

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL
Monday, September 28, 2020

Call to Order:

Medina City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President of Council Pro-Tem Jim Shields who led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

The roll was called with the following members of Council present: D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields. B. Lamb was absent.

Also present were the following members of the Administration: Acting Mayor John Coyne, Keith Dirham, Lori Bowers, Greg Huber, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Chief Kinney, Kimberly Marshall, Jansen Wehrley, and Kathy Patton.

Minutes:

Mr. Simpson moved that the minutes from the regular meeting on September 14, 2020 as prepared and submitted by the Clerk be approved. Seconded by Mr. Rose. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yeas votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Finance Committee: Mr. Shields stated they met prior to this evenings Council Meeting and will meet again in 2 weeks on Tuesday, October 13th.

Health, Safety & Sanitation Committee: Mr. Simpson had no report, is looking to schedule a meeting for updates on the Police, Fire and Sanitation Department hopefully mid to late October or early November.

Public Properties Committee: Mr. Shields had no report.

Special Legislation Committee: Mr. Lamb was absent.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee: Mr. Heffinger had no report.

Water & Utilities Committee: Mrs. Hazeltine had no report.

Emerging Technologies Committee: Mr. Rose had no report.

Requests for Council Action:

Finance Committee

- 20-181-9/28 – Budget Amendments
- 20-182-9/28 – Discuss uses of COVID-19/CARES Funds
- 20-183-9/28 – Then & Now – Ohio Alcohol Monitoring Systems, LLC – Municipal Court
- 20-184-9/28 – Increase P.O. #2020-721 – Davis Tree Farm – Forestry Dept.
- 20-185-9/28 – Discussion – Montville Twp/Medina Twp. Fire Contracts
- 20-186-9/28 – Increase P.O. #2020-625 – Walter Haverfield – Law Dept.
- 20-187-9/28 – Outfit two new 2021 Ford Explorers – Police Dept.
- 20-188-9/28 – Retro Pay / Healthcare Coverage – Probation Officers – Municipal Court

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20-189-9/28 – Approve/Disapprove Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update
20-190-9/28 – Fund Advance Request
20-191-9/28 – Fund Transfer Request – Parking Fund

Reports of Municipal Officers:

John Coyne, Acting Mayor, thanked council for all their hard work.

John stated he has received two emails:

Rick Kirby resides at 246 W. Friendship – Question in regard to feeding the deer and whether or not he can use a local litter ordinance regarding feeding the deer because of all the mess that is made around the ground in feeding them. John spoke with the Law Director and felt it would not be a violation of the Littering Ordinance because it's your own property, however if it attracts rodents and other nuisance on your property then you may have a public nuisance or private nuisance claim that could be brought against you for doing that.

Tammy Kirby also resides at 246 W. Friendship – in regards to the money set aside by the city for the combined courthouse project, is it possible to divert reallocated funds that were allocated to the courthouse project to use elsewhere like possibly to open the Memorial Pool next year instead of using them to build a courthouse with the county. The answer is no, we have no authority as council to dictate the use of the Special Courts Project funds, that is under the jurisdiction of the Judge only. The use is limited to specific court purposes.

Keith Dirham, Finance Director, apologized for his absence at last council meeting and it kind of ties into our first resolution. He was exposed to someone that tested positive with Covid-19 and he had to quarantine for 14 days but he is currently not experiencing any symptoms. The Deputy Finance Director is Acting Finance Director when the Finance Director is out of town, which normally is a planned thing such as if he were going on vacation or something. Lori stepped up and did a great job of covering for many meetings in that two week period on very short notice and he really appreciates the work that she does.

Greg Huber, Law Director, had no report.

Chief Kinney, Police Department, had no report.

