

**UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Thursday February 24th, 2022**

Council President Robert Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. due to some technical difficulties.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Mr. Fox-yes, Mr. Huff-No, Ms. Myers-Yes, Ms. Mann- yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn- yes, Mr. Zucal-yes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Clerk Jen Wright.

Excusal of Mr. Huff from the 2/24 meeting- Mr. Miller 1<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Myers 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Fox-yes, Ms. Myers- yes, Ms. Mann- yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn- yes, Mr. Zucal-yes.

Council President Robert Cottrell asked for a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes from February 10,2022. A motion was made Ms. Mann, seconded by Mr. Zucal. ROLL CALL: Ms. Myers- Yes, Ms. Mann-Yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn-yes, Mr. Zucal-yes, Mr. Fox-yes.

Council President Robert Cottrell asked for a motion to accept the Council Special Meeting Minutes from February 23,2022. A motion was made Mr. Goshorn, seconded by Ms. Mann. ROLL CALL: Ms. Mann- Yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn-yes, Mr. Zucal-yes, Mr. Fox-yes, Ms. Myers- Yes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mark Haney:**

- Busy couple of weeks, thank you to all our Departments Fire/Police/Street Dept for time with the flooding and Fire Dept helping with the flood in Jewett. We are in contact with the EMA regarding the flood staging.
- Mayor's Meeting: Kent State Tusc- Dorms- they are still planning doing that. Working on new programs at the school.
- Met with Shelley & Sons regarding paving this past year. Sealing and soft spots. We haven't paid the bill yet.
- Jeff and I looked at 11<sup>th</sup> St regarding catch basins by Fieldhouse. We are looking at doing it as an inhouse project before paving. We looked at Newport and patching lots of holes.
- We hired a new street dept employee. Took physical and will start in 2 weeks.
- Paving some streets that were listed. Get list in by Tuesday. Similar to last year, get prices and go from there. Based on budget. We will do about the same.
- We gave an amount for a K-9 Retro fit for the Tahoe for \$9500.
- ?-
  - **Matt Fox:** Have we gotten the topsoil from the JF Electric down by the trail that we were promised? **Mayor:** Not yet, waiting for the time when the trail is dry, but it is still owed to us.

**City Services Director Belle Everett:**

- Flood: Confence call re: EMA 2017 mitigation Plan. One home ok to be sold.
- Top Soil will come in when trail is dry and all power lines are done
- New Employee hired
- Jason Hammond conference call tomorrow.
- Mayor will be on the Health Dept. Virtual Meeting March 15<sup>th</sup>, when they vote for their board.

- Questions: None.
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**Law Director James J. Ong:**

- Absent

**Auditor Becky Carpenter:**

- Absent

**Treasurer, Bob Michels:**

- Absent.

**Correspondence:**

- None

**Committee Reports**

**Mr. Fox-** Nothing to report

**Ms. Myers-** Finance Meeting met prior to this meeting, and another will be held next Thursday 3/5 @6pm

**Ms. Mann-** Safety Committee met 2/21 @6:30pm- see attached minutes. Stated she would

Like to make a recommendation to hire a new police officer it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Miller. Pres. Cottrell asked for discussion. Ms. Myers stated it had to be on an ordinance not a motion. Mr. Cottrell stated he spoke with Law Director JJ prior to the meeting regarding this and that it could be done in a motion. Mr. Zucal stated that he thinks that we should have a budget in place before this decision is made and that we should probably have legislation in place. Stated he isn't against it or for it. Ms. Mann stated that there is a motion on the floor at that is where we are at to vote. Ms. Myers stated that we have contracts out and another meeting on the budget next week and feels as though it needs to be talked about in legislation not a motion. Mr. Cottrell stated we have a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will do Roll Call: Mr. Goshorn- Yes, Mr. Zucal- No, Mr. Fox- No, Ms. Myers- No, Ms. Mann- Yes, Mr. Miller- Yes. Tie. President Cottrell stated that we have been talking about this for a long time. I spoke with JJ about this in the event this came up. I am voting Yes for this. We can get clarification if needed later. Any questions- none.

