

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL**LANCASTER, OHIO****REGULAR MEETING**

April 13, 2020

PRAYER**CALL TO ORDER**

President Uhl called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m., in Council's Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Uhl led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following members of Council were present via Zoom:

Mrs. Bobbitt, Mrs. Downour, Mr. Hall, Mr. James, Mr. Mattlin, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Schoonover, Mr. Stoughton, and Mrs. Tener.

President Uhl asked that the record reflect that all nine members are in attendance tonight.

READING AND DISPOSING OF THE JOURNAL

The Clerk presented the Regular Meeting Minutes dated March 23, 2020.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Journal, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. After no discussion, the motion carried.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

1. Email, dated March 24, 2020, regarding Notice of Public Hearing #1 City of Lancaster FY 2020 CDBG Program. Submitted by Executive Director Community Development Department, Lynda Berge.
2. Email, dated March 26, 2020, regarding Fairfield Department of Health Accreditation Announcement. Submitted by Service-Safety Director Paul Martin.
3. Email, dated March 27, 2020, regarding Mayor's Declaration of Emergency March 27, 2020. Submitted by Mayor David Scheffler.
4. Series of email, regarding Status of Public Hearing and Test Run. Submitted by President Uhl.
5. Email, dated April 6, 2020, regarding Zoom Background. Submitted by Treasurer Bob Wolfinger.
6. Email, dated April 6, 2020, regarding Zoom Test Run. Submitted by Information Technology Director Mark Starr.
7. Email, dated April 6, 2020, regarding Invite to Test Run. Submitted by Mr. Mattlin.

8. Series of emails, regarding SAFER 2019. Submitted by Chief David Ward.
9. Email, dated April 9, 2020, regarding SAFER. Submitted by Mr. Stoughton.
10. Email, dated April 13, 2020, regarding Finance Committee Meeting Agenda. Submitted by Mrs. Downour.
11. Email, dated April 13, 2020, regarding Park Board Approval Certification. Submitted by Superintendent Mike Tharp.
12. Email, dated April 13, 2020, regarding COVID-19 General Fund Budget. Submitted by Treasurer Bob Wolfinger.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Reports of City Officials, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Email, dated March 26, 2020, regarding Lancaster City Council Letter on Flats Letter. Submitted by Lloyd Helber.
2. Email, dated March 31, 2020, regarding Timbertop. Submitted by Robert G. Connolly.
3. Email, dated April 13, 2020, regarding Legislation before Lancaster City Council. Submitted by Attorney Ray Michalski.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Communications, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. The motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (Awards)

There were no Special Presentations before Council this evening.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS

There were no Petitions or Memorials before Council this evening.

PERMISSION OF VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

There were no Voters or Taxpayers to address Council this evening.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee minutes for March 23, 2020, submitted by Mrs. Downour.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Reports of Standing Committees, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. The motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Special Committees presented to Council this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no Public Hearings scheduled before Council this evening.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution Temporary 45-20- Third Reading – March 23, 2020---TABLED

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (212), AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Service (Tener/Mattlin) (3 Readings)

Mrs. Tener made a motion to table Resolution Temporary 45-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

President Uhl stated that this is a privileged motion and there would be no discussion and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to table carried 9-0.

Resolution Temporary 59-20- First Reading – Permanent Resolution 64-20

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE AND TO AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN THE VAWA FUND (225)

Mrs. Downour made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 59-20, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 9-0.

Mrs. Downour made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 59-20, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mrs. Downour indicated this resolution is for the purchase of two laptops and docking stations and is paid out of VAWA funds.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

Resolution Temporary 60-20- First Reading – April 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE AND TO AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN THE GENERAL FUND (101)

Mrs. Downour indicated that this is first of at least two if not three readings.

Resolution Temporary 61-20- First Reading – Permanent Resolution 65-20

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE AND TO AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN THE PARK FUND (212)

Mrs. Tener made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 61-20, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 9-0.

