**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021**

Council President Robert Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Clerk Trisha Addison.

Council President Robert Cottrell asked for a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2021. A motion was made Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Miller. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes.

Law Director JJ Ong asked to go into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and pending litigation. A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Huff. ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Fox.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

* Updated Council on the 1st Street project. Our share of paving would be $231,555.99. Council had previously authorized spending up to $199,000.00 on the project. Mayor Haney asked Council if they would like the additional costs from the paving fund or roll it into the project, or take is out of the storm sewer fund. After discussion, it was decided that Mayor Haney would e-mail a breakdown of the project to Council and the matter would be discussed again at the next Council meeting.
* Sgt. Doug Hines last day will February 13, 2021. He is retiring after 29 years of service with 34 years total because he was an auxiliary office. Mayor Haney has authorized his service weapon to be given to him. He has served us well over the years and will be greatly missed. A sergeant’s and officer’s tests will be given in the next couple of weeks
* Received the second quote for the water park slide from a firm in Kentucky and a copy of the quote was passed around to Council. There have been extensive discussions with the company and what to do this year and what to do next year. The quote included the aqua play unit and both slides. We can do the interiors this year and do the exteriors next year. Will need to let them know by March. Will be discussed at Finance.
* Needs everyone’s paving lists this week.
* Met with Shane Milligan and discussed his property and presented him with agreement to review. He may have his own guy bring in a camera and dig it up himself. Mr. Ong asked if he was covering the expense and Mayor Haney said he’s trying to figure out what share of expense we would be covering. Mr. Ong said the deal is we would split the camera expense with him and if we found the City was responsible, then we’d talk about replacement and if not, he would cover the cost. Mayor Haney said the tree beside his house was also discussed and is a concern of other neighbors as well. There are other trees to look at.
* Received the quarter recycling check in the amount of $5,256.00 and will go to the street fund. We also received a check for $334.00 which was donated to the Claymont Stadium Project.
* Has a purchase requisition that needs approved to send two firemen for Ohio Marshall Training. There is reimbursement upon successful completion. The cost is $4,000.00 to the Buckeye Career Center at $2,000.00 each. A motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Harmon. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes. Mr. Ong said that in the future this could be discussed as part of the union contract, that they have to commit for so long and if not, they have to reimburse the City.
* Mayor Haney had sent Council a letter vetoing 42-20, An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Pay for the City Zoning Inspector. He doesn’t disagree with the job, but disagrees with some of the details. Section 1773 of our codified code doesn’t really cover the job. He thinks we put the cart before the horse. Plus, we didn’t do any studies regarding wages. He pulled the City of New Philadelphia’s job description on this job. He feels the wages are too high to start and left nowhere for evaluations and moving up. Mr. Ong said we have the ordinance that created the position a number of years ago and asked if he is suggesting that issues on job duties should be amended. Mayor Haney said Section 1773 doesn’t describe the job enough. Mr. Ong recommended that if Council wants to reconsider that there be one ordinance in place that describes the job description and the rate of pay for the job. Ms. Pearch added that we should rescind all previous ordinances. Mr. Ong sent an email to Council earlier today describing the process which is, Mayor Haney has presented his objection, which happened tonight and Council has to wait ten days before reconsideration. It can be considered at the next meeting. It will take five council members to overturn the veto. Mr. Fox said it is a shame it has taken so long. He feels this will help the police department. He is all for it and hopefully we can come to an agreement and get someone hired. Mr. Harmon asked the Mayor about the pay amount that he would be comfortable with. Mayor Haney said Dennison pays $14.00 per hour and feels we would have to pay more than that. He is going to reach out to other villages and cities to see what they have. He feels $20.00 is too high. He feels the job description needs to be attached for evaluation purposes. President Cottrell asked for copies of everything for everyone.
* He is going to hire Jess Young as Auditor to replace Julie Pearch. She has been training daily. She lives here and he feels she will make a long-term commitment as Auditor. The only problem is for Assistant Auditor. We are training a person, but the pay is a problem.
* Belle and Judd are visiting Midvale tonight regarding Fire and EMS service.
* Ms. Myers asked what is going on with Zoom when there are committee meetings? Mayor Haney said there is a Wi-Fi issue in the building with dead spots in the building. Mr. Ong said that because of the Coronavirus, Ohio Law has allowed for virtual meetings. We have a duty to live stream it via the internet. Facebook live is an appropriate manner. He told the Mayor if it wasn’t working we had to do something else. There was one meeting that didn’t go, but was posted later. The fact that it was posted later doesn’t undo our responsibility. We don’t have to allow for comments or questions. If we have an executive session we can pause the live stream and hold the executive session and turn it back on. He spoke with Buck earlier today and hopefully at some point soon we will get back to in person meetings. We could allow guests one at a time. It seems to be more of an issue with the media. Everything is working tonight. He reached out to the Ohio Attorney General’s office for clarification and they have not responded. It is the same for committee meetings.
* Ms. Myers said she hopes they can come to an agreement on the Zoning Inspector position. Finance worked very hard on that for months and were hoping that would be passed and wished he would have brought up his issues earlier. We need a Zoning Inspector to help with PIN notices, etc. She and Mr. Harmon recently rode around the city with the list Mr. Harmon provided to the City and a lot of those properties are still in the same condition. Hopefully something can be resolved. Mr. Fox and Mr. Zucal both stated their positions on the matter. There was extensive discussion. Mayor Haney said after some minor fixes it can be agreed upon and he would be able to do that by the next meeting. President Cottrell wants to keep it in Finance. Mr. Ong said there is the ability to come up with new legislation if they want. He doesn’t feel serving PIN notices should be the problem of the police department. This person could also handle the properties that we want to tear down as well. Mr. Zucal reminded everyone there was a newspaper article saying we wanted to fight blight in the community and feels the police department’s energy is better served fighting drugs. Mr. Harmon appreciates everyone’s opinions and feels none of us should be okay with these blighted properties and we should hire someone and come together with everyone.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

* Absent.

