**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – August 14, 2023**

Council President King called the Regular Meeting of Celina City Council to order at 7:00 pm. Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Sovinski were present. Also present were Mayor Hazel, Auditor Shinn and Law Director Moore.

CM Scott made a motion to pass the Agenda, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

CM Clausen made a motion to mess the Minutes, seconded by CM Sovinski. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Brian Butcher the President and CEO of Clemons & Nelson spoke about general concerns as well as mentioning that he received a notice in July that a new police union was attempting to represent our police officers during contract negotiations and because of that the City decided not to do any negotiations with the FOP to allow the employees to choose who will represent them in negotiations. Brian noted that all pay must remain status quo to allow the employees to pick their representatives so that we do not commit an unfair labor practice while the election to choose their reps is taking place which is supposed to end on November 21,2023. CM Sovinski asked when the contracts were up and it discussed the police contract expires January 1, 2024. CM Clausen asked if the change in unions was about wages and Brian noted it can be about anything and they have every right to change their reps for these contracts whenever the deem it necessary. CM Baltzell asked if both sides are prohibited to speak about negotiations during this time and Brian confirmed by law that is correct but they are allowed to discuss factual information but you cannot promise anything that would influence how they might vote.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the concerns of a mass exodus and how internally we will be conducting an employee relations audit where we will ask a structured set of questions that determines why people leave or what is contributing to people leaving. CM Clausen asked what type of questions would be asked and Brian noted it would be about work environment and many other things and it will also be a public record and Mayor Hazel confirmed he would share it with Council Members. CM Scott asked who conducts this audit and Mayor Hazel noted it will be someone from the outside who can be impartial and noted it will start as soon as possible. CM Baltzell asked if it is discovered that people are leaving because of wages then would we be able to discuss that and Brian noted they would not legally be allowed to discuss that right now. President King asked when the last negotiation was and Brian mentioned it was 2020 and President King noted that other surrounding Cities may have negotiated more recently.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Jim Stelzer who resides at 4611 Saint Anthony Road asked about a memorandum of understanding to raise the wages now and Brian the President and CEO of Clemons & Nelson noted while they are voting to switch unions or in the process of there can be no changes to their wages.

Chase Coleman who resides at 218 Elm Street spoke about wage differences in similar Cities and noted that he believes our fire department is understaffed and under paid. Chase asked if a wage study can be done and Brian the President and CEO of Clemons & Nelson noted it will be done during the contract negotiation like it always is and we can start that now. Mayor Hazel also noted that the fire and administration has a date of this Friday to have our first meeting about the contract negotiation.

Ken Lange who resides at 1402 Canterbury Road noted his curiosity in how much money we pay lawyers to negotiate and noted how he wish we could just discuss it amongst ourselves and find fair compromises with everyone.

Renee Kramer who resides at 4001 Pike Swain mentioned that she is the Celina School principal and asked for confirmation about the School Resource Officer (SRO) and Mayor Hazel noted that is the plan. Renee asked for assurance that police and fire will be able to make it to the school within a 2-minute time period and Mayor Hazel noted that he cannot guarantee that for anyone at any time and also noted that the SRO is allowed to leave the school if they need the officer for another pressing matter. Chief Wale spoke about the scheduling and noted how everyone has adjusted to scheduling changes and how positive everyone has been to those changes while noting that the safety of the citizens comes before all else. CM Scott asked about the SRO grant and the time frame of the grant and Chief Wale noted it is for three years and this is the third year. CM Scott asked if it would be renewed and Mayor Hazel noted that as long as it is renewed then it is something we are able to support.

Sheryl Braun who resides at 1560 Greenview Drive spoke about the levy that passed and does not understand why we cannot use that money to pay for firefighters and police officers.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**33-23-O:** An Ordinance transferring funds, appropriating funds, and amending various categories within Ordinance 50-22-O as the Third Supplement to the 2023 Annual Appropriations, and declaring an emergency. CM Baltzell asked if it was the parking area on the north side of the park and it was confirmed to be correct. CM Clausen asked about the auto insurance increase and it was confirmed that the increase was from policy changes for the vehicles. CM Scott made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Sovinski made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

None.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel spoke again about the employee relations audit and mentioned how he would keep council informed but they are not allowed to engage in any type of union discussion. Mayor Hazel spoke about some of the safety staff that has left went to places where they graduated from which is normal and also spoke about Mercer County and how low our unemployment rate is and how everyone is struggling to be fully staffed but we will go at it with different angles.

Mayor Hazel spoke about how the website was hacked once again and we are working on re doing the website and have it be fully functional once again. Mayor Hazel spoke about how wonderful Wabash has been for us and the attempts to update all systems.

CM Scott spoke about the contract length being three years and how the wages that were discussed were three years old so once the new negotiation happen the wages will be more up to date. Mayor Hazel confirmed that we would more than likely be discussing proposals or close to if it were not for the representative change. CM Sovinski spoke about the website and how it needs to be current and updated.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Fleck spoke about Echo Street and the patches and holes and Mayor Hazel confirmed he will call and find out tomorrow with our public works superintendent.

CM Sovinski spoke about Ash Street being mostly done and noted the Walnut Street is still being worked on. Mayor Hazel spoke about the seed and soil element and what mixes are supposed to be used.

CM Clausen spoke about the Lake Festival and some of the car show decisions and Mayor Hazel noted how hard the festival committee works and also mentioned that on Friday alone the City spent around sixteen thousand dollars for like kind services. Mayor Hazel also spoke about how we just planted seed and grass out there and did not want anyone parking on it but mentioned that they also had plenty of spaces to park. Mayor Hazel noted that he got a call on Friday night noting they used all the parking areas and asked if they could use the area and Mayor Hazel noted it was up to them and there were no last-minute surprises from the City. Mayor Hazel also mentioned about the great turn out at Lake Festival. Mayor Hazel also spoke about our sister City Mayor who was visiting during that time and mentioned how wonderful of a time they had thanks to everyone’s efforts and thanked the employees for everything they have done for us.

CM Buxton spoke about how Ohio magazine will have articles about the City of Celina in November or December and as well in March or April.

CM Buxton brought up some of the cement streets that need repaired and mentioned he has spoken to Safety Service Director Hitchcock about a list that has which ones will be done this fall and Mayor Hazel mentioned that replacing some of the bad sections will buy us a few years before we have to replace the whole street.

At 7:40 pm, CM Sovinski made a motion to enter executive session for conferences with an attorney for the public concerning disputes involving the City that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, seconded by CM Lochtefeld. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

The meeting convened in Executive Session at 8:19 pm. Attendees of the Executive Session were President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Sovinski; Mayor Hazel, Auditor Shinn, and Law Director Moore.

President King adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council