**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – September 9, 2024**

President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:040 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 Buxton made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. 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:**

President King noted that the Committee of the Whole that took place on August 26, 2024 at 6:30 pm went into executive session.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the purple flower pin wheels around some City buildings was for Alzheimer’s acknowledgement and that they should all be taken down already and if not they will be in short order.

Mayor Hazel also spoke about a proclamation he made earlier in the day for National Assisted Living Week.

Caitlin Bair who was a guest of the mayor spoke about the 2025 charitable appeal and how any money collected for the remainder of the year would go towards 2025. Caitlin noted that they started accepting donation on September 6,2024and will go through October 6, 2024. Caitlin spoke about this charitable appeal being in Celina since the 1970’s. Caitlin made note that in 2021 it expanded to all of Mercer County citizens and noted that 95% of all donations go toward charities. Caitlin spoke about what standards are needed to be a part of their charitable donations.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Lisa Kleinke who is the CEO for Mercer Health spoke in length about what the zoning change and allowing an urgent care would do for business and believes that the focus of any medical group to come in Celina should be about care that is not already provided or helping give better care in certain specialized areas. Lisa voiced her concerns about over saturating the market and duplicating services within the City of Celina and how it may affect the community. Lisa also spoke about the specialists and employees working for Mercer Health. Lisa noted that industry growth is great and recommends keeping the area zoned for industry and have Mercy Health build in an area that is already properly zoned.

Cindy Berning who is the CEO for Grand Lake Health System and partners with Mercer Health spoke in agreement with what Lisa said. Cindy noted that they have worked together for years and helped provide quality care for the citizens. Cindy noted her belief that what the urgent care would provide is already provided within the City of Celina by the Mercer Health and Grand Lake Health System.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)**58-24-O:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 69-01-O to change the zoning classification of a portion of property owned by JES Enterprises of Celina (1800 Industrial Drive) from M-2 Light Manufacturing District to B-3 Community Shopping District. CM Clausen asked if the planning commission had any concerns and Mayor Hazel noted that from a developmental plan it was good but all based on the contingency of rezoning and also mentioned that there would not be a curb cut on Havemann Road. Mayor Hazel spoke about the rezoning that has taken place in that area over the past few years. CM Fleck asked what hours the urgent care would work and senior developer representing the urgent care noted that hours have not been made official but could be around 9 am to 7 pm possibly Monday through Saturday. CM Baltzell confirmed that it was one acre trying to be zoned and noted an industrial facility would likely not come in for one acre and acknowledged his appreciation of what Mercer Health and Grand Lake have done but feels like they are being asked to restrict competition which they have never done in the past while noting it will go three readings and the public hearing on October 14th will provide time to let constituent’s feelings be known. CM Sanford noted the very limited industrial space and asked if there were any alternate plans of where to put the urgent care and it was noted there are no other plans. CM Sanford confirmed that there are three acres of industrial zoning and then asked Mercy Health if they had any thoughts or intention of expending and using the other two acres and Mercy Health confirmed they only need the one acre at this time but noted they will have a blockage up if someone wanted the other two acres. CM Sanford asked if all patients would be referred to Lima as well as ambulatory services and Mercy Health noted he in the on the development side and can have someone come to the next meeting to speak about the ambulatory services. CM Sanford also asked about traffic and how that may change in the area and Mercy Health noted they wanted to go out on Havemann at first but are now planning on going out to industrial where there a multiple ins and outs for the property and noted they are planning for about 30 patients a day and that will not cause high traffic. CM Buxton asked about the available land west of JES and it was confirmed JES own all available land west. CM Buxton noted most industrial businesses would need more than 2 or 3 acres. CM Baltzell noted that Mercy Health is already involved within the community. Mercy Health noted how the urgent care would also have an occupational health component as well. CM Buxton asked if the three hospitals use the same system and it was confirmed they do not use the same systems and noted that is inconvenient for the patient. CM Baltzell noted that with the more traffic perhaps it would warrant a traffic light out there. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted that the site area has been hard to market because of the location and how semi-trucks are able to pull out of that area. CM Gray recommended that Mercy Health drive the site while Crown does shift change. CM Gray asked why Celina when there are already two urgent cares within 10 miles and Mercy Health noted they believe based on population modeling by 2026 there will be a clear need for another urgent care and enough patients to support all of them and noted they would like to open in late 2025. CM Gray asked if one acre would be enough for parking and a building and Mercy Health confirmed that to be correct. President King asked if they received a copy of the site plan and it was noted they did not but Safety Service Director Hitchcock had one and Mercy Health went and showed members what the site plan looks like and the area that is being used. CM Gray noted that the auction site is open on Sundays and may use their parking area since it is usually quite full. CM Wolfe asked Mayor Hazel how many zoning changes have been made in that same area and Mayor Hazel confirmed he believes about three times or so since 1999. CM Clausen recognized what Mercer Health and Grand Lake and the relationship with Celina and noted if it falls within the rules and regulations in place than they should not be restricting new businesses and noted another business offering outpatient care would be a plus for the community. CM Buxton noted that he does not remember ever saying no to a business because of competition. CM Sanford asked what Mercy Health meant when they said population growth can support one or two more and Mercy Health confirmed the population model suggests they could have one or two more urgent cares in the area on top of what is already there. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-2 Aye.

**59-24-O:** An Ordinance amending 57-24-O to establish a salary schedule for Police Officer Trainee Position and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about how the IAFF did an MOU which is why the firefighter trainee was pulled out and the FOP did not do an MOU which is why the Police Officer Trainee had to have wages put in. Mayor Hazel noted that the Police Officer Trainee would not receive any increases while in school. CM Wolfe asked why it says up to $26.75 and Mayor Hazel noted that anyone starting now would receive that wage and it says up to in case we have to decrease that number depending on the market for that position. Mayor Hazel noted that when the trainees receive their OPATA certificate they will then be placed as an officer and use the patrolman’s contract. CM Gray asked if there were plans for the officers when they are not in school and Chief Wale confirmed he has plans for the trainees. CM Clausen asked how many could be put in the trainee program and Mayor Hazel noted it varies based on what the budget can sustain and how many positions are open. Chief Wale noted there are more candidates but two they feel comfortable offering this position to and noted they have already taken the NTN and have an original appointment from civil service. CM Clausen asked about the money we would get back if they fail the course and Mayor Hazel confirmed they would have to pay the money back according to the contract they sign. CM Gray made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

None.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

None.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Wolfe spoke about the EMS contract and if the levy passes the City of Celina would receive around $300,000 plus what we already receive as well as us not having to pay the County per capita. President King asked if he had any ballot language and CM Wolfe noted he did not at the time and noted he still has some signs left. Mayor Hazel thanked CM Wolfe for sitting on the board and noted that money would not solve all the problems but would make a big dent. Mayor Hazel noted we have enough money to hire full staff and this would help us possibly put another person on each shift. Mayor Hazel noted the County pays for EMT and paramedic training. CM Gray asked if training will come out of the $300,000 and Mayor Hazel confirmed it would not. CM Clausen noted that the Fire Department would like to get to 7 a shift and Mayor Hazel noted this money would not make that possible but could potentially help us have 5-6 per shift. CM Clausen noted that we have some firefighters who work as much overtime as they want and confirmed this new money and possible personnel would not eliminate all call backs. CM Clausen asked CM Wolfe if the levy passes when would Celina receive the money and Mayor Hazel noted it is a year in the rear so it would likely be in 2026 once they have collected the additional money.

CM Sanford noted this would help provide staffing to Celina, Rockford, and Coldwater. Mayor Hazel noted the EMT’s from the County could be housed in Rockford or Coldwater and help cover some of these ambulatory calls. CM Gray noted our current system is stressed and noted Mercy Health did not have any answer about possible ambulatory runs. Mayor Hazel noted that our guys in emergencies have taken residents to Lima and on normal occasions our team takes them to the nearest hospital that is able to help. CM Wolfe noted that Mercer Health and Grand Lake are able to transfer their own patients.

CM Gray noted he has seen some wheel chair accessible intersections being put in again and mentioned some spots that may need them and Mayor Hazel noted they can look into specific addresses or streets and Safety Service Director Hitchcock confirmed they are on the list but also noted difficulties that may occur since they were not set up for crosswalks when they were originally built and have a storm drain right in that area.

CM Sanford noted that Firefighter Kelly has started and thanked LT Cline for saving a citizen and noted his appreciation for the safety services while noting how many responses the police have been called to while also wishing Bryce Schmidt from Public Works a speedy recovery. Mayor Hazel noted that Bryce has left the hospital and is making progress but has a long road to recovery and noted it is an ongoing investigation.

President King adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council