

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

August 24, 2020

PRAYER**CALL TO ORDER**

President Uhl called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 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:

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

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

Mr. Stoughton made a motion to excuse Mr. McDaniel from tonight's meeting, seconded by Mrs. Downour. The motion carried.

READING AND DISPOSING OF THE JOURNAL

The Clerk presented the Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 10, 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 August 12, 2020, regarding Public Works Committee Meeting Agenda. Submitted by Mr. Schoonover.
2. Email, dated August 24, 2020, regarding Finance Committee Agenda. Submitted by Mrs. Downour.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Communications before Council this evening.

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

Leah Hackelman-Good, 3137 Meister Road SW, Lancaster. Ms. Good addressed Lancaster City Council this evening in regards to extremism and safety concerns.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee meeting, dated August 10, 2020, submitted by Mrs. Downour.
2. Public Works Committee meeting dated August 14, 2020, submitted by Mr. Schoonover.

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 85-20- Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 93-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE LAWRENCE STREET WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY (LSWPCF) UPGRADE PROJECT

Mr. James indicated this has been discussed and it is now time to go out for bid for badly needed project, and it will take some time to complete.

Mr. James made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 85-20, seconded by Mr. Hall.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 88-20- Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 94-20

A RESOLUTION AGREEING TO SPONSOR THE FETTERS RUN-OU-L STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT BY PARTICIPATING IN THE WATER RESOURCE RESTORATION SPONSOR PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAWRENCE STREET WPCF UPGRADE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. James indicated this work will be completed from the money will come from interest that would have been paid on the loan for Lawrence Street Project. The area of work will include areas by the high school and OU-L.

Mr. James made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 88-20, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

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 8-0.

Mr. James made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 88-20, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

President Uhl asked if there is any discussion on the motion to pass, with none, he requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to pass carried 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 92-20- First Reading – Permanent Resolution 95-20

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO DISPENSE WITH COMPETITIVE BIDDING DUE TO PURCHASE FROM SOURCEWELL, ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR PUBLIC AUCTION OF ONE TUB GRINDER FOR COMPOST IN THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Tener made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 92-20, 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 8-0.

Mrs. Tener made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 92-20, seconded by Mr. Mattlin.

Mrs. Tener requested Superintendent Bill Burrows to come forward to explain this resolution to the public that were not present during the Finance Committee Meeting.

Superintendent Bill Burrows indicated the Sanitation Department is attempting to purchase a tub grinder, to grind mulch and make compost from residential yard waste that is collected. The tub grinder that they have been using caught fire and is a total loss and now they need to purchase a replacement.

President Uhl asked how the unit caught fire.

Superintendent Burrows responded that there is a box underneath the tub grinder, fully incased and bolted closed, and is where the bearings are located. Grass somehow managed to get into this location and smoldered, melted the hydraulic hoses and the hydraulic fluid ignited and caught fire destroying the entire unit. A fire inspection did come and investigate this claim and was impressed how clean the unit was and was surprised at how it caught fire.

Service-Safety Director Paul Martin responded that it was a 2:00 a.m., which the fire department responded, and was a total loss.

President Uhl asked if there were any questions for Superintendent Burrows before we move on.

Mrs. Tener indicated that the compost/mulch made at this facility is then given to the citizens of the City of Lancaster at no charge. The insurance company is also paying for a portion of the loss.

Superintendent Burrows responded that yes, they should receive payment once the claim is fully investigated.

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 8-0.

Resolution Temporary 93-20- First Reading – August 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

Mr. James indicated this is a grant that is going to be very useful to the City in the future, and yielded the floor to Ms. Crews for further explanation.

Ms. Crews indicated that this is an annual piece of legislation to apply for state capital improvement grant for the CSO 1029 Project at Sixth Avenue and Fetters Run across from Lanreco Park. The City is required by their MPDES Permit to make modifications to the structure. They are actually going to replace and move the structure a little bit, to address CSO flows in the area. Construction must be done next year, and this is a chance for the City to get some money to ease the strain on the Water Pollution Control budget. The application date is still in flux, but expect for it to be sometime in October, and this legislation is required.

Mr. James indicated that this is the first of three readings.

Resolution Temporary 94-20- First Reading – August 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Downour indicated this is the first of two readings.

Resolution Temporary 95-20- First Reading – August 24, 2020

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE, AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN THE WASTE WATER UTILITY RESERVE FUND (6029), AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF ANY THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATES NEEDED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIS PROPERTY

Mr. James indicated this resolution has to do with land that the City has the opportunity to purchase, and yielded the floor to Mayor Scheffler to add additional information.

Mayor Scheffler indicated that this property is a little less than an acre located on Lawrence Street, adjacent to the Water Pollution Control plant and Lancaster Public Transit. This property has been for sale for some time and has recently come down significantly in price. The purpose of this land is threefold, the first to build a loop road to eliminate the need for fire trucks and school buses to turn around when they come to the fuel depot to fuel up; the second it will free up space for public transit workers to park their personal vehicles. Currently the employees must move their bus and park their car vacated by the bus, so that they have a place to park; and third reason, the fuel depot floods up to a foot of water, with every heavy rain event, and there is a project in the works to address this issue to

keep it from flooding. This purchase will help with all those issues and projects. There is a future plan for a water equalization tank for the Water Pollution Department that will be needed in the future.

Mr. James indicated that there will be a phase one environmental study completed on this particular property and funded by the Transit Department. Mr. James indicated that this is the first of three readings.

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 17-20 – First Reading – August 24, 2020

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 0.982 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL NUMBER 0535023192 FROM FAIR-COM RENTALS LTD

Mr. James indicated that this ordinance is a companion piece to Temporary Resolution 95-20, and that this is first of three readings.

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

Resolution Temporary 45-20- Third Reading – April 13, 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)

Resolution Temporary 70-20- First Reading – May 18, 2020 - TABLED

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A LPA AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR AN ODOT LET PROJECT

Public Works (Schoonover/Downour) (3 Readings)

Ordinance Temporary 14-20 – Second Reading – July 13, 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 (Downour/Stoughton/Bobbitt) (2 Readings)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business before Council this evening.

NEW BUSINESS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Hall thanked the voter and taxpayer for her comments, and asked Mayor Scheffler or Chief Pillar if there are any actions that should be considered to deescalate this ongoing situation that we have at the City square.

President Uhl indicated that there has been significant work done on this issue, and yielded time to the mayor to address this issue.

Mayor Scheffler asked Chief Pillar if he would like to address this.

Chief Pillar spoke about the two incidents, in two separate weeks, in downtown Lancaster. The first incident, involving a female from Columbus and an elderly man from Lancaster, and a couple other individuals. The suspects have been identified and forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review for charges. The event from last week, the police department is having an issue with identifying some of the suspects and have reached out to the public to help identify these individuals on the police department webpage. Chief Pillar indicated no matter what side that you are on, if you commit an offense, you will be held accountable. He indicated that they have been purposeful and intentional that they showed a lot of restraint, and vehicles were stopped for violations. There were individuals revving their engines, speeding, stopping and slamming on their brakes, blowing their horns. He would like to see voluntary compliance as he has seen, in the past, you don't have to be going very fast to cause damage or injury, and he is working to address this issue. At this time, he does not have the total expense calculated for last Wednesday's protest. He is working to change a plan to get the costs of these protest down weekly to around \$3,000.00, he is sure that he can get them under \$4,000.00, if the current crowd that were here last week continue to show.

President Uhl responded that he appreciated the information from Chief Pillar, and has had the opportunity to speak at length of this with Mayor. We were purposeful and intentional, and what we don't broadcast is the plans on how we are going to handle this, nor will we ever, but there are significant protocols in place to ensure the safety of life and property as these things continue forward.

Chief Pillar indicated that we have been lucky with minor injuries on both sides. On the 12th the elderly gentleman was knocked to the ground, fortunately it didn't seem like he was severely injured, later that same day we had someone point a firearm at somebody. Maybe they weren't pointing it at your side, but people don't always hit what they shoot at. On the 19th, there were a lot of open carry in that area. The last time we had that amount of open carry in Lancaster roaming around was when recruiting offices were being attacked. There was actually a man that actually shot off a round in a crowd at our recruiting office, fortunately nobody was hit. Chief Pillar would prefer that individuals be peaceful by playing patriotic music and read the constitution on one side and read civil rights speeches and things on the other side and ignore the noise in between. The ones shouting the names back and forth are a very small minority.

President Uhl thanked Chief Pillar, his officers and others involved from the Sheriff's Office, Fairfield Medical Police, and other people that were part of the response on Wednesday, coordinated by the administration as well as Chief Pillar. President Uhl also thanked the instigator's who voluntarily stood down, and moved part of their protest online. There were others that said they would and didn't, and President Uhl responded shame on them. President Uhl would like to encourage all to stay home or find more productive ways to protest.

Chief Pillar responded that he does not think that the instigators are a one issue group, but does not personally know for sure, he believes that they are a social justice group. This was a hot topic and thinks that is why they got involved.

President Uhl asked if there were any questions or thoughts for Chief Pillar.

Mrs. Bobbitt thanked Chief Pillar and his officers on something that sounded like a very long night. While everyone has the right to protest, this is costing the City of Lancaster a lot of money and encouraged those to stand down or go on the internet and try to be peaceful.

President Uhl asked if there were any other questions.

Mayor Scheffler responded that they are trying to pare down the costs to \$3,000.00 or \$4,000.00, which is significantly higher than that.

President Uhl asked if there were any further questions or comments for the Chief or Mayor. With none, President Uhl asked if there was any other new business.

Mrs. Tener acknowledged that everyone has a right to peaceful protest. She stated that she has friends that attend "walking" or "peaceful black lives matter" events, and does not call them protesting. Mrs. Tener indicated that she is for all lives matter, blue lives matter, and think that everyone matters. Mrs. Tener has been in the medical field for years and to her everyone is together. Mrs. Tener indicated that she has been a single mother for years, she has worked her behind off working more than one job at a time since she was 19 years old. She did without applying for welfare and did without and anybody can do that and asked everyone to stop the white privilege crap.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Sessions of Council:

1. September 14th at 6:30 p.m.
2. September 28th at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special Meetings:

1. None

Upcoming Committee Meetings for the next 30 days:

1. Water/WPC – September 9th at 8:00 a.m. – City Hall 1897 CR
2. Law Committee – September 9th at 9:30 a.m. – City Hall 1897 CR
3. Finance – September 14th at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
4. Economic Development – September 17th at 7:30 a.m. - City Hall 1897 CR

READING OF BILLS

PNC – MNCO - \$100.50 (Publication of Legislation)

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pay the bill, 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 7:03 p.m.



Teresa Lee Sandy, Clerk of Council