

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 17, 2023**

The second monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 7:41 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, Akuchie, Davenport, Diaz, Moton, Zader, and Scott (was Acting President during this meeting.) Falquette was Acting Mayor during this meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Do we have anyone signed up for public comment? Alright, we'll move right up forward. Committee reports? Mr. Mayor?

AMY YOCKEY: No

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Ok...ok. Are there any committee reports? Ok. Acting Mayor Falquette do you have anything?

ACTING MAYOR FALQUETTE: No thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Director Remy?

DIRECTOR REMY: Nothing, sir.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Assistant Law Director Brown?

CHRIS BROWN: No thank you sir.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Ok. So, we shall now proceed with legislation. Mrs. Burns.

LATE BILLS

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move with reference to bill 23-013 that the rule requiring legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00 pm be suspended and that bill 23-013 be allowed on the floor tonight. Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

AMY YOCKEY: The Columbia Gas guy was supposed to speak during Utilities.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Oh, ok. Was there a second? Ok. Council shall cast their vote on the motion. Motion passes 8-0.

SUSPEND RULES

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move with respect to all bills that come before council this evening that the rule requiring reading on three different days 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: 8, Nays: 0

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: I apologize, we need to back up. I believe we have a representative from Columbia Gas that was going to speak at the Utilities committee meeting. Would you care to speak now? We apologize for...

BENJAMIN CUTLER: There you go. Hey everybody good evening. First and foremost, thank you for having me. I'll try and make this short and sweet. My name is Benjamin Cutler. I'm the public affairs manager for Columbia Gas based out of the Cleveland area. But I cover our Heartland area, which includes Mansfield. And no, we've been working really closely with your engineering department and other City officials to just keep in sync on projects that we have coming down the pike. I wanted to...we have a pretty heavy workload in Mansfield this year. So, I did want to come and just update everybody very quickly on what we have planned this year and share some stats and numbers behind the projects and answer any questions. So, we have about five or six projects planned for Mansfield this year. Most everything falls under our accelerated main replacement program. Which is essentially where we're replacing old bare steel and cast-iron pipe with a history of leakage with new plastic that should last about 100 years and just state-of-the-art pipe that meets the goals of today's consumer. It's also got some enhanced safety features on it. Like an excess flow valve. And it's none corrosive, so that mitigates our potential for leaks and things like that. So, this was a project started in 2008, the 25-year initiative. So, not the last year that we're going to be in Mansfield and but definitely been here many years doing this. So, the projects that we have planned for this year, I'll just run through these quickly and then I'll take any questions. So the first project we're starting with, what should probably be one of the top on your on your paper there, is Marion Avenue phase one. Which started just this past week. We're installing about 10,000 feet of 2 and 4-in pipe. We've got about 215 residents on that project and the dollar amounts about 2.3 million dollars on that project. We've also got a Marion phase 2 project. 2 inch and 4-in about 8,800 ft of new pipe, 318 residents. So that's a pretty good size chunk there. And again about \$2,800,000 on that project. Those projects should go back to back. I know we've been coordinating with the engineering department on some paving that's planned in there as well. So we can you know minimize the impact to any new streets. We have our Curtis Drive project. Which is probably the second or third page in your packet. That project 2-inch, 4-inch, 6-inch, and 12-inch pipe. Smaller project, about 5300 feet 51 residents on that. About \$1,800,000 on that project. That project is scheduled to be complete by August 15th per discussion with City Engineers office. So that way they can get in there and pave behind us. If you scroll to probably the third or fourth page you'll see Orange and 7th. We are doing only phase one of Orange and 7th this year as it's a pretty good size project. Two- and four-inch pipe, about 1400 ft of...sorry 14,000 ft of install, 166 residents, an about \$2.4 million on phase one. And then your last two pages of your packet you'll see two smaller, we call these blanket projects, so much smaller in scale. Just tackling one street and fewer residences. So, you'll see your first street replacement project 2-inch pipe about 1500 feet about \$300,000. And we're still working out the stats for the Franklin project as well. Which should probably be the last in your packet. But it's similar to 1st Street there. So, I think the thing that I'm really I'm proud of I think Columbia Gas has done a much better job in educating our municipalities and our public officials and working jointly with our municipalities. Really proud of the coordination we had with Bob and his team this year on paving. You guys have a very aggressive paving schedule, which I think is terrific. And the gas company, while sometimes conflict is unavoidable, we also don't want to come in behind the city and dig in newly paved roads. Because we know that causes issues

