

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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	ABSENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAM ZIRAFI	PRESENT

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN GRUMLEY FROM THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

President of Council Paolone: We have two pieces of communication. One is from our law director that I am not going to read because War and Peace was shorter and the other one is Ohio Department of Liquor Control for a liquor license transfer. Sal, do we want to contest this? **Salvatore Ponzio:** We do not want to contest this. **Paolone:** I need a motion to not contest.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND KAY TO NOT REQUEST A HEARING OF THE OHIO DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL FOR TRUMBULL GROCERY.

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

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MOLITERNO TO FILE THE LAW DIRECTOR’S LEGAL OPINION REGARDING THE RECREATION POSITIONS WITH COUNCIL AS A WHOLE.

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

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND SCHUBERT TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR Abstain
KAY
GRUMLEY Absent
MARTUCCIO 1
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 5-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ed Semple, 1571 Oak Street: None of this is criticism of anybody or anything. This is just something I think you guys have to think about here. I am going to address this to the service director because it is in his box. I got this letter today from Constellation, which is a company that gives the gas prices, and they are telling me to opt out and I thought it was the city's. Really. I thought it was the city's deal with Constellation. They are telling me that I can opt out from a rate of \$3.99 per mcf. I am going something is wrong here. The city's rate is \$5.99. The city actually negotiated a rate of \$5.99 which is \$2 more than

the Trumbull County aggregate. We can join the Trumbull County aggregate when this is done and everybody in the town can get \$3.99. \$3.99 compared to what we already negotiated at \$5.99. I am not criticizing anybody because it is not fair having not been in the office or sitting there. Who knows what the rate was back then. The rate might have been \$6 or something and \$5.99 might have been a good deal back then, but the city is roped into \$5.99 per mcf for anybody in city that wants to be in the gas aggregate as a Girard citizen but at the same time we could be a part of the Trumbull County aggregate. The guy on the phone was arguing with me. He's telling me what are you talking about, you are in Trumbull County. You get the Trumbull County rate. No. I didn't take city's aggregate because I found one less than \$5.99 but I told him his person told me I couldn't have it and then they finally figured it out. Girard had an aggregate separate from the county. So, I am asking the administration to seriously look at that because when that contract is up, when that aggregate is up you guys can do it. You can get in the Trumbull County aggregate. Same company \$2 more per mcf. **President of Council Paolone:** And Mr. Semple if you are over 65 you get \$3.89 because I get it for \$3.89. I don't think you're over 65 but if you were then it would be \$3.89. It is actually \$.10 cheaper if you are over 65. It has been that way for about a year. I wish you would have called me. There was discussion between Mr. Semple and Mr. Paolone.

Greg Greathouse: I am the 3rd ward councilperson in Warren, Ohio. I am also the finance committee chairperson and the utilities committee chairperson. I just wanted to let Girard know that the City of Warren has taken the first step into acquiring and converting the Ohio Edison Warren streetlights to leds. Fuel efficient. It will cost us about \$2.8 million to convert it once we get done with the six rounds of bare knuckle boxing involved with taking those away from Ohio Edison. We have just taken our first step. It is an audit. We actually have boots on the ground from a company in San Francisco. They are walking the entire City of Warren counting the streetlights, taking 20 data points at each light and then that will give us an accurate count on the number of lights that we have. I worked for Ohio Edison for 30 years and we never counted the lights in my 30 years. I've been gone 20 and I know they haven't done it in the last 20. They don't know how many lights they have in the city. I know how many lights they bill us for, but the company that we have contracted with says they normally find a 10% discrepancy between what you are being billed for and what is actually there. I'd invite, I'd really like to sit down and talk with perhaps the mayor and perhaps the utility committee chairperson. **Paolone:** That would be Sam sitting right in front of you. I'd be happy to me with you afterwards and give you the gory details. **Paolone:** We need your name and address. **Greathouse:** I'm sorry. I live at 378 Bonnie Brae NE in Warren, Ohio. **Paolone:** Thank you for coming.

MAYOR

MARK ZUPPO

PRESENT

Mayor Zuppo: I apologize for being late. Double overtime. Just a couple of things. I am going to be asking for the water policy ordinance which the law director researched and found for me. I'll be asking for that to be brought to the table for amendment. We have contracted with KO Consulting for grant writing services for \$3,000 a month. We have met with them a few times, talked to the mayor of Campbell, Brian Tedesco, talked to the mayor of Struthers, Cat Miller, talked to Laura Carey at the Multi Generational Center they have all utilized this service from this company and they all speak very highly of them. We have checked all of their references. Almost guarantee that that money will be worth 10 times that in grants. So we already have them working on some stuff and we are working on prioritizing those things right now. I wanted to mention that the safety service director and I went to the new health department last week. We met with them for a couple of hours. Frank laid out the red carpet for us and

we think that there are services that we have at our disposal that we haven't utilized to the fullest extent and we have already reaped some benefits from those meetings and working on some blighted homes, water shutoffs, things of that nature. I wanted to announce tonight that we are going to start an employee of the month program. We kicked it around with some of the employees, some of the department heads. As our recently deceased Willie Constantino was one of the great city employees ever. He did his work impeccably, cleaned up his work, always had a smile on his face, was civic minded. We want to call the award the Willie Constantino employee of the month award. We are going to be asking for the seasonal workers for recreation this evening. We are going to be asking for, let's just call it the Buddy Bornemiss ordinance for recreation director which is what Mr. Cardiero should actually be under that. We are going to ask for that to be brought back for amendment next meeting. We are going to ask for, we'll call it the Randy Weibel ordinance, the building and grounds director ordinance to be brought back for amendment at the next meeting as well. Pending your questions that concludes my report.

COMMENTS:

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

SALVATORE PONZIO

PRESENT

Salvatore Ponzio: First thing I want to congratulate Mike Scoville. He is going to be the new superintendent at the wastewater treatment plant. He accepted the job. He is going to start February 18th this month. Mike has been a long-time employee. He has all of the licenses that are required to run the plant efficiently and a lot of knowledge from being there a long time. He is going to be a real asset for us and he has been. Mark and I have a meeting with the civil service commission tomorrow conducting oral interviews for the police department. The police chief tells us he needs at least 3 new officers. He is running short. Mandating overtime. We just had one police officer resign and get a job with Youngstown, so we lost another one. Hopefully, we can take care of that for John as soon as possible. We also got a call about a week and a half, two weeks ago from the American Legion. They have some members that are handicap and they asked us to help them with some handicap parking on High Street where they can enter without steps at the back of the building there. So, with the help of the police chief, fire chief, and Tommy Watts at the street department we reviewed it, Brian made sure I was doing everything legal, it took awhile to do that to make three handicap parking places there. So we've already last week when the weather was nice Tommy got the signs in and made the markings. There was a fire hydrant there so they marked that also because you can't park there. There's a sign for that too. The American Legion was very grateful and we told them anything we can do to help we would always be willing to help them. That's all I have today.

COMMENTS:

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren: No real question. The mayor touched upon my legal opinion letter that was in the packet. Well council can create the positions I am still a little unclear of having job description and stuff having two separate directors in the same department. I mean you can have the two full time employees but typically there would only be one non-union director in the department. I'm not sure how the second position would be handled or what the job description would be for that. It would have to be hashed out before we prepare the legislation for next week.

COMMENTS:

AUDITOR

JULIE COGGINS

PRESENT

Ms. Coggins: I have no report this evening just at the next finance meeting I want to go over in detail the appropriations for the year and some of the changes and answer any questions and whatnot.

COMMENTS:

TREASURER

HENRY SFORZA

PRESENT

Mr. Sforza: Just real quick, the last couple of weeks I got set up with RITA so now I have access to all the city records on RITA. I printed out a couple of reports just for fun. One, the monthly distribution report if you look at shows what the distribution was in January of this year compared to '23 and '22 so you get a little comparison. I printed out another report that shows the total tax collected for like the last ten years based on the type of tax that came from withholding, net profit. You can take a look at it. If you have any questions let me know. It just gives you a little bit of information. I filed 2023 tax certification with the State of Ohio today so that is done annually online so I did that. Tonight I got my city email set up so if anybody ever has a question you can email me. My email is hsforza@cityofgirardohio.gov

COMMENTS:

Mayor: Point of clarification. It is cityofgirardoh. Ohio is oh. **Sforza:** You're right. Cityofgirardoh.gov. Thank you.

FIRE CHIEF

JAMES PETRUZZI

PRESENT

Chief Petruzzi: 2024 runs to date, 251. The only other thing I have right now is we are still working on diagnosing the issues with the weather sirens. I contacted our radio company. They will be out as soon as possible to run some tests on the system to see if we can get them back working again. **Paolone:** They are not working now? **Petruzzi:** No.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF

JOHN NORMAN

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just would like to ask for caucus time 6:30 prior to our next meeting which is the 26th to hold our finance committee meeting. If I could ask also, when we get all of our computers back, Monica if you could provide a full list of all of the administrative emails to all of the members of council we would certainly appreciate it. I know Henry gave us his. **Clerk:** I have a list I will forward. **Moliterno:** That's perfect. Thank you.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

Councilman Kay: No report, but you had a 6-6:30 for the next meeting for safety? Is that already on the books? **Paolone:** Yes. **Kay:** I just want 5 minutes maybe for economic development for someone interested in buying a city owned parcel. Just five minutes for economic development. I don't know if I need to put that on the books. **Paolone:** What is at 6 o'clock? Several people responded health and safety. **Paolone:** Can we take five minutes from that? **Moliterno:** Tom has asked for that for health and safety at the next meeting. Five minutes is fine that won't be a problem. **Kay:** He's 6-6:15 so just

somewhere at some point. There was further discussion regarding the schedule. **Paolone:** You got that Monica? There will be three, 6-6:15, 6:15-6:30 and 6:30-7.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Schubert: I will get with the administration with regards to Mr. Kren's concerns over the positions and we will iron that out and get back to council.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Moliterno: No report other than to again clarify that the meeting is at 6 o'clock next time. We will try to keep it to 15 minutes and then Jeff will have as much time as he needs. **Paolone:** That's what Monica will put, 6-6:15, 6:15-6:30 and 6:30-7.

COMMENTS:

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Standohar: No report.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi: I am going to be in the next couple of months sitting down with my committee members and start going over the garbage levies and what we need based on the next five year contract. What is going to be required from the general fund to subsidize that going forward since we all know that the levies are fixed and never going to change. We will be talking about a few other issues, but I am just putting everybody on notice that we intend to start moving forward on certain utility issues.

COMMENTS:

Paolone: Good. Good idea.

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: I would like to ask for a 6:30 zoning committee meeting on Monday, March 11th. Also there is a block watch meeting at the Girard Library this Thursday, February 15th at 6:00 pm.

COMMENTS:

THEATER COMMITTEE-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: No report

COMMENTS:

RULES-GRUMLEY-STANDOHAR-SCHUBERT

Councilman Standohar: No report

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

52-02

SECOND 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.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-02.

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

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-02.

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

52-06

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE NUMBER 307.11 ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATION OF CIVIL PENALTIES OF THE TRAFFIC PHOTO-MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND KAY TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 52-06.

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

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND KAY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 52-06.

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

52-07

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DISTRIBUTION RATES FOR INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024 AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.

52-08

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE CREATING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 IN THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

NEW LEGISLATION

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND KAY TO AMEND THE WATER POLICY ORDINANCE.

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

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO AMEND THE RECREATION DIRECTOR POSITION ORDINANCE.

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

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO AMEND THE BUILDING & GROUNDS SUPERVISOR POSITION ORDINANCE.

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

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND STANDOHAR TO AMEND THE SEASONAL WORKER ORDINANCE.

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

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND ZIRAFI TO MOVE THE APRIL 8TH COUNCIL MEETING TO TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH AT 7:00 PM BECAUSE HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE A SOLAR ECLIPSE WE CAN SEE WITH GLASSES.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024.

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

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL