**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – December 20, 2021**

President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:02 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Sovinski answered roll call. Also present were Safety Service Director Hitchcock, Mayor Hazel, and Auditor Strawn

CM Scott motioned for expectance of the agenda as presented and CM Sovinski seconded. Motioned passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

President King stated that Erin was having printer issues and will email meetings minutes out tonight, as well as printed copies next meeting. CM Sovinski suggested postponing motion until next meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CM Clausen stated Personnel and Finance Committee met November 22, 2021 and started at 5:30 pm and reviewed 2022 Budget. He then went through the committee notes.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Hazel asked Paige to please come up and introduce our guest. Stated she came a long way to be here. Paige introduced our distinct guest, from Costa Rica, Anna Escivell. She is visiting while in between her Bachelor program and Masters.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**60-21-O:** An Ordinance appropriating money from the General Fund for Deposit in the Police Capital Fun, Street Improvement Capital Fund, Park Capital Fund, and Montgomery Field Investment Fund, to Transfer funds, and to declare an emergency. Mayor Hazel stated this is an ongoing transfer as we get to the end of the year with the money left over so that we can make sure the Fire and Police, which are number one, and then the street projects to plan for the next year. The Montgomery Field fund that will come up is a 10-12-year process and with the $25,000 it will get us to where we need to be on target, once time comes to replacing that fund. $100,000 to Parks Capital is beneficial when we get into grants, bouncing grants off Maj funds. CM Scott asked are we going to try and get all these off the books tonight? Mayor Hazel stated it’s up to you. CM Scott asked do you need them to be off the book or do you want them to be carried over? Mayor Hazel stated that it’s not procreating them, it’s just transferring them, so if you want to read again that’s fine but taking off books is good so we can balance out the account by the end of the year. CM Scott stated and the rest are the same way. Mayor Hazel stated yes. We want to keep it clean and it’s important for us to clear that out. Auditor Strawn stated that in the General Fund in the end of November report we are projecting a 4.4 million carry over and move to other savings, and asked for approval to make sure she can get it all taken care of before her departure. CM Scott stated for you Betty anything. CM Clausen asked if that was coming out of the 4.4 million, which would make sense. You did a good job Betty. CM Scott motioned for suspension of the 3 readings, with CM Fleck second. Motion passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Scott motioned, with CM Buxton seconded for passage. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**61-21-O:** An Ordinance accepting the Matching Grant through the Ohio Department of Development Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Program (WWIP), to establish a fund, and declaring an emergency. Director Hitchcock clarified that the 500,000 match that is talked about is the Eco Street project, that we are already planning on doing next year. Then the 680 will be spent in the South West corner. Mayor Hazel stated that we are very lucky to get this 680,000 grant and it will go a long way in that South West corner. CM Scott motioned for suspension of the 3 readings, and CM Baltzell seconded. Suspension passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton motioned for passaged and CM Clausen seconded. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**62-21-O:** An Ordinance amending various categories within Ordinance 32-20-O as the twelfth supplement to the 2021 annual appropriations, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel stated this is housekeeping and finalizing accounts at the end of the year and another $100,00 for billing for purchase power cost.

CM Clausen asked about the amended Ordinance 56-21 and asked if that is taking into account for all of these because it looks like we zeroed out some accounts with the Ordinances we just passed. Mayor Hazel stated that that Ordinance is for the 2022 budget. Auditor Strawn stated that the portions we zeroed out for next year had to do with the reserve accounts, with water and waste water. The Ordinance we are looking at is for the 2021-year additional money for last payroll this year. CM Fleck made motion to suspend the 3 readings and CM Clausen second. Suspension passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM -Baltzell motioned for passage and CM Buxton seconded. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye

**21-21-R:** A Resolution accepting a donation from an anonymous donor to the Celina Police Department.

CM Sovinski thanked Mr. Anonymous and being as anonymous we could probably make an emergency and suspend. CM Sovinski motioned to suspension of 3 readings and CM Fleck seconded. Suspension passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton motioned for passage and CM Baltzell seconded. Resolution passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**22-21-R:** A Resolution accepting a donation from the Jerry Andrew Fund to the Celina Park and Recreation Department to add Pickle Ball courts.

Mayor Hazel stated we talked briefly about this last meeting and when Jerry Andrew’s passed away he did leave a portion of money in the civic funds and the City got a third of that and opted to put that toward the pickle ball courts. We did not get the grant from OD&R so this will procreate to build pickle ball courts. CM Fleck stated that he was just at a gathering where he was enlightened on just how important pickle ball really is and how many people do travel from Celina to play pickle ball. It’s good to see it moving along. CM Clausen asked is this something that needs to be done. Mayor Hazel stated it’s not procreating it’s just to clean the books up. CM Clausen made motion to suspend the 3 readings and CM Sovinski seconded. Suspension passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton motioned to pass, with CM Clausen seconded. Resolution passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS:** (Second Reading)

**20-21-R:** A Resolution accepting a donation from Princess Sue Hess to the Celina Police Department (AMENDED)

President King stated we need to approve the amended version and you can see she raised it to another $100, we are very grateful. CM Clausen motioned to except amended version and CM Scott seconded. Motion passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Scott wants to thank her again and motioned to suspend the rules and CM Fleck seconded. Suspension passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton motioned for passage and CM Lochtefeld seconded. Resolution passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

(Third Reading)

