**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – February 27, 2023**

President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:06 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Sovinski were present. Also present were Safety Service Director Hitchcock, Auditor Shinn, and Law Director Moore.

CM Scott made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0-1 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Safety Service Director spoke about the playground at Eastview Park that the Bryson Trust donated and its recent completion and other than waiting on the rubber to cure it is ready to be used and thinks it turned out great. Multiple council members mentioned that they have heard about how wonderful it looks and how everyone has been very pleased with the aesthetics of the playground.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**6-23-O:** An Ordinance establishing salaries of the Mayor, Law Director, Auditor, Treasurer, Council President, and Council Members. Law Director Moore mentioned how with Ohio law it prevents elected members from raising salaries during the term so all effective dates are at the start of each elected positions next term start dates. CM Scott mentioned that he has been with Council for 20 years and they have not received a pay increase during those 20 years and he believes it is about time. CM Clausen also mentioned that when they look at neighboring cities and towns with similar populations you can see that we needed to adjust the salaries because we believe the City of Celina is doing more and not less than those neighbors as well as entice the elected officials to keep making strides and working hard for the City of Celina. CM Scott made a motion to amend the Ordinance and correct the date for the Law Director’s effective date of that positions new salary, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Sovinski made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

**3-23-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Celina and Small-Town Pride for the lease of the Bryson Park District. CM Lochtefeld noted that the reason this Ordinance keeps coming to council is because there have been changes made each year, whether that is closing streets or moving locations and also noted that as long as there were no changes then it should not have to come back to council. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that other festivals have to come to council to get Ash Street closed every year and if they add it to the Ordinance now it will prevent them from having to come back to council every year for the street closure. CM Lochtefeld made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Scott. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

None.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Buxton asked three questions about Lakeshore Park about when the old bathrooms will be torn down, if they can have the electric department add electric to the pole behind it, and about the parking lot that they are currently working on where the old basketball courts were which Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that the bathrooms will be torn down towards the end of the summer and that they are able to have the electric department look at that eventually and lastly that they tore out the old basketball courts and are putting in the parking lot as planned and are making much more convenient parking spots with the project. CM Buxton mentioned that with the tearing down of the old bathroom and putting in the new bathroom vendors for the festival are losing spots and that they would like electric to be ran to the pole.

CM Buxton also wanted to make note and thank Mr. Kincaid on his article about trains going through the town and any potential for hazardous spills. CM Clausen also wanted to mention that the article was a good read and asked the administration what is the City of Celina’s plans about trains coming through the city and if they could contain toxic waste, he also mentioned that according to the article it seems that we do not have that problem to worry about currently but how would we know if that changed and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that while we are allowed to ask he does not know if they are required to tell us if anything changes with what will go through our train tracks and if they did start hauling hazardous waste. CM Clausen also asked if we have a speed limit set for trains in the City and it was confirmed that there is a speed limit and it is 35 MPH.

CM Clausen asked if we have a fund that has been started for field replacement and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that we have and we currently have about $75,000 set aside and will place more in there as the time gets closer to replace the field and the contributions vary depending on how the year was for the City of Celina. CM Scott noted that it was first put into practice that for field replacement they would put $10,000 into an account each year and at the end of ten years that would pay for the field replacement but it ended up costing about $80,000 more than our projections and that is why the City of Celina had to cover more than expected. CM Scott asked if this should be looked at and increase the price that they set aside each year to help cover more of the field and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that every couple of years they have placed $25,000 into the field replacement but when they have extra money at the end of the year, they try to put place more in that fund when it is getting closer to the field to be replaced.

CM Sovinski mentioned that is a short line railroad in Celina and the likely hood of any hazardous material coming through the City of Celina is very unlikely and noted that the speed limit of the trains is based on the conditions of the tracks.

CM Sovinski also mentioned that he anticipates audience communications for an upcoming meeting about the tree planting program.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council