**Mr. Miller-** none

**Mr. Goshorn-** nothing

**Mr. Zucal-** I want it clarified I only voted "No" because I think it is premature and I would ask for a legal opinion from the Law Director or from the Ohio Attorney General

**Motion to approve Safety Meeting minutes from 2/21:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Goshorn. ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Goshorn- yes, Mr. Zucal-yes, Mr. Fox-yes, Ms. Myers- Yes, Ms. Mann- Yes.

**Old Business:**

**Mr. Fox –** nothing to report

**Ms. Myers-** Mayor DiDonato texted me and clarified that AEP had removed and their (Dennison's) street Dept. gave it to our street Dept. (Mr. Fox stated that is the text he got also)

**Ms. Mann-** nothing to report

**Mr. Miller-** nothing to report

**Mr. Goshorn-** Nothing to report

**Mr. Zucal-** Spoke with Browse and Buy, I feel like Administration should go down and speak with them. I think the City should look at Tax abatements. We should contact companies that leave. Mayor: Rita had offered 6mo free rent for this store, they lost a board member that was from this area. We are in the process of putting a letter together. We have been in contact with other areas also. Mr. Zucal- Also I am wanting to see the Income taxes from 2020 and 2021.

**New Business**

**Mr. Fox –** Nothing to report

**Ms. Myers-** Officer McCray and I went to Columbus for Ohio House HB521 sponsored by Rep. Brett Hillyer to change the Johnson Ave. Bridge to be renamed Specialist Ronald Gene Johnson Memorial

Highway. It was passed, has to still go through some hurdles but hopefully be signed by the end of the year by Gov. Dewine.

**Ms. Mann-** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Miller-** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Goshorn-** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Zucal-**nothing

### **Visitors:**

- Capt. Nathan Crouse- just here to introduce myself.
- Chief Beal: Here if there are any questions about the paperwork handed out about the K9 retro fit.
  - Questions:
    - Mr. Fox- Thank you for the information- loss of officers- loss due to overworked? Chief- It is in the paperwork on the breakdown on how many have left since I have been here as chief.
    - Ms. Mann- Burn out and Fatigue due to OT.
- Chief Edwards: Flood Response- Beckley and I went to Jewitt, 4 Families removed by boat, 20+ electrical/ gas calls to shut off due to high water. Ambulance is back in service already had 300 calls this year.
  - Grants- Fire Marshall \$4,050 for Training reimbursement
    - BHE GTS \$15,000 for Confined Space Equipment (ropes,etc)
    - MARKS Grant- \$15,000 for new Mics for the Radio's and a new mobile radio for the new truck
      - Asking permission to use money out of the new equipment fund \$14,397.47 (\$14,500.00) Eagles donated \$7,000. Moose is donating \$4000. So \$11,000. Will be donations then rest out of the new equipment. Motion by Mr. Zucal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Myers. Roll Call: Mr. Zucal- yes, Mr. Fox- yes, Ms. Myers- yes, Ms. Mann- yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn-yes.
  - Star of Life
    - Cpt. Crouse, C. McGarry, C. Paisley. May 18<sup>th</sup> ceremony in Columbus. I can get information on it.

?-Wendy- Thank you for going to Jewett/ Harrison Cty. to help.

### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

- 01-22: Ordinance to increase Mayor's Spending Limit-Emergency
  - Motion to Suspend the Rules 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Zucal- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Mann. Roll Call- Mr. Fox-No, Ms. Myers- No, Ms. Mann-yes, Mr. Miller-yes, Mr. Goshorn-yes, Mr. Zucal-yes. President Cottrell- This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

- See Attached

### **Other Discussions:**

- President Cottrell- Thank you to Eric Harmon for his efforts for the tear downs of houses in the city. He really worked hard on that.
- Mayor Haney- I agree that list was blended and finally coming together. New trash cans downtown, we are looking at a design with Uhrichsville on them.
- Ms. Mann- Thank you to Mr. Harmon for his hard work.
- President Cottrell- Susan Bower Subordination CHIP program needed signed. Just so that the refinancing can be reworked so that CHIP program is 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Mortgage is 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Zucal motion to approve, Mr. Goshorn 2<sup>nd</sup>. ROLL CALL: Mr. Fox- yes, Ms. Myers-yes, Ms. Mann-yes, Mr. Miller- yes, Mr. Goshorn- yes, Mr. Zucal- yes.
- Mayor- If you can go by the Clay Museum check out the lights that Wood Electric installed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