**56-21-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, 2022, and to declare an emergency. CM Sovinski made motion to accept amendment and CM Clausen. Acceptance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye. Auditor Strawn stated she had memo explaining the changes made to the Ordinance on the budget that we have red twice this year with four changes. The first is the electric charging stations, we added an expense under that adding $6,800 to that. The second is the water transfer reserves account that we no longer have on the account line items. It will eliminate a transfer fee $413,025. CM Sovinski stated we don’t have to have an additional account under water. Auditor Strawn finished with item 4 from the medical insurance expense for the 2022 year only increased 6%, instead of 15% which lowered the budget by 9%. Our budget went from $46,890,438 and reflected by $44,658,628 will be our new budget. CM Scott stated nice job betty you’ve done a great job. CM Clausen stated how fantastic it is and being thrall. CM Sovinski made motion for passage and seconded by CM Baltzell. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**57-21-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 2022. CM Clausen stated this is every year and makes motion for passage, seconded by CM Buxton. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**58-21-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 2022. CM Sovinski stated needs to be done and motioned for passage, CM Lochtefeld second. Ordinance passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**17-21-R:** A Resolution accepting donations from the Mercer County Fairgrounds Inc., Osgood Bank, and C-Town Wings to Celina Fire Department and from C-Town Wings to the Celina Police Department. CM Fleck thanked to the businesses that continue to make donations every meeting. CM Clausen motioned for passage with CM Baltzell second. Resolution passed with roll call vote, 7-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel stated we had a fantastic year, a lot of things happen. He plans to share the mic with Auditor Strawn to cover the meter investment strategy. But wanted to point out that for the first time ever we sat down with First Financial compression plan for the Brancen Trust, with what they did with their financial strategy. Keep in mind that the city does not own that trust, we are just a beneficiary of it, but it’s now a private foundation, which means a disbursement of 5% each year that allows us to go through those projects each year. Auditor Strawn touched on Meter Investment Strategy and the new Ohio Revised Code states what cities can invest in certain types of bonds and stocks, but with those investments policy we have here at the city, the new code looks at that for how to do those investments. Over the years we have hired meter investments and they do a nice job. In today’s environment it’s very hard to break a percentage. This past year they had a 1.07% average yield, estimated in annual investment income in the City of Celina $358,000, so a nice return from the investments. We have about 33 million invested through the Meter Group. They came in and did a presentation on their plan of investment. They are very connected with the city and wanting to know the capital projects we have for the years. CM Clausen stated beforehand we wouldn’t have anything? Auditor Strawn stated we would have kept it in local banks. CM Clausen stated it would be a good thing for all Council members to go to and asked if it’s open to all council members? Good information to hear, first financial. Mayor Hazel stated that due to law, if it’s informational like that then you can come but if they come to discuss then it turns into a meeting. Auditor Strawn states we have invited Meter to come to meetings so feel free to invite again.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Buxton asked if both charging stations were up and running and are they being used? Mayor Hazel stated yes. CM Clausen stated he saw a guy pull up and use it. He was pleased CM Sovinski commented on the charging station, same guy, who was not happy with the speed. We need to make sure, that if we are paying into this, that the charging station has a maintenance policy and make sure it’s charging at the right rate and if we can change that.

Mayor Hazel commented on that when this was first brought up the council decided to go with the trickle charger instead of the fast charger. CM Sovinski asked if it becomes an issue in the future can pro rate it/upgrade. Mayor Hazel stated we can check into that if it becomes an issue. CM Scott followed up with when we talked about this before there was an increase in charge that we would pay as a City to have the faster charge which is why we chose the trickle.CM Sovinski next questions has to do with utility charges. How do we handle change of ownerships for properties for minimal monthly charges? Do both property owners pay a monthly charge? Mayor Hazel stated he believes that that’s how it’s set up and asked if CM Sovinski would like to look at that again. CM Sovinski stated yes because he doesn’t believe it to be fair that we are charging twice for monthly charges. Mayor Hazel stated he is fine to bring that up to the utility company. CM Sovinski stated he understands we need to get the charge out but he doesn’t believe we should have two different owners paying the same monthly bill. CM Sovinski then stated his third questions is the discussion of what we do for passing motions for first and second readings of Ordinance. He thinks we need to change it for the first and second reading we can “approve” no, make a motion for approval of the Ordinance but not make a motion to pass the Ordinance. The terminology needs to be clearer. Director Moore stated you could also write it in the were with a majority vote you cannot postpone indefinitely. So if you can get these straw poll no votes it would kill it. You are also not required to vote the first two times. CM Sovinski we already have a motion to postpone indefinitely. Director Moore stated you do but you can’t do that when you have voted. Or why you couldn’t change it to then make the motion to postpone it. CM Sovinski stated his point is if we make it a motion for approval it takes off the confusion of the motion for passage. CM Scott followed up with so the public knows how we feel. CM Sovinski asked that Resolutions are different than Ordinances, do Resolutions have to have 3 readings. Director Moore stated it’s in the code but he does know that it intends to have the same effect and that he will find the answer. CM Lochtefeld stated he did a quick google and they both require 3 readings. CM Sovinski stated the last piece is how we make our motions, the order. I would like to see us not make a motion of action until the President asks for it. President King stated he believes this discussion would be for Committee as a Whole discussion. CM Scott stated his point that whenever the next Committee Meeting is we should discuss. We need to get this done quickly. President King stated we can take any confusion away and everything we have been doing is how it’s been in pass practice. Let’s schedule a committee meeting for the first council meeting in January and let’s have it sooner than later. January 10th at 6:00pm let’s have a Committee as a Whole meeting to discuss the rules but are all 7 available. We also got a 2022 Council Meeting Calendar, there are two dates in December and we ignore that and make it the third Monday of the month, the 19th. Mayor Hazel stated that this will be Auditor Strawn’s last meeting and we got you a plaque for your 10 years. Commending her on her great work keeping us in line, the accounts are good, and the books good and Happy Retirement.

Council President King adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Submitted by Erin B. Heberlie, Clerk of Council.