MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	PRESENT
SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. MARK STANDOHAR	ABSENT
THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. JEFF KAY	PRESENT
FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. THOMAS GRUMLEY	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAM ZIRAFI	PRESENT

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MARTUCCIO TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN STANDOHAR FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUAY 22, 2024.

SCHUBERT 1 STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO 2 MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

COMMUNICATIONS

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION KAY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 22, 2024 AS WRITTEN. SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR Absent KAY 1 GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO 2 MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND GRUMLEY TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024 AS WRITTEN. SCHUBERT 1 STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY 2 MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

President of Council Paolone: Before I open citizens' comments I would like to welcome Henry Sforza our new city treasurer. Thank you very much. We appreciate your service to the city. We really do. We'll get your name on the agenda next time. I don't know how that happened.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Tom Smith, 905 Beechwood Avenue: I am with the Friends of the Mahoning River. I met with Mark last week to discuss a potential memorial to Don Rex at the kayak launch that he and I both helped to write the grant for. Don and I helped the city research and write the grant that allowed them to install the new kayak ramp on the river. Don had championed the idea of a boat launch in that area during his time on council. He was very happy to see it come to fruition. Some ideas that were thrown around are planting a tree and maybe a plaque, maybe an engraved bench, a wooden one or maybe a different one. We thought about doing an engraved rock. That is a little bit more expensive. The board has allocated about a \$1000 towards this. We would also like council to consider the possibility of naming the launch after Don as he was instrumental in it being installed and also his years of service on council.

President of Council Paolone: Tom, I suggest when you get time get with Keith Schubert. He is the building and grounds chairman and you guys could work something out. I'm sure these guys would be open to..... there was discussion between Mr. Smith and council.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

MARK ZUPPO

PRESENT

Mayor Zuppo: I fully support whatever Tom, whatever you guys come up with. Don was a mentor of mine. I want to congratulate Cosmo on his retirement. His last day as bailiff here was last Friday so congratulations. I want to thank, this is going to sound like an old, cliché, coaches thing, teamwork makes the dream work. The first two weeks Sal and I were hit with a lot of stuff, high winds blowing power lines down, waterline breaks, we've had a number of them. I would just like to thank, first and foremost, Tommy Watts and Ashley Alejars in the street and water departments do a great job, but it's the whole team. The call comes in. I called and then boom the fire chief is on it and he got his guys up there. The police chief helped out with getting press releases out for us on the waterline breaks. So, I just wanted to say that we are really proud of our workers here in town. I think everybody should just take a moment if you see one of them, thank them. With that said, all of these waterline breaks that's one of the things we talked to Julie about the other day, and this is not going to happen tomorrow, ok. Julie has enough on her plate. Somewhere down the road when things settle we want to get into the nuts and bolts on how much we're spending on waterline breaks and having to call in contractors and all of the overtime that is spent because one of the things that we talked about with our friends at Eastgate and our friends at the Port Authority is about a long term improvement plan. Something that the president of council and I talked about thirty years ago and that's where we have a plan in place. It's not going to happen overnight. It could be like a 20 year plan. 20-25 year plan where we replace all of our water and sewer lines and bury our utilities. It is something we can do and we are searching out grant money just to do projects like this. I just want to make you aware of that. We will keep you abreast of all of that stuff. We started, we had negotiations with Niles this past week with myself, the safety service director, the law director and our engineer, Mr. Meek. It went ok. I will just say that we can't expound on that much right now but it is in the process. I would say that we were told that they would try to get ahold of them to set up negotiations and they flat out told us that that was not the case. They were being rejected on attempts to negotiate. So, just wanted to make you aware of that. I guess we are looking for a new building inspector right now. That just came to our attention here in the last couple days. So, I just wanted to make you guys aware of that. I met with Mr. Schubert and appreciated his support on all the things we are looking to do with recreation. I also met with Ms. Martuccio about the theater and so we have got a young man that is a Girard guy who teaches at Girard. He runs the Millennial Theater. Joe Asente. He wants to meet with us and so we are going to schedule a meeting with him. Once again, we are looking at, we've talked to grant writers. We are looking at potentially contracting some grant writers and one of the things that they are big on, they are not just going to go after state and federal money, they are going after foundation money. Ohio Arts Council. Stuff that we don't even think about some of the time. Their track record is really good, so we'll keep you abreast of that.

