

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Call to Order:

Medina City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President of Council John Coyne who led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Also present were the following members of the Administration: Mayor Dennis Hanwell, Keith Dirham, Megan Philbin, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Chief Kinney, Cindy Lastuka, Jarrod Fry and Kathy Patton.

Minutes:

Mr. Shields moved that the minutes from the regular meeting on September 28, 2020 as prepared and submitted by the Clerk be approved. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yeas of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Finance Committee: Mr. Coyne stated Finance Committee met prior to Council this evening and will meet again in two weeks.

Health, Safety & Sanitation Committee: Mr. Simpson had no report.

Public Properties Committee: Mr. Shields had no report.

Special Legislation Committee: Mr. Lamb had no report but is scheduling a meeting in two weeks to revisit feeding wild animals and issue of process for demolition.

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

20-192-10/13 – Budget Amendments

20-193-10/13 – Accept Justice Reinvestment Incentive Grant (JRIG)

20-194-10/13 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Chippewa Roofing – Service Dept.

20-195-10/13 – Res. Accepting Amounts & Rates Determined by Budget Commission

20-196-10/13 – Repay Advances

20-197-10/13 – Discussion/Update on Capital Bill Request FY 2021/2022

20-198-10/13 – Authorize Lease of Flex Portable Building – Municipal Court

Reports of Municipal Officers:

Dennis Hanwell, Mayor,

- A. Covid-19 - Medina County was moved to level orange and if numbers keep increasing will be back in red. Please remain vigilant with avoiding large gatherings, wearing masks in public, washing hands frequently and social distancing. Updated information on business openings, safety protocols, etc. are on the City and Medina County Health Dept. website. Please continue to support our local businesses.
- B. New Parking Deck/TIF - open and available to the public.
- C. Early voting began earlier this month at the Medina County Board of Elections. Please vote.
- D. The original Medina Square Farmers Market opened its 15th season on the Medina Square on June 6th, and will run through October 17th. Thanks to all who have attended thus far and supported the vendors as well as local businesses.
- E. State of the City was presented to Medina City Council and Medina Area Chamber of Commerce. Links are on city the website, www.medinaoh.org .
- F. Press conference that was held on Friday, October 9, 2020 with Medina County Commissioner Bill Hutson and I on the Combined Courthouse Project, links will be on city website, www.medinaoh.org .
- G. Halloween - Trick or Treat will be held this year- October 31st, 6-8 p.m. Encourage masks, social distancing, and other precautions for COVID. Please avoid houses with lights off as residents may be elderly, immunity compromised or both.
- H. Fiber to the home- please take survey at this link- www.Medina.LitCommunities.net .

Keith Dirham, Finance Director, spoke of Cares fund, and software upgrade in Finance office.

Megan Philban, Law Department, had no report.

Chief Kinney, Police Department, reminded the community to lock their car doors and take their keys out of their cars. We have had a rash of car break-ins and on occasion, actual car thefts from people who have left their key fobs in the vehicles. There has been an increase on patrols in the neighborhoods to combat these types of crimes.

Kimberly Marshall, Economic Development Director, absent.

Jonathan Mendel, Planning Community Director, absent.

Chief Painter, Fire Department, absent.

Mike Wright, Rec. Center Director, absent.

Jansen Wehrley, Parks and Recreation Director, no report.

Dan Gladish, Building Official, absent.

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Patrick Patton, City Engineer, had no report.

Nino Piccoli, Service Director, stated the annual city auction is this Saturday, October 17th at the City garage, 781 West Smith Rd. The list of items to be auctioned is on the City website and the auction starts at 10 a.m. with a preview at 9 a.m.

Jarrold Fry, Medina Cable TV, tune into Medina Cable TV for candidate forums to educate yourself before heading to the ballot boxes to vote. They are also available on our YouTube and Facebook pages.

Confirmation of Mayor's appointment

Rec. Center Advisory Board – Suzanne Swain (City Rep.) – Exp. 12/31/22

Mr. Shields moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb.

Notices, communications and petitions:

Liquor Permit:

Mr. Shields moved not to object to the issuance of a D-2 and D-3 permit to IBC Bars LLC, dba Diner 42, 1st Floor & Deck, 665 Lafayette Rd. Medina. Motion seconded by Mr. Simpson and approved by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, and P. Rose.

Unfinished Business:

There was none.

Introduction of Visitors:

Nathan Case, 513 E. Washington and came to clear the air on the Courthouse project. Local community is pushing a false narrative. Voting yes or no will not stop the building of the courthouse. Voting YES will exclude the City from sharing a courthouse with the County, the County will still build the courthouse it will just be 4 stories instead of 5. The decision could force the City to build a new courthouse further from the center of town and at a greater expense.

Voting NO will enable the City to share the building with the County, sharing the cost of the building and maintenance. If you vote NO Medina County and Medina City will save money. This is a bipartisan issue and one of the few times both sides can agree that saving money and working together is the right thing. All of Medina City Council are in agreement on this issue. This is not a party issue but a common sense issue.

Mark Williams, resident of Medina City all his life. He came tonight to ask City Council one question. Is there some sinister purpose in this project that he is missing? Council replied NO. Mark encouraged all Medina Residents to vote NO on issue #7.

