

**MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	ABSENT
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

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MOLITERNO TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN SCHUBERT FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2024.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF APRIL 22, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Rich De Salvo, 818 Shannon Rd., Girard. **Mr. DeSalvo:** I would like to talk a little water if you don't mind. I read all of the comments and the information on the delinquent bills. It is just mindboggling, and I know I am not blaming the current administration because I know where it came from, but to allow those bills

to do that is, I mean we need a fix in the water department is what we need. We don't need to raise the water rates for the people that are paying their bills every two months. I mean we are already one of the highest water rate billing situations in the tri-county area and now you want right off the bat raise the water rates again. I understand you're saying well they weren't raised since 2017. Well I fought with them in 2017 about raising them too. I mean you know it's crazy. We need to, I mean maybe we need need new policies in the water department. Maybe we need another person in the water dept. Maybe we need to start shutting some water off. You know if you're \$10,000 in the hole with the electric company you're not having any power. I guarantee these people are paying their cell phone bills. This is crazy and then you want the people that pay their bills to fork over more money. I would really and I know you're working on it. You're doing the best that you can and I would just appreciate it if you would take a hard look at the water department. Not that the people aren't working hard but maybe we need another person, but we need to do something to change the policy. Do something other than first thing we're gonna do is raise the water rate. I would just appreciate if you would do what you could before that's the case of raising the water.

President of Council: Mark's got you Rich.

Mayor: Thanks Rich. The delinquent water bills when we came in, it's documented, was \$416,000. That number is down to a little over \$200,000 and it's because of the diligence of the people in the water department. They are doing a good job. It is not anybody in the water department's fault. There was no policy. There wasn't a policy. There now is a policy and we make people sign a contract. We have shut off more water in the last three months probably than has been shut off I don't know I don't have statistics, but I guarantee we have shut off more than they have ever shut off. People I have known my whole life and they call me and they go well hey give me a break. There are no breaks. I pay my water bill. You pay your water bill. We want to show compassion if people are struggling. I will tell you publicly here is what the program is. If you have a delinquent water bill and you get a notice from us, a red tag which means we are going to shut your water off you have to pay 50% of it like the next day. You pay 50% of what is delinquent and then you sign a contract to pay the rest off interest free, you can't be more compassionate than that, over, up to a 16 month period of time. You miss your payment one month, your water gets shut back off. I think our water department people are doing a great job. They are working hard, and they're, quite frankly, they're happy with this policy because they pay their water bills. I can assure you that we're working if rates have to be addressed at some point here it is not because of that Rich. It is because of what is going on in the City of Niles. The City of Niles and that situation and we are in negotiations with them, we have been since I started on January 2nd. We have been talking to them every week almost since then and we have final, we had a session last week and I think we kind of came to an agreement but I don't want to announce anything yet until we've got all the i's dotted and t's crossed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Pat Baltic, 238 E. Kline. **Ms. Baltic:** Just a personal validation for Jimmy and the fire department. All of you guys. We had a family member less than a month ago, maybe a month ago, showed all the signs of a stroke. The fire department made it to Krehl in less than 3 minutes. We waited for an ambulance over 20 minutes. I could have put him in the car and driven him to the hospital faster than what they got there. That is all I wanted to say.

Paolone: Thank you mame. Thanks for coming.

Don Lisowski, 1520 Coitsville Rd., Youngstown, Ohio. **Mr. Lisowski:** I am going to speak for the fire department. On 2/25/21 I was involved in an industrial accident. I fell from a ladder 14 feet and exploded my left femur and tore up my knees. I was a shift supervisor, so I had to call 911 myself. I asked for an ambulance and fire rescue. The ambulance attendants got there. Two little girls. Probably weighed half of what I do between the both of them. I was on an elevated table about 8 feet off the floor. I was in excruciating pain screaming. I didn't feel comfortable at that time until the fire department arrived. The ambulance girls were trying to get my statistics, my pulse and everything and trying get an iv started in my arms. They couldn't do it. Probably four attempts and couldn't do it. The firemen took over. They scrubbed my arms. They got ivs in me and they got the pain medication in me and they got me so I could quit screaming in pain. They got me on a stilts basket, and it took them over an hour and 15 minutes to get me extricated from where I was at. Without the fire department I don't know where I would be. They couldn't get the iv started. I couldn't get pain medication. I couldn't quit screaming. It's the worst pain I have ever been in in my entire life. I am grateful to the Girard Fire Department for all they did for me that day.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

