

MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Hall – Council Chambers 09/13/2021 at 6:30 PM

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ROLL CALL: 10 members answered – Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Schneider.

With a quorum present, Mr. Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Pledge of Allegiance recited. Invocation given by Mr. Schneider.

Mayor Schertzer presented a Mayor's Proclamation recognizing "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" to the Edens Family.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Thomas made a motion to adopt, Mr. Meade 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS FOR 08/23/2021 APPROVED (9-0)

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. ORD 2021-64: ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-08 WHICH UPDATED THE YARGER REPORT BY PROVIDING FOR PARKS LABORER I, II, III AND PARKS SUPERVISOR AND ESTABLISHED THEIR PAY GRADES

(Chaffin/Cheney) (Municipal Services, Parks, and Recreation -- Mrs. Swanger -- 3-0)

ORDINANCE 2021-64 HAD A SECOND READING

Item 2. ORD 2021-66: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MARION, BY REZONING 311 ROSE AND 321 ROSE AVENUE FROM I-2 (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL) TO C-2

COMMUNITY SHOPPING DISTRICT (Applicant, Brent T. Stooksbury and Justin Stooksbury) (Zoning and Annexation -- Mr. Meade -- 3-0)

ORDINANCE 2021-66 HAD A SECOND READING

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. ORD 2021-67: ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, TO ACCOUNT FOR FUNDS RECEIVED FROM TUITION REIMBURSEMENT (REESE), DONATIONS, MID OHIO ENERGY GRANT (Deem) (Finance, Mr. Daniels, chair -- 2-0)

Mr. Daniels made a motion to suspend rules, Mr. Schaber 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none

RULES SUSPENDED (9-0)

Mr. Daniels made a motion to adopt, Mr. Feliciano 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none

ORDINANCE 2021-67 PASSED (9-0)

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Item 2. ORD 2021-68: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH JACK DOHENY COMPANIES, INC FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SEWER CAMERA, F-350 VAN, AND VAN CONVERSION FOR THE CITY OF MARION OHIO, AND APPROPRIATING NECESSARY FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ice/Bischoff) (Finance, Mr. Daniels, chair -- 2-0)

Mr. Meade made a motion to suspend rules, Mrs. Swanger 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RULES SUSPENDED (9-0)

Mr. Meade made a motion to adopt, Mrs. Swanger 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
ORDINANCE 2021-68 PASSED (9-0)

Item 3. RES 2021-23: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. (Landon) (Finance, Mr. Daniels, chair -- 2-0)

Mr. Ratliff made a motion to amend by adding an emergency clause, Mr. Neff 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RESOLUTION 2021-23 AMENDED (9-0)

RES 2021-23: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AS AMENDED

Mr. Thomas made a motion to suspend rules, Mr. Neff 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RULES SUSPENDED (9-0)

Mr. Thomas made a motion to adopt, Mr. Neff 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RESOLUTION 2021-23 PASSED (9-0)

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Item 4. ORD 2021-69: ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO APPROPRIATE MONIES TO THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES FUND RECEIVED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. (Stotts) (Finance, Mr. Daniels, chair -- 3-0)

Mr. Ratliff made a motion to suspend rules, Mr. Meade 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes -- Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RULES SUSPENDED (9-0)

Mr. Meade made a motion to adopt, Mrs. Swanger 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
ORDINANCE 2021-69 PASSED (9-0)

Item 5. ORD 2021-70: ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FUNDS AS PROVIDED FOR BELOW FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. (Landon) (Finance, Mr. Daniels, chair -- 3-0)

Mr. Thomas made a motion to suspend rules, Mr. Feliciano 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
RULES SUSPENDED (9-0)

Mr. Thomas made a motion to adopt, Mr. Feliciano 2nd. Roll Call: Ayes --Mr. Meade, Mr. Ratliff, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Feliciano, Mrs. Fosnaugh, Mrs. Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Neff, Mr. Daniels. Nays – none
ORDINANCE 2021-70 PASSED (9-0)

OTHER MATTERS

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

1. Audit Meeting with State, Reconciliation, and IRS Issue

In response to Mr. Ratliff, Deputy Auditor Watts stated that there is no update on the IRS. The appeal letter has gone to the IRS, and it is pending.

They have met with the state auditors and identified the problems. They have talked with New World they believed that there is a possibility that they can pull the data from 12/31/2021. Basically, they pull information from the individual accounts to get the outstanding balance. They are identifying the liabilities and working forward to make the reconciliation as of 12/31.

There are approximately 13,000 individual accounts for utility billing. Watts explained that the information would be extracted and calculated electronically, not by hand.

Ratliff asked if Watts understood what the September 30th deadline is, with who, the importance, and what is needed to comply. Watts said that date is for the bonds, not the audit. Watts affirmed that and that this would be for the Federal Grant Clearinghouse. Watts is confident that they can meet the 09/30 deadline. He is working with Alyson Binkley and their bonding people. They have most of the information except for a few numbers. They should make the report to them and meet the deadline without any problem.

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Regarding the IRS, Ratliff asked what the bill currently is. Watts clarified that they have been billed for all three quarters and they have appealed them all. The proposed fines are \$66,000 (3rd), \$70,000 (4th), and \$16,000 (1st).

Regarding reconciliation of the books, Watts stated that they knew how much money they took in last year. He clarified that when he previously said that “the books aren’t balanced”, he meant that they are not pulled from the book to the bank like the state wants it. They do know how much money was brought in, how much was spent, and how much is available. They have outstanding liabilities that must be taken off so that they can match it up to the cash in the bank. They are working on those liabilities. They know what the carryover is.

Watts is unsure as to whether council has been given the carryover. He has discussed it with the mayor but is unsure if he was officially notified on paper.

Mayor Schertzer said that traditionally they get that sometime after January. He does not remember receiving it in hardcopy, but that he has a rough idea what it is – somewhere between \$3.5 and \$4 million. Under the current circumstances, knowing a range helps.

Watts stated that he believes that the carryover was \$3.7 million. He will pull the exact figure and email council tomorrow.

Ratliff requested that Watts and the Auditor’s Office provide regular updates to Council, because they have not been receiving them. With the importance of these issues, he would like to be aware of progress and new information.

In response to Mr. Meade, Watts said that the process for New World to look at those old accounts is underway. The conversations are occurring between New World and the state auditors, and he has not been included. He has received emails that they are currently pursuing that course of action. To clarify if the Auditor’s office is doing this or New World is doing it with the state auditors, Watts explained that the state auditors ask him for information, and he gets it to them. They are doing the work and passing it on to the state auditors.

Meade asked about the Federal Grant Clearinghouse deadline and whether it is required to have the audit done to complete that process. Watts explained that a CAFR is not required, although traditionally they pull the numbers straight from there. They can generate those numbers. Watts said that they are not at risk of missing that deadline.

Mr. Schaber asked if the state meeting with New World to figure out accounts was because they pinpointed something they want to audit and they wanted it straight from New World? Why was the Auditor’s Office excluded? Watts explained that the state auditors were trying to understand how New World worked. He was involved in the meeting after that.

Regarding utility billing, is that something different than the special meeting on reconciliation? Watts explained that with accrual basis, they must move it to cash. They need an aging balance report to pull it out and move it to cash. This is an attempt to pull back the numbers that they need. The accounts receivable is created by utility billing – sewer, storm water, and sanitation.

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2. Parking

Mr. Daniels said that they have done a lot to increase parking in downtown Marion. He does not think that 20 spots should be reserved for people other than the public in the parking lot at City Hall. 39 spots are unreserved. He thinks that looks bad.

Mayor explained that some of the decisions regarding parking were security measures put into place by most government buildings after 09/11.

He also noticed 6-7 parking spots on W. Church Street that are reserved for one corporate entity during these hours. He has never seen public parking assigned to a private institution. There is another one on S. Prospect Street.

3. Right Turn at 423 and Mt. Vernon Blvd – Traffic Light

Mr. Feliciano inquired about this intersection. He agreed to talk with Mr. Bischoff directly.

4. Fire Hydrants on Mt. Vernon Avenue

In response to Mr. Feliciano, Mayor Schertzer explained that these are not city fire hydrants but belong to the water company.

5. Kaufman Dog Park

Mayor Schertzer said there would be an event/fundraiser at the Kaufman Dog Park. At 3 PM in Busby Park, there will be a soft ribbon cutting on one of the cardinals. The Lofty Spaces Tour is also taking place on Saturday.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 09/20/2021:

- Finance – Mr. Daniels, chair – 09/20/2021 at 6:30 PM – Mr. Meade legislation, Mr. Ratliff (increase minimum thresholds for quarterly filing)
- Legislation and Codes – Mr. Daniels, chair – 09/20/2021 at 6:45 PM – continue vacant property registration (Neff), liquor permits
- Regional Planning – Mrs. Swanger, chair – 09/22/2021 at 7:00 PM at the County Building
- No other committees called at this time. Please check Thursday notice for changes.

With no further business to come before Council, Mr. Schneider adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.

Todd Schneider
President of Council

Tarina R. Rose
Clerk of Council

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