Mr. Coyne reiterated that the Municipal Court covers $\frac{3}{4}$ of the county, not only the City of Medina but all the Townships north of Wadsworth Township, Guildford and the bottom 4 townships of our county. We've been looking at the courthouse project for 2 decades we've been trying to determine how to put a court project forward for the City of Medina Municipal Court project. Given this opportunity, we have come to the conclusion that it is better to work together.

Nathan Case spoke of a friend's daughter that was raped last year stating that in this case justice had to be delayed because of the court's overwhelming schedule for three months and in those three months the victim had to attend school with the two assailants, attend school while being discredited by her peers. Justice should be swift and ease the minds of the victims, in this case the courts' delay wounded a child's spirit that was already broken. He spoke of the narrow halls in the current juvenile court and being forced to sit alongside the assailants and their family with just a court guard to maintain peace. How could this be fair? How could a court put a child in this position? How could this be common practice? How can this be rectified for future victims?

Introduction and Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Motion to suspend the Rules requiring three readings on the following ordinances and resolutions: Ord. 172-20, Ord. 173-20, Ord. 174-20, Ord. 175-20, Ord. 176-20, Ord. 177-20, & Ord. 178-20. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yeas of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

Ord. 172-20:

An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Medina, Ohio certifying that when a municipal obligation was incurred sums were lawfully appropriated in the funds to satisfy the obligation and sufficient sums currently exist to satisfy this obligation. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 172-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 172-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Cindy stated these are old invoices from Ohio Alcohol Monitoring from 2019 that they need to clean up and pay the vendor. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yeas of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 172-20 passed by the yeas of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

Ord. 173-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the increase of the expenditure to Walter Haverfield, LLP to \$45,000 for the Law Department. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 173-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Megan Philbin stated that this increase is from \$15,000.00 to \$45,000.00 covers two invoices from Walter Haverfield for services they have already rendered to us and we anticipate to use these invoices for the remainder of this year. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 173-20 passed by the yeas of E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine.

Ord. 174-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the expenditures to Hall Public Safety Upfitters to outfit two new

Ford Police Cruisers for the Police Department. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 174-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Chief Kinney stated this is the upfit for the two vehicles previously approved. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 174-20 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

Ord. 175-20:

An Ordinance amending Sections 31.02 and 31.05 of the Salaries and Benefits Code of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to the Municipal Court Probation Grant Positions. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 175-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 175-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Cindy Lastuka stated their two probation officers are paid through the JRIG, it runs from June 30th to July 1st. They will retro pay them and increase their salaries through the grant. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, and P. Rose. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 175-20 passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb.

Ord. 176-20:

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 187-19, passed November 25, 2019. (Amendments To 2020 Budget) Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 176-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham stated there is a number of amendments to the budget here, there is a pass through then a bunch of grant items and then some repayment of advances. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 176-20 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

Ord. 177-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to repay the following Advances. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 177-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham stated these are the advances referred to in the last ordinance. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 177-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

Ord. 178-20:

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Lease Agreement with Williams Scotsman, Inc. for the lease of a flex-portable building for the Medina Municipal Court. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 178-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 178-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Cindy stated this is based on the Law Director's approval of the lease. Asking the City to go ahead and lease it for 7 months so we can go ahead and do the security tent, weather permitting in a heated electrical area. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 178-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne.

Council Comments:

Dennie Simpson thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Case for bringing us some facts about the shared courthouse project, Issue #7 on the ballot. Dennie stated he early voted today just before the meetings, and just wanted to say hats off to the election board and all of the employees. Everything went so smooth. If you have the opportunity to early vote do so, don't let the line intimidate you, it actually moves along pretty smoothly. Dennie encouraged people to vote whether by mail or in person. With this pandemic and the political atmosphere right now, just remember to be kind to one another.

Jessica Hazeltine echoed Dennie on Mr. Williams and Mr. Case speaking tonight. Jess expanded on the story Mr. Case spoke of and stated that that is not an uncommon situation in our current courthouse. She feels with our new courthouse that will not happen.

Mrs. Hazeltine asks that all voters educate themselves about Issue #7, the wording is very confusing. Please vote! Please use your voice, if you don't like something this is your opportunity to change it. If you like how things are going this is your opportunity to keep it that way. Do not let your voice be silenced.

President Coyne spoke of the three poster boards located in the Rotunda, stating this is what the courthouse design will look like, the project currently envisioned will look like these three drawings. If it looks familiar it's because it is, it's exactly like the current east side of the square.


Mr. Lamb stated it is really important to clarify this issue, the community should look at this project, look at this moment of this project as our proudest moment. If you look at what went into putting this project together it is realistically, not often, how we would all hope our governments would work.

Generally we believe YES means YES, and NO means NO but in this case YES means not good. NO means better, and that the realization of this project that has been incubating for so long will happen. Bill encourages you to vote NO on Issue #7.


Eric Heffinger stated that the city's motto is Serving the Past, Forging the Future, and that is exactly what we are doing here. A vote NO is to preserve our past and to forge a better future.

Mr. Rose thanked Bill and Nathan for speaking tonight. Paul stated that the public can contact any of the council people if interested in a fact sheet, or if you have any concerns or questions. Mr. Rose also stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and he is wearing a pink tie in honor of both of his grandmothers and his youngest sister.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Kathy Patton, CMC - Clerk of Council



John M. Coyne, President of Council