with residents. So, I think we all understand sometimes we have emergencies. We have situations that we have to get in there and take care of pipe. But we really coordinated this year and I believe we informed the city on which streets they should remove and which streets they could potentially put back in so that we could get in there first. Cuz once we get in these streets, we're pretty much done and that's for about the next hundred years. So, you know there could be some things that pop up but. And we've even identified some streets that are on the paving list that have some old pipe underneath them and will eventually will have to be replaced. But the goal with those will be to give it at least 4-5 years if we can, before we get in there. So really proud of the coordination and appreciate Bob and his team and all the time and effort spent there. So, I could go on but I am sensitive to your time and I'm happy to take any questions but just wanted to give everyone an overview of what we have planned this year so thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Any questions? Mrs. Zader.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Sorry Mrs. Meier. Mine's just quick. Thank you for what your doing. And I look forward to not having to have it done for another 100 years.

BENJAMIN CUTLER: Yea, that's the goal. You know what I mean. We're sensitive to the impact of these projects. I think I've worked with Councilwoman Meier and a few other folks on projects. And we had a monster Greenlee a couple years ago. We had a Chevy Chase project last year. They're not easy right? And I think they cause a lot of heartburn on residents. Particularly everyone always says "we don't see our gas lines but we see our yards." And you unfortunately have to dig to get to gas lines. Sometimes you have to dig in the street. Sometimes it's in the sidewalk. We do our best to put things back together but I think the long-term investment is worth it. It's just it's getting over that ripping the Band-Aid off and doing these projects. And again, the goal is we won't have to touch this pipe again in this lifetime. So, it's a good project in the long run. We do our best you know to educate residence, post public meetings, things like that to hopefully cut down on the calls that you all receive. But I would encourage if we have a project in your ward and you want to get together, you want to work through you know community meeting, you know tag team. I mean Councilman Meier and I talked a lot during that project. So, more than happy to do that. You know we're sensitive to the impact on residents. And we want to do everything we can to keep everyone comfortable.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Yea that's exactly what I was going to say. You were great to work with. You know you were...he's very responsive. Anytime I had any kind of an issue, anytime I had a constituent call, I'd be on the phone with Ben. And he'd call me right back if he didn't answer the call when I placed it. And so, he's just made the...he made that project you know really, really pretty seamless. So, thank you very much for doing that I appreciate it.

BENJAMIN CUTLER: That'll be the goal moving forward. One thing I did want to mention also quickly. I think a lot of folks here probably seen Mid-Ohio doing a lot of work for us this year. A lot of our work in the Mansfield area is split between Miller Pipeline, Infosource, and Global oil. So, you may see some different contractors and we're just shifting some things around with priorities. So, you may see some contractors but all of our contractors are long-term contractors', folks that are an extension of us. So, you vet folks really, really...you know fully and so anyone that's with one of our contractors is extension of us. And you know will be treated and held to the same standards as our employees.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Anyone else, comment? Well we certainly appreciate you coming Ben. And welcome back anytime. Once again, we apologize for not getting you in there sooner.

BENJAMIN CUTLER: My pleasure and I would just add also. Anything else Columbia Gas wise that I can help with I'm kind of the primary point of contact. So, development issues even if it's not project related. Someone needs a new tap. They can't get a hold of us. You know someone who needs some help. If income assistance programs, just get a hold of me. I'll make sure my contact information is distributed. But want to make sure y'all have a line to us if needed. If you haven't in the past, want to make sure we remedy them moving forward. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Thank you again.