MARK ZUPPO

PRESENT

Mayor: I want to thank Councilwoman Martuccio, Councilman Grumley, Law Director, Mr. Kren, Cosmo, and Safety Service Director for helping out on cleanup day last Saturday. It was successful. I want to thank the high school robotics team, Judy Barber and Ashroff Hadi, BETA club, Eric Pellegrini for sending a bunch of really great kids to help out. I would ask you to consider suspending the rules this evening. You all signed a letter thanking Trumbull County Commissioners for the ambulance. I would appreciate it if you would suspend the rules and accept the ambulance at this point. The longer we put it off the longer it's going to take to get the new ambulance. Civic's Day is this Friday as a reminder. 8 o'clock, Girard High School library. I would really like to know tonight, you don't have to tell me now, at the end of the meeting let us know, send us an email or a text and let us know if you're going to be there or not. Last year the school participation was great. The city participation was, with the exception of Lily, I know Mr. Schubert already told me he would be there Friday. If anybody else can make it we'd sure love to have you. The court does a great job of helping out and doing the mock trial with Kurt Latell taking the leadership in that role so I appreciate that. One other thing. I just want to point out that I met with the owners of Provence Mills today. The owners there, great young ladies. I have to question the one young lady's taste in men but you know it's a long story. They are having a sip, shop and socialize event this Friday at 5 pm. I'm going to go. I think anything you can do to support Girard local business. I know Councilwoman Martuccio is big on that. They want to get involved in doing some things in the community. I think if we show them the support we are going to see it come back to us tenfold.

COMMENTS:

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR

SALVATORE PONZIO

PRESENT

Mr. Ponzio: I had a meeting with Police Chief Norman today and I'll be asking for legislation to purchase 3 new police cruisers at state pricing to be financed for a period of not more than four years for a total of \$201,945. John indicated that if we do this the police department will be set with vehicles for the next five years so I will be asking for that. I just want to reiterate what Mark asked again. I would like us to suspend the rules and pass this ordinance for new ambulance so I can continue filling out the paperwork from Trumbull County, issue a PO and get this ambulance ordered from Penn Care.

COMMENTS:

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren: Just a few housecleaning items. I don't know if council remembers, but in years past we have to pass an ordinance in order to put on used equipment for sale on our personal website. I talked with administration and there may be some things coming up for sale, but that is something that for whatever reason under Ohio Revised Code we have to pass every year. So even though we have passed it in the past I'll be asking for that for the next meeting. Secondly, over the last couple years I know we have passed a few tobacco related ordinances at the request of the Trumbull County Health Department. After a discussion with Mr. Migliozzi from the county health department the state in their last budget put a restriction on cities being able to prohibit tobacco products in the parks and other sites. However, there has been an injunction, I think Columbus challenged it, but we are going to be monitoring that but if it turns out we can't enforce anything, I would like to have council rescind these ordinances so we don't have these unenforceable ordinances on the books. Just giving you notice now and we'll wait and see what happens with the court system.

Paolone: You said housecleaning. Do we have to do the ordinance for those that can't afford a lawyer. Don't we do that every year? **Kren:** That comes in from the county. **Paolone:** We don't have that now? I know that popped in my mind when you said housecleaning. **Kren:** They send us the contract and then I prepare the legislation.

COMMENTS:

AUDITOR

JULIE COGGINS

PRESENT

Ms. Coggins: Nothing further from the finance meeting.

COMMENTS:

TREASURER

HENRY SFORZA

PRESENT

Mr. Sforza: I have nothing further either.

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF

JAMES PETRUZZI

PRESENT

Chief Petruzzi: Calls to date 663. I appreciate the opportunity to present the information on trying to get an ambulance and I would absolutely appreciate your support.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF

JOHN NORMAN

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno: Short meeting this evening again with both our auditor and our treasurer there. It's still early in the year. We are off on the camera revenue which we hope to see will go up here in the next couple of months and I know we are down a little bit on the income tax, but nothing that is bothersome just yet so we'll continue to watch all of that.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

Councilman Kay: No report. Mr. Mayor, 5 o'clock on Friday at Provence Mills? That's this Friday? **Mayor:** Yes it is. **Kay:** Alright. So like wine, what are we sipping there? I'll be there sip and socialize. **Mayor:** Yes. Whatever is there and do a little shopping. Bring your lady and I'm sure she'll be happy doing that. **Kay:** Alright. Sounds good. Thank you.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Standohar: No report.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley: We met this evening to discuss the ambulance and I'd like to thank the chief for his PowerPoint presentation and that's all I have this evening.

COMMENTS:

STREETS/SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Standohar: I heard the budget from madame auditor is down, probably stay down below \$200,000 so I guess we will be discussing that among the committee members and meeting with the administration to discuss the street paving program with that adjusted budget from the auditor.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi: No report

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: Just want to mention ditto to what the mayor said on thanking everyone on participating clean-up. Some of the statistics on that clean-up came to 92 bags of trash picked up, 10 tires and 2 mattresses and about 13 miles of road were covered. Thanks to our sponsors, Metallico of Youngstown and Geauga Trumbull Waste Management District and the students and the adults, everyone that participated. It was wonderful. Thank you. I would like to thank the citizens for their comments tonight and I'm still wanting to look at some zoning issues with the mayor and law director.

Mayor: I just got to talk to Brian about that before the meeting so we are going to set up a time when we can get together.

COMMENTS:

THEATER-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: For the theater I would like to set up a committee meeting for May 13th at 6:45 and any councilman or whoever can attend. **Paolone:** Here? **Martuccio:** Yes. **Paolone:** 6:45? **Martuccio:** Yes. 6:45.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

52-14 **THIRD READING**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY AND HOURS FOR THE POSITIONS OF PART-TIME RENTAL/ZONING INSPECTORS.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND KAY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 52-14.

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

Kay: This is our third reading. Are we going retroactive on this as far as when it first came up or does this start when we pass this. **Mayor:** No. I think it starts on passage.

52-15 **SECOND READING**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A CITY AMBULANCE AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.

Moliterno: Historically I am hesitant to ever suspend legislation but after the presentation from the chief today, which I thought was very well done, I think it is time we start this process to give our fire department a chance to move forward with this, and again I want to thank the commissioners for having given us this so I am going to move to suspend 52-15.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO SUSPEND THE THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE 52-15.

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

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 52-15.

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

NEW LEGISLATION

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO PURCHASE THREE NEW POLICE CRUISERS AT STATE PRICING TO BE FINANCED FOR NOT LONGER THAN FOUR YEARS FOR A TOTAL OF \$201,945.

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

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO PREPARE LEGISLATION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

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

Moliterno: Brian, do we need to bring the legislation back up with regard to tobacco? **Kren:** We don't know yet. **Moliterno:** It's on our books now correct? **Kren:** It is on our books. The state legislature said you can't do that now and the City of Columbus, I believe, filed an injunction saying you can't do that and challenging that law. So far we're good. **Moliterno:** I mean we have baseball season right around the corner. That's where it happens. When you go to the parks. We need to take action before that if we're going to change it. **Kren:** As of right now our tobacco ban is still in force. **Kay:** Can't we just add the word please to the sign and be done?

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2024.

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

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL