

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 4th, 2025

The first monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at **7:52pm** in the Courtroom One of the City Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

David Falquette led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered were present at roll call: Burns, Meier, Daley, Diaz, Mount, Robertson, Falquette, and Scott. Excused Absence: {*Akuchie - Passes: 7-0*}

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee Reports

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mayor, do you have anything further?

MAYOR JODIE PERRY: No Sir.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Andres.

DIRECTOR LOUIE ANDRES: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Blankenship.

DIRECTOR KELLY BLANKENSHIP: No thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Porch.

DIRECTOR KEITH PORCH: No Sir.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Harper.

DIRECTOR ROELIFF HARPER: Nothing.

LATE BILLS

No Late Bills

SUSPEND RULES

CYNTHIA DALEY: I would like to 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. Burns. A voice vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

LEGISLATION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Miss Mount, Bill 25-016.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Thank you Mr. President I move with respect to Bill 25-016 that it be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-016.

DELAINE WEINER: Assenting to the Petition for detachment of certain land from the City of Mansfield, Ohio, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code 709.38, and declaring an emergency.

DETACHMENT – CERTAIN LAND

BY: MISS MOUNT

BILL #25-016

ORDINANCE: 25-015

Assenting to the Petition for detachment of certain land from the City of Mansfield, Ohio, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code 709.38, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Miss Mount that Bill 25-016 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 0 Nays: 7

The Bill was declared failed, signed by the President, approved by the mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-016? Miss Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Yes, I was just wondering at the last meeting there was going to be some research done. I wondered if you happened to do that?

MAYOR JODIE PERRY: So, it is really difficult to, there's not one system we can go to to put this report together. I called the Auditor's office; I actually called the Health Department too because they regulate wells and septic systems. And of course, talked to our Engineering team and our GIS system. And the answer is, there really isn't one system. So, after what I will call a cursory review of our boundaries, that's where I focused mostly. I found over 50 other properties that fall into this category. And now these are developed properties, so there's definitely more that would be undeveloped land that could be developed along the way forward. So, you know, my concern is, are we opening a door here that will allow a number of people to exit the city. You know again, as was expressed by Councilman Mount at the last meeting, I do certainly appreciate the hardship that they have because they cannot be on our sewer and water without significant expense. But our general fund does not support our water and sewer. That is all supported by the fees that the rest of us pay for using water and sewer. So, their underlined tax

dollars really aren't supporting that system. We do have agreements in place with Washington Township and as well as other contiguous townships and cities where you know they may be taking care of this row; we take care of another row where we share. You know, Ontario – Home Road is a good example of that. It's ultimately of course up to council. But it's more than just one house that could follow this path if we are to till the middle.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other discussion on Bill 25-016? Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President. I thought about this one a lot, and I thought that they've been in the city joined. Whether they use or call 911, we are certainly responsible for responding to them. They're right there on the city. I think the city is in a growth state, we want to be in a growth state. I think by going backwards, by letting people exit, and I am not sure for how big of a good reason. Something may have caught their eye a year or so ago. But they knew or should know when they bought their property, when they built their house there, it's been quite a few years ago. That they were in the city and that they probably are going to enjoy our services sometime. And sometimes you may not want the fire department showing up at your door, but if you need to and no offense to our counterparts, and Washington Township. But I think our 24-hour manning would respond rapidly should they ever need it. And the same with police, where in that area, where our police department covers this area and there is a lot of opportunity for confusion if one house is in the city and one house isn't in the city and your back and forth. We already have enough of that and I for one am not for it. Thanks.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other discussion on Bill 25-016? Director Harper.

LAW DIRECTOR ROELIFF HARPER: Council obviously have the authority to deny the petition. Any denial has to be pursuant to what we call a rational basis. Examples of a rational basis would be number one, efficiency in light of the adjacent lots which are part of the city. Granting this detachment could be detrimental to the efficiency of fire and police controls in the area. That's one. Now safety. If this detachment were granted, the fire and gun controls of the city would no longer apply to the parcel and create a safety issue in an impactable enforcement situation due to the close proximity of parcels to neighboring residents which are a part of the city. And three, economic development. The granting of this detachment petition would eliminate the ability of the city to annex adjoining land and continue to grow in this geographical direction which could be detrimental to the economic development of the city. That's what I have to say.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other discussion?

DEBORAH MOUNT: Yes, I have a question regarding that. Do we need to have something specifically worded from this or is, does this discussion count as the basis?

LAW DIRECTOR ROELIFF HARPER: At this point, the discussion based upon the concept of rational basis should be sufficient to have you determine whether or not you want this or don't want this.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: I think, because the council meeting is fully recorded and documented, we have Director Harper's comments. I think should this get a negative vote, which I am suggesting, we would incorporate Mr. Harpers which is already done, already part of the record. If we vote no, these are the types of things that the people would vote no, would be agreeing to. If you don't feel that way, this is a good time to bring that up. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other further discussion? Miss Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Just a summary of the discussions that have happened the last couple of weeks. Because of this parcel's proximity, and the only driveway is shared by other parcels that are remaining in the city, I do believe Director Harper's points apply and I know that there is an issue with the efficiencies with safety and all that when we have this type of situation. Also, when they originally petitioned, their petition seemed to be based on the not having access. They thought they were paying the water and sewer without access to the water and sewer lines. And I don't know if they understood at the time that that is paid for through the water and sewer bills. So, I think that some of the reasons presented might not pry to their original argument and having done the research that has been done it looks like the detriment would outweigh the positive in this case.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any more discussion on Bill 25-016? Hearing none, Miss Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Thank you Mr. President. I move Bill 25-016 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-016. Bill Fails 0-7.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mrs. Meier, Bill 25-025.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Sir. I move that Bill 25-025 be read and placed on the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-025.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing payment to MG Energy in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Sixty-Three and 84/100 Dollars (\$15,063.84) by affirming a Then and Now Certificate of the Finance Director, and declaring an emergency.

