**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, February 25, 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 Councilperson Amy Myers, filling in for Council Clerk Trisha Addison, who was absent.

Council President Robert Cottrell asked for a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2020. A motion was made Mr. Huff, seconded by Mr. Fox. ROLL CALL: Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes.

The meeting was turned over to Elaine Affolter of Twin City Water and Sewer District. She presented Council with minutes from meetings from May 2020 through February of 2021 and the Financial Statement. They had one vacancy at the water board and another forthcoming. She updated Council and asked for questions. The 1st Street project will be starting soon.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

* Thanked Julie Pearch for her service and appreciates everything she’s done.
* Summa Health has asked for authorization for ride-along with Cory Paisley.
* Has a check from Kimble that he will present to Claymont Schools for the stadium project in the amount of $330.63.
* Working on the paving list. Will submit around 18 streets to see what costs are and then go from there.
* Street Department is patching holes. They are low on manpower and are looking to hiring a replacement person.
* Talked to ODOT about signs and the County Engineer to get the best price.
* There have been multiple drug arrests and the K-9 dog has been very useful.
* Needs approval for new ambulance painting.
* Approached by Bob Smith to buy the Smith’s garage and house. He is asking $100,000.00. JJ says we can own it and rent the house out. We are out of room for storage. Can go with a 5 year payment plan and Ms. Pearch feels it would be a good plan for the City.
* Talked to Coshocton Water Park and Governor DeWine spoke today. Right now, looking at thirty percent capacity (600 people) which could go up in the next couple weeks. Right now, it is his intention to open the Water Park. We have to submit plans to the health department.
* Mr. Harmon thanked the administration for allowing council to provide their input in paving.
* Mr. Fox submitted his paving list to Mayor Haney. Asked if it would be more profitable to use a property we already own? Mayor Haney said this is a fire-rated block structure and to build that would probably be more. He’s concerned with the size of the building.
* Ms. Myers asked how many signs we need to buy. He thinks 50 stop signs and will be inventorying street signs.
* A Motion was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Huff to permit Mayor Haney to signed the agreement with Summa Health. ROLL CALL: Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Ms. Myers-yes.
* A Motion was made by Mr. Huff, seconded by Mr. Miller to pay $6,000.00 for painting the new ambulance. (The price to decal will be an additional $1,500.00 in house.) ROLL CALL: Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes.
* There was discussion about the Smith property. President Cottrell recommended that everyone think about the Smith property and that more information be gathered and discuss at the next meeting.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

* Community Development Block Grant which was a sidewalk project for W. 1st estimated to cost $31,000.00 and it fell short. Scott Reynolds called and asked if the City would be willing to put up $2,305.31 in order to put in 292 feet of 5 foot wide sidewalk. Asked Council for the $2,305.31 to complete project. Had a letter for Mayor Haney and President Cottrell’s signature.
* A Motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Harmon to pay $2,305.31 towards the W. 1st Street sidewalk project. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes.
* Ms. Myers asked about an e-mail for approval of a 2021 allocation grant and Ms. Everett was looking into it.

**Law Director James J. Ong:**

•Absent.

**Auditor, Julie Pearch**:

* E-mailed everyone a copy of the Appropriations Ordinance.
* Thanked everyone for her time with the City and she enjoyed it.
* Mr. Harmon thanked Julie for everything.
* Ms. Myers thanked her for her 15 years of service.
* President Cottrell appreciated her knowledge and thanked her and wished her luck.

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

* Absent.

**Correspondence:**

* Mr. Harmon gave Ms. Myers a letter to read from Clay Capital Development LLC praising the idea and ordinance for a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement Program.

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers**- The Finance Committee report from the February 22, 2021 meeting had been e-mailed to Council. A motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Ms. Myers to approve the Finance Committee report. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes.

**Mr**. **Harmon** – The Economic Development Committee met on February 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mr. Harmon read the report. A Motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Harmon. ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes.

The Economic Development Committee also met on February 25, 2021 and Mr. Harmon read that report. A Motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Harmon, seconded by Mr. Zucal. ROLL CALL: Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes.

**Mr. Miller –** Nothing to report.

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

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

**Old Business**:

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Thanked Auditor Pearch for her years of service to the City. We appreciate it.

**Ms. Myers** – Asked if there were any other inquiries on the vacant land and there are none.

**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 streets. Also, the police department and fire department. Welcomed Jessica Young our new Auditor. Thanked Ms. Everett for all of her hard work. She got a reimbursement on the design for Eastport for about $46,000.00.

**Mr. Harmon –** Presented Council with an Ordinance regarding the Community Reinvestment Area and spoke about support of the same.