COMMENTS:

President of Council Paolone: To expound on what Mark said, thirty years ago we wanted to put a \$5 stipend, him and I, on every utility bill. \$5 every two months. It would cost people \$30 a year. We would probably have \$1 million dollars in there right now. We couldn't get support on it. Couldn't get 4 votes. **Mayor:** Girard would bury all the utilities. A 25 year plan. **Paolone:** A plan we had years ago we couldn't get support. **Mayor:** It would have been paid for in 2019. **Paolone:** Absolutely. Long time ago. Sorry. Didn't mean to do that. **Mayor:** Moving forward. That's all we're talking about.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

SALVATORE PONZIO

PRESENT

Salvatore Ponzio: First of all I want to reiterate what Mark was saying about our departments. In working closely with them over the last couple of weeks and he is right, we have had some of catastrophes and I really appreciate police and fire helping the water and street departments do their jobs. The water department has been out several nights all night long on breaks, come back the next morning with another break and work nonstop until 7 o'clock at night fixing that break. We just had another one the following evening. We had another one today. I have been on all of these breaks personally and watch what they're doing. It was very cold. I'm not going to lie. Those guys have a really rough jobs standing in a puddle of water when it is 0 degrees outside for 8 hours so I appreciate the effort. Tommy Watts and his crew has been wonderful. I hope your streets are safe and clean. We made a commitment to make sure that we are going to be as safe as possible when it comes to our streets and Tommy has done a wonderful job of that so far so I told them both I was going to congratulate them at council today. At Tibbetts Wick we had a major problem with that line that supplies most of Girard with water. Our police department had to go there and help close the road because Liberty wouldn't send anybody and Weathersfield wouldn't send anybody. So, we had two Girard police officers on both sides of the break to protect our workers. I compliment Johnny for getting the help out there. Johnny Norman to help us out. Onto the next subject about Tibbetts Wick, the pumpstation. I had a conversation with Dennis Meek today and he assured me that he is purchasing 3 new pumps for the Tibbetts Wick pumpstation and also the 3 pumps on a skid he said for the Churchill pumpstation. The Tibbetts Wick pumpstation because there is OPWC money involved construction cannot start until July 1st on that but the goal is to have the pumps in storage here so as soon as we can get that work started in July as soon as possible we will have the pumps here. That is going to be a process. They can only take one pump offline at a time and make sure the new one is operational before they start on the second one. Just so you know that waterline, those pumps are critical that supply and they cannot be repaired. There are no parts for them anymore. We have been living on the edge for a while so I will feel better when we get those pumps, that project completed. Dennis is also working on rebidding salt barn. I know you guys are probably tired of hearing about the salt barn. I sat out there for a year and heard about the salt barn. Hopefully we'll get a better price because it will be during the warmer construction, there won't be a deadline, a sixty day deadline, whatever it was last time and the bids will come in more in line and we'll get that taken care of. You saw the report. Dennis is involved with many more things. So, we also touched on the soil study at the dam. That is complete, however the analysis won't be in our hands until the end of February and we will just go from there and see what they recommend. I think it looks ok right now, but until we get the final report we won't know. We have also applied for the next phase of the dam rehabilitation, which was a \$275,000 engineering study, this is just for engineering purposes now, to design the required spillway and to make the improvements on the funnel. So, however, we did apply for a grant already and we will get a 65% refund of that \$275,000 because it is considered a high hazard dam FEMA is supplying money through ODNR for that. The final step will be, according to Dennis, once that study is done there will be a construction phase and hopefully everything will be done by 2025. If everything goes right. And that construction phase will also be eligible for a 65% grant from FEMA. So, that is just the process we are going through. One step at a time, see about the soil, and we will make judgment based on how these studies come back. Just as an aside. I did speak with First Energy. That substation on High Street behind city hall here has been nonoperational for a very long time. So, I talked to a spokesperson there. I want them to remove that. It's a hazard. There are a bunch of kids that play right behind that building there at the day care center. Moving forward we have a meeting in February to discuss First Energy removing that and I'd like to see them donate the property to the city. So we'll see what we can do with that. COMMENTS:

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren: Real briefly, I just wanted to continue to update council that the lawsuit regarding our abatement, the lien and back taxes for the TK Charles property that was taken down. That case is still going on and getting it through the court's schedule, but we are still some ways off before the city would be in a position to have title to that property. The wheels of justice move slow. Second, just because it came up at the finance meeting, about adding another position, which counsel can certainly do, in the recreation department, but whether the position is in the union or not we just have to that will be dictated by state law with job duties and stuff and we can't just arbitrarily say someone is not in the union. So, we will review that as well. Lastly, I just want to welcome Henry. I know he will be a great asset to the city and I can attest that anybody that can keep my stuff in order will be able to figure out the city stuff. **COMMENTS:**

Councilman Moliterno: Is it through the county? **Attorney Kren:** The treasurer's office had immediately filed a tax foreclosure after we tore it down which I thought was a little odd because we have so much

