**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – September 23, 2024**

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

CM Buxton made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (First Reading)

**60-24-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds and amending various categories within Ordinance 48-23-O as the Eighth Supplement to the 2024 Annual Appropriations and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel spoke about some of the billing and how if money was appropriated the year before and the bill comes as the new year is beginning the funds go back to the fund they came from and usually get allocated again the following year for the same amount in order to pay the bill. Mayor Hazel spoke about the litigation as well and why that money is going out. CM Wolfe asked if a purchase order was made in 2023 could it be used in 2024 and Auditor Shinn noted she would have to look and see if there was a purchase order for this item. CM Sanford asked if the consultant fee was for Clemons & Nelson and Mayor Hazel confirmed that to be correct. CM Clausen asked if the Clemons & Nelson bill was from some of the ongoing issues and Mayor Hazel confirmed it involved the point factor, job descriptions, the personal and policy manual, as well as the MOU’s for fire and police. Auditor Shinn also noted she transferred a higher amount to hopefully cover the bills for the rest of 2024. CM Clausen noted that most years when there is no negotiation the bills are not this high. CM Fleck made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**14-24-R:** A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates for the City of Celina as determined by Mercer County Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Hazel noted this is a standard Resolution that happens every year. CM Sanford asked for brief explanation for some of the newer council members and Mayor Hazel noted there are certain funds that some of the property taxes go into to help pay for pension funds and a little bit to the general fund based on the County’s projections. CM Fleck made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**15-24-R:** A Resolution accepting the Local Government Fund amount and rate as determined by the Mercer County Budget Commission, and declaring an emergency. CM Clausen confirmed that the percentage was the same as the prior year and Mayor Hazel noted that County is the one that splits it. CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Second Reading):

**58-24-O:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 69-01-O to change the zoning classification of a portion of property owned by JES Enterprises of Celina (1800 Industrial Drive) from M-2 Light Manufacturing District to B-3 Community Shopping District. CM Gray asked Michael Johnston the Senior Development Manager from Mercy Health if he was able to look into some of his questions from the last meeting and Michael confirmed he was able to be out there for a shift change and did not think it would be too much trouble. Michael also noted that they saw how many cars were out for the Sunday auction and noted it would be up to Mercy Health to enforce the parking being for customers and staff only. CM Gray noted that some people use that parking lot when leaving Crown after their shift and that is what he wanted to make sure they were aware of it. CM Gray asked how they would handle ambulance runs and Rhonda Lehman the Market President for Mercy Health noted she has worked at St Rita’s for 29 years and noted she was not new to the area. Rhonda noted that only about 1% of urgent care patients ever need an ambulance and if a patient does need an ambulance, then they would follow the same process as the urgent cares in community. Rhonda noted that they are blessed to have a fully staffed paramedic team in Lima who also just purchased two more ambulances and is prepared to extend an offer and have one of those two new ambulances parked down in this area and it would not only have to be used to transport patients to Lima and noted by law people can decide where they receive care and is something they are willing to talk about and try to help. CM Sanford asked if there was any intention on expanding and Rhonda noted there are no plans to expand on the urgent care. CM Sanford noted his only concern is the lack of industrial space the City has. CM Clausen asked if there was a consideration to bring something to the City that is not already offered like a specialized medical practice and Rhonda noted there is currently plenty of collaboration going on at the cancer patient facility and would like to collaborate more with other specialties. Michael Johnston noted the concern about the industrial area and pointed out that there are other M-1 areas on the current map and noted the parcel they are looking at is bookended on both sides by businesses. CM Sanford asked if there are alternative plans to build elsewhere if this does not work out and Michael noted they have no back up plans in the queue. CM Gray summarized a letter he received in the mail which stated the belief that another hospital to help provide urgent care services would be good for the community and also noted he has had citizens note that some competition could help provide better services. CM Clausen spoke about a couple emails that he received that were against rezoning because they are so thankful about what Mercer Health and Grand Lake Health have done for the community and mentioned there were people who did not want Wal-Mart but that has worked out well for the community. Mayor Hazel spoke about the manufacturing land that was available near Vision and noted that the City does not own much at this point. President King noted we will have a public hearing on October 14, 2024 at 6:45 pm. CM Clausen made a motion to pass to a third reading, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-1-1 Aye.

**OLD BUSINESS** (Third Reading):

None.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Mayor Hazel noted after passing the trainee position for police officers the City was able to hire two police officer trainees on September 11, 2024 and noted they are working on a firefighter trainee who may be able to work for the City of Celina.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the Mercer County Celina Combined Service charity that was talked about at the prior meeting that goes through October 6, 2024.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the farm market last summer weekend as well as the final brush and limb pick up being October 6 and 7, 2024. Mayor Hazel also spoke about how leaf pick up will start on October 21, 2024.

Mayor Hazel spoke about the progress of the Yorkshire Project and that they are hoping to lay asphalt within the next couple of weeks.

Auditor Shinn noted that payroll has moved down to their department which is why August has not been closed out yet but as she gets that done, she will email it to the Council Members.

CM Gray asked about the Wastewater Assistant taking a demotion and Mayor Hazel explained that with the standby and overtime that position is able to make more money which is why he took the voluntary demotion. Mayor Hazel also noted that they are still working on the point factor. CM Gray confirmed that the Wastewater position opened up because an employee moved to the Water Plant. CM Gray asked about the standby scheduling and if there is a shortage in Wastewater and it was confirmed they are not short but someone will be out for surgery.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

CM Wolfe spoke about complaints that he received on Summit Street and the water main break with the stone patch and noted they are waiting on the hot mix batch.

CM Fleck spoke about the corner of Wilkins and Elm and the street light that needed looked at and Mayor Hazel confirmed that would do that.

CM Gray noted that he went out to Bryson District and saw the new restrooms being worked on and it is looking good and Mayor Hazel noted they are hoping to have it done this year.

CM Gray asked Chief Wale about the electric bikes that are running rampant and Chief Wale noted some of the stipulations for certain models and how fast some of them can go. Chief Wale also spoke about how minor traffic violations have to be observed by an officer. CM Gray asked if a bike is weaving in and out of traffic and causes an accident who would be at fault and Chief Wale noted whoever is at fault in the accident, they would be liable but would possibly be determined by civil litigation since bicyclists probably do not need insurance. CM Buxton noted he hopes the bicyclist are wearing helmets.

CM Buxton asked about the EV station and when the lease would be up and Mayor Hazel confirmed it to be more than a year before the lease is up and CM Buxton asked if they are paying for themselves and Mayor Hazel noted he will check but does not think so.

CM Sanford welcomed the two police officer trainees to the City of Celina. CM Sanford thanked Chief Wale for the data about officers per 1,000 citizens and how we are behind the Ohio average. Chief Wale noted he went to the college to speak to students to help fill in slots.

CM Clausen noted the big soccer tournament that happened the past weekend and that he believes it went well. CM Gray noted that the soccer tournament helps fund the middle school club soccer team.

President King spoke about the email from Rod Carpenter who will be raising money for scholarships for the Wright State Police Academy with the goal of $100,000 and giving out $3,500 per year. President King noted he would like the City to post it where available if possible to give people the opportunity to give.

CM Buxton asked if the Grand Lake Marathon 5K this weekend and Mayor Hazel noted that was cancelled.

CM Wolfe noted that he passed out the ballot language for the EMS issue.

President King adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Submitted by Michael F. Didonato, Clerk of Council