**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – November 25, 2024**

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

CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0-2 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CM Clausen spoke about the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting that took place on 11-11-2024 and 11-14-2024.

President King spoke about the public hearing that took place on 11-11-2024.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the groundbreaking for the 7-12 school building and spoke about the students that will be attending this school and noted how pleased and happy he is for the school and the progress that has been made.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Brandy Staugler who resides as 3061 Stelzer Road spoke about how she is concerned about the police staffing and how that might affect the School Resource Officer positions and asked about the building feasibility study for the Fire Department. Mayor Hazel noted they are hoping to get the results back around mid-December and noted there is an SRO in the school and noted that the Police Department staffing was at 16 around 2013 and it is now at 18.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**64-24-O:** An Ordinance to make Appropriations for expenses and other expenditures of the City of Celina, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2025, and to declare an emergency. Voice acclimation passed to read Title, Section 1, 25, and 26 7-0 Aye. CM Sanford asked for clarification on section 25 and Law Director Moore noted this language comes straight from the State Auditor. Mayor Hazel clarified that this was once again a balanced budget when accounting for anticipated future projects. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**65-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for City Projects and Capital Equipment for Fiscal Year 2025. Voice acclimation passed to read Title, section 1, 2, 3, and 4 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**66-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for certain materials, services, supplies and equipment needed during 2025. 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.

**67-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director and Auditor to enter into an Agreement with the Jefferson Health Plan and declaring an emergency. Auditor Shinn noted the reason they are attempting to go with Jefferson Health Plan is because it will save money on insurance costs and the coverage and mentioned the transparency. Bill from the JHP spoke about the benefits JHP will help the City of Celina with in terms of transparency and knowing where and what the money is being spent on when you send your monthly premium to them. CM Buxton asked for some other members around the area and Bill noted the Rhodes State College is one of the customers. CM Baltzell noted we use to be self-insured before and Mayor Hazel confirmed that and noted they switched to save money and they are switching again to save money. CM Baltzell also asked about the risks and Bill noted if you have a bad year with claims, it negatively will affect your rate like other insurances but if you have a good year, you actually will keep the left-over money and it will roll into the following years with an account the City has access to. CM Baltzell asked how this may affect City employees and it was noted they will not notice any difference other than a group number change on the Medical Mutual cards. Mayor Hazel noted this move helps the premium increase be far more manageable and stable of the years. CM Clausen asked how long JHP has been around and Bill stated since 1985 and that they span multiple states but all state money stays within those states. CM Clausen asked about the spikes we have gotten with insurance companies and Bill noted they hope to help but it all depends on what the claims are with the City of Celina. CM Buxton asked when it would be effective and it was determined 01-01-2025. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Sanford made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**68-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into an annual Professional Services Agreement with InSource Solutions Group, Inc. for professional filing services for the City Income Tax Department and declaring an emergency. CM Wolfe made a motion to amend section one to add “Tax” after income, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Gray asked how many returns per year and Roxann Shaffer noted it varies for residential and businesses. Roxann explained how the system will help the City and give citizens an additional way to file and this is our first time trying something like this and are expecting a possible number of over 1,000 people filing through this new system. CM Gray asked about the fees and Roxann noted it was a one-time fee. Auditor Shinn noted the 2025 budget has everything annotated currently with fees. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. 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.

**69-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to award the Mill Street Improvements Project to Shinn Brothers, Inc., appropriate funds, and declaring an emergency. CM Buxton asked if Shinn Brothers has done any streets for us in the past and Mayor Hazel noted they have and the streets were done correctly with no issues. Mayor Hazel noted that they came well under the bid so they are very pleased with this. CM Clausen asked about the cost coming down and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted when doing some investigating, they found out less of the sanitary system needed replaced than originally thought and noted they have to order material and hopefully they can start working around March or April. CM Wolfe noted Shinn Brothers has worked with the City before and done a great job. CM Sanford made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. 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.

**70-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to accept a Reimbursable Grant which has been awarded to the City of Celina by the Ohio Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) as part of its “ODOT Jobs & Commerce Award” Program, to appropriate funds, and declaring an emergency. Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted it was a joint project with the City and School and that we were the ones that were eligible for the grant. CM Clausen noted he is happy when the City goes after grants and appreciates that efforts. CM Gray made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. 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):

**63-24-O:** An Ordinance to approve, adopt, and enact the 2023 & 2024 replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third 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 Sanford noted it is great to relax restrictions but to make sure there is diligence to make sure everyone is safe when it comes to pool safety. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the possibility of icy streets with the upcoming weather and noted when it gets too cold you may have to leave your sink dripping to prevent frozen water lines.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the recent 16 water line breaks and that our Water Department is working on it and should bring something soon to get everything replaced.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

SM Sanford thanks administration for helping find a way to fund police and fire and thanked police and fire for the numbers on their reports.

CM Buxton asked about Grand Lake Road and the no turn on red sign and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted they can do it and will do it.

CM Buxton asked about the fencing around the sludge ponds and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted it had to do with a project and we may eventually have to put it back up.

CM Buxton asked about the dates of the last leaf pick up and noted his trees still have leaves and requests they consider having another date and Mayor Hazel noted they will look into it.

CM Gray spoke about the recent hires and identified possible hires at the Fire Department.

CM Gray asked Chief Wale if there had been any police trainees that have been identified to possibly fill the open vacancies and Chief Wale confirmed he is looking and has made progress. CM Gray asked if there was consideration of leaving a spot open to try to find a lateral and Chief Wale noted not now but they are anticipating a retirement or two and can consider that later.

Auditor Shinn noted where and how we are able to reimburse the one percent with half percent money using future half percent revenue to reimburse funds the one percent has used to pay for street projects since that was included in the ballot language for half percent money to be used for.

President King scheduled a Special Meeting at 7:00 pm on December 9, 2024.

At 8:08 pm, CM Wolfe made a motion to go into executive session to consider the purchase or lease of property for public purposes or the sale of property at competitive bidding, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

President King adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council