**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – May 13, 2024**

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

CM Baltzell made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

CM Baltzell made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the executive session earlier where Fred Lord spoke to Council about the fact finders report that council would be voting on. President King asked for a voice acclimation to accept the fact finders report and it passed 4-0 Aye.

Mayor Hazel spoke about ALS and how it has affected our community and noted that he has written a proclamation declaring May 2024 ALS awareness month.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**34-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into an agreement with Mull & Weithman Architects, Inc. for professional services for the City Hall/Celina Fire Department Feasibility Study, appropriating funds, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel noted that it was a process finding the right team with the right qualifications and vision to conduct this feasibility study and that the money was appropriated last year but was never spent and put back into the general fund. CM Baltzell asked for a timeline for the study and it was noted that the study should be finished in about 90 days after they start it. CM Baltzell also noted that they partnered with Bureau Group and it was confirmed they would do the engineering piece. CM Sanford confirmed where exhibit A started for the Ordinance. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**35-24-O:** An Ordinance to vacate a portion of Right-of-Way Easement on West Bank Road situated within the City of Celina, Ohio; and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel noted that this was the recommendation from the Planning Commission and also noted that in 2013 during a project the county engineer laid out the right-of-way but prior to that the right-of-way was at the edge of the pavement and that the right-of-way does not have any purpose for the City which is why it makes sense to vacate it. CM Baltzell confirmed what parking lot and how much was being vacated. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**36-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to accept a grant from the 2023-2024 Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program for the purchase of body armor and declaring an emergency. Chief Wale spoke about the increase in cost for body armor and how we are going to have to order body armor anyway and this will help us get reimbursed for that. CM Sanford made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**37-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to award the construction of the pickleball courts fence to Hess Fencing LLC, to appropriate money from the General Fund for deposit in the Park Capital Fund, to transfer funds, and declare an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about how the public has used and loved the four pickleball courts that were put in previously and that we have added four more and were able to do a lot of the work in house to save money and that we still need fencing around the new courts. Mayor Hazel also spoke about how electric will get the lights above the pickleball court to work so people are able to play when it gets darker. CM Sanford confirmed how the money moves across account lines to pay for the project. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to a second reading, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

None.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

**29-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a Residential Lease Agreement with St. John Lutheran Church for the purpose of renting the premises with a street address of 1201 N. Main Street, Celina, Ohio 45822, and declaring an emergency. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about the appointment of Krista Larmore as a civil service member and how she has accepted the position to fill a vacant seat. Mayor Hazel spoke about her experience and how she is suited for this position.

Mayor Hazel noted how the Tree Commission has met again and are working on City plan but noted that they have planted the first tree that would be a part of the $50,000.00 grant over at Eastview Park. Mayor Hazel spoke about the process and some of their goals that they are trying to achieve while making sure they work with the City to not put trees over utility lines while also noting that about 78% of the City does not have trees between the sidewalk and the curbs and CM Sanford also spoke about the Tree Commission and their plans and how they plan to spend the reimbursable grant.

Mayor Hazel asked about Council Members availability on May 20th, 2024 as they may need to do a special council meeting. President King mentioned that during a special meeting they can only speak about the items that are on the agenda. The four Council Members noted they could and would be available for the meeting if needed. The special meeting was tentatively scheduled at 5:30 pm on May 20th, 2024 if needed and if at least two other absent members are able to attend.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Fleck spoke about how wonderful the streets are looking and that was the first thing he spoke to the Mayor about when he was elected to Council. CM Fleck also spoke about the sidewalks on certain streets like Havemann and Mayor Hazel noted that they have contacted some of the property owners

CM Wolfe spoke about residential sidewalks and some of the areas where you have to walk in the road because sidewalks are not completed. Mayor Hazel noted those are items they want to address but wanted to take care of the sidewalks the City are responsible for first.

CM Wolfe also spoke about the new paving at Bryson Park and noted he did not see any handicapped parking spots other than the east side and then not again until around the hot water hole and Safety Service Director Hitchcock noted they will be repainting the hot water hole spots and they will likely all be handicap accessible spots as well at strategic entry points to other attractions.

CM Fleck spoke about some of the great projects the City has been able to do in part because of the Bryson trust and Mayor Hazel agreed and noted how thankful the City is while pointing out he thinks Ed would love to see what has been done out in West View and how they would like to put a playground out there are well as some more trees.

CM Sanford asked about the Avanulo training and if there was any updates and Mayor Hazel noted because of the extensive travel for the course administrator they have had to push some dates out and the next meeting will be in June and Mayor Hazel noted that the training is being done pro-bono. Mayor Hazel also noted there were discussions about doing sessions via video to allow the courses to be done even while the course administrator is at hotels or traveling for the paid clients. Mayor Hazel noted that it is still senior staff but they will get it to everyone else soon enough.

CM Sanford spoke about the Tree Commission and how they were discussing an opt out program or opt in program for trees that may go into a designated area and Council agreed that they thought an opt in program would be better for the citizens. CM Sanford also mentioned that if a tree gets planted and someone damages that tree it could possibly be a misdemeanor. Mayor Hazel noted that this program is for the betterment of the community and people need to want the trees if they are going to be planted in the right-of-way that they take care of. Auditor Shinn noted that there are rental homes out there and the Tree Commission needs to make sure they are talking to the owners and not the renters.

President King noted that the newsletter had great information such as the opening of the splash pad and the operational hours at the plash pad as well as how many miles of streets are being done while naming the streets and the price is a great idea and we are using the newsletter as a wonderful tool.

President King scheduled a Committee of the Whole at 6:30 PM on June 24, 2024 to speak about chickens and bees.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council