**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, April 22, 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 April 8, 2021. A motion was made Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Huff.  ROLL CALL:  Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Miller-yes; Mr. Harmon-abstained; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

* Absent.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

* Absent.

**Law Director James J. Ong:**

•Absent – on vacation.

**Auditor, Jessica Young**:

* Absent.

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

* Absent.

**Correspondence:**

* Council Clerk Trisha Addison submitted her resignation effective June 1, 2021.

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers**- The Finance Committee met March 31, 2021 and the report from the meeting was read. A Motion to approve the report was made by Ms. Myers, seconded by Mr. Zucal. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Baker-yes; Mr. Miller-yes. The next Finance Committee will be Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mr**. **Harmon** – Absent.

**Mr. Miller –** The Ambulance Committee will meet Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

**Old Business**:

**Mr. Fox –** Asked Mayor Haney for follow up on Phase II of Eastport, is someone coming back to reseed the curb strips. Mayor Haney said ODOT has said they are done but we have not settled our bill yet. Mr. Fox said we should try to give it a go again because the seeding is awful. Mayor Haney said he will make some phone calls. Mr. Zucal said as a City we can express our unhappiness with the seeding because it is not acceptable. He encouraged the administration in future to encourage hydroseeding.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers** – St. Mary’s Altar Society Food Drive is this Saturday at Claymont High School from 10:00 to 2:00. They have packaged 300 boxes of food with 5 lbs. of chicken. They are also taking 30 bags to Buckeye House and 20 bags to the Lanning House. If anyone is available Saturday to help that would be great.

**Mr. Harmon** – Absent.

**Mr. Miller –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Baker** – Nothing to report.

**Mr. Zucal –** Reminded the Mayor to work on our Tree City USA status and the last Friday in April is Arbor Day. We could plant a tree on city property or school property to keep our status up to date. Mr. Fox added that two trees between the sidewalk and the water park fence where the gazebo is would be good spots for trees and feels the two trees by the stone gate need to be taken down. Mayor Haney will get with Diane LeMonte because there was a tree study done of the park. Belle has a copy. Belle said those were recommended to be taken down. Now that we have an ariel boom and could do that work but we are down to two men.

**New Business**

**Mr. Fox –** Asked for a follow up on the dumpster fire at the park. Mayor Haney said we didn’t have a camera at the water park that shows anything. We need a new WiFi system at the Water Park because it is 13 years old. We need to add some cameras. Some of the AEP money that is coming can be used for that. Would like to replace lights. Also asked Ms. Everett if she had any structured plans for the Street Department as they are down to two employees. She replied this week she had one person and next week she’ll have one person. The mowing at the City parks and landscaping are under contract now so that helps because they spent a lot of time mowing. College students will be painting curbs, they will be doing sign repairs. We will be patching holes and preparing the streets and maybe the college students will help with that. They will be providing traffic maintenance which saved $5,000.00 last year. Will our employees be mowing grass every day until college help? They will be doing more and college help will help out a lot. She doesn’t know how long the other employees will be out. Mayor Haney said they met with Jeff and put together a three page plan for the summer. There was further discussion and Mr. Fox is frustrated. Belle thanked Southern District Court and plan to use them again this year when they are available.

**Mr. Huff** – Nothing to report.

**Ms. Myers –** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Harmon –** Absent.

**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.

Chief Beal – Had 451 calls in March. Had 24 follow ups for investigations logged and not are all logged. We do need someone dedicated to do follow ups. Presented two years ago a letter from the Prosecutor’s Office and others indicating that we do need an investigator. Our case numbers would go up because we’d do better investigations. It is needed and I would hope you would consider funding that project. Ms. Everett asked Chief Beal to explain a lot of what he does to save us time and effort. He does all transporting of evidence to BCI rather than have individual officers do it, so he tries to wait until there are a few cases and transfers all of our evidence. He signs all the juvenile cases no matter which officer charges it otherwise we would pay an officer to go to court to sign charges. He signs all the felony warrants that come through to prevent an officer to come in. When the prosecutor’s office needs something, they get it to him, rather than come in off duty. He transports a lot of information and videos to the prosecutor’s office, which is time consuming. Ms. Myers asked if the investigator could be a part time person. If it was up to him, the investigator would be an investigator, but when short manned, then he would cover shifts as well. A part time investigator would say they would only be able to work certain days, and the problem would be starting an investigation, then waiting five or six days to get back into that investigation and they are time sensitive.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

**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**

**Third Reading**

Mr. Zucal made a Motion to table. Ms. Myers seconded the Motion to table. Mr. Baker said it couldn’t be tabled because it could only be tabled to stop the process and bring it up at a later time. Mr. Ong said it could be brought up at a later time. If it is set for a third reading and doesn’t pass it dies on the vine. ROLL CALLL: Mr. Zucal-yes; Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Baker-No; Mr. Miller-no; Mr. Huff-no; Mr. Fox-yes. President Cottrell was asked to cast the deciding vote and would like all council to be present to discuss and cast his vote to keep it tabled. Voted yes. Mr. Ong said there will have to be a similar motion to remove it from the table and bring it back for consideration. President Cottrell said that was correct.

**ORDINANCE 50-21**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE**

**RATES OF PAY FOR THE POSITIONS OF**

**CITY POLICE CHIEF, CITY FIRE CHIEF,**

**CITY STREET SUPERINTENDENT AND**

**MAYOR’S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**First Reading**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Other Discussions:**

Mr. Zucal said Mr. Ong asked if there were questions pertaining to ordinances and legislation. He commented that for sponsoring legislation, if any member can sponsor legislation he doesn’t see the benefit. It strips the committees and council president and agrees that it needs reworked entirely and needs to be a protocol in place. Sponsorship is important, but two-thirds vote from the committee is important to get it to the body. He thinks that is dangerous ground to walk upon as a council and raises of personnel matters are really delicate matters and feels the whole body of council needs to think about what we are doing. If this comes to a third reading he will ask for an executive session so it can be explained. He wants to support all of our people but wants to know where we are coming from.

Ms. Myers made a Motion for the expense for the police cruiser motor to be repaired at Parkway for $7,345.56. Mr. Zucal seconded the Motion. Mr. Baker said he understands we are also looking at $1,200.00 for the suspension work. Mr. Baker said the Mayor’s email said we were talking about putting at least $10,000.00 into a vehicle that was worth about $7,000.00. It would probably be closer to $12,000.00 because of the transmission. Mr. Fox said the alternative is spending $60,000.00 on a new car. Following discussion, Ms. Myers amended her Motion to include the $1,200.00 for suspension work. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Huff-no.

A Motion was made to suspend the meeting due a medical emergency. ROLL CALL: Mr. Huff-yes; Mr. Fox-yes; Mr. Zucal-yes; Mr. Miller-yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Trisha Addison        Robert Cottrell

Clerk of Council       Council President