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property, but the court did grant our right to acquire. The property has to go up for sheriff sale first. So, if somebody, in theory, pays the, don't quote me on the numbers, \$12,000 in taxes and the \$70,000 lien they can acquire it, but nobody is going to pay that so we have to go through that process. If nobody offers that bid then we are able to acquire that property free and clear. Councilman Grumley: Hey Brian, how do you want us, on 52-03 it should have been two part time recreation. It's for the recreation department not for the various service. Kren: Well, I guess that would depend on council's intent, but after the last meeting I met with the mayor and, actually, the clerk had reminded me that a couple of years ago council had passed an ordinance creating those three permanent part-time employees at an hourly rate and I check with the auditors and the only position is Cookie so there are two open positions that the service director can plug in where he wants, but the only thing the ordinance is doing is raising rate from \$12.50 an hour to \$15. If council desires to have two part-time employees solely in the recreation department then I can do a separate ordinance. **Mayor:** If it is going to slow the process down then I don't want to do that. I'm sorry. If it is going to slow the process down then I wouldn't want to do that. If they are able to eliminate the part that says various service on this ordinance. Can they make that amendment here tonight and still vote to pass this? Kren: Well they would work wherever you or the service director tells them to work. Just playing the devil's advocate, if you need somebody at the cemetery and or there's an emergency and you want to send them there. Moliterno: It's just better the way it is gives you more flexibility. Mayor: It gives you more flexibility, I guess. I know where you were coming from Tom. Tom asked me about it and I kind of agreed. You guys make sense. I agree with that. Moliterno: I agree with Brian. Paolone: Are you good Tom? Grumley: Yes.

AUDITOR

Ms. Coggins: I have nothing further from finance. **COMMENTS:**

TREASURER

Mr. Sforza: I don't have much of a report. I was just sworn in on Thursday. I did meet with the mayor last week. He brought me up to speed on RITA, made some contacts with RITA, he gave me forms to get myself access to the city's account with RITA. RITA called me today. They got the forms. They are going to work on it. It will be another week or two knowing them before I have access to the accounts. Julie and I have a meeting this week set up with Farmer's to get my signature on all of the bank accounts. We'll get that taken care of Thursday, right? Coggins: Yes. Sforza: Ok. That's about all I've done so far. COMMENTS:

JULIE COGGINS

HENRY SFORZA

FIRE CHIEF

PRESENT Chief Petruzzi: 2024 calls year to date 128. I spoke to CR Electric today. They will be out this week to look at the problem tornado sirens. They are looking for somewhat of a break in the weather before they can do that. Also, I am in process of working with Multi Generational center to start a senior watch program. It can potentially be funded through a grant that the Center has access to and Mrs. Carey is in the process of applying for that. She will be sending it in tomorrow. That's all I have. **COMMENTS:**

POLICE CHIEF

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno: We had a finance committee meeting tonight again with the full compliment of city officers in attendance. It was a good meeting. We had a good report and certainly a great 2023 and we hope for good things in '24. Paolone: Next meeting John? Moliterno: At 6:30 prior to the second council meeting of the month. **Paolone:** 26th. **Moliterno:** On the 26th. COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO Councilman Kay: No report. **COMMENTS:**

JAMES PETRUZZI

JOHN NORMAN

ABSENT

PRESENT

PRESENT

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Schubert: As the mayor had stated, we had a very nice meeting last week. We are going to look at pickle ball courts, redoing the tennis court, putting a tennis court in, the parks, resurfacing the basketball courts, disc golf coming soon to Liberty Park. I will be asking for two pieces of legislation tonight. One being amending the building and grounds superintendent's salary to \$35,000. I believe it is currently \$29,000. And then asking for an assistant director's position, full time with regards to the parks. **COMMENTS:**

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley: We met this evening with Michelle Davis from Med Account to discuss the EMS billing and the possibility of a revenue source to bring back the ambulance, to sustain the ability to bring back the ambulance. So, that is where we are at. We are at the beginning stages. We are going to meet again on the 26th at 6pm and the chief is going to bring the manpower numbers in front us and it is going to be a team process in looking at the feasibility of bringing back the ambulance service again. **COMMENTS:**

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Kay: I'm assuming that we are looking at streets now that we are going to be looking to pave this year. Hopefully you guys have a list from last year. They left you that with all of the information that they left you, you probably have that too. There was discussion among all. Talking about getting bids and stuff and getting some streets down so you know if you're not doing anything else just put that together. **COMMENTS:**

Grumley: I would like to echo what the service director touched on earlier. I mean those guys did a heck of a job. I was out early on Friday and Saturday morning and the streets were in great shape. I mean at 5 a.m. they were passable and in good shape so they did do a good job and I did send Tommy a text telling him. **Mayor:** Thank you. That's cool.