Kimberly Marshall, Economic Development Director, stated the Ohio Means Jobs Medina County office in conjunction with Made in Medina County initiative and team are sponsoring a Medina County Manufacturing virtual career fair on Friday, October 2nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 28 companies participating and 12 of those are City of Medina manufacturing employers. Contact Shawn Thomas 330-441-0409 shon.thomas@medinaomj.org

Jonathan Mendel, Planning Community Director, update on behalf of Rec. Center Director Mike Wright in regards to the operations at the Medina Community Recreation Center. The Rec is open Monday through Friday – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All equipment is spatially distanced at 6 feet or more and they have not yet reached the facility limit of 125 individuals at one time. Currently allowing day pass users. Locker rooms are now also available. Silver Sneakers programs such as Land and Water classes are running, and any information

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regarding future sales or programs that will be offered will be communicated through the Medina Community Recreation Center website, Facebook, emails or print ads in the Medina Weekly News.

Chief Painter, Fire Department, was absent.

Mike Wright, Rec. Center Director, was absent.

Jansen Wehrley, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke on behalf of Mike Wright.

Dan Gladish, Building Official, was absent.

Patrick Patton, City Engineer, had no report.

Nino Piccoli, Service Director, thanked Lori Bower and the office workers in the Finance Department for all their hard work.

Notices and petitions:

Unfinished Business:

Introduction of Visitors:

Nathan Case resides at 513 E. Washington St. spoke on the courthouse.

Point in history that thrives on deception. Lately politics are disgusting. Just need to hear the facts – why does proposed legislation have to have hidden motives buried in them? Why does the press have to spin facts and only air part of the quote? Experienced at state and federal level now in our small city. How could they think of tearing down the old courthouse the cornerstone of the square? He felt he was not informed enough to sign the petitions. The fact of the matter is the old 1841 courthouse was never planned to be torn down, there was talk on possibly tearing down the 1969 courthouse at the time but that idea had long passed. The audacity of these petitioners to stand in front of the old courthouse and act like they wanted to protect it was a lie. They want the people of Medina City to use their power of personal representation to vote for city council to relinquish their legislative authority to make decisions at a city level, in other words they want you to not have a choice in a city matter. Does this sound strange to anyone else out there? What is their motive, what do they gain? Nathan fact checked every point and as he does more he will post it on Facebook page: Medina Courthouse Facts. If you vote NO, no courthouse buildings will be demolished, this is a new building not a replacement. Estimated cost of combined project is 38 million, County share is \$30 million and City share is \$8 million. Nowhere near the \$60 million projected by the Save the Courthouse propaganda. Municipal Court saved \$4.3 million over the past 20 years, this money can only be used for court expenditures. Vote “NO” Don’t let your voice be stifled by a few people that created a deceiving cause with ill-informed advertising.

Introduction and Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Motion to suspend the Rules requiring three readings on the following ordinances and resolutions: Res. 164-20, Res. 165-20, Ord. 166-20, Res. 167-20, Ord. 168-20. Ord. 169-20, Ord. 170-20, Ord.

171-20. Mr. Simpson moved to suspend the rules requiring three readings, seconded by Mr. Rose. The roll was called and the motion to suspend passed by the yeas of E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Hazeltine.

Res. 164-20:

A Resolution commending Deputy Finance Director Lori Bowers for her outstanding service to the City of Medina. Mr. Shields presented Deputy Finance Director Lori Bowers with Resolution No. 164-20 commending her for her outstanding service to the City of Medina. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 164-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 164-20 passed by the yeas of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

Res. 165-20:

A Resolution donating twenty-one (21) Optiplex computers to the Medina City Schools. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 165-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Dirham stated these donations are in lieu of these otherwise going to the city auction where they would not have generated much money. They are better served in the schools. Mr. Shields will be abstaining from this vote due to his employment with the Medina City Schools. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 165-20 passed by the yeas of D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and P. Rose. J. Shields abstained.