**Law Director James J. Ong:**

•Nothing additional to report.

**Auditor, Julie Pearch**:

* E-mailed everyone today regarding the GAAP audit. Rea and Associates has done it for many years. They have sent her an engagement letter for the upcoming years. The price is the same this year, and goes up $500.00 next year and $500.00 more the following year. A motion allowing Ms. Pearch to sign the engagement letter with Rea and Associates was made by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Harmon. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes.
* Will be reaching out about the water park financing earlier this year to get the ball rolling before she leaves.

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

* Absent.

**Correspondence:**

* None.

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers**- The Finance Committee report from the February 8, 2021 meeting had been e-mailed to Council. A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fox to approve the Finance Committee report. ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes. The next meetings will be February 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mr**. **Harmon** – The Economic Development Committee will meet on February 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in council chambers. All attendees are asked to wear a mask and keep proper social distancing.

**Mr. Miller –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Baker**- Nothing to report.

**Mr**. **Zucal** – Nothing to report.

**Old Business**:

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Harmon** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Miller –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Baker** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Zucal –** Nothing to report.

**New Business**

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers –** Thanked the service department for plowing the snow, with all of the snow in the last couple of weeks. They have done a great job. Mayor Haney said they have worked tirelessly and he appreciates it.

**Mr. Harmon –** Presented Mayor Haney with his paving list.

**Mr**. **Miller** – Presented Mayor Haney with his paving list.

**Mr. Baker** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Zucal –** Presented the Mayor with his paving list. He said what the City did with paving last year was fantastic. He appreciated the work on storm sewers. He appreciates that the infrastructure is taken seriously. He had a constitute contact him on Uhrich Street and 5th regarding shrubs. He mentioned to the Mayor regarding signage and would like to see some of the streets where there is a two-way stop and cross traffic, if we had signage that read, “Cross traffic does not stop” feels it may save accidents. Mayor Haney said that is on his list and feels he is right. They are working on a plan for a bunch of signs this year. Reminded the group that “nothing is personal” and feels we need to work together to make the community a better place.

**Visitors:**

None in person. Visitors that were watching by Zoom were not able to participate.

Chief Beal – Had 426 calls in January, of which there were 48 incidents which means they had to investigate in more detail. He took 11 cases to BCI today, all were felony drug possession. Sgt. Hines is retiring this Saturday. He has been with the department full-time since May of 1992. He has donated more time to this City than anyone he knows. He was putting in 40 plus hours when he as an auxiliary officer and donated all of his time. He will be missed. COPS grant is not out yet, but once it is out, needs to commit to apply because we have to commit to hiring the person if we apply for it. Ms. Myers will put it on the Finance Committee agenda for next week. Mr. Huff asked if he expects the parameters to be the same this year. It has pretty much been the same since in the 90s. We have a lot of radios in storage that are not being used and can’t be used with the new system. Wants to be sure that he can sell them. Mr. Ong said we had previously authorized that. He asked Council to make a motion that that equipment is not needed for purposes of the City and authorize the Chief to sell off that equipment. That motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Ms. Myers. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes. Propertyroom.com showed up and they took eight skids of property. They have started selling the property and will only sell so much at a time so they price is not driven up. He recently reached out to BCI to reopen an investigation that happened in Uhrichsville in 1992.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE 43-21**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT**

**OF A LAW DIRECTOR AND**

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Second Reading**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assigned the financial issues of the Zoning Inspector position to be discussed in the Finance Committee. Mr. Zucal asked if it could come out as a new piece of legislation. Mr. Ong said they could put together a new piece of legislation for next meeting. Mr. Zucal asked that we work together, we achieve common goals, that the Mayor can be happy and all of us can be happy, and that we can drive through the community and see changes. President Cottrell asked Ms. Myers to take it on and report back so that it can go to the Ordinance Committee with the Mayor’s job description to get this going.

**Other Discussions:**

Mr. Fox asked Mayor Haney for a formal apology for comments that were made at the end of a meeting in December 2020. He felt that feelings need to be set aside. Mayor Haney apologized.

Mayor Haney has sent letters out regarding repairing the fountain at the water park which will cost around $15,000.00. He has reached out to some of his union friends up north, someone at Dominion, and someone at AEP. He feels the fountain is important. It is the centerpiece of the water park and is a beautiful site. We paid a lot to have it put in and need to get it moved above ground and repaired. He will get some of the work done for free and we will have to pay for materials. He is trying to raise that money without going into our budget and spending tax payer’s dollars. President Cottrell, on behalf of the Moose, presented the City with a check for $3,600.00 strictly donated from Moose members. This is the first donation towards the fountain repair.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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Trisha Addison Robert Cottrell

Clerk of Council Council President