Committee of the Whole

September 25, 2023

Council President King; Council Members Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, and Sovinski; Mayor Hazel; Auditor Shinn; Law Director Moore

Council President King called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm to speak about Council rules.

Law Director Moore noted there is no requirement under the ORC to allow people to speak during these meetings and if they do everyone needs to be treated the same and they are able to change their own rules when it comes to what people state if anything at all before speaking to Council.

CM Fleck noted that the reason we are talking about this currently is because when people speak about how button topics, they do not want to fear repercussions from the other side. CM Fleck noted how believes they still need to limit who is speaking to Council or we will have people outside of the district coming to speak to Council.

CM Buxton noted that is people give names then someone can find more information using the internet and noted he would like for them to state what ward they live in so he knows if they are in his ward and CM Clausen agreed that they need to at least state they are in Celina.

CM Sovinski noted a pre-registration form before speaking should be considered so we already know who is speaking and that they won’t have to give that information again unless they want to be addressed by their names still.

CM Lochtefeld noted he likes the pre-registration idea but does not know if it will solve every problem depending on what we are asking them to put on the registration. CM Lochtefeld also noted that they would be able to say if they want to talk about a specific Ordinance or anything under a remark’s column.

CM Buxton noted that he believes the meetings should be open to citizens of Celina as well as employees who work for the City of Celina and do not live in the City and they deserve an opportunity to talk. President King also spoke about the school limits and other things where it is hard to find a cut off for who can speak.

CM Fleck spoke about when we have larger issues and many people come if we would be checking on who registers and it was confirmed that the police checked ID’s before during topics like that. CM Fleck noted that it may take a while to implement it.

Mayor Hazel noted that we provide water and electric to many people outside of the City and believes they should have a voice as well even though they cannot vote.

CM Clausen noted he is fine with people just stating that they live in the City of Celina. CM Clausen also noted that people will not know about the new rules for a while and people will show up thinking they are able to speak and is why he would like for them to just state that they live in Celina.

CM Sovinski made a recommendation that administration tackles the audience communication rules and create a pre-registration form as well and put together the wording of any council rule changes. CM Sovinski noted that the affiliation can matter if they are speaking from a place with more knowledge on a subject.

Law Director Moore noted that they believe they should also create a hard date stating on this date we will be using the pre-registration form. Law Director Moore also noted that if anyone else wanted other language to be changed now is the time to do it since we are already discussing creating an Ordinance to change some of the language.

CM Sovinski made a motion to review and change the language of Council rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council