LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
LANCASTER, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING
August 26, 2019

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. Downour; Mr. Groff, Mr. Hall, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Schoonover, Mr. Stoughton, and Mrs. Tener, and Mr. Woodgeard.

President Uhl asked that the record reflect that eight of nine members are in attendance tonight, with Mrs. Bobbitt on her way.

READING AND DISPOSING OF THE JOURNAL

The Clerk presented the Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 12, 2019.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

1. Email, dated August 13, 2019, regarding Concerns About Public Safety. Submitted by Chief Adam Pillar.

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

COMMUNICATIONS


Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Communications, seconded by Mr. Groff. 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 Meeting minutes for August 26, 2019, submitted by Mr. Stoughton.
2. Water/Water Pollution Control Meeting minutes for August 21, 2019, submitted by Mr. Woodgeard.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to receive and file the Reports of Standing Committees, seconded by Mr. Groff. 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 90-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 96-19
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE NEORIDE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 90-19, seconded by Mrs. Tener.

Mr. Schoonover explained that this resolution approves the amendments to allow out of state members to join Neoride.

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 94-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE CEMETERY FUND (270)

Mr. Schoonover stated that this is second of three readings.
Resolution Temporary 95-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN
APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED FOR
THE ETY ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PID 108470)

Mr. Schoonover stated that this is second reading.

Resolution Temporary 96-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
A RESOLUTION OF CONSENT FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES
AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A
BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PID NO. 109334

Mr. Schoonover stated that this is second reading.

Resolution Temporary 97-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
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 FOR THE SCO 1029 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Woodgeard stated that this is second of three readings.

Resolution Temporary 99-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL THOROUGHFARE PLAN FOR THE CITY
OF LANCASTER, OHIO ADOPTED IN JANUARY 2004

Mr. Schoonover stated that this is second reading.

Resolution Temporary 101-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 97-19
A RESOLUTION TO AMEND PERMANENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 48-19
AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND
ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE MONDHANK DRIVE CULVERT
REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary
Resolution 101-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

Mr. Woodgeard explained that this resolution allows for the advertisement of bids and entering
into a contract for the Mondhank replacement culvert.

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

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary
Resolution 101-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

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 102-19 – First Reading – August 26, 2019
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

Mr. Stoughton explained that this is first of three readings, for this resolution we are required to pass, and once passed deliver a copy to the county auditor.

Resolution Temporary 103-19 – First Reading – Permanent Resolution 98-19
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (OML) POSITION ON HOUSE BILL 49 AND HOUSE BILL 5 (CENTRALIZED TAX COLLECTION) AND ASKING THE OML TO INCLUDE LANCASTER AS A MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTING THE OML AMICUS BRIEF BEFORE THE OHIO SUPREME COURT

Mr. Stoughton explained during Finance Committee it was discussed that this resolution would go two readings, but after further discussion after the meeting, and after being briefed by the Law Director that suspension is in order.

Mr. Stoughton made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of Temporary Resolution 103-19, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

President Uhl asked if there is any 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. Stoughton made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 103-19, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

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 104-19 – First Reading – August 26, 2019
A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AND BYLAWS OF THE OHIO TRANSIT RISK POOL

Mr. Schoonover stated that this is first of three readings.

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

READING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance Temporary 13-19 – Second Reading – August 26, 2019
AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE LANCASTER CODIFIED ORDINANCE PART NINE – STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE ONE – STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Groff explained that this ordinance if for the City’s right-of-way and was discussed at the Law Committee meeting. City Engineer Mitch Noland would like to come forward to give explain and see if there are any questions, and give a brief overview.
City Engineer Mitch Noland explained that this was discussed at the Law Committee meeting last week and that he went over a few items involving this ordinance. City Engineer Noland stated that he has been working on this ordinance for several years. This was started with the small cell technology, and Council may remember they voted to be part of a moratorium for about six months, two years ago. The actual ordinance has expanded to include, not only small cell, but utilities placed in the City right-of-way. The reason why this is important, just about every department within the City deals with right-of-way every day. Beside the people of the City of Lancaster, the right-of-way is the next important asset of the City, in his opinion. The right-of-way is how the City delivers services by transportation, by sending natural gas to heat homes, taking sewage collection from property owners to the wastewater treatment plant, stormwater to the river, water delivery to homes. The right-of-way is not just used by the City, but also AT&T, Verizon and such to deliver services every day. The City has never had a control management administration type ordinance to assist with that and that is what this does. This ordinance also will cover the abandonment of poles no longer in use.

President Uhl thanked City Engineer Mitch Noland, Law Director’s Office, and Law Committee for their work this legislation. This has been a work in progress for several years. The City’s right-of-way is one of its greatest resources and people do not understand what that means and what happens within the right-of-way and the opportunity for the City to control them is vital for the City.

Mr. Groff stated that this is second of three readings.

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

**TABLED LEGISLATION**

**Ordinance Temporary 11-19* – Third Reading – August 12, 2019 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 INCREASE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE BY FORTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.45%) FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF ONE AND SEVENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (1.75%) TO A RATE OF TWO AND TWENTY HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (2.20%), BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, AND TO SPECIFY THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM SUCH TAX, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Woodgeard congratulate the Park’s Department for the completion of Lanreco Park and how great it looks.

President Uhl asked if there was any other unfinished business. With none, he asked Mr. Groff to give an update on the referral to Law Committee about the cats in the City.

Mr. Groff explained because there is currently no funding for this issue, anywhere for these animals to be taken, or enforcement of and that Mayor Scheffler was going to look to see if there are any grants available to the City that the Humane Society does not have access to. If funds are available, possibly contracting with the Humane Society to spay and neuter cats, which wouldn’t do anything immediately, but over time reduce the population.
President Uhl thanked Mr. Groff for the update.

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

NEW BUSINESS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Scheffler announced that the City of Lancaster was awarded a $30,000.00 grant to help market the Fairfield County Career Readiness Endorsement Program from the Ohio Mayors Alliance. This funding will help students in their junior or senior year of high school to learn job skills after graduation. There were a total of seven cities that were awarded this funding. Those seven cities competed with others for the grant funding. The grant support Ohio’s “Complete to Compete” challenge. The challenge is an attempt to reach the state’s goal is that by the year 2025, 65% of working age Ohioans will have a two year or four year degree or have gone through some type of job certificate program. More than 40 local businesses partnered with the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance and the Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Department to develop the readiness program. This will help supply much needed workers for employment.

President Uhl congratulated Mayor Scheffler for his work on this and the award and that the City is happy to have the money to move this initiative forward.

Mayor Scheffler announced that Fairfield 33 Alliance board meeting will take place tomorrow at noon and following that they will meet at the new Workforce Development Center, an Economic Development Summit to talk about the status of economic development and the economy in central Ohio.

President Uhl asked if there was any further new business.

Mrs. Downour stated with the changes made to the Building Department on getting permits approved and changing the fees to make things a little more streamline, could Council receive a status report at the next Council Meeting on how effective those changes were. The reasoning behind her request, she stated that she has received several complaints that inspections are getting done, they are not getting their permits, and things are lagging. Ms. Downour stated she would like an update to see how those changes have effective getting the permits issued.

Mayor Scheffler stated that he could address that partially at this time. Mayor Scheffler stated that he has not had a legitimate complaint, against the Building Department for months and months. He has made it a point over the last few weeks, at presentations to make this point known. Mayor Scheffler stated that he has had of applicants that didn’t agree with the rules, or didn’t like the rules, but there were no complaints about inspections being done or anything like that. Mayor Scheffler asked Service-Safety Director Martin if he had heard of anything.

Service-Safety Director Paul Martin stated that this is in a robust time in central Ohio. He met with the staff last week to get a few tweaks and improvements that he personally knew of. Service-Safety Director Martin stated that he will not be at the next meeting, but could have Geoff Davis be here and Mayor Scheffler could have an update on this issue. House submittal plans are done in house, and he stated he has asked for a little tweaking of this process to be timelier, and the same for the inspections. The new work management software they purchased has helped to increase, and ask always they want to see ways to progress things.

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 9th at 6:30 p.m.
2. September 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special Meetings:
1. None

Upcoming Committee Meetings for the next 30 days:
1. Finance – September 9th at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers
2. Service – September 13th at 7:30 a.m. – Gas Dept. Conference Room
3. Water/WPC – September 18th at 7:00 a.m. – WPC (Conference Room)
4. Economic Development – September 19th at 7:30 a.m. – CH (2nd Floor CR)
5. Finance – September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

READING OF BILLS

There were no bills before Council this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no requests for Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Groff. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 p.m.

Teresa Lee Sandy, Clerk of Council