SPECIAL SESSION

August 22, 2024

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Special Session on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 6:00 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, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Urban Forester David Allen.

Law Director Ben Chojnacki explained that a Special Session of Council was necessary to satisfy the request of the County Auditor for the submission of the City's annual assessments by September 9.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO. 11-24
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF BLIGHT AND DISEASE OF SHADE TREES WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOR PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING SHADE TREES IN AND ALONG THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF CHARDON; AUTHORIZING THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION TO SO PROVIDE DURING THE YEAR OF 2024; ESTABLISHING A SINGLE DISTRICT FOR SAID PURPOSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 727.011, OHIO REVISED CODE; PROVIDING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE COST AND EXPENSE OF SUCH PLANTING, MAINTAINING, TRIMMING AND REMOVING UPON BENEFITTING PROPERTY IN SAID DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Meleski 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. 11-24 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 11-24.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the shade tree assessment is being proposed to be reduced from $70,000 to $55,000 due to the current account balance which has been growing.

Urban Forester, David Allen, reviewed current activities that include a mulching program, small projects, and addressing resident questions. Going forward he will be looking to prune deadwood and see what plantings can be done in the fall.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the Main Street tree replacement program and asked if the shade tree assessment could be used for this purpose.

Mr. Sharpe stated that the assessment could be used to replace the Main Street trees; however, the sidewalk would also need replaced, which would be a capital project.

Mr. Allen reviewed the work done recently to trim the roots on some of the Main Street locust trees.

Mr. Blackley inquired about the lifespan of the trees.

Mr. Allen stated that it is difficult to predict the lifespan, but he plans to continue trimming the deadwood of the trees when it occurs.

Mr. Lelko stated that he would like to begin looking into a Main Street project that would include tree replacement and lighting.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-24

A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF STREET LIGHTING 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. 12-24 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Martin seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 12-24.

Finance Director Mark Iacofano stated that the assessment will cover the operating costs for street lighting with no recommended change in the assessment amount.

Mr. Blackley asked if staff is being cognizant of the underground lighting of future subdivisions, which will add to the City's operating costs for street lighting.

Mr. Sharpe stated that there is a balance in the assessment fund, which is being monitored to determine if the assessment needs increased in future years. He added that the City eliminated its LED program because the Illuminating Company now replaces any burned-out street lights with LED bulbs.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO._13-24

A RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was read for the first time by title only.

Mr. Blackley 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. 13-24 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 13-24.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation is for the standard assessment for sidewalks.

Mr. Meleski asked if the assessment covers the maintenance, repair and infill of sidewalks.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the City has a sidewalk plan prepared by the City Engineer and Public Service Director that identifies areas of sidewalk improvements, and the fund is used for those improvements.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lelko inquired about the status of past complaints from residents regarding overhead wires.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that it is out of the City's control to do anything with the wires since it is not the City's property.

Ms. Means reported that a Health and Wellness event will be held on the Square on August 25.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attest:

____
CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

____
AMY DAY
Clerk of Council