  
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Jen Wright  
Clerk of Council

  
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Robert Cottrell  
Council President

## Uhrichsville Safety, Health & Services Committee

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21 February 2022 / 6:30 PM / Council Chambers

### New Business Going Into 2022

- Roll Call was taken and in attendance was Councilwoman Myers, Councilwoman Mann, Councilman Miller was excused, and Councilman Huff filled in as an alternate and arrived at 6:45 pm.
- The Committee had a discussion on the Council Complaint Sheets for Council Members. We discussed if Council should have anything updated, added, or omitted from the forms? Should we continue with the tri carbon copy forms? Do we have any of the current forms? If not, do we have someone who can facilitate making new or current forms? Councilwoman Myers mentioned that the forms were very very old. Mayor Haney agreed that those forms are over 20 years old. Councilwoman Myers questioned whether we would even need to go forth with the current forms as Council Members are given a City Email to use for communication between Council and residents and that she feels that would be the best way for residents to reach out to City Council. Mayor Haney suggested that we could potentially have the City's secretary, Maci Siebert make a "PDF" form that could be placed on the City's website for residents to reach out with a concern. The form would include the resident's name, address, contact number, complaint, and so forth. He mentioned being able to keep a database on the cloud and Councilwoman Myers made the suggestion to then have a number attached to the complaint form to be able to go back and look at the follow-up action that took place.
- Councilwoman Mann brought up that Mr. Zucal asked during the regular council session (02/17/2022) if there could be attention put into signage around town? (He mentioned Uhrich St as an example) Mayor Haney mentioned that all signs around the city have a decal on them to let the city know when the signage was placed. To track the signs. He also mentioned that they need to order signs, and need to paint yellow curb strips to show no parking on the corner. He mentioned different times

when parking has been an issue and will take care of it. Mayor Haney also mentioned that with signs and such they are looking at getting will cost roughly \$5000. Mayor Haney expressed how the cost of materials has gone up in price and he expects to see a 10-15% increase in cost. Councilwoman Myers mentioned that we could use money from the "Recycling Grant" to facilitate this expense and that volunteers could be used to help with this project.

- Introducing visitors in attendance, Cassandra Brown who has lived in Uhrichsville her entire life. Grew up on Packard Street and later married and moved to West 1st St in Uhrichsville. Lived there for 16 years so many of her family members lived within walking distance and she could remember her children being able to walk from West 1st street to her parent's home with no worries. She said it was an overall great place to live. Later in 2015, she noticed a lot of changes in the people around the area. She mentioned that they would always walk around with their hoodies up and face to the ground and never look up. They walked in a fast paced manner and she thought it was weird when she would get home at 3 am from working on the cancer floor as a nurse and have seen the foot traffic was more than normal for that time of the morning. She mentioned that starting in 2016 there started to be more vehicle traffic with louder cars that would continuously circle waiting to go to the house across the tracks behind her. She went on to say that she transferred in 2017 to our local hospital where she got a first-hand glimpse of how bad the issue really was. She said that she will never forget the day she had to pull a 14-year-old girl off her. In 2018 she came home from school and the girl found her parents on the floor DOA and she said this was the moment that she said enough is enough and she went home and began to fight them off. Then she began to call the police department and was so frequently that it felt like a bother to them and they were so busy with other calls that she began to get frustrated and wanted to give up then she explains how she finally was given a direct number to an officer so this way she could send them plate numbers, make and model of cars, descriptions of the individuals and what they were doing. She mentioned how her communication began to improve but the problem was that the officer on duty would be with another call and she

would have to wait for them to get to her home. She mentioned how her daughters began to have nightmares and were afraid to live in their home due to people defecating in her yard. She mentioned the last straw was when her husband had to be admitted to the hospital with COVID and was on a ventilator and she felt scared and helpless not knowing what the drug dealer was going to do while he was away. She said they tried to resolve the issue by putting a fence around their back yard but that only encouraged them to stand up against the fence in the alley to make their transactions. She said that her daughter had witnessed a woman sitting cross-legged in the road on something and she was messing herself. She pointed out the large number of needles that she has found in and by her house. She would walk her community and find needles. Being that they felt unsafe they had no other recourse but to move out of the home they planned to raise their children in. She mentioned that her family looked into moving out of Uhrichsville altogether but she and her family have a love for Uhrichsville and they knew they were meant to live here. So they found a house in Uhrichsville and decided to give it another try.

