**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – November 11, 2024**

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

CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CM Clausen spoke about the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting that took place on 10-27-2024.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Collin Fueling made a note that audio was not working and spoke about the Celina Police Department and the safety concerns that comes with the shortage of staff and spoke about the wear and tear of being short staffed and asked for Council to find a way to fund more police officers. Collin was thankful for the cadet program and how it has helped provide some staffing, but they will not be able to help until September of 2025. Collin noted they are not able to provide the same services to the City without being fully staffed as they have to prioritize. Collin asked about the hiring process and staffing and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that any pause in hiring is all based on the 2025 budget which they are currently going over. Collin asked about the half percent money and President King noted they have a difference of opinion in how that is to be used and noted it was never tied to permanent wages since it is a temporary revenue. President King noted they are looking at the budget now and are hoping to fund solutions to fund the positions. Collin spoke about his love for Celina and his position and just wants to find solutions which will help with morale. CM Clausen noted they are looking at the budget and they will have to make decisions about what can be cut and noted that going to the taxpayers will take time and not provide immediate relief like everyone in the department wants. CM Gray asked what could be done immediately and not just in January of 2025 and spoke about the possibility of deficit spending or at least looking at all possible avenues and noted his appreciation of the Celina Police Department.

Linda Harting who resides at 7981 Wise Road spoke about the need to hire more police and asked about other staff shortages within the City and it was confirmed the Fire Department and the Wastewater Department and not fully staffed as well as the firefighter trainee positions that are currently being filled. Linda spoke about the possible retirees and how the department would be around 50% staffing level and questioned if the last candidate was not hired because they were a female which Council noted was not the case at all. President King spoke about the funding for police and fire and the splits for other positions and how it relates to general fund spending. CM Clausen noted the Police and Fire are the biggest chunk of general fund expenses and Linda noted her believe that something bad can happen soon because the shortage of staffing. President King noted they will be looking at all options and trying to come up with solutions and noted the budget meeting coming up on Thursday.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First 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 Buxton made a motion to read the title, whereas, and section 1, 3, and 4, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a voice acclimation 5-0 Aye. CM Fleck made notes of what this meant to the new Council Members and CM Gray confirmed he understands the process. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a second reading seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

**62-24-O:** An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing “Section 1180.11 Swimming Pools” of the City of Celina’s Codified Ordinances; and declaring an effective date. CM Fleck made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

61-24-O: An Ordinance amending Ordinance 69-01-O to change the zoning classification of the properties owned by Sharkey Holdings LLC (457 Grand Lake Road) from R-O Residential/Office District to M-1 Manufacturing District. CM Clausen noted the public hearing where there were no comments. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

None.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Clausen thanked the voters for the EMS levy that passed and noted that it was a great step to help solve some of the problems.

CM Wolfe spoke about the ballot language and if there was a record stating that half percent revenue was not to go to wages and asked that administration look at the minutes of the renewal for any possible guidance. President King noted him, and CM Buxton were on the original Council when it was brought up and it was never intended to tie together permanent salaries with a temporary tax. CM Fleck noted that they should go off the most recent ballot language and CM Wolfe noted the ballot language does not show that. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that before the 2022 renewal it was always said to not go towards wages and pointed out that Council has been consistent that it is not to be used for wages since he has worked for the City.

CM Gray noted the 1% that makes up general fund and that if we were fully staffed, we would blow pass the expected revenue in 2025. CM Fleck noted getting exact numbers is needed so they know how much past the revenue we would go while fully staffing and it was noted that can be provided on Thursday.

CM Gray spoke about the early voters and young voters and how excited people seemed to be to vote, which is great.

CM Gray thanked the police officers that responded to the recent shooting and the wonderful job they did. Chief Wale confirmed they did a wonderful job and that the victim is expected to survive and make a full recovery.

CM Buxton spoke about Grand Lake Road and Havemann Road at northbound adding a no turn on red because there have been many close calls with crashes and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that is something they can look into.

CM Buxton asked about the hydrants that are painted blue and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted those are hydrants that are already being taken care of by the owners of the property, but it was to help personnel within our departments know which ones are on private property and the Water Distribution plant can walk anyone through it and the will give a door hanger to remind people who need to action them. CM Fleck asked why some have been painted blue on top and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that private property hydrants and handled by the property owners.

Law Director Moore noted in his professional opinion he would feel comfortable legally with the City being able to transfer the money in between the delineated purposes of fire, police, and streets with the half percent and that they can cut some street funding and pay fire and police without having to go back to the voters and ask in his legal opinion and noted there may be other options. President King noted they can discuss that and noted there is a carry over, but it would not last long. CM Clausen asked if Council could get a reminder about when they can delete personal emails and when and Law Director Moore noted he will send out record retention guidance with the latest version.

CM Clausen scheduled a Personnel and Finance Committee meeting at 5:00 pm on November 14, 2024 to discuss the police and fire 2025 proposed budget.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council