

City of Olmsted Falls
Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Conducted as a Virtual Meeting through Webex

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Council President Paul Stibich called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Councilmen Lori Jones, Jennifer Jansen, Cornel Munteanu, Jay McFadden, Yvonne Buchholz, and Brian Chitester were present.

Also, in attendance: James Graven, Mayor, Andrew D. Bemer, Law Director, Nick Vitalone, Finance Director, Joe Borczuch, Service Director, and Matt Sheehan, Fire Chief. Audience: 1.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Munteanu moved to **approve** the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of October 13, 2020; Mr. Chitester **seconded**. Poll: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

Consideration of Amendment to the Agenda - None

Mayor's Report and Appointments

Mayor Graven stated that the approved new CARES Act relief package offers nearly \$420 million dollars. The relief package is intended to aid those financially impacted by COVID-19 and includes funding for Ohio's small businesses restaurants, bars, hospitals, higher education, arts, non-profits and most importantly, families. The breakdown is as follows \$125 million in funding to provide grants to businesses with no more than 25 total or full time Ohio employees as of January 1, 2020. The funding will be provided in the form of \$10,000 grants and will aid small businesses in paying for a variety of different expenses including but not limited to compensation for employees, mortgage, rent, utilities, and supplies and equipment. The small business relief program will be administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency with online applications beginning on November 2nd of this year. He stated that \$37.5 million in funding will be available to bars and restaurants to assist in funding. Businesses with on premises consumption permits will be eligible to receive \$2,500 per business location; also \$100 million in funding to higher education, \$62 million in funding to rural and critical access hospitals and \$50 million in funding to 47 community action agencies to provide, rent, mortgage, water and sewer assist to aid Ohioans in paying any of their outstanding balances, Ohioans can apply for this assistance through their local community action agencies also beginning on November 2 of this year. There will also be \$25 million in funding to non-profit organizations to be used for different services which help our communities. Also \$20 million to fund Ohio art organizations for any costs incurred because of the pandemic. Again, these measures outlined are funded by the federal CARES Act.

Economic Development – Mayor Graven stated that he received a letter dated October 20, 2020 from First National Bank which states: “To Whom It May Concern” Mr. David Forni owner of Forni Landscape Arts LLC has been approved for commercial real estate financing of the property located at 8051 Brookside in the amount of \$230,000.” The closing will proceed on November 9th. They will take possession on November 9th, which is good news for the City.

He is happy to report that we have been ranked by Safewise as the 26th safest city in America. Safewise is a security company who studies all of the 2018 FBI crime statistics. For example, we were the second Ohio town in the top 30, so there are only a few Ohio towns on the list. He is happy to report that we are the 26th safest in the whole country. For example, violent crimes per 1,000 residents were zero and we only had two property crimes per 1,000 residents. Congratulations to Chief Rogers and all the men and women of our police department, they continue to do a great job. As everyone knows they keep us safe everyday 24 hours a day 365 days a year so hats off to our police officers. He would like to quote one paragraph from Safewise “living in a safe place has always been important but these days during COVID-19 it feels more vital than ever between the global pandemic and continued civil unrest it can be hard to know where to start if you are looking for a safe place to move to and call home. These safe small towns are a great place to start your search.” Again, as he said at our last meeting people recognize that we are a safe, clean and vibrant town and believes that is why people want to move into our city. Congratulations again to our police and all of our public safety workers.

On behalf of the city he would like to welcome another new business into our town, Dollar General. They had their official opening earlier this month on Columbia Road. He has received many positive calls from our residents, who have told him that they are pleasantly surprised. It is a beautiful building and a clean store. They also appreciate having another place to shop in our area with reasonable prices. He believes that a lot of people were pleasantly surprised at what a nice store it is. He stated that he has not fielded any complaints regarding the store.

Lastly, we are starting contract negotiations with all of our union’s this month. Obviously, he cannot say much about it now but knows that the law director will keep Council updated over the coming weeks and months.

Communications from Residents - None

Approval of Bills:

Mr. Munteanu moved to **approve** Pay Ordinance 2020-15; Mr. Chitester **seconded**. Poll: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried.**

Officials Reports:

Joe Borczuch, Service Director

Mr. Borczuch indicated that leaf pickup has begun and have finished the second time through the city. We will continue with the process which has not been the greatest with the rain we are receiving every day.

He stated that the majority of the castings have all been adjusted in the Phase V project area and those that will not be adjusted will receive grade rings and will be set into place as they perform their surface course that will be applied in the next few days. He stated that Myrtle has been completely finished and weather permitting they will begin on the other single lane streets, Cranage, Clark, Inland, Nobottom, River and Elm, where there is not a lot of traffic. If weather cooperates they are intending to complete Columbia Road on Saturday so there is less traffic. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and this process can be completed. If everything cooperates they could have all the surface course done by the end of next week.

Matt Sheehan, Fire Chief

Chief Sheehan stated that Underwriters Laboratory has been at the station the last two days testing our ground ladders and aerial tower. We will get those results by email sometime this week. Other than that it has been relatively slow which is a good thing.

Nick Vitalone, Finance Director

Mr. Stibich indicated that a finance meeting was held prior to tonight's Council meeting. Mr. Vitalone stated that budget hearings will need to be scheduled within the next few weeks. He will also have a clean-up appropriation for 2020 sometime in December. The final round of CARES Act monies will need to be appropriated before November 20th.

Councilwoman Yvonne Buchholz, Ward III – No Report

Councilman Jay McFadden, Ward I – No Report

Councilman Brian Chitester, Ward IV – No Report

Council-at-Large, Jennifer Jansen

Ms. Jansen stated that she has no report but would like to thank Ms. Buchholz for helping with the lunch distribution at the schools, she really appreciates the help.

Council Pro-Tempore, Lori Jones

Ms. Jones stated that she would like to discuss the possibility of having a few laptops set up for remote use so if somebody gets sick they can take a laptop home and keep working and be able to have remote access to the city's system. She would also like to use a little bit of the money to help the community groups and people in our city.

Councilman Cornel Munteanu, Ward II

Mr. Munteanu stated that Council can talk about Ms. Jones suggestion during the work session coming up on Monday.

Council President Paul Stibich

Mr. Stibich indicated that he sent an email indicating that he purchased a Christmas wreath from the 501C3, Olmsted Community Parks organization, and the name that will be displayed on the wreath will be "Olmsted Falls City Council."

Andrew Bemer, Law Director

Mr. Bemer stated to follow up on the reference made by the Mayor regarding Forni Landscaping, they are on the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda for a public hearing on November 4th on their application and we anticipate that to be a positive result so they can move forward with their final closing and take possession. This will be a significant addition to the city as well as putting some funds in the city coffers.

If Council notices under the Miscellaneous New Business he has a hearing scheduled which is pursuant to OPERS requirements and under those requirements he is obligated to ask the Council Clerk to place an announcement on the agenda of his intent to retire and to request a rehire by this wonderful community. The hearing on his rehire will be November 8th. Ms. Jones asked why he has to have a rehire virtual public hearing. Mr. Bemer explained that under OPERS rules for a

reappointment to the same position you must make an announcement within 60 days of the announced time of rehiring and then you must have a hearing in a public session between 15 and 30 days of the actual date of rehire. It is one of their requirements he was informed of and he did not ask the reasons why. The Clerk indicated that the hearing will take place on December 8th not November 8th. Mr. Bemmer replied that was correct.

Old Business

Ordinance 43-2020

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 1448.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF OLMSTED FALLS, BY REDUCING THE SANITARY SEWER FEES APPLICABLE ONLY TO PHASE V PROPERTIES **Second Reading**

Mr. Munteanu moved to **substitute** Exhibit "A" with the Revised Exhibit "A"; Mr. Chitester **seconded**. Poll: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried. Mr. Chitester moved to **suspend**; Ms. Buchholz **seconded**. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**. Mr. Chitester moved to **waive** the reading in its entirety; Mr. Munteanu **seconded**. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**. Mr. Chitester moved to **adopt**; Ms. Buchholz **seconded**. Poll: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

New Business - None

Mayor Graven stated that he would like to announce that the second Greater Cleveland St. Jude Home will be built in Olmsted Falls on Falls Glen Drive. He encouraged everyone to watch Fox 8 to see the news story about it.

Miscellaneous New Business

THE PUBLIC WILL TAKE NOTICE THAT LAW DIRECTOR ANDREW BEMER IS PLANNING TO RETIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2020, WITH THE INTENT TO BECOME RE-EMPLOYED AS LAW DIRECTOR BY THE CITY OF OLMSTED FALLS ON JANUARY 1, 2021. A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY OLMSTED FALLS CITY COUNCIL ON THE ISSUE OF HIS RE-EMPLOYMENT ON DECEMBER 8, 2020 AT 6:45 P.M.

Such other business that may come before Council

Mr. Chitester moved to **adjourn**; Ms. Buchholz **seconded**. Poll: 7 ayes; 0 nays. **Motion carried**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Paul Stibich, Council President

Angela Mancini, Clerk of Council