

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 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	PRESENT
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

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND STANDOHAR TO FILE LETTERS FROM DOMINION ENERGY & ROBOCATS WITH COUNCIL AS A WHOLE.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 2
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

52-01

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AULTRA ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP D/B/A AULTCARE/AULTRA OF CANTON, OHIO, FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADD 52-01 TO THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 8, 2024.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADD AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE WELLMAN THEATER PERMANENTLY TO THE AGENDA FOLLOWING ZONING.

President of Council Paolone: What they are going to do is they are going to plug it into the agenda following zoning. It is going to stay on the agenda. We are going to call it Theater Committee. Lily is going to chair. You and Keith are on the committee, and they will report at every meeting like a regular committee.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 7-0

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND STANDOHAR TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 8, 2024 AS AMENDED.

SCHUBERT 1

STANDOHAR 2
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Wes Steiner: 956 Krehl Ave. **President of Council Paolone:** Nice to see you. **Steiner:** Nice to see you too. I liked it better when it was a blinking light at Shannon Road. **Paolone:** So noted. **Steiner:** Can we change that back? What is the story behind it? **Paolone:** I can just tell you that it was broke for a long time. It took a long time to get the part for that Wes. **Steiner:** Well it should have took longer. **Paolone:** I think it is going to stay the way it is because of the school. **Steiner:** Can we do it during the hours of school? **Paolone:** That is something you will have to talk to the mayor and the service director about probably at another time. **Steiner:** During summer? **Paolone:** Zup you want to talk to him? **Mayor Zuppo:** No. **Paolone:** Ok. Nevermind.

Rich DeSalvo: 818 Shannon Rd. **Paolone:** Nice to see you again. **DeSalvo:** I am certainly glad to be here and I love the light being fixed. When the light was blinking there was no stopping on Churchill. They were coming brother and you better be able to get out. **Paolone:** You and Wes could get together. **DeSalvo:** Yea Yea. He'll be alright.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR **MARK ZUPPO** **PRESENT**
Paolone: Welcome. **Mayor Zuppo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. **Paolone:** You're welcome. **Mayor:** We had a busy first 5 days in office. As you will see tonight, we have an ordinance, I know that you guys are not interested in doing a lot of emergency ordinances, but this one I think is very important to make sure that we do not miss out on healthcare for our employees. So, I would ask that you can suspend the rules this evening for ordinance 52-01. Make note of the fact that our wastewater treatment plant superintendent, Howard Zickefoose has retired. Talked to him at the end of '23 so we got that that we are exploring all of our possibilities right now. I am actually in contact with Howard today so we will see what happens. I would like to get some time with Mr. Schubert, are you parks and recreation? **Schubert:** Yes. **Mayor:** I would like to get some time with your committee to discuss some really good ideas that Mr. Cardiero has in recreation. I think you will all be happy to hear those but it will require a few more bucks. One thing I would like to ask you guys to consider this evening, now that the gym is open we are taking a lot of phone calls, people want to start using the gym. That's great. We don't have any employees.

You have Mike and you have Cookie. So I can't possibly, if you've seen any of Mike's work, Mike is a very hardworking guy. We've got to try to find him some help. I would appreciate if you guys would consider a couple of part-timers, permanent part-timers. You guys did seasonal part-timers as we have done for years here and they got one last year and he quit after two weeks and said I can go make more money at McDonald's. So, I am going to ask for legislation this evening for couple of part-timers to be paid \$15/hour, but there are other things we need to talk about Mr. Schubert that require a little bit more time and consideration with your committee. A lot of other stuff going on. I will leave some of that to my well-abled service director, Mr. Ponzio.

COMMENTS:

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

SALVATORE PONZIO

PRESENT

Salvatore Ponzio: Thank you, Mayor. **Paolone:** Welcome Sal. **Ponzio:** It's good to be here. It is my first meeting everybody so be kind. We had a bid opening today for garbage services in Girard. Julie, the auditor, was there and myself attended. We opened the bids at 11:00 am. Republic Services was the lowest and best bidder. This bid included this is part of the bid specifications, it included 1-96 gallon cart for every resident. We have 3,945 customers in Girard. So, part of the bid was a little higher from last year, but part of the bid, the reason it was higher, is because there was a few hundred thousand dollars involved in these receptacles and so they kind of amortized it over a two year period, about \$150,000 in each of the first two-years of the contract. I believe it was a two-year contract with a potential of five years total with extensions, and the price increases were rather small after the first year. I think the auditor can tell you what the numbers are and what the percentages are going forward. I think the mayor is going to ask for legislation to get this contract completed and passed. The next thing, I just want to reiterate the healthcare issue. It has been a long problem in the City of Girard. Employees deserve a quality healthcare plan and our hope in dealing with Mike Zaluski is that by passing this tonight we will be able to get cards in their hands before the month. The next thing is Dennis Meek. Dennis has expressed a desire to eventually retire for his own reasons. He has been gracious enough to stay for a transition period. He is willing to stay here a minimum of 3 more months while we, we are putting out requests for publications for engineering services this week. We will go through the process, find another firm that can handle the job. Dennis will work with them for the next couple of months. He has lots of big projects that are going on currently that he felt strongly about having him there to get the next engineering firm up to speed. He cares about Girard and doesn't want to see anything fall by the wayside. Currently we have extended his contract. He is just listed as a contract employee I believe. Not employee, an independent contractor. **Auditor:** Correct. **Ponzio:** I think we are going to ask for legislation to make him a just a part time employee so that he can be insured under the city's insurance plan for his engineering services. It would be a temporary thing. I think Joe Sanson is also part of that package. Him and Dennis work closely together. We spoke to both of them. So that is what is going on with engineering services. There is a lot more than I thought that he was involved with including the wastewater treatment plant is a big part of what is going on down there so we don't want to lose Dennis until we have someone else in place that can handle the job he is doing. The last thing though that I just wanted to bring up, Eastgate reached out to me. I got an email today. I was asking about the Wellman theater. Our submission of our grant for the Wellman Theater was not included in the submission for the Appalachian grant. I was told it was a one-time deal so unfortunately we are not getting any money from that grant for the Wellman Theater this year. CT Consultants had done the work for the grant. They have some numbers here. There is a list of things that need repaired. Obviously, like the roof, bathrooms coming up to code, the electric. There's a list and the total came to \$1,250,000 for the suggested repairs. So, I just wanted to give council a head's up that that is what he knows as of today about that.

COMMENTS:

Mayor: Just a point on Dennis. When we mention insurance we are not talking about healthcare insurance. We are talking about errors and omissions insurance. So, if we could have kept him in a consultant's role and got him errors and omissions insurance, we talked to our insurance people and it is way too expensive. We would have to insure him for the whole year. So if we put him on as a part-time employee as he was before, whether it was right or wrong, we can, he would be covered under the city's liability insurance and that is what we are trying to make sure that all of the work he is doing we are covered. One other point on the Wellman, we thought that this round for this year on the Appalachian grant and we were notified that this is it. It was a one-year deal. There is no next year. With all of the grant money out there we are still going to look for it.

Councilman Zirafi: When are you going to have an update on Niles water? **Ponzio:** I think that is part of Brian's report. **Zirafi:** Oh that's part of Brian's report. Then I'll wait. It'll give him something to do.

Councilman Moliterno: Question. On Dennis's agreement. Does that include PERS? **Mayor:** Right. **Moliterno:** So it includes PERS, no health insurance. PERS is included so we still have to pay our **Mayor:** Even part time rec workers you have to do PERS, right Julie? **Auditor:** Yes. **Moliterno:** Just asking again because the type of employee would have a lot to do with that. Sal, from your end our auditor did provide us with all of those numbers \$1.25 million and what they were all for. I didn't know that that was done by CT. **Ponzio:** That's who did that **Moliterno:** That's fine but we had just talked about that from a committee standpoint about prioritizing where we need to go first and obviously we'll sit down with the administration as Lily brings our committee together to do that but at least we know CT is a very excellent engineering firm and at least I know where that came from.

Councilwoman Martuccio: Regarding the Appalachian grant, my understanding was that we were on the reserve with the Wellman Theater project and no **Ponzio:** That's not what we were told. We were told it was not submitted by Guy Coviello. We were told that that did not, the other two ones we did get submitted for sidewalks and downtown improvements, but that one did not make the submission so there's no chance for it to make the submission and he told us that it was over and the money would be distributed this year. It's not like there would be a second round next year. That's what they told me. **Martuccio:** I understood it that we were on a reserve that if all of the monies were not used up or some project got cancelled that we would move up on the list. **Mayor:** They don't have a list below the main list. There is no guarantee with the two we have submitted. There is no guarantee we are getting anything. You know that, right. And one other point as far as Niles. I contacted Mayor Mientkiewicz from Niles and Brian contacted their law director and we are meeting with them on the 17th to discuss water.