Ord. 166-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute Preliminary Legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the SR 18 Corridor Improvement Project. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 166-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Simpson moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 166-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Patton stated this expresses the city's consent, support and cooperation, for the SR 18 project starting next year. Emergency clause is needed since we only received this a couple weeks ago. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yeas of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 166-20 passed by the yeas of D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

Res. 167-20:

An Ordinance supporting the Friends of the Cemetery's application to ArbNet seeking to designate Spring Grove Cemetery as an official Arboretum. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 167-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Wehrley stated the Friends of the Cemetery discussed this and contracted with Bartlett Tree Expert Company to do a master plan, an inventory to start the process in order to get the application submitted. The Friends of the Cemetery are requesting a resolution of support to apply for this, they have been committed to investing into the preservation, beautification and maintenance of the gardens and trees at Spring Grove. Jansen did some research to see if the city would be bound to anything by Spring Grove getting an arboretum accreditation, the ArbNet Program was established to share a widely recognized set of industry standards in the arboretum community and accreditation for this is entirely free of charge and based on a self-assessment and documentation of certain levels of

achievement. This would potentially set us up for a small amount of grant funding through the ArbNet Program to help us further the goals and meet different standards to step up with 5 different levels of accreditation. Mr. Rose thanked Jansen for his further research. Mr. Simpson thanked the Friends of the Cemetery. October 10th at 1 p.m. there is a walking tour to identify some of the trees for the public. Meet at the Amos Mears building. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 167-20 passed by the yea votes of E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Hazeltine.

Ord. 168-20:

An Ordinance amending Rule VIII (K) (2) of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations of the City of Medina to Probationary Periods for All Original Appointments. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 168-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Shields stated we had an upcoming retirement of the Fire Chief and it was determined that all original appointments, the probationary period was a year except for police and fire positions and the Mayor had requested that Civil Service review that and make everything standard at one year. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 168-20 passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

Ord. 169-20:

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 187-19, passed November 25, 2019. (Amendments to 2020 Budget) Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 169-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Dirham stated a few are pass through, then the appropriation of the CARES Act funding and the rest are changing the budget to cover grant fund expenditures. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 169-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and P. Rose.

Ord. 170-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make certain fund advances. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 170-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Keith stated an advance is where we loan money from one fund to another and in this case it is mostly for grant projects because the grants are typically reimbursements so we have to spend the money and then get the grant and then repay the advance. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 170-20 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

Ord. 171-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make certain fund transfers. Mr. Simpson moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 171-20, seconded by Mr. Rose. Mr. Dirham stated this is a transfer to the parking fund. Parking fund does not have sufficient revenue to cover its costs so we transfer money to it each year and this is budgeted. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 171-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

Council Comments:

Mr. Simpson stated that next week early voting starts or you can go to your voting place and vote in person on November 3rd. It is so important! Remember that no matter what your political views are, just remember to respect each other's opinion and be kind to each other.

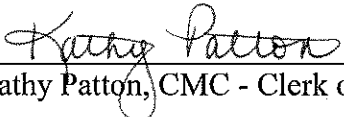
Mr. Rose spoke of the pickle-ball league at AI Root Middle School encouraging all to try it out. Carol Erikson is the USA Pickle-Ball Ambassador from Medina and she truly enjoys promoting this sport which keeps seniors physically and socially active and provides a healthy outlet for the youth. The URL for the pickle-ball organization is usapickleball.org.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated that September is both National Recovery Month as well as Suicide Awareness Month. Keeping in mind all the services for recovery and mental health that are available in our community some of those are Alternative Paths, Hope Recovery Community, The Recovery Center of Medina County, Bellfair and Ohio Guide Stone.

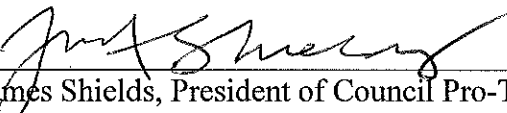
Mr. Shields thanked Dennie for his reminder to always be kind. During these times more than ever when people's patience is on edge he reminds himself and tells people about Dennie as a council member always reminding people to be kind. It's such an important message.

Mr. Coyne spoke about budgets and how they asked every Administration to cut their budgets by 10% across the board. That is a huge sacrifice that everybody is taking and we appreciate all the effort that has been made by all the department heads to do that because that will be helpful to us as a city so we don't have to lay anybody off and we can move forward hopefully with the services being provided as they are being provided today.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Kathy Patton, CMC - Clerk of Council



James Shields, President of Council Pro-Tem