**Mr**. **Miller** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Baker** – Ordinance Committee will meet March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

**Mr. Zucal –** Nothing to report.

**Visitors:**

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

Chief Edwards – Received a reimbursement grant recently for training $1,130.00.

Sgt. Mike Hickman – K-9 training area is turning muddy and asked for some grindings from paving to make a parking area. Recommended evening hours for the Water Park. Mayor Haney will get grindings.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE 43-21**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT**

**OF A LAW DIRECTOR AND**

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Huff. ROLL CALL: Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes.

**ORDINANCE 45-21**

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A COMMUNITY**

**REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE**

**CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE**

**First Reading**

**ORDINANCE 46-21**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING**

**THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE CITY**

**ZONING INSPECTOR, AND**

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**First Reading**

A Motion to Suspend was made by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Zucal. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Huff-no; Mr. Harmon-yes; Mr. Miller-no; Mr. Baker-no.

President Cottrell asked Mayor Haney if everything was in there he wanted and he’s concerned about what fund the money is coming from. Ms. Pearch said it would be coming from the General Fund.

**ORDINANCE 47-21**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONG**

**FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE**

**CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE**

**First Reading**

**RESOLUTION 1892**

**AUTHORIZING MAYOR OF CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE**

**TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS**

**RECOMMENDED BY PERSO, ITS AGENTS OR**

**REPRESENTATIVE TO CLAIM NO.**

**PEP023447A1**

A Motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Huff. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Fox-yes.

President Cottrell requested an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. A Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Mr. Huff, seconded by Mr. Fox. ROLL CALL: Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-no; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-no.

A Motion to return from Executive Session was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Fox. ROLL CALL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. and returned from Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

None.

**Other Discussions:**

Mr. Zucal addressed Council concerning his frustration that it was agreed last summer to fight City blight. The issue of a Zoning Inspector, he feels that and councilmember to vote no is irresponsible. He put together the following list of businesses that have been lost over the last two years: Tinwood Tavern, Carter Lumber, Claymont Schools reduction, US Wells, Predictive Maintenance, Smith Ambulance, Bridge’s Excavating, Chase Bank, Davis Radiators, Huntington Bank and Pizza Hut. We are looking at a budget approval of a revenue of 1.7 million, expenses of 1.9 million. This city is bleeding financially. We have a job loss issue and a job dynamics issue. These jobs can’t be replaced by small retail and the food industry. Every property value will decrease. Our properties are not being taken care of. We have issues with quality of life and young people leaving. The biggest issues we have to face in the City of 5400 people, after the census we may be a Village. Without a Zoning Inspector and people to clean up our City, if we continue to go down this path no one will want to live here. I can’t understand why anyone would not want to clean up this community. It is a sad day when we can’t support our own community to make it a better place to live.

Second issue Mr. Zucal brought up was the Law Director. Voting yes on the legislation with much reservation. He is not here tonight. I have a problem that his job pay was placed in there as a cut and paste and never came out of a committee. It is not personal, it’s professional. The City deserves the attention that it needs. Again, I hear tonight we brought another attorney in because it was passed on to him. To continue down that path I don’t know what the future holds for us. I never heard from the Assistant Law Director that he walked away willingly. I did hear that he wasn’t paid. What if he comes back and wants paid for the monies this year. That is my position. I want the minutes to reflect that. I also want the minutes to reflect that I want my city e-mail taken away and not listed. If anyone needs to get ahold of me they know how to get ahold of me.

President Cottrell said on Mr. Zucal’s first point, he doesn’t understand it either. We’ve been wanting to get this blight fixed and a Zoning Inspector in and that’s why he asked the Mayor if everything was in there. Why someone would vote no, that’s your right, but we all fought the whole year to fight blight and get a Zoning Inspector in here. We’re collecting money from rentals and we still keep pushing this Zoning Inspector. I don’t understand. I hope next meeting some of you will change your mind and we can get this thing going to show the people of Uhrichsville that we want to clean the blight up and everything is in there that the Mayor has asked for.

Mr. Fox added that he would also like his city e-mail account removed. Mr. Fox said we hadn’t talked lately about the mileage policy for the Mayor and we talked about buying a car. He made a suggestion a week or so ago that we use one of the two new pickups that we have, take the plow off and the salt shakers. They are brand new vehicles and are paid for. That could be the company vehicle for them to use to go somewhere. That is his recommendation and he feels Council should look at that as a possibility. Mayor Haney felt that might be a liability.

Mayor Haney added that the house on 315 E. 7th, he was there when the permit was issued. They do have a permit.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Trisha Addison Robert Cottrell

Clerk of Council Council President