Councilwoman Myers thanked Ms. Brown for coming and sharing her story. She understands this is a safety issue and we have lost businesses and residents, students and people who are not moving into the city. As Council, our responsibilities are to make sure that we are able to afford this moving forward. She knows that we need staff in all departments but we need to make sure that we are able to sustain them for 10 plus years. There was a small discussion about business growth and how safety plays a role in a growing healthy economy.

Next, we heard from Chief Beal who agreed that you are not going to attract businesses if they do not feel safe. He stated that we need the manpower the community deserves to provide the services. And having 1 officer on duty working by themselves is not a good service. He said that this will get the department closer to 2 officers on duty on the same shift. He also presented the Committee with letters from Solicitor Ong, Tuscarawas County Prosecutor, Ryan Styer, as well as our Tuscarawas County Sheriff, Orvis Campbell, and the LEAD Task Force. Included in Chief Beal's packet were demographics and statistics about our city compared to neighboring cities on staffing. He knows of the home that

Ms. Brown was speaking of and it takes time to file the paperwork due to lack of officer. He also mentioned how many officers have left the department due to being overworked. He feels there is has to be a way to retain officers and expressed that this is a safety issue for both the police as well as the residents. He also discussed the overdoses that the city has had. Councilwoman Mann brought up that in Prosecutor Styers letter he mentioned: "Uhrichsville was the 3rd largest municipality in the county and as an area with a good deal of dangerous drugs such as meth and spice – drugs which motivate or underline 80% of property crimes and felonies – Uhrichsville would see immediate dividends to the safety of the community and holding criminals accountable if it were to add a full-time, dedicated detective to the police force." Councilwoman Mann went on to tell about a situation where behind her home where a neighbors son had stolen his fathers "spice" and the brother decided to chase him down and stab him in the chest behind her home. She went on to say that she knows the extent of the spice problem as well as meth. Chief Beal mentioned that in his district meetings they talk about how that spice use is exceptionally high in Uhrichsville. He went on to describe the effects of spice and how it truly messes with the mind and how users choose to use it because they will pass a urine test. His district covers 6 counties and none of them deal with the drug Spice. Councilwoman Mann went on to mention that it really stuck out that Uhrichsville was considered as the 3rd largest municipality in the county and when looking at that 80% and thinking about the economy and growing a healthy committee that percentage needs to drastically come down. She also mentioned that in doing research for tonight's safety meeting that she found that there was ARPA funding being pooled from monies that were not used and that there was an extension to the deadline and that may be something that the Mayor could look into. She also provided an article that discussed the reallocation of the ARPA Funding for Law Enforcement to better explain.

Councilman Huff asked the Chief the ratio of officers with neighboring cities. He also asked if this would help with the department's delay. If we did not hire another police officer what would you do? Chief Beal said he would do his best with scheduling but the city would not be getting the service they deserve.



Mayor Haney acknowledged that there is a manpower problem and has been for quite some time and he thanked her for choosing to stay in Uhrichsville as a resident. As of right now, we are at a crossroads on whether or not we hire another officer. Do we leave one officer on shift and they are required to respond to calls as well as paperwork? This is where residents make a call and cannot get an officer to respond for up to 1 hour after the original call. It affects everyone involved, the residents are frustrated because they cannot get the help they need and the officers are so short-handed they are drastically drained. Mayor Haney added that Thursday night they had a budget meeting and they have already put into their budget another officer and they did have a larger carryover than last year and what they see revenue-wise. He mentioned that there would be a great need for intervention and that not having an office is a safety issue. Also when we talk about businesses moving in they look at the schools and what services the city offers. Having another officer would be in the best interest of the community.

- Councilwoman Mann presented the question to the Safety Committee on whether or not we make the recommendation on the hiring of a new police officer to Thursday's Council Meeting?

Mr. Huff- Yes

Ms. Myers- No

Ms. Mann - Yes

With a vote of 2 Yes's and 1 No it was moved that we would make the recommendation on the hiring of a new police officer to Thursday's Council Meeting?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm