**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – June 12, 2023**

Pro-Tem President Buxton called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council Members Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Sovinski were present. Also present were Mayor Hazel, Safety Service Director Hitchcock, and Law Director Moore.

CM Scott made a motion to pass the Agenda, seconded by CM Lochtefeld. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Pro-Tem President Buxton went over the Committee of the whole meeting that took place on May, 22 2023.

CM Fleck went over the Utility Committee Meeting that took place on May, 22 2023.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ashley Driggs who resides at 1121 East Livingston Street spoke about how anyone around the children should have background checks including the drag queens and the City should look at having that part of the event be for 18 years or older only.

Erica Schmacker who resides at 201 East Forrest St spoke about last year’s event and how children would give these drag queens dollars which should be unacceptable and that the City needs to do something about this.

Matt Gray who resides at 810 Holly St spoke about how in his opinion the majority of the City does not want the drag show happening and believes the pride group itself should not allow minors to view the event if council is not going to stop it.

Melissa Ekern who resides at 529 North Walnut Street spoke about how the drag show last year was mentioned to be family friendly and it was not that at last year’s event and cannot be because of the nature of the event and implored the council to cancel the drag show event.

Kyle Schulte who resides at 1210 Yorkshire Court mentioned he does not want to stop the event but doesn’t wants the exotic male dancers to be at a tax payer city funded park and mentioned in the agreement there is no mention of exotic dancers and wants it to be looked at through both lenses if he would do the same thing but with female dancers.

Ken Lang who resides at 1402 Canterbury Drive mentioned that he cares about the kids and the community and thinks the neighboring cities are looking at us and laughing about this event and believes it is stopping people from coming to our town and spend time and money because they would like to avoid these events thinks council should reconsider allowing this event.

Cliff Rice who resides at 1512 Meadowview Dr. spoke about how he has raised his family in Celina for 58 years and loves this community and thinks this drag show event is a bad look that does not help this City in any way and believes there should be focus on protecting the children.

Dustin Jordan who resides at 427 S Sugar Street noted how moved from another City to avoid events like this and is why he moved to this great City and mentioned how he has young children and that no one under the age of 18 should be attending these events.

Aidan Schmidt who resides at 417 Magnolia Street spoke about his support for this drag show and noted this is the fourth year overall and third year with drag queens and mentioned stopping it now would be a black eye on the City and mentioned that being inclusive is best step forward for all.

Heather Schmidt who resides at 417 Magnolia Street spoke about how the rumors of this event are changing public perception and they should really be focusing on the great things the City has been doing to improve itself and that this is a non-issue to the City in her opinion.

Jesse Francis who resides at 710 Devonshire Drive spoke about Mrs. Doubtfire and other famous people who dressed in drag as a child and spoke about other wedding events that were similar situations where kids see people doing acts for a dollar and mentioned parents can keep their kids from the park that day.

Deane Hariff who resides at 631 W Livingston St and spoke about Jesus said to love thy neighbors as you will love yourself and mentioned love is looking out for everyone’s best interest and asked that grown men wearing women’s clothes should not be dancing in front of children.

Travis Fogt who resides at 226 Elm Street spoke about last year’s pride event and how the drag show was not family friendly and they were touching and kissing children and asked if that is why they asked for police to not be present last year and thinks they should have to ask for that event to be a part of their paper work.

Ryan Bellman who resides at 1102 Canterbury Drive spoke about a petition that was signed by 657 people who almost all of whom live in Celina and that they do not want the event cancelled but wants them to only do what they asked for in the event which a drag show was not specifically asked within their paperwork. Ryan asked that Council listens to their constituents.

Darwin Donten who resides at 1911 Heritage Drive and mentioned the last meeting and thought that these complaints should have been brought up last year and mentioned that when he watched the video only one drag queen’s performance offended him and that person was performing sexual acts on the sidewalks. Darwin asked that the City put up barriers and that this event is not family friendly and just wants the children who are there at the park to watch or see the event on accident even though their parents did not take them to see that event.

Sophia Rodriguez who resides at 1125 West Bank Road spoke about freedom of speech and how that should be allowed for even the people you do not agree with and spoke about how she supports the event and for the people who do not like the event they do not have to go and watch it.

Christopher Mohler who resides at 2023 Eaglebrooke Parkway spoke about the event and that this event should be done in a private sector and be a private event and spoke about how this happening in a public space is why so many people have an issue with this event.

Dancie Mohler who resides at 2023 Eaglebrooke Parkway noted how she sent out emails to council members and never got a reply and mentioned that a drag show event should not be happening in the light of day at a public park and wonders why council thinks this is okay or legal and asked that is there was another event that happened and people asked to have female strippers she hopes council would not allow it.

Lois Demeter who resides at 680 North Main Street believes everyone has a right to play in the park and have private parties at the park and believes drag shows by nature are sexually oriented events and believes they should not be happening at a public park and is only against the drag show and not the event as a whole.

Kyle Bruce who resides at 227 Touvelle Street and spoke on behalf of small-town pride spoke about how they will do their best to address the issues that were brought up during the last two council meetings. Kyle Bruce mention that at a previous Council Meeting in 2022 the VP of small-town pride mentioned the drag show event that happened that year while also mentioning that is someone were to rent the public pool or the red tent they are not required to give a written detailed plan of the events that will take place but if council changes the form they will gladly comply. Kyle Bruce noted that donations will not be accepted during these years show and also mentioned that all legal names of the drag queens will be given to council. Kyle mentioned they will comply by all local and state laws and mentioned that have already submitted their proof of insurance and that they have provided it every year. Kyle mentioned they want to make it feel appropriate to all people of all ages and mentioned that he thought last year’s event was very tame and that there can be sexual and family friendly drag shows. Kyle read an email that he sent before lasts year’s event to all council members. Members of the audience complained about the time Kyle was given versus everyone else and Law Director Moore stated the group is responding to everyone else and they are being authorized more time. Kyle mentioned that he believes the goal of today was to find solutions to make sure everyone is as happy as possible and find some common ground. Kyle mentioned that the board the property line with vendors and donated events to try to keep the show as private as possible. Mayor Hazel mentioned that there were unaccompanied minors last year at the event but that happens at the pool and library as well. CM Fleck mentioned he did not remember the VP Jules Morrison coming after last year’s event and mentioning the drag show and Kyle noted that it happened on June 27, 2022 two days after last year’s event and mentioned that all council members were present. Kyle also mentioned that they are trying to be as transparent as possible and that not all other events give full detailed days. Pro-Tem President mentioned all events fill out the same forms. CM Clausen also mentioned that he does not recall that but also mentioned that he did not know that children were able to attend that event and that is his and a lot of parent’s concerns are about the drag show event and mentioned that he believes there should be no children able to attend this event based on the video that he has recently been showed of last year’s event. Kyle mentioned that being labeled as family friendly will vary from person to person and mentioned how they put more restrictions on the queens this year and also mentioned they will not require ID’s or charging people who attend the event. CM Clausen mentioned how he believes the event happening in a more private setting would be beneficial. CM Scott mentioned that he printed off Dancie’s email and wanted to address them at the meeting and mentioned that if council saw the video prior to the passing of the permit it would have created more discussion about the event and try to figure out a way to make this event work for everyone and mentioned how no one at this table wants to harm any children in any way. CM Scott concurred with an audience member and should have done their homework with this event but believes it can happen without animosity as long as there is compromise. Kyle mentioned that the video being shown was something they recorded live and posted it and it is not something they were trying to hide. CM Scott mentioned that it sounds like Kyle’s group is trying to make this work with everyone and commends him for that. CM Sovinski noted that some type of fencing was mentioned before and pointed out that the park is so open that pretty much anyone can see everything and mentioned that the permit is already passed for this year but if the event can screen off the area from everywhere else in the park that may address many of the concerns because the only people that can see it are people that so there to see it. Kyle mentioned that are interested in solution and CM Sovinski mentioned that the issue has been issued already this year but they can look at future years still and compromise can help everyone in this situation and does not understand why people did not complain right after the event and the audience mentioned they just recently all became aware of the video. Kyle mentioned that they are having the dancers, outfits, and songs pre-approved this year. CM Fleck mentioned that he also printed off email so he could speak about them at council and mentioned that no one messaged him being opposed to the event completely and just people who are upset about the drag show but also mentioned he had about the same number of emails for and against the event. Kyle responded by telling council that they have had people in the community oppose this event even before the drag show and believes that cancelling the drag show would not change public perception in his opinion. CM Fleck noted it seems like Kyle and his group will have this event no matter what and Kyle said that is true but they have put on much more restrictions than the prior year in good faith. CM Fleck noted that having restraint with this year’s event could help future events happen and Kyle mentioned that they are trying to make the drag event as family friendly as possible. CM Clausen noted from the last two meetings it has been people against the drag show only and not the pride event itself and mentioned there are Ordinances from the City that mentions what is considered obscene and there is clearly a difference in opinion for what is obscene and believes we need to determine what is considered obscene and implores the group to look into putting on the drag show event more in a private sector where children cannot see it and that will help public perception and the event be more enjoyable for everyone. Kyle mentioned that there is only one performance out of the 6 or 7 that people seem to be upset about and he mentions that they have done their best to prevent another performance like that and CM Clausen believes if it was an adult only event no one would be upset about it and also mentioned some screens that would help shield passing children. Kyle mentioned that the drag show event is the highest attended part of the event and the Red Tent would now be big enough for everyone. CM Scott mentioned that law enforcement will be at this event and will make sure no one gets out of hand and will also act on anything that is against the City law or Ordinance. Mayor Hazel mentioned that the pride group in Indiana that keeps getting mentioned self-monitored themselves and did not have restrictions put on them from Council and also mentioned that he would push any petitions on to state representatives.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**23-23-O:** An Ordinance vacating a portion of the alley described as “The North/South Alley between South Leblond Street and South Lake Street (only the southern end of the alley). Alley behind 137 South Leblond Street and 130 South Lake Street. Starting at the right of way on the “South side of the alley and heading in a North direction approximately 89.5 feet and 16.5 feet wide East/West direction”. CM Scott confirmed that only the two parties listed above are affected by this Ordinance. CM Fleck confirmed that this would not affect the utilities. CM Scott made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**24-23-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds to memo post the 2019 donation of the CAPT Baseball Complex located at Montgomery Field, transferring funds and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel mentioned this is a memo post and it is just for insurance purposes and that no money is actually being spent. CM Sovinski made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Sovinski made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Lochtefeld. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**25-23-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Celina and Rush Sports Complex for the lease of the Bryson Park District. Pro-Tem President Buxton mentioned that in the agreement it mentions entertainment and Safety Service Director Hitchcock mentioned they could have the event organizers come to the next meeting and mention what the “entertainment” will be. Mayor Hazel mentioned if the events list every event and want to add a random event, we will have to tell them no and CM Sovinski mentioned that we also won’t know they did something not on their list until the next year. Safety Service Director Hitchcock mentioned exactly what type of events has to come to council and why. CM Sovinski suggested that the City use 8 foot posts to help identify that that part of the park is being used for a special event to help keep people out as well as having multiple colors in case multiple events are happening at the same time. CM Scott made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**26-23-O**: An Ordinance transferring and appropriating funds for the purchase and installation of camera security systems at Eastview and Bryson Parks, and declaring an emergency. Safety Service Director Hitchcock mentioned that we do not have some of our newer equipment covered by cameras such as the pickleball court and Chief Wale mentioned that we have had success finding the participants in recent vandalism events but newer cameras will help a lot. CM Scott mentioned previous incidents and noted we need cameras that are good enough to see facial features and catch all people who decide to vandalize City property. CM Scott mentioned if these cameras are not good enough, we should get better ones. CM Sovinski mentioned these should be a part of our annual budget and Mayor Hazel agreed. CM Clausen asked how much of items we want on camera are currently on a camera and Safety Service Director Hitchcock mentioned about 50% right now and after this Ordinance it will be closer to 75%. CM Sovinski made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Lochtefeld. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**27-23-O:** An Ordinance accepting donations from local businesses and individuals to the Celina Parks Department for 18 Veteran Baskets and 9 Concrete Tee Pads for the future Disc Golf course in Eastview Park, and transferring and appropriating funds, and declaring an emergency. CM Scott mentioned that it has been a goal of certain Celina residents to have a frisbee golf course at a park and is glad to see it come to fruition. Mayor Hazel mentioned that the money for these baskets and the course have been donated from local businesses and mentioned how hard that group worked on this course. CM Sovinski mentioned we should amend the wording so they can change the map a little or something comes up during the project. CM Sovinski made a motion to amend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Lochtefeld. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Sovinski. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Lochtefeld made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sovinski. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**8-23-R:** A Resolution accepting a donation from Princess Sue Hess to the Celina Police Department and declaring an emergency. CM Clausen thanked Princess Sue Hess for her continued commitment to the City of Celina and the Police Department. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Scott. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

**18-23-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the City to give consent to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to resurface State Route 29 in Mercer County from 05.99 to 10.94, including a portion of State Route 29 in the City of Celina. CM Fleck made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel mentioned that they need a committee meeting to speak about a tree Ordinance that passed about 20 years ago and update the policy and see what we can do and mentioned that there has been some concern about trees not being planted between the sidewalk and curb which has mainly been because of utilities and would like to update the policy and make sure everyone is on the same page. Mayor Hazel mentioned the meeting should happen at 6:00 PM. CM Clausen mentioned that he would like to have a committee meeting to review the civil service process about hiring police and fireman as well as a discussion about the auxiliary firefighters pay. CM Clausen asked who we might need for assistance with the requirements of civil service and Law Director Moore mentioned we could use a third party who understands that process and does it more often.

Law Director Moore read that he was asked for potential options with a zoning change is going through the works now and asked if they can currently use the property before it is rezoned for that specific business and Council noted they will not allow them to conduct their business until it has been rezoned.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Pro-Tem President Buxton confirmed we were not involved in the Ski Event that is happening with a couple weeks and that was confirmed the City has no involvement.

Pro-Tem President Buxton also mentioned that there has been a lot of buildings being spray painted on and Chief Wale mentioned that is correct and more cameras will help and the private cameras that have been able to get them on camera were not clear enough.

CM Fleck mentioned that dust that goes up in a street on his district and administration noted they will see what they can do but once they finish the project that should help.

CM Scott asked if there was a projected time for Ash Street and administration confirmed October 15, 2023 is the projected not for both Ash and Walnut Street.

CM Clausen asked if pulling a permit is an option worth discussing or legal and Law Director Moore mentioned the agreement between the two parties mentions either party can terminate the agreement upon providing a written 90-day notice. CM Sovinski mentioned changing the agreement for all events to explain what entertainment events will happen and that all agreements can be updated and noted they would like to do that for every event. CM Lochtefeld asked if this process is something administration should approve instead of sending it to Council Mayor Hazel mentioned it would be hard because at what point would Council want to see events that administration is approving and recommended not involving administration as the final say. CM Sovinski mentioned Council needs to have the agreements updated and adjusted to mention all events that will take place within the event and noted they still have their permit but need to submit an agreement form each year and administration should not except it until they list all events. Law Director Moore mentioned that he believes if a contracted party’s event is being questioned, they should have more time to speak and they did that before with the abortion scenario and believes that is what the City should keep doing. CM Lochtefeld asked how much are we allowed to restrict when it comes to these events and what reasons and CM Sovinski mentioned before the 90 days they can say no to any event for any reason. CM Sovinski mentioned that telling these organizations we need a more specific list for their planned entertainment and if administration feels comfortable, they can approve it but if an event seems questionable, they could bring it to Council. CM Lochtefeld asked if they would be allowed to say no to a religious event happening in the park and Law Director Moore mentioned that if they said no to all religions and all reasons regardless of viewpoint it would be easier but then people have to consider what is religious speech as well. CM Clausen mentioned they don’t need specifics as in a number of food trucks but just knowing there will be food trucks present and also mentioned speaking to Chief Wale about figuring out was is obscene in the eyes of the police and court and gave examples of what is not considered obscene and noted he believes the general public should decide that and Mayor Hazel mentioned everyone will have different definitions of obscene.

Pro-Tem President Buxton adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council