**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – December 16, 2024**

President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, and Wolfe were present. CM Sanford was absent. Also present were Mayor Hazel, Safety Service Director Hitchcock, Auditor Shinn, and Law Director Moore.

CM Fleck made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

CM Gray made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Special Meeting minutes, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CM Clausen spoke about the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting that took place on 11-25-2024.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**71-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and the Veterans Forever, Inc. for the lease of the Bryson Park District. Mayor Hazel noted how please administration is that the Governor’s Cup is being brought back and thanked Veterans Forever, Inc. CM Gray asked if there would be any problems with the course due to recent changes to the Lake and Craig from Veterans Forever Inc. noted they were told by the state that the track is already marked and should have no problems. CM Buxton noted that the buoys seem to be dropped in the exact spot every time and thanked the group. CM Fleck also noted how well attended the event is and CM Clausen spoke about how wonderful it will be to hold such a great event in the Lake and asked if it would be an annual event and Craig noted that is the plan. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**72-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to award the New Building for the Public Works Department Project to Miller Contracting Group, Inc., appropriate funds, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about the sale of the old public works building and how that will help fund some of the new building and how the bid came in much lower than anticipated and how it would be next to the new electric building. CM Gray asked about the building that was sold and some signage on it and Mayor Hazel confirmed we are still working out of it until our new building is up and that we have three years from the sale of the old building to move out. CM Baltzell asked about the structure of the building and the alternate plan and Safety Service Director Hitchcock confirmed that was just to save money if needed but it is almost identical to the electric building. CM Baltzell also noted that we had 9 bidders and very competitive offers which was great to see. CM Buxton asked if we had any experience with Miller Construction and it was noted that we do not but they came with a recommendation from Access Engineering after research. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**73-24-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds and amending various categories within Ordinance 48-23-O as the Ninth Supplement to the 2024 Annual Appropriations and declaring an emergency. Voice acclimation to skip reading section one passed 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen asked about the COBRA insurance and former employees electing to use it and Auditor Shinn noted we had people leave this year who decided to enroll which is not always the case and also mentioned how we pay the bill but get reimbursed from the employee the full premium. CM Wolfe asked about the basic services payroll that seemed higher than usual and Auditor Shinn noted she would have to look into it to see the exact reason. CM Clausen asked about the dispatcher and the shortage there and Auditor Shinn noted that they received about a 25% increase to pay with their contract which caused the shortage. CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**74-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into an agreement with Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State (LGS), and declaring an emergency. CM Baltzell confirmed that this was for our annual audit report and Auditor Shinn noted this was used to a one-year agreement so they will see it yearly once the state determine how many hours; they will need to conduct the audit. CM Buxton asked if they could pass something in perpetuity unless the money amount changes to a different amount and Mayor Hazel noted they can look into that. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

None.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

**63-24-O:** An Ordinance to approve, adopt, and enact the 2023 & 2024 replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**64-24-O:** An Ordinance to make Appropriations for expenses and other expenditures of the City of Celina, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2025, and to declare an emergency. CM Clausen asked why the Cemetery Operation into its own section and Auditor Shinn noted they are technically two separate funds and this will help clean it up. Auditor Shinn noted some of the changes were the pricing for the live feed videos on Facebook which she adjusted and the funds they just passed to pay the state auditors and insurance costs because some of the election forms came back with new enrollment plans. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**65-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for City Projects and Capital Equipment for Fiscal Year 2025. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**66-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for certain materials, services, supplies and equipment needed during 2025. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the year 2024 and how wonderful many of the decorations look and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the Watson House lease ending in January and the new owners that will be taking over the building.

Mayor Hazel spoke about Midnight Gladness and how well that went for the community and noted they are usually on the first Friday of each month at the City downtown.

Auditor Shinn noted they are working on ending the month of November and when the audit office ends both November and December Council will receive the reports.

Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted how he handed out a new schedule for the feasibility study for the Fire Department and noted the designs were delayed due to an unforeseen medical situation with the firm who is doing the design. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted he will pass along the drawings as they get them.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

President King noted if there are any changes that need put on the website with phone numbers or emails, they can let him know and he will ensure those updates happen.

President King also spoke about the scheduling and CM Buxton spoke about having a Council meeting on Memorial Day and it was determined they will not have a meeting on that day.

President King asked about vacant lots that the City possesses that they can sell in order to help with the housing crisis in Celina. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that we only have one vacant lot that the City owns and they have spoken about turning that lot into additional parking.

CM Clausen noted there are properties out there that are not being attended and asked if we look at unmaintained properties and ask the owner if they want to sell them and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted they have torn down the ones they were able to and the other remaining ones have legal reasons they have not been torn up yet but they will stay aggressive and keep looking. CM Clausen spoke about the house on East Wayne and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that the County had a grant and the property owner decided he wanted it torn down and build another house.

CM Gray spoke about the staffing issues at the Fire Department and asked about the nepotism laws and if administration can ask Clemons & Nelson about it and if there is a work around with out department and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that we can forward the question and see if there are any options. CM Gray asked if we can create another department within the department to accomplish something like that.

CM Gray spoke about the administration report and asked about the training hours and administration noted they would double check.

CM Gray spoke about the Miss American Teen contest where someone from Celina is competing and wished her luck.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council