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren: The mayor just stole my report. Back to the engineers. There is an existing ordinance for the engineer's position which presumably is what would be coming forth for possible amendment for Dennis's pay that they are looking at putting on when Dave Hall was here, but if we are adding a second person that would require another ordinance.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley: I am totally confused on the engineering. I mean a month ago we couldn't use them as part-timers so what do we need to do to make this correct? **Attorney Kren:** What I just said. **Grumley:** So when are we going to do this? **Kren:** Whenever council wants to. **Mayor:** We have to ask for new legislation this evening. **Grumley:** When are they going to start? **Mayor:** He is already working under a contractual agreement. We signed a contract with them to work contractually for now as a consultant, as an independent consultant. He is asking for, and with Joe Sanson, and he is asking for this so he can have the insurance. He just couldn't get insurance to be covered, and we would want him to be covered insurance wise. It does us both good. **Paolone:** So Brian you want two ordinances if I'm correct. **Kren:** Well you need one amending and one creating a new one. **Paolone:** So bring the old one back on the agenda and create a new one. **Grumley:** Moving forward with the engineer I don't know that we've ever as a council body hired an engineering firm to cover the whole city. Since Dave Hall I don't think we've done that so before we go out and get involved with a contract let's get the committee involved so we can have some dialogue, so we all know what is going on and I know that is part of the plan. **Ponzio:** Just so you know Tom, the request for qualifications just has the engineering firms who are interested send in their qualifications then the committee gets together and we score on a sheet who the best people are. They will be kind of our consultants then and take Dennis's place. That engineering firm hopefully can do a lot of the work that we want them to and to be on a retainer for the City of Girard. Beyond the scope of that, they will help us pick specialized engineering services, they will help us pick that firm that can perform that work. Right now Dennis did that too, selected doing the soil studies up by the dam. He selected that engineering firm that has the qualities that warranted that service, so that is my understanding how it's going to work going forward. **Grumley:** There was never no set cap. You know we would see it in the check balances at the end of the month and you know and we would just continue seeing it just go up and up, so he thinks we need more dialogue between administration and council so we are all on the same page. **Mayor:** That is exactly what we are trying to do, Tom. So you paid them almost a million dollars over a six year period of time without ever being consulted. We are letting you know up front that this is what we want to do and we told you we want to be transparent. We want you to be involved in all of this. So the reason he couldn't be, the old ordinance situation being paid part-time is because they found that wasn't the proper way to do it. The law director said there needed to be a city ordinance passed to make it a part time employee. It wasn't already on the books so now we are looking for the Dave Hall, the old engineer, and the part-time assistant engineer to be brought for you to vote on. Moving forward that is exactly what we plan on doing is meeting with your committees. **Moliterno:** Tom is right. Obviously, this has never come to council in the past since Dave Hall left, but the legislation that

Brian is talking about it would have a cap on it because it would have a salary for both, so the one that we had in the past did have actual numbers in it, so we have to determine if we proceed if that's how we are going to do it this time, even for the three months, and determine in conjunction again with the administration how far we want to go and what we want to put down with that. It also would have to include the PERS and the match and everything else that we are talking about giving to these individuals. One is a fresh piece of legislation Brian, and the other one is just bringing up the old one we used with Dave? Am I correct in that? **Kren:** Correct. Now I am getting myself confused, but I think what we are talking about is for the short term, but engineering services outside are not, they have their own separate procedure under Ohio Revised Code separate from just professional services so we have to put this request out for qualifications and then long term projects we would have legislation to retain "X" firm that is not going to be an employee. I think this employee business **Mayor:** This is short term. **Kren:** It is short term, yes.

AUDITOR **JULIE COGGINS** **PRESENT**

Auditor: No report tonight. At the next finance meeting I will go over how we ended the year, all of our numbers, discussions moving into this new year. I also want to say that Aultra, the healthcare company, I also sat with them and they seem like they are going to be wonderful to work with so that is something that I also feel should be passed tonight. I don't know if anybody had any questions for me regarding Republic or the garbage.

COMMENTS:

Martuccio: I'm sorry to backtrack. This is back to the healthcare for the employees. Everybody is covered through the end of the month from WJ? **Auditor:** Yes. **Martuccio:** Is that expiration date on the 31st? **Auditor:** Yes. They are covered until the end of the month but we would like to get everything moving. Like I said earlier, we could get healthcare cards out to everybody and everybody set up. **Paolone:** That is why we need this passed tonight. **Mayor:** One other point regarding healthcare Lily, is that it is a 15/12 contract so what the problems we have had with the past carrier. They will take responsibility for the last three months. Our new people. It is up to them then to get make sure those bills are paid. These guys are service oriented. People are going to pick up the phone when you call. They did a great job and I think they plan on coming in to meet with Julie and the administration at least once a month. **Auditor:** Mike was in my office today. Their two representatives are coming in on Wednesday. **Mayor:** Turnaround time is, bills are submitted to them they get paid within 10-14 days. **Martuccio:** Mr. Zaluski did a great presentation in December 10th and I was in favor, on board with it at that point so yea I'm glad you had the time to meet with them.

TREASURER **ABSENT**

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF **JAMES PETRUZZI** **PRESENT**

Chief Petruzzi: Looking back on 2023, it's like a broken record, we ended with another record number of calls for service ending at 2409 calls. 2024 year total so far we are at 38 calls for service and this past Saturday at noon we attempted to do our monthly tornado siren test, two of the sirens malfunctioned, I contacted the maintenance company today and they are looking into it and getting somebody out to diagnose and correct the problem.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF **JOHN NORMAN** **ABSENT**

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask for caucus time at 6:30 prior to the next council meeting on the 22nd for a finance committee meeting.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

Councilman Kay: No report Mr. Chairman.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Schubert: I will get with my committee and get with the administration on a time and a date to further discuss some options in the parks.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley: I would like to ask for caucus time for a 10 second meeting at 6:00 pm to look at feasibility of returned ambulance service.

COMMENTS:

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Standohar: As I always do at the first meeting of the year, I encourage all councilpersons, weather permitting when there is not snow or ice on the roads, drive around the City of Girard and put in any recommendations into my committee or the administration, I’m sure they will also have their lists, of any roads, streets in the city that they feel should be prioritized in paving program coming up in 2024.

COMMENTS:

Grumley: I would just like to remind the chairman that at the end of last year’s paving we did mention that streets that weren’t taken care of last year would be prioritized this year. **Standohar:** I understand that, but some new things may have occurred also that should be brought to our attention.

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi: No report at this time.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: No report.

COMMENTS:

THEATER COMMITTEE-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: What is the best way to make an appointment to meet with you? Should I email? Call the office? **Mayor:** You all have my cell. **Martuccio:** Ok. Good. **Mayor:** Sal and I kept our cell numbers. If you don’t have Sal’s I think you all have mine. We are not taking company phones so we are saving a couple bucks there. We are not going to use city vehicles. We have already asked some of the other departments if they could use a spare vehicle or two. **Martuccio:** Thank you.

COMMENTS:

RULES-GRUMLEY-STANDOHAR-SCHUBERT

Councilman Grumley: If anybody has anything, look over the rules and bring it to me. I’d like to wrap this up by the first meeting in February.

COMMENTS:

Paolone: Once we get these rules passed we’ll remove this from the agenda.

ORDINANCES

52-01

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AULTRA ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP D/B/A AULTCARE/AULTRA OF CANTON, OHIO, FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITYS HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 52-01.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2

MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-01.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 7-0

Paolone: Before I go to new legislation, Chief Norman wants you to know that you will no longer get a delivered packet. You have to pick it up like we used to at the window at the police station. Monica will do her best to have them ready by **Clerk:** I will try to have them ready by Thursday night. **Paolone:** She will try to have them ready by Thursday night. If you're not sure call. **Clerk:** If I get everything. **Kren:** The only reason she wouldn't have them by Thursday is because of me. There was discussion amongst everyone.

NEW LEGISLATION

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MOLITERNO TO PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR TWO NEW PART-TIME PERMANENT POSITIONS IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR \$15 PER HOUR NOT TO EXCEED 29 HOURS PER WEEK.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 2
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND STANDOHAR FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPENSATION IN THE CURRENT ENGINEERING ORDINANCE.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 2
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR AN ASSISTANT PART TIME ENGINEER FOR NOT MORE THAN 29 HOURS PER WEEK.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

Mayor: I would like to thank Julie and Brian for being very cooperative in our first week and all of the employees, Monica and the staff have been very cooperative and I appreciate it.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2024.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL