. President, I have nothing.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Safety Service Director?

DIRECTOR REMY: I have nothing, sir.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Assistant Law Director?

CHRIS BROWN: The only thing I would say is just thank the public for their patience while we adjourn into executive session. So, thank you.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. Brown. Alright, let's proceed with legislation. Mrs. Burns do we have any late bills?

LATE BILLS

LAURA BURNS: No sir we do not.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright, how about suspending rules?

SUSPEND RULES

LAURA BURNS: Yes. I move with respect to all bills that come before council this evening that the rule requiring reading on three separate occasions be suspended and that each bill be read one time by title only. Seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Alright let's do some legislation. Mrs. Burns you're up first with bill 22-217.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 22-217 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read 22-217.

AMY YOCKEY: Amending Section 941.08 (Water Charges) of the Mansfield Codified Ordinance of 1997, as amended, to modify the rate structure and to increase water rates, and declaring an emergency

WATER RATE CHARGES

BY: MRS. BURNS

BILL #22-217

ORDINANCE: 22-2??

Amending Section 941.08 (Water Charges) of the Mansfield Codified Ordinance of 1997, as amended, to modify the rate structure and to increase water rates, and declaring an emergency

Upon motion by Mrs. Burns that Bill 22-217 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Thank you. Are there any questions or comments? Mrs. Burns.

DISCUSSION:

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President I would like to propose that we, once again, table this until February 7th so that all members of the committee may be present. I meant motion. I meant motion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: So were postponing until we can vote on February.

LAURA BURNS: Yes. I hope you all appreciated my word salad here. I apologize.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: That's ok but we've had multiple discussions about the exact word to use. And as long as there's a date, it seems to be pretty pertinent. Alright, so there is a motion without a second.

STEPHANIE ZADER: I seconded it.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Oh, thank you. Mrs. Zader did second it. There's a motion and a second to push this to February 7th for a vote. There's further discussion? Mr. Rev. El Akuchie

REV. EL AKUCHIE: I'm kind of curious as to what impact this will make on the Engineers financial situation if we postpone it till February. If Bobby can help us.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: We can certainly let him answer. I think he's trying to generate \$3.6 million dollars this year and we've lost one month already.

REV. EL AKUCHIE: Yea, can you help us?

ROBERT BIANCHI: So originally, we had planned for December 6th. Then it was moved to January. And then also I think this will be a part of the discussion, maybe next meeting. But currently there is an "and declaring an emergency clause", and I wanted to make sure with the law office that that was acceptable. Cause if that clause is not acceptable for this legislation, then we're talking...now if you...if it's passed in February 7th, it goes into effect March 7th. Which then it takes, based on the cycles of the of utility collections, it could be you know May 7th. Wait is that right? February, March, yeah...April. April until it really starts to collect. That's four months. So that's about a million dollars, in revenue.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Is there any further questions for Mr. Bianchi as he's explained that? I don't mean to rush him but I don't want to go over it too many times. Mr. Bianchi if you could push the button we'd appreciate it. Alright, if there's no further comment the motion is on the computer. Yeah, I can see it. There it is! Could you see it on your computers? You can go ahead and vote, right. Did you vote Mr. Diaz?

AURELIO DIAZ: Comment. This is really tough because I really respect and see Mr. Miller's perspective, the facts, the information. Just before I came here, late, I was talking to some folks in the restaurant who are...well not restaurant but the meeting, about the concern with the same thing we're all hearing. Which is people hurting financially. And we've had this discussion for a long time about health and safety with the hydrants, with their drinking water. And I know a lot of people are wanting us to vote for and quit puncing around. But I think that no matter what we do we're going to ultimately not make everybody happy. And that's what my whole point is just to let the public know that we're really, every single one of us up here, are really not taking this lightly. Whether we table it. Whether we not. We are just trying to do what is best. But I think when we are declaring emergency, I really feel it is. So that's just my information or my statement.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: And the motion passes to postpone until February 7th vote.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, 23-001.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: I move that bill...I'm sorry what bill did you just say? 23-001 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: 23-001

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: 23-001 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read 23-001.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate funding from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in the amount of one hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred ninety-one and 49/100 dollars (\$124,191.49) for METRICH Operations, and declaring an emergency.

FUNDING FROM THE OCJS

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-001

ORDINANCE: 23-001

Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate funding from the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in the amount of one hundred twenty-four thousand one hundred ninety-one and 49/100 dollars (\$124,191.49) for METRICH Operations, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-001 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Further questions or comments? Hearing none, Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-001 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote on bill 23-001. Passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, 23-002.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-002 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read bill 23-002.

AMY YOCKEY: Accepting a National PAL (NPAL) Endowment Grant in the amount of three thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$3,000.00) through the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. to be used by the Mansfield Police Athletic/ Activities League, and declaring an emergency.

NATIONAL PAL (NPAL) ENDOWMENT GRANT

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-002

ORDINANCE: 23-002

Accepting a National PAL (NPAL) Endowment Grant in the amount of three thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$3,000.00) through the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc. to be used by the Mansfield Police Athletic/ Activities League, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-002 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Further questions and comments? Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-002 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote on bill 23-002. Passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Bill 23-003, Mr. Scott, bill 23-003.

PHIL SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-003 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Right, the clerk will now read 23-003.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate a donation from BlueScope Recycling and Materials LLC, in the amount of one thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$1,000.00) for firefighter training, and declaring an emergency.

DONATION FROM BLUESCOPE RECYCLING AND MATERIALS LLC

BY: MR. SCOTT

BILL #23-003

ORDINANCE: 23-003

Authorizing the Interim Safety-Service Director to accept and appropriate a donation from BlueScope Recycling and Materials LLC, in the amount of one thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$1,000.00) for firefighter training, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Scott that Bill 23-003 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Anyone care to...oh wait a minute. Further discussion? Sorry, I'm trying to get this done. I don't hear anybody so, Mr. Scott back to you.

DISCUSSION:

PHIL SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-003 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. And we can vote on 23-003. Bill passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, 23-004.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-004 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read 23-004.

AMY YOCKEY: Amending and renumbering Chapter 177 (Public Arts Commission) of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances of 1997 to Chapter 179, to correct the ordinance number of the Public Arts Commission, and declaring an emergency.

AMENDING AND RENUMBERING CHAPTER 177 TO CHAPTER 179

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-004

ORDINANCE: 23-004

Amending and renumbering Chapter 177 (Public Arts Commission) of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances of 1997 to Chapter 179, to correct the ordinance number of the Public Arts Commission, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-004 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Further questions and comments? Mr...yes, go ahead.

DISCUSSION:

REV EL AKUCHIE: I just wanted to thank Mr. Brown for providing us information for the background of this particular bill. It is easier for me to vote.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Yes, thank you Mr. Brown for your pre-studies.

CHRIS BROWN: My pleasure.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Back to Mr. Davenport.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-004 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Hey it's been moved and seconded. We can vote on bill 23-004. Passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Mr. Davenport, bill 23-005.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-005 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read the bill.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Public Works Director to purchase, according to STS pricing contract RS1010203, from Valley Chevrolet Inc., one (1) 2024 Chevrolet 2500 truck with snow plow package for the Mansfield Lahm Airport, through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

2024 CHEVROLET 2500 TRUCK WITH SNOW PLOW PACKAGE

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-005

ORDINANCE: 23-005

Authorizing the Public Works Director to purchase, according to STS pricing contract RS1010203, from Valley Chevrolet Inc., one (1) 2024 Chevrolet 2500 truck with snow plow package for the Mansfield Lahm Airport, through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-005 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any further questions or comments? Back to Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-005 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. Now cast your vote on bill 23-005. Passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Ms. Moton, final bill this evening, 23-006.

KIM MOTON: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-006 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Right, the clerk will now read 23-006.

AMY YOCKEY: Adopting personnel positions, pay grades and salaries for certain employees of the City of Mansfield 2023 payroll year, and declaring an emergency.

ADOPTING PERSONNEL POSITIONS, PAY GRADES AND SALARIES

BY: MS. MOTON

BILL #23-006

ORDINANCE: 23-006

Adopting personnel positions, pay grades and salaries for certain employees of the City of Mansfield 2023 payroll year, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Ms. Moton that Bill 23-006 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

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

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any questions? Ms. Moton.

DISCUSSION:

KIM MOTON: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-006 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for bill 23-006. Passes 7 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Is there anything further to come before council this evening?

STEPHANIE ZADER: Move to close.

PHIL SCOTT: Move to close.

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: I have two motions to close

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: And a second. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye

PRESIDENT FALQUETTE: Any opposed? We are closed, adjourned at 8:09pm. Thank you very much.

END OF DISCUSSION

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

Amy Yockey
Clerk of Council

David Falquette
President