Mrs. Tener made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 61-20, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mrs. Tener indicated this is for reimbursement of fees for activities in the Parks Department that have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

President Uhl asked if there is any other discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

Resolution Temporary 62-20- First Reading – Permanent Resolution 66-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE HAULING AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTES FOR THE CITY OF LANCASTER SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Tener made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 62-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 9-0.

Mrs. Tener made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 62-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

Mrs. Tener indicated this is the last year of a seven year contract which runs out the end of this year. This will allow the Service-Safety Director to go out for bids and enter into a contract for hauling of municipal solid waste.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

Resolution Temporary 63-20- First Reading – Permanent Resolution 67-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LANCASTER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY'S STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 63-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 9-0.

Mrs. Bobbitt made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 63-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

Mrs. Bobbitt indicated this is a SAFER grant giving the fire department the opportunity to write a grant and the possibility to take advantage later in the year. This is approval to write the grant and see if we are approved.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

President Uhl asked if there were any other resolutions to come before Council this evening. With none, we moved on to the next order of business.

READING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance Temporary 6-20 – Second Reading – April 13, 2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FOR THE 12.646 ACRE TRACT, PARCEL NUMBER 0534000700, BEHIND 2535 EAST MAIN STREET

Public hearing to be set at a later date

Mr. McDaniel indicated this is second of three readings

Ordinance Temporary 9-20 – First Reading – Permanent Ordinance 6-20

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN EASEMENT NECESSARY FOR A SANITARY SEWER

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Ordinance 9-20, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

Mr. McDaniel indicated this will allow the city to obtain a sanitary sewer easement for the development behind Ohio Health on Memorial Drive. This easement is necessary for any development to take place in that location.

President Uhl asked if there is any further/other discussion on the motion to suspend, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to suspend carried 9-0.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Ordinance 9-20, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

President Uhl asked if there is any further discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 9-0.

President Uhl asked if there were any other ordinances to come before Council this evening. With none, we moved on to the next order of business.

TABLED LEGISLATION

Ordinance Temporary 32-19 – Third Reading – January 27, 2020 - TABLED

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 183.012, 183.013 AND 183.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF AN ADDITIONAL FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.45%) INCOME TAX, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021, ON THE SALARIES, WAGES, COMMISSIONS AND OTHER COMPENSATION SUBJECT TO THE MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX WITH ALL SUCH TAX TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING, MAINTAINING, REPAIRING, AND PROVIDING CAPITAL FACILITIES FOR THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Finance (Stoughton/McDaniel) (3 Readings)

Ordinance Temporary 1-20 – Third Reading – February 24, 2020 - TABLED

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF LOWELL DRIVE AND ALL OF EMERSON BOULEVARD WITHIN JOHN D. VAN GUNDY'S REVISION OF THE COLONIAL HEIGHTS ADDITION AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Economic Development (McDaniel/Downour) (3 Readings)

Ordinance Temporary 4-20 – Third Reading – March 23, 2020 -TABLED

Public Hearing set April 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FOR THE 18.939 ACRE PROPERTY BETWEEN NORTH MEMORIAL DRIVE AND NORTH COLUMBUS STREET/NELSON ROAD PARCEL NUMBERS 0532152400, 0532152600, 0532144900, 0532145000
Committee (McDaniel/Downour) (3 Readings)

Ordinance Temporary 5-20 – Third Reading – March 23, 2020-TABLED

Public Hearing set April 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FOR THE 21.000 ACRE PROPERTY CONSISTING OF THREE PARCELS LOCATED ALONG CAMPGROUND ROAD AND INCLUDING THE EXISTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS 1443 CAMPGROUND ROAD PARCEL NUMBERS 0531004100, 053-1004300, AND 0531004110
Committee (McDaniel/Stoughton) (3 Readings)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business before Council this evening.

NEW BUSINESS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Hall asked if there were any reports of elevated domestic violence due to the social distancing in place.

Service-Safety Director Martin indicated at this time there are not any elevated numbers.

Chief Pillar indicated he ran the numbers and they are holding pretty steady, and stated that there have been no increase.

Mr. Mattlin indicated he would like to meet with Treasurer Wolfinger to help understand what the bond ratings mean to the City, and the impact it would have if it were to go down and have to spend into the carryover money. He indicated he has a lot of questions in regards to that.

President Uhl indicated that Mr. Mattlin's comments are good and believes that all would benefit from a better understanding the impact of the bond rating on the City and its finances, should we have an issue.

Auditor Nettles indicated that she and Treasurer Wolfinger could meet and get information to Council the bond ratings and impacts it may have on the City to help understand the importance of having a healthy carryover.

Treasurer Wolfinger indicating if the City gets too low on funding the State Auditor's Office could declare a fiscal emergency for the City of Lancaster. If this is not rectified very quickly, the state will come in and the City will have no say on running the day to day operations. Some may recall this was done 14 years ago with the local school district was in the same predicament and were on fiscal watch by the State Auditor's Office. This is why the schools passed the 1 ½ % earned income tax.

Mr. Stoughton indicated that it would be a good idea for anyone on Council to spend time with the Treasurer and Auditor to help understand that the City is not crying wolf, and there are certain minimums the City must have to protect our bond rating on top of protecting the cash we have

Mr. Mattlin indicated that he will get in touch with the Treasurer

President Uhl indicated that Council will look forward to any information the Treasurer and Auditor can provide to Council.

Mr. McDaniel indicated that he would like to know the threshold that we are impacted and at what point and levels is the City impacted to where we might affect the bond rating and/or some other potential negatives the City might get from the State Auditor. He asked what are those thresholds, not what the City would like to have, but the actual threshold the City is impacted. Mr. McDaniel indicated there are certain services that the City must provide such as police, fire, ems, and sanitation. It is nice that the City is going to look at reducing budgets by 10%, but that is not necessarily going to solve the City's problem. We need to consider all avenues to find the best course forward.

Mr. Wolfinger indicated that there is not an actual number that he can provide and does not believe that it is in writing anywhere in the state. This will be a judgment call by the State Auditor's Office on how well or how long the City can meet their day to day operations of payroll and expenses and things of that nature.

Auditor Nettles agrees that the State Auditor Office does not have anything in writing, and when they come in and look at a comparison expenses verses cash flow and needs of that nature the State Auditor's Office then makes a judgment call and either put the City on fiscal watch, fiscal emergency, or what have you. Fiscal watch means the state is watching the City closely because they are seeing the City's cash reserves are depleted, and fiscal emergency means the state come in and goes through and take over the City and running it how they see fit, and the City has no say on anything

Mr. McDaniel indicated that he is confident that it is not 25%.

Auditor Nettles indicated that 25% is what Moody's and/or GFOA's standard is a good operating business, and actually like more, but theirs is a minimum of 25% in the first quarter. The City needs to see what will attract the states attention to see where those specific basis points are.

President Uhl thanked the Treasurer and Auditor.

President Uhl also thanked Mr. Stoughton and Mrs. Downour for leading Council in a great discussion during Finance, and to each member of the administration that provided information regarding the City's current situation and where we are heading. There was a lot of good information and look forward to seeing additional information.

President Uhl asked if there is any other new business this evening, with none, we moved on to the next order of business.

President Uhl thanked Innerphase Video for making this possible

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Sessions of Council:

1. April 27th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
2. May 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special Meetings:

1. None

Upcoming Committee Meetings for the next 30 days:

1. Finance – April 27th at 6:00 p.m. – via Zoom
2. Finance – May 4th at 6:00 p.m. – TBD
3. Water/WPC – May 13th at 8:00 a.m. WPC CR

READING OF BILLS

PNC – MNCO - \$108.50 (Publication of Legislation)

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no requests for Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.



Teresa Lee Sandy, Clerk of Council