**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, March 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 February 25, 2020. A motion was made Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fox.  ROLL CALL:  Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

* We have a new business located in the City of Uhrichsville. Been working with Dick Heizer on the North Wardell Street property, formerly U. S. Well Services. The new business is Color Coats. They apply thin laminate to foam baseboard which looks like a stained product in the end. The owner feels that by the end of the year there will be 60 employees.
* We worked closely with Mark Natoli on the 7th Street house that he purchased and refurbished and it is a beautiful house. He is looking into purchasing other homes as well.
* New website is up. There are still some things that need added and we are working with the Educational Service Center on that.
* The Uhrichsville Facebook page is recognizing a business in the City of Uhrichsville each week. Last week it was the Pindrop Shop.
* Had several complaints regarding a business operating on Jay Street and have talked to several people and will gather more information before doing anything.
* Passed a letter around that is written to President Biden recommending Zach Space for the Federal Co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Met with several mayors in the area and all felt that Zach is the best choice for this area to represent us. Zach was notified and sent his regards and gratitude to the mayors for the endorsement.
* City building generator is in need of repair. Stocker Trucking is coming in this week to look at it. Eventually we need to look for a new gas generator that can power the building completely.
* The 2014 police cruiser is at Parkway and the estimate for repair is $7,300.00 for a cracked head.
* On March 19, 2021 there will be a reverse raffle by the Clay Museum. Tickets are $20.00 per ticket. The contact number is 740-922-6776.
* There was a Zoom meeting with for 922 Initiative with Diana Smith. It is part of the addiction task force. She will come to a meeting in the near future.
* Preparing to order all the street signs and stop signs. Will be getting them through the ODOT pricing program.
* Submitted the paving list to council that was submitted to the County Engineer’s office for prices.
* Putting out application for college kids for a 12 week program. It will be put out at local colleges to find a college student to work for the city.
* Will be looking for a street worker soon. Going through the process of a retirement and will know more in the future.
* Baynum Painting will be setting the time frame in the next couple of weeks to set the time frame for painting of the water slide. It will be a ten day process. They will be looking at the play area which they may be able to fix.
* There will be a golf outing on June 19, 2021 to benefit the K-9 unit. Holes are available to sponsor.
* Meeting with the Hall of Fame Council in Canton tomorrow. He has had pledges of donations for the water fountain and has a donation from FabOhio.
* Has the police and fire report if anyone would like to see it.
* Dominion was bought out by Berkshire Hathaway Energy. You will see those trucks in the area.
* Mr. Harmon offered his congratulations in getting a business in the location at the former U.S. Well site. In the last week and a half, he has had a lot of calls from residents and has it in writing and submitted the list to the clerk. The requests include:
  + - Request for storm sewer cleaning on the 700 block of North Dawson Street;
    - Reports of junk vehicles parked along West 8th Street;
    - Request for replacement of flags at the Haverfield Memorial located at Uhrichsville City Park; and
    - Request for a Property Improvement Notice at the property located at 150 Laporte Drive, Uhrichsville, OH 44683.
* Mayor Haney said Rob Rectanus from Twin City Water and Sewer said they received a call on the Dawson Street property.
* There was an article in the paper about Newport Avenue property and there have been lengthy discussion and pictures have been turned over to the County Engineer. The Mayor feels it is an EPA issue and he doesn’t blame Twin City Water and Sewer. Mr. Ong reported that the County Engineer has been working with the insurance carrier for the contractor and there is an engineering firm that did all of the layout work and they are investigating settlement with them.
* Ms. Myers asked if property clean-up notices could be listed on the city website. Mayor Haney will ask Education Services. Ordinances and Resolution are not on the new website yet.
* Mr. Fox asked if we come under budget on paving, there is an alley between Uhrich and Dawson in need of repair. It runs beside Bill LeMonte’s property. Mayor Haney will look at it.
* Ms. Myers asked since he is moving forward to open the water park, what are the numbers needed to make a profit? It is around 600. To break even, probably 300-400 people per day based on an average of admission prices and taking off expenses, except for gas price. She would like to see the numbers. The city will probably be getting around one million dollars from ARP, a federal government program, not to be used to pay on debt. You can use it to replace lost revenue. There may be a way to pay down debt and will know more in the near future. Looking at options to pay money that has been lost. Ms. Myers asked about not opening the slides to save two lifeguards and Mayor Haney felt it wouldn’t be profitable.
* Mr. Fox feels as Committee Chair that he should be more involved in decisions with the water park. President Cottrell felt that would be fair to him.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

* Absent.

