**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – June 9, 2025**

Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Gray, and Sanford; Safety Service Director Hitchcock; Law Director Moore

Start Time: President King called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

* Council President King
* Council Members Present:
  + Baltzell
  + Buxton
  + Clausen
  + Gray
  + Sanford
* Absent: Mayor Hazel; Auditor Shinn; Council Members: Fleck and Wolfe.

2. **Acceptance of Agenda:**

* Agenda Approval: CM Baltzell made a motion, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

3. **Corrections and acceptance of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes:**

* Minutes Approval:
  + Previous Meeting: May 12, 2025
  + Corrections Noted: CM Buxton corrected that Council President King was not present at the May 12, 2025 meeting.
* Outcome: CM Sanford made a motion to amend the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye; 1 abstain; CM Clausen abstain. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 3-0 Aye; 2 abstain; CM Baltzell and Clausen abstain.

4. **Committee Reports:**

* None

5. **Communications:**

* None

6. **Audience Communication:**

* None

7. **New Business:**

1. **23-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a Partnership Agreement with Mercer County to enter into a PY 2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

* SSD Hitchcock the handout shows the projects that have been done the last 2 years with this grant. This is a biannual grant that we pass every 2 years.
* CM Clausen asked if these are homes and or businesses?
* SSD Hitchcock its anything that qualifies under their guidelines. None of the applications come through the City, they all go through the County. The City passes an Ordinance to partner with the with the County to administer the program.
* CM Clausen the limit is $700,000 for the County and this is a good program to get structures fixed and repaired.
* Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

1. **24-25-O:** An Ordinance approving a final plat for Wheatland Acres VII and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

* SSD Hitchcock the attachment shows this is the rest of the development for the Wheatland’s parcel and we need more housing. Planning Commission and all departments have been through these plans and have approved/recommended. A representative is here from the developer for any questions.
* CM Clausen looks like they meet because we ran into this where we didn’t have enough access points to the number of houses and this will meet that because it goes out to Frahm Pike.

SSD Hitchcock it gives a second exit. CM Clausen we definitely need the opportunity for more houses.

* CM Sanford asked if this is approximately 35 lots? SSD Hitchcock yes approximately. CM Sanford we have a housing shortage all over and this will be nice to have more houses coming here soon.
* Outcome: CM Sanford made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

1. **25-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and the Greater Celina Area Soccer Boosters (GCASB) for the lease of the Westview Park.

Discussion:

* CM Gray this is a great event that I have had daughters participate in. Brings a lot of people into our community from all over western Ohio. It’s a great avenue that helps fund our 7th and 8th grade soccer programs. Amy is here if there are any questions.
* CM Clausen asked about only being fields 2-6, did field 1 go away? SSD Hitchcock field 1 at Westview used to be the field along the woods but the county reclaimed so we can’t use that property anymore.
* SSD Hitchcock this was approved last year but had to come back for approval since they are adding food trucks to their event.
* CM Gray asked Amy if the elimination of field 1 causes any problems? Amy stated no.
* Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

1. **2-25-R:** A Resolution to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Mercer County Solid Waste Management District.

Discussion:

* SSD Hitchcock this is a 5-year plan that comes to Council every 5 years for changes/updates. Representatives are here to answer any questions Council has.
* CM Clausen asked if there is a summary of the changes made since the last one?
* Carla Buening, Mercer County Solid Waste Program Manager, the biggest change in this plan is how we are going to finance the solid waste district. We used to have the landfill which we received money, tipping fees, $2 for all in county waste. That went away and now we are just using our balance to fund our district. The new plan has that we will get a $2.75 per ton waste generated by everyone in the county, wherever it is disposed of. We will have to enter into an agreement with all landfills, all transfer stations, and we will have a contract with them. Wherever it's tipped first, they will send us the $2.75 per ton. That's the major change is our funding.
* CM Sanford asked after reviewing the handout if the only 2 options are to go with the local planning committee recommendations and/or if we don’t the EPA will give us the state recommendations?
* Carla Buening the City has the veto power along with the Commissioners.
* CM Sanford asked if this isn’t ratified then basically the state tells us what to do?
* Carla Buening yes we are back to step one and the state will take charge. The City has until July 30th to pass the plan, that is within the 90 days.
* President King at the next meeting we would need to pass by suspension or add an emergency clause since the next meeting is June 23rd and the 3rd meeting would be in July and that wouldn’t be enough time.
* SSD Hitchcock recommended Council adding an emergency tonight to meet the deadline.
* Outcome: CM Buxton made a motion to add an emergency clause, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

1. **3-25-R:** A Resolution approving and recommending Kari R. Fox be employed as the Clerk of Council of the City of Celina and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

* President King thanked Michael for doing a great job and he will be missed. Kari has done this in the past and she actually prepares all these documents, as Michael would have attested, so she’s a natural fit for the position.
* CM Buxton asked since Michael did the HR duties is that included in this?
* SSD Hitchcock explained this is for the Council Clerk position only that Council hires. This position has nothing to do with Kari’s other position with the City.
* President King stated the positions overlap a lot. She creates all these documents we have in our hands and she is going to be the one who fixes any that need amended. Michael was in the same office so it was just easier having somebody in the office rather than someone from the outside.
* SSD Hitchcock agreed that it has been easier for us being an existing person rather than somebody from the outside.
* CM Clausen thanked Kari for her willingness to do this.
* Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

8. **Administrative Reports:**

1. SSD Hitchcock tomorrow is our inspection at the pool by the Health Department and if we pass the pool will be open at 1:00pm to the public, then Wednesday morning to the swim teams. The slide will not be installed anytime soon as we are waiting on the permits and we are dealing with 2 different state agencies. I cannot give you a timeframe when we will get our permits. CM Clausen asked if the permit we already had didn’t qualify for a new slide? SSD Hitchcock no it is a bigger slide and it is different. There are also some questions on the grounding of the slide. The old slide wasn’t grounded and the state approved the new one without being grounded. The Ohio Department of Health questioned the state on what the rules are. The engineer is waiting on the state to tell us what the rules are for their part and then we can send it back to the Ohio Department of Health, who will approve it, and then we can send it back to the state again for their approval again. Then we can let the contractor get started. Each approval has up to 30 days to approve the plan. We have 2 separate approvals so that’s 60 days so we have no guarantee when the slide is coming. President King stated we will be blamed for not being on top of this but it is out of our hands. Also it has been pretty cold these last few weeks for swimming/swim practice. SSD Hitchcock agreed there would not have been very many days if any we could have opened. President King asked if there is a certain temperature it has to be for them to practice in the morning? SSD Hitchcock stated its even to open the pool it’s a combination of the air temperature plus water temperature and he believes it has to be 140 degrees combined.

9. **For the Good of the Order:**

1. CM Sanford had a mom bring an idea to him for playground equipment at the parks. She suggested a buddy swing. It’s a swing where a parent and child would have the ability face each other while swinging.
2. CM Buxton asked about a no turn sign on Grand Lake Road onto Havemann Road when going north on Grand Lake Road. SSD Hitchcock will look into this with the Electric Department.
3. CM Buxton wanted to remind everyone that the weekend of June 21st & 22nd hydroplane races will be going on at the lake.
4. CM Clausen asked about the pad around the playground area that is coming up if that can be patched or does it have to be cut out and redone? SSD Hitchcock that is warranty work and for some reason the subgrade was a little softer than it should have been causing too much flexing in that top layer which caused it to start ripping. Sometime in July they will fix the whole area around the entire play structures because there’s more rips and we marked them all.
5. CM Sanford thanked the police department for the activity they have been taking care of and asked about there not being report from the fire department. SSD Hitchcock the fired chief is on vacation so we did not receive one. CM Sanford asked if there are any big updates or changes for the fire department they should be aware of? SSD Hitchcock we are in the middle of a civil service issue with the future fire chief but once resolved we will update council.
6. President King had a community member applaud the city on always picking up the brush and limbs and keeping our city clean.

10. **Adjournment**

* Time: 7:33 PM