CHRIS BROWN: So, I would say only if they wanted to. The motion was just to introduce it into caucus to make a proposed amendment. It doesn't have to come into Council. It can. But yeah, the motion was discreetly just to come into caucus. And since it's not going to be...it's not scheduled to be voted on tonight, so just discussing it in caucus is fine.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: With that we will move on with legislation starting with 23-007, Mr....

CHRIS BROWN: Wait, if I may. Did we forget waiving the rule for late legislation?

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Oh, we already did it.

CHRIS BROWN: Ok, ok good.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: One thing I didn't forget. Ok, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President. Bill 23-007...I move that the bill 23-007 be placed and read upon the floor for discussion.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: The clerk shall read...

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

COUNCIL: Laughter

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: The clerk shall read 23-007.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract or contracts for resurfacing certain streets, and declaring an emergency.

RESURFACING CERTAIN STREETS

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #23-007

ORDINANCE: 23-007

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract or contracts for resurfacing certain streets, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 23-007 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Any further discussion on bill 23-007? Mr. Diaz.

DISCUSSION:

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you. Thank you for bearing with us everyone. This is a very unusual night, but ya know we have some humor in it. I move bill 23-007 be read and placed upon the floor for final passage.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage of bill 23-007. Bill passes 8-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Bill 23-008, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-008 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall now read 23-008.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract or contracts for engineering services relating to the multi-use trail along Millsboro Road from Trimble Road to Marion Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

MULTI-USE TRAIL ALONG MILLSBORO ROAD

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #23-008

ORDINANCE: 23-008

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract or contracts for engineering services relating to the multi-use trail along Millsboro Road from Trimble Road to Marion Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 23-008 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Mr. Diaz.

DISCUSSION:

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-008 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage for bill 23-008. Bill passes 8 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Bill 23-009, Mr. Davenport.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-009 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read 23-009.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Public Works Director to allocate an additional \$7,574.00 from the Street Repair and Maintenance Fund (#202) to purchase two (2) 2022 Ford F-550 dump trucks with snow plow packages, from Valley Ford Truck Inc., according to STS pricing contract RS100753 through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

PURCHASE TWO DUMP TRUCKS WITH SNOW PLOW

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-009

ORDINANCE: 23-009

Authorizing the Public Works Director to allocate an additional \$7,574.00 from the Street Repair and Maintenance Fund (#202) to purchase two (2) 2022 Ford F-550 dump trucks with snow plow packages, from Valley Ford Truck Inc., according to STS pricing contract RS100753 through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-009 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Is there any discussion on bill 23-009? Hearing none, Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-009 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage of bill 23-009. Bill passes 8 to 0.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Mr. President just a question. It says 2022. Is that supposed to say 2022? Or is it supposed to be 2023? Because there not built yet? Ok, ok.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: So were...yes. Bill passes 23...bill 23-009 passes 8 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Ok with that bill 23-011, Mrs. Meier. Boy I can't talk.

AMY YOCKEY: 10...10.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: 10...ope.

AMY YOCKEY: Struggle bus is real today.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: What happened? 10, ok.

AMY YOCKEY: 10...yea. It looks the same as 9.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Mr. Davenport.

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-010 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Is there any further discussion on bill 23-10?

AMY YOCKEY: I'm going to read it now.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: You read it now.

AMY YOCKEY: Authorizing the Public Works Director to allocate an additional \$7,930.00 from the Street Maintenance & Repair Fund (#202), to purchase two (2) 2024 Ford F-650 dump trucks with snow plow packages from Valley Ford Truck Inc., according to STS pricing contract 118-22 through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

PURCHASE TWO DUMP TRUCKS WITH SNOW PLOW

BY: MR. DAVENPORT

BILL #23-010

ORDINANCE: 23-010

Authorizing the Public Works Director to allocate an additional \$7,930.00 from the Street Maintenance & Repair Fund (#202), to purchase two (2) 2024 Ford F-650 dump trucks with snow plow packages from Valley Ford Truck Inc., according to STS pricing contract 118-22 through the state bidding schedule and without competitive bidding, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Davenport that Bill 23-010 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Ok now, is there any discussion on bill 23-010? Hearing none, Mr. Davenport.

DISCUSSION:

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-010 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage of bill 23-010. Bill passes 8 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Now we'll go with 23-011, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-011 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read 23-011.

AMY YOCKEY: Amending Chapter 193 of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances of 1997, as amended, to provide for the continuing levy of the existing one-half percent (1/2%) municipal income tax, after approval of such renewal levy by the electors pursuant to § 718.01 of the Revised Code of Ohio, upon income taxable by the City of Mansfield for a period of four (4) years and commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027, being for the purpose of operating costs in the police and fire departments, and declaring an emergency.

OPERATING COSTS IN THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #23-011

ORDINANCE: 23-011

Amending Chapter 193 of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances of 1997, as amended, to provide for the continuing levy of the existing one-half percent (1/2%) municipal income tax, after approval of such renewal levy by the electors pursuant to § 718.01 of the Revised Code of Ohio, upon income taxable by the City of Mansfield for a period of four (4) years and commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027, being for the purpose of operating costs in the police and fire departments, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier that Bill 23-011 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Is there any discussion on bill 23-011? Hearing none, Mrs. Meier.

DISCUSSION:

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-011 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage for bill 23-011. Bill passes 8 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Bill 23-012, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-012 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read 23-012.

AMY YOCKEY: Submitting the question of continuing the additional municipal income tax at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) for a period of four (4) years from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027, to the electors of the City of Mansfield, Ohio, for their approval or rejection at the primary election to be held within the City of Mansfield, Ohio, on May 2, 2023, with such additional income tax receipts continuing to be used for operating costs in the police and fire departments, and declaring an emergency.

OPERATING COSTS IN THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #23-005

ORDINANCE: 23-005

Submitting the question of continuing the additional municipal income tax at the rate of one-half percent (1/2%) for a period of four (4) years from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027, to the electors of the City of Mansfield, Ohio, for their approval or rejection at the primary election to be held within the City of Mansfield, Ohio, on May 2, 2023, with such additional income tax receipts continuing to be used for operating costs in the police and fire departments, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier that Bill 23-012 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Is there any other discussion on bill 23-012? Hearing none, Mrs. Meier.

DISCUSSION:

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you sir. I move bill 23-012 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage for bill 23-012. Bill passes 8 to 0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Bill 23-013, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move that bill 23-013 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read 23-013.

AMY YOCKEY: Resolving support to engage outside counsel to pursue litigation regarding alleged contamination at the Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport.

LITIGATION-MANSFIELD LAHM REGIONAL AIRPORT

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #23-013

ORDINANCE: 23-013

Resolving support to engage outside counsel to pursue litigation regarding alleged contamination at the Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 23-013 be read and placed upon the floor for second read, seconded by Mrs. Zader. 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Is there any discussion on bill 23-013? Mrs. Zader.

DISCUSSION:

STEPHANIE ZADER: Just wanted to note that there's a really good article from Richland Source from someone who did really good research on this. And there's information forthcoming from the City before we hold this vote. Just wanted to put that out there.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Any further discussion, comments? Hearing none, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move bill 23-013 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

STEPHANIE ZADER: Second.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote for final passage for bill 23-013. Bill passes 8 to 0.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Before we adjourn, I apologize for some of my blunders tonight. I guess I'll be back. Yea I don't think I was the only one. In two weeks, I guess I will be here, because Mr. Falquette will be on vacation. With that do we have a motion to adjourn?

STEPHANIE ZADER: Move to close.

CHERYL MEIER: Second

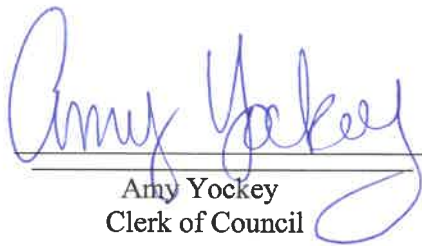
PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye


PRESIDENT PRO TEMP SCOTT: Opposed? We are adjourned.

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



Phil Scott
President Pro Temp