THEN AND NOW – MG ENERGY

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #25-025

ORDINANCE: 25-024

Authorizing payment to MG Energy in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Sixty-Three and 84/100 Dollars (\$15,063.84) by affirming a Then and Now Certificate of the Finance Director, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier that Bill 25-025 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-025? Hearing none, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Sir. I move Bill 25-025 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-025. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

Bill 25-026 – Caucus Only

An Ordinance making final cumulative annual appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Mansfield, Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mr. Falquette, Bill 25-027.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-027 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-027.

DELAINE WEINER: Revising the Community Reinvestment Area requirements by amending Ordinance #20-086 to designate Housing Officers to administer the program, and declaring an emergency.

AMENDING ORDINANCE #20-086

BY: MR. FALQUETTE

BILL #25-027

ORDINANCE: 25-025

Revising the Community Reinvestment Area requirements by amending Ordinance #20-086 to designate Housing Officers to administer the program, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Falquette that Bill 25-027 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Any discussion on Bill 25-027? Hearing none, Mr. Falquette.

DISCUSSION:

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-027 be placed upon the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-027. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Alright, Mrs. Burns, Bill 25-028.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-028 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-028.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Richland County Foundation in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be used for the Liberty Park Bath House renovation project, and declaring an emergency.

DONATION – RICHLAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

BY: MRS. BURNS

BILL #25-028

ORDINANCE: 25-026

Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Richland County Foundation in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be used for the Liberty Park Bath House renovation project, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Burns that Bill 25-028 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-028? Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Just a reminder, does this complete the amount of money that we need to redo the bath house or are we still looking for funds?

DIRECTOR LOUIE ANDRES: The total was \$500,000 was projection. And now we have \$400,000 and we will put out bids and see where we are at. If they come under, then we are good. If not, we have other resources we can use to make that up that difference.

DAVID FALQUETTE: One follow-up question, is there a time frame that we are trying to get this done?

DIRECTOR LOUIE ANDRES: It probably will not be completed until late this year into next year.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-028? Hearing none, Mrs. Burns.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-028 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-028. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Alright, Mrs. Burns, Bill 25-029.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-029 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-029.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Milliron Foundation in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be used for the Liberty Park Bath House renovation project, and declaring an emergency.

DONATION – MILLIRON FOUNDATION

BY: MRS. BURNS

BILL #25-029

ORDINANCE: 25-027

Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept and appropriate a donation from the Milliron Foundation in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be used for the Liberty Park Bath House renovation project, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Burns that Bill 25-029 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion for Bill 25-029? Hearing none, Mrs. Burns.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-029 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-029. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mr. Diaz, Bill 25-030.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-030 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-030.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for the installation of new traffic signals at SR 39/Mulberry Street, Brookwood Way/Fourth Street, and Cline Avenue/Marion Avenue.

BIDS – TRAFFIC SIGNALS

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #25-030

ORDINANCE: 25-028

Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for the installation of new traffic signals at SR 39/Mulberry Street, Brookwood Way/Fourth Street, and Cline Avenue/Marion Avenue.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 25-030 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Any discussion on Bill 25-030? Hearing none, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President. I move Bill 25-030 be placed on the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-030. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mr. Diaz, Bill 25-031.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-031 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-031.

DELAINE WEINER: Vacating a portion of Springmill Street between North Mulberry Street and Oak Hill Place, retaining the utility rights and easements therein, and declaring an emergency.

VACATE – SPRINGMILL STREET

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #25-031

ORDINANCE: 25-029

Vacating a portion of Springmill Street between North Mulberry Street and Oak Hill Place, retaining the utility rights and easements therein, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 25-031 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-031? Hearing none, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President. I move Bill 25-031 be placed on the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-031. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mr. Diaz, Bill 25-032.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-032 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-032.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept a grant and enter into a Local Public Agency Federal Local-Let Project with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the funding of the design and construction of a certain public improvement project.

GRANT - ODOT

BY: MR. DIAZ

BILL #25-032

ORDINANCE: 25-030

Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept a grant and enter into a Local Public Agency Federal Local-Let Project with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation for the funding of the design and construction of a certain public improvement project.

Upon motion by Mr. Diaz that Bill 25-032 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. 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 PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-032? Hearing none, Mr. Diaz.

AURELIO DIAZ: Thank you Mr. President. I move Bill 25-032 be placed on the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-032. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there anything else to come before council this evening?

LAURA BURNS: Move to close.

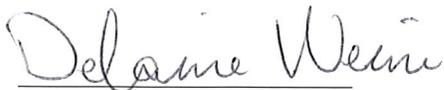
DAVID FALQUETTE: Second

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded to close. All those in favor say aye.

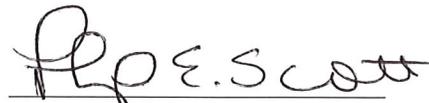
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: We are adjourned. At **7:54pm**, council is closed.

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



Delaine Weiner
Clerk of Council



Phil Scott
President