**Law Director James J. Ong:**

•Reported on the property sales. In August of last year, he sent an email to all members of Council advising he met with the administration and they had identified three properties for demolition. They were 720 W. 4th owned by Charles Morris, 521 E. 1st owned by Lloyd and Catherine Wilson and 101 Thompson owned by a Limited Liability Company out of Florida. The first step was to conduct a title search to see if any liens, and any issues with Tax Ease. He ordered the lien search on August 21, 2020 and notified the Mayor that the 521 E. 1st Street property had been purchased by Tax Ease. 119 S. Wallace St. had been in the works and an individual came in, paid the money and the process was started on that. The one owned by Tax Ease has had no action and council may wish to pursue that. If the sale does not go through after two times, then the liens are released against it, which would include the Tax Ease lien against it because we have adopted the Land Reutilization Program and the property would be deeded over free and clear to the city. The city could then decide what they want to do with it. We sell the property and give the new owners a time limit to tear the property down as a condition of the sale. 720 W. 4th St., the county initiated a foreclosure before we contacted them. Julie issued a check at the end of October and in November they were sent to Attorney Stephenson to file those actions. On September 25 a complaint was filed and on February 25, 2021 the property sold at sheriff’s sale. The winning bidder was Wesley Jones. Wesley Jones will have to take care of the dilapidated property at this point. He will share that information with Belle. 101 Thompson, the foreclosure complaint has been filed and there is no action at this time. 119 S. Wallace, the foreclosure complaint has also been filed with and has not yet moved on to sale. Defendants will be served and they do not answer the prosecutor will file a motion for default judgment and the prosecutor will win by default. We will then get a notice of sale ordering the sheriff’s department to appraise the property and provide the notices for the sale. It is a lengthy process. He estimates $10,000.00 to tear the properties down with $2,500.00 invested to put them up for sale with a refund of around $1,000.00 from the prosecutor’s office. Realistically, about $12,000.00 per property if we tear the property down. At this point we just have 101 Thompson, and council may consider moving forward with 521 E. 1st. There is a list from Councilman Harmon and he feels we need to get another few in the hopper to get the process going. Mayor Haney recommended 417 Cross Street and 441 E. Bank Street and a garage on W. 4th Street and we own the lot next to it. Every year at this time we do three a year and get the process started. Mr. Harmon thanked everyone for their efforts. We need to keep moving forward on these properties and keep being aggressive. We have proposed abatement program that will help Mark Natoli. Things are moving along and we need to keep moving forward. The list is:

* + - 521 E. 1st Street
    - 417 Cross Street
    - Garage on W. 4th Street
* A motion was made by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Harmon to move forward with the foreclosures and issue checks to the County Prosecutor for properties at 521 E. 1st Street, 417 Cross Street, and a garage on W. 4th Street. 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 said she is pleased that we are moving forward with the foreclosure and hopefully demolition and Finance Committee has budgeted $50,000.00.

**Chief Beal:**

* There were 361 calls in February and a lot of investigations going on. 7 cases taken to BCI.
* Taking applications and they are due at noon tomorrow and only three applicants.
* 2014 cruiser needs a new engine. It has over 115,000 miles. He priced a new Tahoe $37,941.00. The equipment is $11,74.39 from February 2020. Video system is $8,375.25. Almost $3,000.00 of that is for software, so the video system is $5,274.00, actual cost will be over $8,000.00. Total will be about $58,000.00. President Cottrell assigned it to Finance Committee. If 2014 doesn’t get fixed it will need to be towed back. It still has some equipment in it. The mileage is getting up on the 2016 and 2017. There is no money invested at Parkway and just owe the tow bill to Johnson’s.
* Mr. Fox asked when it went to Parkway and it was on February 26.
* Ms. Myers asked if looking at any other vehicles and Chief Beal said we can. Mr. Zucal agreed that we should get another price. There is a Ford Silverado and a pickup truck. Dodge is producing a car. Chief Beal will get another price from Statewide.
* Tahoe will be hard to get if we don’t order it soon. If order it now we are looking at September or October.
* Mr. Huff asked about the radar and the cruiser being out of the cruiser and the Chief uses if there is a car down and used by other officers. He also asked about the impact of being down a vehicle. By having the other cruiser, we are still able to handle the calls.
* Mayor Haney said a Ford with a police package is $32,385.0.
* Including the Malibu, we have six cars.
* Chief Beal welcomes all to stop in his office with questions or see what they are doing. He is in Monday through Friday.

**Auditor, Jessica Young**:

* Absent.

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

* Absent.

**Correspondence:**

* None.

