REGULAR SESSION

September 12, 2024

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday , September 12, 2024 at 6:30 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, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Law Director Benjamin Chojnacki, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Police Lieutenant Matt Delisa, Community Development Administrator Steve Yaney, Jack Blazey, Amy Patterson, Elisabeth Giedt, Peter Byrnes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024 Regular Session and August 22, 2024 Special Session as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported on recent personnel hirings and resignations.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the 2024 Sidewalk Infill & Maintenance Program noting that the plan set and final quantities have been completed. The 2024 program is anticipated to be bid in the fall and constructed in early 2025.

Mr. Sharpe reported that this year’s salt contract through ODOT will be with Cargill Incorporated at a delivery price of $44.27 per ton.

Mr. Sharpe asked the Lieutenant to report on the status of the implementation of a parking enforcement device.

Police Lieutenant, Matt Delisa, reported that progress is being made on the parking enforcement device which is being reviewed and tested. He noted that some City ordinance changes may be necessary for the implementation of the new device relative to payment of parking fines.

Mr. Sharpe reported on the status of Public Works Projects.

Discussion occurred regarding the State Route Resurfacing Project and the cost estimate for the addition of Short Court Street as an add alternate.

Mr. Sharpe explained that if the project comes in under the City’s budgeted amount, it will automatically be included in the project.

However, if the project bid comes in over the budgeted amount, the City has the ability to either accept or reject it.

Council members spoke in support of budgeting the project lower so that Council has the ability to either accept or reject the bid for the resurfacing of Short Court as part of the State Route Resurfacing Project.

Mr. Blackley suggested leaving the project estimate where it currently is ($22,500).

No member of Council had any objections to setting the budget amount for Short Court Street at $22,500.

Mr. Hornyak provided an update on the lead service line inventory, noting that it has been submitted to the Ohio EPA for review. He reported that no lead service lines were discovered as part of the inventory.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Blackley reported that Planning Commission met in Regular Session and approved a front yard setback at 393 Sylvia Drive to allow for a front porch addition.

Mr. Blackley noted that a question was raised at the Planning Commission meeting about if there had been a change order on the County Courthouse Project.

Mr. Yaney stated that he confirmed with TDA Architects that there have not been changes from what Planning Commission had approved.

Mayor Grau responded to a recent claim by the County that the City was defaulting on its commitment to the courthouse project. He stated that the City evaluated the claim and responded through a press release. He added that the City is working out details with the County on the City’s intent, and are working out a distribution of some funds with the expectation that the definition of the site work needs to be clarified going forward.

Mr. Blackley stated that there was never any pushback from the City about the payment despite allegations made to that effect.

Mr. Meleski added that allegations from the County were made, and he would prefer direct communication from the County going forward before they make statements on the record.

Mr. Lelko inquired about the status of various commercial properties on Center Street.

Mr. Yaney explained that there is no update on the commercial properties on Center Street.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Mrs. Chuha reported that the Committee met and recommended a change to the length of years of invested securities in the City’s investment policy.

Finance Director Mark Iacofano stated that the City’s investment advisor, Meeder, recommended a change to the City’s investment policy in order to take advantage of the current opportunities in long-term interest rates. They are recommending an extension of the maturity restriction from 2 years to 3 years for a maximum of 50% of the City’s investments.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to adopt a change to the City’s investment policy as presented by the Finance Director.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Meleski reported that the Committee met and had an initial discussion regarding city-wide animal regulations due to an increase in various types of animal raising. The Committee discussed types of regulations, and some framework was established. Further discussion will take place after some additional research is done.

Ms. Means noted that there have been several instances that have occurred over the last 6 months, which prompted the discussion.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda – none.

General Public

Jack Blazey, 9730 Fox Meadow Lane, Chardon Township, addressed Council to express his displeasure that other accomplishments are not recognized in the same manner as the athletic accomplishments displayed at City corporation limits.

Mr. Blazey also complemented the City’s bike trail and the interpretive signs along the trail.

Elisabeth Giedt, 482 Myra Drive, addressed Council and requested recycling bins at the Municipal Center so that paper generated from the Council meetings can be recycled.

NEW BUSINESS – none.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO._ 14-24

A 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 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. 14-24 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. 14-24.

Mr. Iacofano stated that Council adopted the 2025 tax budget in July which was adopted by the County Tax Budget Commission. The legislation before Council accepts the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, which will be certified to the County Auditor once adopted.

Mr. Lelko asked if the Budget Commission made any comments to the City.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the Budget Commission only had a few minor questions.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3282
AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE JUNE 2024 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CHARDON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY 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. 3282 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Blackley seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3282.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the City's codifier, Walter H. Drane, provides updates to certain portions of the City's codified ordinances so that they are consistent with State law and the legislation the City has passed. This legislation will accept the replacement pages so that the City's codified ordinances are current.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 3283
AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPLACE THE GEA-44-14.93 DRAINAGE STRUCTURE OVER AN UNNAMED STREAM LOCATED ON SOUTH STREET/RAVENNA ROAD APPROXIMATELY 1.66 MILES SOUTH OF US-6 (JUST SOUTH OF BASS LAKE ROAD) IN THE CITY OF CHARDON AND MUNSON TOWNSHIP (PID 115876) 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. 3283 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Martin seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3283.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that passage of the legislation will authorize the State to replace a culvert on South Street. He added that the State will assume 100% of the costs related to the project. The City would be responsible for any unrelated costs, none of which are anticipated.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Chuha reported that expenditures were in order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official, for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, and invite Ben Chojnacki, Randy Sharpe, and Amy Day into the session. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

Discussion occurred regarding the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, demotion, discipline or compensation of a public employee or official.

Meeting reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL

Members of Council and staff reported on upcoming events.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council