**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – January 13, 2025**

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

CM Fleck made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

President King noted that no changes will be happening with the current committee members and their assignments and reconfirmed CM Buxton as the pro-tem president.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the public works building and the Mill Street project that was passed.

Mayor Hazel spoke about some of the safety service members that started with the City of Celina over the last month while acknowledging a pending retirement for a sergeant and our K-9 with the unit.

CM Baltzell asked about the possibility of a lateral transfer instead of a trainee and Mayor Hazel noted that would be welcome and open if there are any wanting to transfer over to our police department.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Becky Marconetti and Linda Yeaton who reside at 8583 State Route 219 in different lots expressed their concern about not receiving mail because the local USPS is short on staff and said can only drop off the packages at centralized locations which is concerning to them because they can be stolen and it is difficult for some of the older people to get to their packages. Council Members suggested speaking to the local post master general which they confirmed they are doing and the Law Director Moore noted they may be able to make some progress if they speak to their state representative. Mayor Hazel noted he would make some calls and see if he can help in anyway but noted the United States Government owns that building. CM Fleck noted that many residents have had a hard time getting their mail to them on time lately and confirmed that other delivery methods such as UPS and Amazon will deliver to the houses.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**1-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Mercer County Commissioners for Indigent Defense Services in Municipal Court and declaring an emergency. CM Fleck confirmed that this Ordinance was fairly identical to last years. Law Director Moore explained what slight difference may actually occur. CM Clausen asked about costs associated with this and Law Director Moore noted if they can be charged from something within the ORC, they will do that. CM Gray made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**2-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into an Annual Service Agreement with Emergency Networking, Inc. for Fire reporting services for the Celina Fire Department and declaring an emergency. CM Baltzell asked if it was a system we were currently using and Fire Chief Lange spoke about the new system and what it can help accomplish as well as the costs compared to its competitors. CM Sanford noted how it sounds like it will save them time and money and is happier it will make life easier on the department. CM Wolfe asked if it would possibly work in tandem with the Water and Wastewater departments and Chief Lange noted he would look into that. CM Clausen asked how long the implementation process might take and Chief Lange confirmed around two months. CM Gray asked about the apps and what devices they would be downloaded on CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**3-25-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds for the Celina Municipal Court Case Management System upgrade, data conversion, printers and labels costs, and declaring an emergency. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Mayor Hazel noted this was something that is supported by Judge Speelman and noted it was an incoming expense but they did not have the exact costs at the time of the budget. Mayor Hazel also noted that they are using their own fees that are collected through the courts to pay for the program and that all of these programs have been pricey as of late. Auditor Shinn noted that they have been shopping around for a while until finding one that that would be best suited for them. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**1-25-R:** A Resolution authorizing the sale by internet auction during calendar year 2025 of municipally owned personal property which is not needed for public use, or which is obsolete or unfit for the use for which it was acquired, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15(D). CM Baltzell noted his surprise that the premium did not go up like most items lately. CM Clausen noted it is great we are able to sell equipment we no longer have a use for and help provide another revenue for those departments selling items. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second 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. CM Buxton asked a representative if there would be any corporate tents between the bridges and it was noted they have not discussed that yet and also confirmed which streets may be closed for the event. CM Buxton noted his suggestion to not have any Sunday night concerts during that event weekend and administration confirmed they believes that problem has been resolved. The representative noted they are excited to bring the event back and noted they will be flying to Reno, Nevada to try to put in a bid for a title event for this event. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Angie King, current state representative presented a message from the Ohio House or Representatives congratulating the City of Celina on 190 years of existence and thanked council for their service.

Mayor Hazel noted they will need a committee meeting to discuss utilities.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the visitor’s dugout and how the old pool slide has been removed.

Auditor Shinn noted she should have the year-end reports ready by the next meeting.

Law Director Moore noted an annual reminder that financial disclosures as elected officials are due.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Wolfe noted he was at the Sheriff’s office and how they had a screen that showed the GPS location for all vehicles including vehicles of the City of Celina Police and Fire Department and confirmed with Chief Wale how we also have those capabilities. CM Wolfe noted he believes that is a wonderful safety feature.

CM Wolfe asked about the sidewalks on Touvelle Street and how some residential sidewalks are incomplete and not within regulations. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted we are pretty close to having commercial done and if Council wants residential to be done that is something they can look into. CM Clausen noted there was an incident on Jill Ave and that the lack of sidewalk can create some problems. Mayor Hazel noted that is also depends on if the property across from them have sidewalks or not on when and who would have to put up the sidewalk. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted they will look at the old list and have that available to talk about.

CM Buxton asked if the dugout changed from the original plans and Mayor Hazel noted it has been scaled down but still would still be a great addition and Mayor Hazel noted it will be paid for and then donated to the City. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted we did move a transformer but minimal costs have occurred to the City.

CM Sanford spoke about how he is glad to have the additions to the Safety Services within the City of Celina.

CM Sanford noted how pleased he is that the City has paid off so much debt in the last 13 years as well as speaking about the mile and half mile pass that are almost finished at the Bryson Park and encourages people to use those routes and the new finished pickleball courts.

CM Buxton thanked the two families that bought Peng our K-9 dog for us 10 years ago or so.

President King scheduled a utility meeting on February 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

At 8:05 pm, CM Fleck made a motion to go into executive session for conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent litigation, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

President King adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council