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi: No report. COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: The zoning/rental registration forms have gone out to the landlords throughout the city. I know because I got one and I'm sure anyone else who is a landlord has gotten theirs. They are due by February 2nd I believe. The landlords have to put down their tenants and pay their dues for the zoning by February 2nd I believe or 1st. Anyhow, that's all I have on zoning. There is no block watch meeting this month because of the weather. I want to welcome Mr. Sforza to the team. Thank you administration for giving your reports. It lets us know what is going on so when our neighbors and people and constituents ask us we have something to report and that's it for zoning. **COMMENTS:**

THEATER COMMITTEE-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: I did meet with Mayor Zuppo and we are wanting to proceed with the Wellman, the process for the Wellman Theater. Since we don't have the Appalachian grant available we are getting inquires for development. So, we would like to look at those inquires and this will be continued and at next finance meeting I hopefully will have an update on the theater group or at the next council meeting. **Paolone:** Good job Lil. It's a big job. Thanks for taking it. **COMMENTS:**

RULES-GRUMLEY-STANDOHAR-SCHUBERT

52-02

Councilman Grumley: Nobody has approached me yet so we'll leave it open for another meeting. **Paolone:** I gave you mine. Mine is semantics basically. **COMMENTS:**

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES OF OHIO, INC. D/B/A/ REPUBLIC SERVICES, FOR THE PROVISION OF GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTION WITHIN THE CITY OF GIRARD.

Moliterno: Is there any necessity to move this forward gentlemen? **Mayor:** I think it can go three readings on that, right? **Kren:** The contract doesn't go into effect until March 1st. As long as we accept the bid within 60 days which we could give it the three readings in that time. **Moliterno:** First reading Mr. Chairman.

Grumley: I was looking this contract over and is it going to be a significant change to what we have now because I see, you know, their bid, that they went with one can. Is that what it's going to be? Mayor: So everybody is going to get a 96 gallon garbage can with a lid on it, but you can put your own additional cans out there. Grumley: Ok, because the reason I'm asking because there definitely needs to be an addendum to this because they have a second can at \$250 and then they have down here bulk item pickups. Mayor: Tom, if you want to get another one of their cans it's an additional \$250. That's what that means. The bulk pick ups that's the biggest change and there is a mailer that is going out into the water bills letting people know that they are no longer just going to throw whatever on the curb and take it. They are going to have to call and pay for it. So the first item is \$20 and the second item is \$10 moving down the line. What we found in discussions with Republic was there was people coming from other communities and dumping stuff here in Girard because it was free. Moliterno: I'm not surprised. Mayor: Right. Nothing surprises me. Grumley: 4 or 5 cleanouts in the summertime every week. Putting out the one can if there's additional bags... Mayor: Yes. They'll take them. Paolone: That was my concern too with leaves in the Fall. Mayor: No. Everything will still be taken but those extra pickups are what they are charging for. Kren: I presume they are going to be a little more strict enforcement on the 35 lb. limit of bags. If you had something excessively heavy in a bag that still might be an extra.

52-03

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE PERMANENT PART-TIME POSITIONS FOR THE VARIOUS SERVICE AND RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 52-03.

SCHUBERT 2 STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

Mayor: Thank you for suspending and I will tell you that there have been people knocking at the door downstairs trying to get in, they're bothering Julie's people sometimes, bugging zoning people trying to get in. I'm not going to let people come in and I have certain people calling me when's the volleyball going to start, when's, I'm not going to make Mike Cardiero work 8 hours all day and then come down here at night. Now we get these people, we get them hired and we can have some activities slowly starting back again.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-03.

SCHUBERT 2 STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

52-04

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMPENSATION OF THE PART-TIME CITY ENGINEER FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 52-04.

SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY

GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 7IRAFI 2 **MOTION PASSES 6-0** MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-04. **SCHUBERT** STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI 2 **MOTION PASSES 6-0** 52-05 **FIRST READING** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PART-TIME CITY ENGINEER FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 52-05. SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 2 ZIRAFI **MOTION PASSES 6-0** MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-05. SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI 2 **MOTION PASSES 6-0 NEW LEGISLATION** MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO PREPARE LEGISLATION CREATING THE ANNUAL **APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024.**

SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI 2 MOTION PASSES 6-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR AMENDING THE DISTRIBUTION RATES FOR INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024. SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI 2 MOTION PASSES 6-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO PREPARE LEGISLATION AMENDING THE ALLOCATION OF CIVIL PENALTIES OF THE TRAFFIC PHOTO MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024.

SCHUBERT STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO 1 ZIRAFI 2 MOTION PASSES 6-0

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND KAY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT POSITION TO \$35,000 PER YEAR.

SCHUBERT 1 STANDOHAR Absent KAY 2 GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND KAY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION CREATING AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSITION FOR THE PARKS.

SCHUBERT 1 STANDOHAR Absent KAY 2 GRUMLEY NO MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 5-1

Zirafi: Is there a salary with that second position? **Schubert:** Yes. \$15 per hour. That will be in the details.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2024.

SCHUBERT 1 STANDOHAR Absent KAY GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO 2 MOLITERNO ZIRAFI MOTION PASSES 6-0

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL