REGULAR SESSION

January 9, 2025

The Council of the City of Chardon met in Regular Session Thursday , January 9, 2025 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, Police Lieutenant Matt Delisa, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Community Development Administrator Steve Yaney, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Fire Chief Justin Geiss, Bill Hess, Aaron Joslin, Anastasia Nicholas, Allison Wilson, Elisabeth Giedt.

Mayor Grau requested a moment of silence in remembrance of President Jimmy Carter.

Mayor Grau recognized the date as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked the Police Department for the work that they do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 Regular Session as presented.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sharpe reported on the hiring of 2 maintenance workers in the Division of Streets, Parks and Cemeteries.

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

Mrs. Chuha asked for an update on parking enforcement.

Police Lt. Matt Delisa stated that 2 staff members have been trained on the parking enforcement system, but tickets have not yet been issued.

Mr. Lelko asked if the same people will be doing the parking enforcement, adding that he believes it is important for it to be regular and consistent.

Lt. Delisa stated that eventually all police officers will also be trained on the traffic enforcement system.

Mr. Blackley asked Lt. Delisa to report on traffic enforcement in the areas discussed by the Safety Committee.

Lt. Delisa reported that several traffic stops have been made in the areas that were discussed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Steve Yaney, Economic Development Administrator, reviewed the Economic Development report that highlighted business openings and renovations during the 4^{th} quarter of 2024.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

Mr. Meleski reported that the Committee met and discussed camping regulations, their definitions, and recent court cases. After thorough discussion, the Committee recommended the Law Director prepare legislation to ban camping in the City.

Ms. Means moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded to direct the Law Director to prepare legislation for the February Council Meeting, banning camping in the City.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Meleski stated that the Committee also discussed safety concerns with electrical outlets being used by the general public and recommended the City Manager turn off the outlets except for City events or events with a permit. Additionally, the Committee recommended establishing seasonal hours for the Heritage House restrooms that more closely align with Square activities. Finally, the Committee discussed closing the restrooms to the general public during Heritage House rentals.

Ms. Means stated that these recommendations were in response to public feedback received with regard to the safety around the Heritage House.

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Grau seconded to give the City Manager the authority to shut off access to electricity on City property except for events that have permits and City events, to adjust the hours at the Heritage House restrooms, and to procure and provide a sign that would allow people renting the heritage house exclusive use of the restrooms during private events.

Mr. Blackley asked what happens if someone ignores the sign.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that it depends, but the City would probably pursue a trespassing charge.

Discussion occurred regarding adding penalty language on the sign.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Meleski reported that the Committee briefly discussed a perimeter to the outside of the Heritage House which may be revisited at a later date.

HEARING OF PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL

Those Persons on the Agenda – none.

General Public – none.

OLD BUSINESS – none.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Justin Geiss reported that the Fire Department was approached by the Geauga Co. Catholic Pro-life Coalition who has offered to donate a Safe Haven Baby Box to be installed in an outside wall of the fire station. Safe Haven Boxes are a place for mothers to anonymously relinquish their babies. The boxes are alarmed and when opened, a call is placed to 9-1-1. The Coalition has offered to cover the cost of installation and monitoring for the first 5 years. After that time, the Fire Department is willing to cover the monitoring fee after the 5-year period. There is no other agency in the area that offers this service, and he is supportive of the idea. He has asked for City approval since the Fire Station is owned by the City. He noted that even though there is an option for a camera on the box, he does not recommend adding one.

Mrs. Chuha asked who would install the baby box.

Chief Geiss stated that the organization is handling the costs for installation and they have a contractor they would use.

Mr. Blackley asked where it would be installed.

Chief Geiss stated that the rear corner of the Fire Station is the location he feel would be best suited for the baby box.

Mayor Grau asked the timeline.

Chief Geiss stated that the organization is still working on fundraising so he does not have a timeframe on installation.

Mr. Blackley moved and Ms. Means seconded to authorize the installation of a baby box as presented by the Fire Chief.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding a motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the Sponsor Partnership Responsibilities Agreement with NOACA for the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, Mr. Sharpe stated that the agreement gives him the authority to accept the funding from NOACA for the North Street Project ($165,000) and Wilson Mills Road/Park Avenue Intersection Realignment (2,000,000).

Mayor Grau moved and Mr. Blackley seconded to authorize the City Manager to sign the Sponsor Partnership Responsibilities Agreement with NOACA for the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding, a new C2 Liquor Permit for Dolgen Midwest LLC DBA Popshelf Dollar General, 550 Fifth Ave., Mr. Chojnacki stated that Popshelf Dollar General is requesting a liquor permit for the sale of carryout wine and mixed beverages. Unless Council has a reason to object, no action by Council is necessary.

No member of Council had any objections.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO._3299

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 941.16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE AMOUNT CHARGED FOR GRAVE SITES, MAUSOLEUMS, AND VARIOUS CEMETERY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY, AND TO ESTABLISH CHARGES AND RULES GOVERNING COLUMBARIUM was read for the third time by title only.

Mr. Blackley asked if there has been any pushback from the public on the proposed changes in cemetery fees.

Staff indicated that there have not been any comments from the public.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mrs. Chuha seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3299.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO._3300

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT WITH SEIBERTKECK FOR THE PROPERTY, INLAND MARINE, EDP, CRIME, BOILER AND MACHINERY, AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY, COMPREHENSIVE MUNICIPAL LIABILITY, LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY, PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY, AND UMBRELLA EXCESS LIABILITY, 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. 3300 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. 3300.

Aaron Joslin, representing SiebertKeck Insurance Partners LLC, reviewed challenges in the insurance market. He stated that increasing deductibles was a way to offset the increases in the insurance premiums which increased 12.8%. He added that the premium for the cyber and privacy liability insurance coverages was nominal.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO._3301

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT/AGREEMENT WITH SIEBERTKECK FOR THE CYBER AND PRIVACY LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGES 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 Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 3301 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. 3301.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO._1-25
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY INTERNET AUCTION SALE 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.

Resolution No. 1-25 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Meleski seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 1-25.

Mr. Chojnacki stated that the legislation authorizes the disposition of property in whatever manner the City deems is appropriate as long as it is consistent with the policy.

Mr. Blackley inquired about items the City is disposing of.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the City will be listing items that will be replaced as part of the 2025 capital plan.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO._2-25
A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ILLUMINATING COMPANY’S REQUEST TO INCREASE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION RATES AND REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO DENY THE UTILITY’S REQUEST 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.

Resolution No. 2-25 was then read for the second and third time by title only.

Mr. Meleski moved and Ms. Means seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 2-25.

Mayor Grau spoke in support of the Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO._3-25
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CHARDON, OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH) 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 Ordinance be read for the second and third time by title only. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 3-25 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. 3-25.

Steve Yaney, Community Development Administrator, reported that the America-250 Program was created to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. He noted that the County is coordinating activities throughout 2026, and grant money is available for communities to broaden their events.

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Mrs. Chuha reported that expenditures were in order, with the exception of 1 discrepancy which is in the process of being resolved by the Finance Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SHADE TREE COMMISSION - 3 year term
Marilyn Rohr 1/1/25-12/31/27

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - 3 year term
Michael Williams 1/1/25-12/31/27

BOARD OF ETHICS REVIEW - 3 year term
Edward Yeomans 1/1/25-12/31/27

BOARD OF INCOME TAX REVIEW - 2 year term
Randy Russ 1/1/25-12/31/26

GEAUGA COUNTY COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION - 1 year term
Mayor 1/1/25-12/31/25

GEAUGA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL - 1 year term
Robert Faehnle 1/1/25-12/31/25

Mr. Lelko moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the appointments to Boards and Commissions as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE COUNCIL - none.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Attest:

CHRISTOPHER GRAU, Mayor
President of Council

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council