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox –** Parks and Recreation Committee met March 10, 2021, without Zoom being set up. He wished Mayor Haney would have attended, but his notice went to the wrong e-mail.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers**- The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021. Reminded everyone that we need to be conservative with spending. Just because an amount is budgeted doesn’t have to be spent.

**Mr**. **Harmon** – The Union Township Trustees met on March 2, 2021 and the report from the meeting was read.  A Motion to approve the report 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.

**Mr. Miller –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Baker**- The Ordinance Committee met on March 1, 2021 and Mr. Baker read the report from the meeting. A Motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Huff, seconded by Ms. Myers. ROLL CALL: Mr. Huff-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes.

**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 –** Had questions about the painting of the new ambulance and wanted to rescind his vote from the last meeting. He doesn’t feel that we should spend $6,000.00 to paint the ambulance a different color when it comes from the manufacturer already painted white. Mr. Ong said that a Motion can be rescinded by a 2/3 vote and if no action has been taken. Mayor Haney has contacted Kejo and submitted the purchase order. Mr. Zucal asked the price of the decal package and it is $1,500.00. He doesn’t like that it says 922, he understands that it is a pride thing, but feels it is an unnecessary expense. Mayor Haney said that it is his decision and he feels that 922 symbolizes pride in our area. Mr. Ong said it was his legal opinion that it was not proper to rescind the motion because action had already been taken on the motion. Mr. Huff felt we might face financial liability since the purchase order had already been submitted to Kejo and they had accepted it. Mr. Zucal asked for the PO number and date. PO 21224. Mr. Harmon said that he was voting no but he does see Mr. Fox’s point that information needed to be presented to council earlier in order to study it and digest it. Mr. Zucal felt it was a moot point if the purchase order has already been issued. He is only voting no because it is the law director’s recommendation. He would like to see the total amount for painting and decals. A Motion to Rescind vote on painting of ambulance was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zucal. ROLL CALL: Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-no; Mr. Baker-no; Mr. Miller-no; Mr. Harmon-no; Ms. Myers-no; Mr. Huff-no. Mr. Fox thanked everyone and hopes that next time there is more discussion before a vote.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers –** Asked for everyone’s support for the Altar Society Community Wide Food Drive/Meal Donation on Saturday, April 11 at Claymont High School from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any donations are welcome. Congratulated the Pindrop Shop on their move to a larger store.

**Mr. Harmon –** Spoke in support of the Ordinance regarding the Community Reinvestment Area that he had presented to Council at the last meeting, and read the following statement:

Thank you Mr. President. I’ll be very brief. Tonight, Council has before them a second reading on an ordinance designating a community reinvestment area in the City of Uhrichsville.

Again, the entire city will be given this designation, which I feel is inclusive to our neighborhoods, our downtown business district, and our key city corridors. With that being said, this legislation supports the belief that no matter if you’re a business owner or a resident in a neighborhood, opportunity should be available for all.

With that being said, the community reinvestment area legislation will give property owners in the City of Uhrichsville the opportunities to improve their properties at a time when we need significant improvements in our neighborhoods and throughout our City. Upon submission of the abatement application, the administration will engage in vetting the property improvements and negotiate a reasonable abatement with the applicant. It is important to note that all abatements under 50% are subject to vetting of the administration and final approval from City Council. I would also remind Council that any abatements above 50% are subject to the approval from the Board of Education at Claymont City Schools. It is the responsibility of the property owner to obtain this approval to be granted such an abatement.

In closing, this legislation aims to grow investments and development in our neighborhoods and our downtown by offering this abatement program that will cut costs for expanding businesses and homeowners located in blighted neighborhoods while the Economic Development Committee for the support and recommendation, Law Director JJ Ong for his guidance, and Mayor Haney for his input. With that, I’d be happy to answer any questions Council might have.

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

**Mr. Baker** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Zucal –** Nothing to report.

**Visitors:**

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

Sgt. Mike Hickman – observing.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE 45-21**

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A COMMUNITY**

**REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE**

**CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 46-21**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING**

**THE RATE OF PAY FOR THE CITY**

**ZONING INSPECTOR, AND**

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Second Reading**

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

**ORDINANCE 47-21**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS**

**FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE**

**CITY OF UHRICHSVILLE**

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 48-21**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A “MOW TO OWN ADJACENT LOT DISPOSITION PROGRAM” IN ORDER TO TRANSFER BLIGHTED, UNBUILDABLE, VACANT, ABANDONED AND TAX DELINQUENT PARCELS TO ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS**

**First Reading**

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

A Motion to return from Executive Session 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.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. and returned from Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

None other than discussed previously.

**Other Discussions:**

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Trisha Addison        Robert Cottrell

Clerk of Council       Council President