**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – July 22, 2024**

Pro-tem President Clausen called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Clause, Fleck, Gray, Sanford, and Wolfe were present. CM Buxton was absent. Also present were Mayor Hazel and Auditor Shinn.

CM Baltzell made a motion to amend the agenda, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to accept the amended Agenda, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CM Gray discussed the Safety Service Meeting that took place on 07-10-2024. CM Gray also discussed how he has visited the Celina Fire Department and plans on visiting all shifts at some point to see how they operate and ways that we can help them be successful.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about a police staff meeting that has occurred and some of the discussions that took place and that involves moving the dispatcher’s office to the administration building since we have a new system that can be moved and anticipates completing that within a couple of months.

Mayor Hazel spoke about some of the ideas that have been brought forward by the Fire Chief and how we can possibly implement those ideas.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Richard Trick a retired band director spoke about wanting to put on a free concert at the Amphitheatre and how they have been scheduled a couple times over the years to perform there but weather has been a factor. Richard spoke about how this Amphitheatre is the best one around in his opinion and asked that the rental fee be waived since they are a non-profit organization. Pro-tem President Clausen noted that it sounds like a great opportunity for both parties. Mayor Hazel gave Richard the point of contact to make this happen. CM Baltzell noted that he thinks it would be good use of the Amphitheatre and noted he would be in support of waiving the rental fee. CM Gray noted that the Lakefest Pageant happened recently, and it was packed and would like to see the Amphitheatre get used more. CM Sanford thanked Richard and likes the idea of having a large crowd out there.

Mark Ernst the police program director at Wirght State Police Academy spoke about the current state of police recruitment and how it has been hard since 2020. Mark spoke about agencies having to get creative to hire applicants such as going to the NTN which the City of Celina has already done. Mark spoke about how some cities are sponsoring cadets and offering to pay for their program and having them sign a three-year commitment. Mark noted that the applicant pool is much lower than before and that all academies and agencies are struggling. Mark spoke about the success of sponsoring cadets and how it has worked for other agencies. CM Gray asked about the 18–20-year-olds who want to be police officers and Mark spoke about most agencies that are civil service cannot hire them until they are 21 years old, and he usually recommends that they go to their college program for two years and they will have their degree and a police officer certification and be closer to 21. Mark noted that villages and Sheriff’s offices can hire applicants at that age because they are not bound by civil service laws. Pro-tem President Clausen asked if he sees sponsorships for the college program or just the cadets and Mark noted he only sees it for the cadets. CM Baltzell asked about the length of the program and Mark noted that at Wright State it is almost two semesters long and noted other local ones follow a similar curriculum where they start in August and end in April. Pro-tem President Clausen asked about the retention rate for students going through his academy while being sponsored and Mark noted he does not have a number but believes around 95 percent of his academy stays and works locally. CM Sanford asked if administration is looking into sponsoring students and Chief Wale explained that is something that is currently being discussed. Mayor Hazel spoke about the draft MOU that we have received and are trying to tailor it to what we need and get both parties to agree to the MOU that will help fill these open positions. Chief Wale spoke about how they would split time at the academy and the City of Celina. CM Gray asked about the civil service age for dispatchers and Chief Wale confirmed we can hire dispatchers at the age of 18 but for the trainee position they are looking into they would need to be at least 20 years old and ideally be 21 when the graduate. CM Sanford noted that trying to change a job description where they are being mentored and younger than 20 would be great and Mayor Hazel noted they will look into it but they cannot be a sworn in police officer unless they are 21 years old. Mark noted that he is ready to help in anyway he can.

John Contrares who resides at 638 Willow Street in Celina spoke about the recruitment and retention problems for the Celina Police Department and noted at the last council meeting the Chief of Police showed poor leadership and humility during a conversation. John spoke about public perception and how it is negatively affecting the surrounding area and is making recruitment and retention even harder. John stated what he believes good leadership looked like.

Sheryl Braun who resides at 1560 Greenview Drive in Celina thanked the person who recently started a police scholarship program and asked that people look into that on social media. Sheryl thanked CM Gray for coming to the fire department and trying to see some of the issues and how he can possibly help. Sheryl thanked Auditor Shinn for getting her all the reports that she asked for and helping her understand the reports. Sheryl noted that more of the half percent money is going to streets than police and fire. Sheryl noted that she heard that police and fire were asked to cut their budget by one hundred thousand dollars to help fund the raises that police and fire received.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**49-24-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds and amending various categories within Ordinance 48-23-O as the Sixth Supplement to the 2024 Annual Appropriations and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about the check that went to the City but it was supposed to be given to the foundation and that is because they are the ones paying for the arches. Mayor Hazel spoke about the restroom and how the prices have increased for the exact same square footage and that the price came in higher than our estimates. CM Gray asked why this needed suspended and administration explained why it was necessary. CM Sanford made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

**47-24-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to accept bids for the Mill Street Improvement Project. CM Baltzell confirmed that this was for permission to bid it and not award it and Mayor Hazel noted that was correct. CM Baltzell noted this project was anticipated and that money has been set aside for this project and Mayor Hazel also confirmed that to be correct and that money has been set aside for the last 4 years and this also includes replacing some lines and some curbs so other accounts are involved as well when it comes to paying for it. CM Sanford made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

**43-24-O:** An Ordinance to accept the petition for the annexation of 6.75 acres more or less in Jefferson Township to the City of Celina; to be known as Machine-Pro Technologies, LLC annexation. Mayor Hazel noted that we have not received any negative feedback and this annexation is because we are selling more electricity outside of the City than allowed. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke about Lake Festival and how we are expecting extra traffic and how this is an iconic event for the City of Celina.

Auditor Shinn spoke about the monthly reports and how they look different because we have switched our finance system and this is how all other reports will look from now on but she can make any additions that Council deems needed. Pro-tem President Clausen asked for the monthly summaries and Auditor Shinn confirmed that she can provide it.

Mayor Hazel noted that a Committee of the Whole would be needed before the next meeting to talk through legislation such as the strength Ordinance. Pro-tem President Clausen scheduled at Committee of the Whole at 6:00 pm on August 12, 2024. CM Gray asked if we would be able to act on some of the legislation that they will talk about during the Committee of the Whole and Mayor Hazel confirmed they would be able to.

Mayor Hazel spoke about a letter in support of the upcoming levy from the County that he received and gave to each Council member.

CM Gray read a petition that was written to the City of Celina Council Members about policing methods that should continue to be used and Chief Wale spoke about how he agrees with it and Celina currently enforces quality of life policing and has no intention to stop.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Gray spoke about the windstorm that hit the other day and if there would be an extra day for limb pick up and Mayor Hazel noted he will talk to the Public Works Superintendent but if not, it will be the first Monday of August.

CM Sanford spoke about how the parade route has changed this year and everyone should be aware.

CM Sanford also welcomed Kaidon Kelly a newly hired firefighter and Justin Bruns a newly hired police officer.

CM Sanford asked about the fire cadet program and Mayor Hazel noted we are working that and will use the police program as a guide while understanding the differences between them.

At 7:59 pm, CM Baltzell made a motion to go into executive session to consider the purchase or lease of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

Pro-tem President Clausen adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council