**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, March 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-no; 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 March 11, 2021. A motion was made Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Huff.  ROLL CALL:  Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Harmon-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Baker-yes.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

* Handed out a printout and pictures of houses that were looked at that week. Working with the Health Department on 266 McConnell Street to get a comdemnation order.
* Looked at two alleys to vacate at 256 McConnell Street and spoke to the property owners. Will start the process to vacate the alleys.
* Met with a man that lives at 276 McConnell Street and has $9,000.00 in back taxes. The gentleman that lives next door wants to buy it and he brought a check to start the process.
* Looked at properties on Wardell Street. Will be in contact with Realtor that has the property for sale.
* S. Dawson Street trailer was taken out. Will be dealing with clean up.
* Wardell Street bridge sidewalk fell in. Met with County Engineer Bachman. Will be meeting with the property owner at Partsmart for another access out. Will probably have to apply for money for that in July. Spoke with Thrasher. Wants to pave the road also. It will have to be fixed and put on ODOT’s inspection list, it is not on their list now.
* Depot on the West side has been torn down. Wendy Mann did a lot of the leg work and he gives her a lot of the credit.
* Garage on N. Water Street has been torn down.
* Received initial paving quotes. $543,000.00 in asphalt paving for all streets we gave for quotes.
* Next week have initial start up meeting for E. 1st Street. The project is ready to go. The timeline is tight.
* Water Park Manager meeting today to go over operating plan. Will start cleaning next month. Have started hiring for employees. May buy another Clorox machine out of the money coming. Every hour break all tubes will be spread down. Meeting next week with a local chemical company out of New Philadelphia. Meeting next week with painters and hope to start late April, beginning of May. Gazebo will be torn down in the next week or so. Start up is planned for Memorial Day weekend. No passes this year. Ten parties are booked.
* Street lights are in on E. 12th and he fixed the basketball hoop. Recommends new hoops within next year.
* Burn mower is in.
* Mr. Fox asked about lighting by the park, did they put in two poles? Two poles and a light by the basketball court. Plan is for lights with a push button timer. Mr. Fox hoped for a light closer to the entrance of the park. Asked about players at the basketball court after dark. Mayor Haney said no one will be charged for playing basketball after dark unless there is a noise complaint. Asked about black top and angle parking for parking along guardrail to get parking for water park. Mayor Haney said it is a great idea, just the expenditure is an issue. Money has been raised for fixing the fountain.
* Mr. Harmon agrees and is so glad to see the garage down, it’s been an eyesore for years and glad to see the railroad building down. Keep up the good work.
* Ms. Myers asked if new regulations would require more employees at the water park if there had to be someone at each restroom and the gate going out. Mayor Haney replied there has always been someone at the gate. There may have to be one more employee each shift. It is under discussion. They will not enforce guests wearing masks while at the park. Employees will comply. Ms. Myers asked about contact tracing by an employee or someone at the park. Mayor Haney is still talking to them about it. He doesn’t believe we will be forced to do that. It will be on a first come, first served basis to get in. The passes issued last year will be the only ones that are allowed to use. No sales online. She is elated we are moving forward with the demolition with some of these houses and the future of that. He mentioned we are down an officer and the police are busy. He hit the nail on the head to pass legislation this evening that is the third reading for the Zoning Inspection. How important that is to get someone on board to take that burden away from the police so they can work on investigations and other things, and take the burden off of the Mayor and Belle as well. Mayor Haney says he believes we have everything in the Ordinance. The police will still be involved and Belle will always be involved.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

* Absent.

**Law Director James J. Ong:**

•Absent.

* UAN system listed in Agenda under Law Director was discussed in Finance. Ms. Myers reported Jessica Young came to their last Finance Committee meeting. It is a system that almost everyone in the State of Ohio uses. Mr. Zucal gave her information to contact the Auditor. It is computers and a system and a printer and training that they will give us. She gave Ms. Young that information to get the ball rolling. They will fully support it. Mayor Haney said it will streamline a lot of our operations.

**Auditor, Jessica Young**:

* Absent.

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

* Absent.

**Correspondence:**

* None.

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox –**

**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** – Absent.

**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.

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

Trisha Addison        Robert Cottrell

Clerk of Council       Council President