**REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – February 10, 2025**

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

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

Opening

* **Prayer and Pledge**
  + A prayer was offered, asking for blessings, wisdom, and guidance for the community.
  + The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

Roll Call

* **Attendees:**
  + CM Baltzell
  + CM Buxton
  + CM Clausen
  + CM Fleck
  + CM Gray
  + CM Sanford

Main Topics Discussed

1. **Agenda Acceptance and Amendments**

* **Amendment to Agenda:**
  + Added Ordinance 5-25-O: as the sole new business item following a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.
  + **Motion:** Amended by CM Gray, seconded by CM Buxton.
  + **Vote:** Unanimously accepted.
* **Acceptance of Agenda:**
  + **Motion:** Amended by CM Baltzell, seconded by CM Clausen.
  + **Vote:** Unanimously accepted.

2. **Minutes Approval**

* **January 27, 2025 Meeting:**
  + Minutes were reviewed and accepted without corrections.
  + **Motion:** Accepted by CM Clausen, seconded by CM Fleck.
  + **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

3. **Audience Communications**

* Opened the floor for audience members to address the council.

4. **New Business Item: Ordinance 5-25-O:**

* **Subject:** Construction of a new restroom at Westview Park.
* **Details:**
  + **Location:** Westview Park.
  + **Estimated Cost:** $350,000.
  + **Authority:** Safety Service Director authorized to advertise and receive bids.
  + **Emergency Declaration:** To expedite the bidding process for public health and safety.
* **Discussion Highlights:**
  + Existing facilities are outdated and require renovation.
  + Funds are available in the park's capital account.
  + Bidding process duration: Approximately one and a half months.
* **Council Comments:**
  + Support from CM Clausen and CM Buxton.
  + Emphasis on the park's increased usage and need for updated facilities.
* **Action Taken:**
  + **Motion:** Motion to suspend the rules by CM Sanford, seconded by CM Fleck.
  + **Vote:** Passed unanimously.
  + **Motion:** Motion to pass the Ordinance by CM Buxton, seconded by CM Sanford.
  + **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

5. **Old Business Item: Resolution 1-25-R:**

* **Subject:** Sale of municipally owned personal property via Internet auction.
* **Details:**
  + Authorizes sales of obsolete or unneeded property.
  + **Motion:** Motion to pass the Ordinance by CM Gray, seconded by CM Clausen.
  + **Vote:** Approved unanimously.

6. **Administrative Reports**

* **Appointments:**
  + Anthony Cipollone appointed to the Tree Commission for a three-year term.
  + Update on Civil Service Commission personnel changes.
* **Local Issues:**
  + **Dumpster Problem:** Addressed unauthorized dumping; advised to contact Police Department for investigation.
  + **Gun Range Privacy Enhancement:** Added dirt to east mound for increased privacy and safety.
* **Staffing Updates:**
  + **Police Department:**
    - Ongoing challenges in hiring qualified candidates.
    - Initiatives to attract and train new personnel.
  + **Fire Department:**
    - Staff shortages due to retirements and resignations.
    - Funding secured for additional hires to alleviate shortages.
* **State of the City Report:**
  + **Financial Overview:**
    - **Budget:** $46.8 million for 2024 with projected revenue of $50 million.
    - **Expenses:** $61.15 million, including $8.57 million in carryover funds.
    - **Revenue Actual:** $56.8 million.
    - **Debt Reduction:** Outstanding debt reduced from $6.4 million to $4.14 million.
  + **Utilities Department:**
    - Comprehensive overview of water, wastewater, and electric services.
    - Significant investments in infrastructure and maintenance.
  + **Police and Fire Departments:**
    - Detailed status reports on staffing, equipment, and operational challenges.
  + **Public Works:**
    - Updates on infrastructure projects, including Mill Street and Bryson Park improvements.
  + **Economic Development:**
    - New businesses opening in Celina, contributing to local growth.
  + **Municipal Court:**
    - Decrease in filed cases by 24.5% from previous year.
* **Good of the Order:**
  + Positive remarks on community progress and upcoming initiatives.

Follow-up

* **Tree Commission:** Monitoring tree planting and maintenance activities.
* **Police and Fire Staffing:** Ongoing recruitment and training efforts with expected graduations in Spring 2025.
* **Property Issues:** Assistance with restrictions on Bob Evans property pending litigation.
* **Future Meetings:** Scheduling of committee meetings as needed.

Adjournment

* **Time:** 7:39 PM
* **Closing Remarks:** Emphasized the positive changes and financial health of Celina, looking forward to continued progress in 2025.