REGULAR SESSION

July 11, 2024

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday , July 11, 2024 at 6:27 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Christopher Grau, Mayor & President of Council presiding.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and roll call.

Members of Council present: Andrew Blackley, Deborah Chuha, Christopher Grau, David Lelko, Kyle Martin, Heather Means, Daniel Meleski.

Members of Council absent: none.

Others Present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Police Chief Scott Niehus, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Community Development Administrator Steve Yaney, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Fire Chief Justin Geiss, Ken Ovark, Paul Ovark, Rick Sommers, Allison Wilson, Bill Hess.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Regular Session as presented.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager, Randy Sharpe, reported on recent hirings in the Division of Streets, Cemeteries and Parks.

Chief Geiss reported on Fire Department activities, noting that calls for service (717) are at the same level as 2024.

Chief Geiss reported that the Fire Department received notification of its award of a $1 million grant from the State of Ohio Capital Grant Funding for the Fire Department’s ladder truck replacement. He noted that the vehicle’s cost is estimated at $2 million.

Mr. Lelko cautioned that there may be administrative costs that could reduce the grant amount.

Ms. Means asked if there are other grant sources.

Chief Geiss reviewed other grants that are being considered.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of public works projects.

City Engineer Doug Courtney, provided additional details regarding the ADA ramp waivers the City is requesting as part of the State Route resurfacing.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the sidewalk maintenance and infill program.

Mr. Courtney stated that the project will go to bid once staff has completed gathering quantities of sidewalk infill and replacement.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and approved the concept plan and architectural review for converting the former Burger King Restaurant to a Chipotle restaurant.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission also gave Record Document approval for Phase 2 of the Thistlecreek Planned Residential Development.

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission gave Concept Plan & Architectural Review approval for a new Chardon Schools Transportation and Maintenance Facility, the condition that a traffic control device, as recommended by the City Engineer, needs to be installed at the intersection of North Street and Fifth Avenue by August 31, 2027.

Discussion occurred regarding the long timeframe to order the traffic signal equipment.

Mr. Lelko inquired about the possibility of using the City's spare mast arm.

Staff stated that it may not be the proper size, but would check about the possibility that it could be used.

Mr. Blackley reported that an informal discussion was had with Geauga Faith Rescue Mission regarding the potential for a second location at 341 Washington Street. Planning Commission gave them a recommendation to proceed.

Steve Yaney, Economic Development Administrator, reviewed the Economic Development report that highlighted business openings and renovations during the 2nd quarter of 2024.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS -

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda – none.

General Public – none.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Grau reported on the status of the individual state championship signs. He stated that the signs are complete and will be installed in the coming weeks. He added that a public unveiling of the sign at Mel Harder Park will be held August 8, 2024 at 5 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding adoption of the 2025 Tax Budget, Mr. Iacofano stated that it is a requirement for Council to adopt the tax budget by July 15th and submitted to the County Auditor by July 19th.

Mr. Lelko moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to adopt the 2025 tax budget. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding an Announcement of Decision for the THISTLECREEK PRD PHASE 2; SUBDIVISION PLAT OF RECORD AND DEDICATION OF SUBDIVISION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Chojnacki stated that the same application was reviewed and approved by Planning Commission. In order for

Council to accept the Announcement of Decision and the improvements, a motion by Council accepting the Announcement of Decision is needed. He stated that all improvements have been inspected and are up to municipal specifications.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Martin seconded to approve the Announcement of Decision for the THISTLECREEK PRD PHASE 2; SUBDIVISION PLAT OF RECORD AND DEDICATION OF SUBDIVISION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO._10-24

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded the rules be suspended and the Resolution be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-24 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 10-24.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation is the 2nd step needed to put the Fire and EMS Levy on the November ballot. He noted that a copy needs to be provided to the Board of Elections along with legislation passed by Council in June.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO._3278

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICES BY THE CHARDON FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3278 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Ms. Means seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3278.

Chief Geiss explained that when the Fire Department transports by ambulance, they bill the insurance company to cover some of the associated costs. The billing company that the Fire Department had been using experienced a cyber-attack and have not billed since February. The Department is interested in using another company, Medicount, to take over the billing services.

Ms. Means asked if there is unfinished work from the prior billing company.

Chief Geiss stated that billing has not been done since February, and Medicount will attempt to back bill from that time going forward, but has indicated there may be some accounts that may not be able to be collected.

Mrs. Chuha asked about billing in the event someone does not have insurance.

Chief Geiss stated that the City does the ambulance billing and does not attempt to pursue collections if the bill goes unpaid.

Mr. Lelko noted that he thought Council rather than the City Manager should have the authority to adjust the fees as indicated in Section 2 of the legislation.

Mr. Sharpe noted that the prior ordinance gave the Finance Director the authority to adjust the rates in accordance with the ambulance inflation factor.

Mr. Iacofano stated that allowing the Finance Director to adjust the rates will allow the department to keep up with the pace of what insurance companies are willing to pay.

Mr. Meleski asked why Mr. Lelko prefers it be approved by Council.

Mr. Lelko stated that it is because of the dollar amount and would like to see it come back to Council.

Mr. Meleski asked who sets the ambulance inflation factor.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the ambulance inflation factor is determined by Medicare.

Ms. Means stated that having Council approve the rates is a bit of micromanaging and she trusts staff who is the most knowledgeable about it.

Mr. Lelko moved to amend the Ordinance so that Council has to approve the emergency medical transport fees.

Motion died for a lack of a second.

Upon roll call vote the motion to adopt Ordinance 3278 passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO._3279
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION APPROVING THE THISTLECREEK PRD PHASE 2 PLAT OF RECORD AND ACCEPTING THE STREETS, UTILITIES, STREET LIGHTING AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND LANDS OFFERED FOR DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3279 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3279.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation adopts the announcement of decision which approves the plat for Phase 2 of the Thistle Creek Subdivision and authorizes the dedication of public improvements.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO._3280

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CITY OF CHARDON TREASURY FOR 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded the rules be suspended and the Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3280 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3280.

Mr. Iacofano reviewed the various amendments to appropriations that are being requested.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Chuha reported that expenditures were reviewed and are in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Blackley inquired about the outcome of the relocation of the 2024 fireworks on Loreto Drive.

Chief Geiss spoke positively about the new location on Loreto Drive that allowed for additional viewing areas.

Chief Niehus added that traffic flow was improved over the prior location and his department had no issues.

Ms. Means reported that artwork from the solar eclipse student art contest is available for pickup in the Office of Public Service.

Members of Council and staff made announcements regarding upcoming events.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lelko moved and Mayor Grau seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Attest:

____
CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

____
AMY DAY
Clerk of Council