LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

LANCASTER, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING

November 4, 2019

PRAYER

CALL TO ORDER

President Uhl called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45 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. Groff, Mr. Hall, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Schoonover, Mr. Stoughton, and Mrs. Tener, and Mr. Woodgeard.

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 October 28, 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 October 29, 2019, regarding Hunter’s Run Conservancy District. Submitted by Mrs. Tener.
2. Email, dated October 30, 2019, regarding Hunter’s Run Conservancy District. Submitted by Mayor David Scheffler.
3. Email, dated November 1, 2019, regarding Third Quarter Hotel/Motel Report. Submitted by Tax Commissioner Amy Hamilton.
4. Email, dated November 2, 2019, regarding 2020 Proposed Budget. Submitted by Mayor David Scheffler.
5. Email, dated November 4, 2019, regarding 2020 Proposed Budget. Submitted by Mrs. Downour.

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

1. Email, dated November 1, 2019, regarding Annexation of Timbertop. Submitted by Harold Blaisdell.

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

Diane Wogan Burnside, Quail Meadows Drive, Lancaster. Ms. Burnside addressed City Council this evening in regards to the tax levy, Lancaster Public Transit, and the Hunter’s Run Conservancy funding.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee Meeting minutes for November 4, 2019, submitted by Mr. Stoughton.
2. Public Works Committee meeting for October 11, 2019, submitted by Mr. Schoonover.

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 127-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Resolution 128-19
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE CEMETARY PERPETUAL CARE FUND (834), COMPLETE A FUND TRANSFER, INCREASE RECEIPTS AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CEMETERY FUND (207) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE OF OTHER SOURCES AND APPROPRIATIONS WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 127-19, seconded by Mrs. Bobbitt.

Mr. Schoonover explained that this a fund to fund transfer for the Cemetery Deartment to finish the scattering memorial garden at Forest Rose Cemetery.
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 128-19 – Third Reading – November 4, 2019 - TABLED**
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT COVERING 76.877 +/- ACRES IN GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP

Mr. Groff made a motion to table Temporary Resolution 128-19, seconded by Mr. Schoonover.

President Uhl stated as a privileged motion this allows for no debate and requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to table carried 9-0.

Mr. Groff stated that this annexation will go before the Planning Commission on November 14th, at which time a public hearing will take place.

President Uhl stated that once it comes back before Council a public hearing will be held as well.

**Resolution Temporary 129-19 – Third Reading – November 4, 2019 - TABLED**
A RESOLUTION INDICATING SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO ANNEXED TERRITORY OF THE MITHOFF COMPANIES, LTD ANNEXATION OF 76.877 +/- ACRES FROM GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP

Mr. Groff made a motion to table Temporary Resolution 129-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

President Uhl requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to table carried 9-0.

**Resolution Temporary 131-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 129-19**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE WATER FUND (603), AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 131-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

Mr. Woodgeard explained this is to take care of the certificate appropriation with the county auditor.

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 131-19, 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 9-0.

**Resolution Temporary 132-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 130-19**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND (101), AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR
Mr. Stoughton made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 132-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Stoughton explained this appropriation is to fund additional legal services related to personnel matters, arbitration, union negotiations, and BWC claims.

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. Stoughton made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 132-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

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 133-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW FUND FOR HOTEL MOTEL TAX (855) AND TO SET UP REVENUE AND EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

Resolution Temporary 134-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW FUND FOR BWC PROCESSING (850) AND TO SET UP REVENUE AND EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

Resolution Temporary 135-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN ENGINEERING CONTRACT

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

Resolution Temporary 136-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR INSPECTION SERVICES

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

Resolution Temporary 137-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Resolution 131-19
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE FIFTH/SIXTH/FOREST ROSE SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

Mr. Woodgeard made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Resolution 137-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Woodgeard explained this is to clean up some things and take care of the Forest Rose Sewer Separation Project.

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. Stoughton made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Resolution 137-19, seconded by Mr. McDaniel.

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 139-19 – First Reading – November 4, 2019**
A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM THE UNENCUMBERED BALANCE IN THE STORMWATER SEWER FUND (606) AND AMEND THE CERTIFICATE WITH THE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR A GRANT TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOR THE HUNTER’S RUN CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

**Resolution Temporary 140-19 – First Reading – November 4, 2019**
A RESOLUTION TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT 2020 BUDGET EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020, AND TO ESTABLISH LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Stoughton explained this is the City budget for 2020 and explained a couple of highlights. The 2020 total budget is six million dollars less than the 2019 budget. The General Fund is up about one million six hundred thousand dollars, of which one million four hundred thousand dollars is specific to police and fire, which is seventy percent of the General Fund, and of the one million four hundred thousand dollars, five hundred thirty-five thousand is an additional health insurance and contracted raises. The remaining General Fund increase is only two hundred eighteen thousand dollars, which is two and one half percent as compared to 2019. The 2020 Budget is lean, and Council will receive a full clean budget between now and the next meeting including prior year numbers, with pay ordinances at the following meeting. There is three weeks before the next meeting and work will continue behind the scene. This is the first of three readings.

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

**READING OF ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance Temporary 17-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Ordinance 17-19**
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 26-18, REPEAL AND REPLACE EXISTING 26-18, AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY FOR THE MANAGEMENT PAY ORDINANCE

Mr. Stoughton made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Ordinance 17-19, seconded by Mrs. Downour.

Mr. Stoughton explained this change creates a part-time position in the Community Development Department to allow job shadowing for the retirement of the executive director.

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.
Ordinance Temporary 18-19 – Third Reading – Permanent Ordinance 18-19
AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE STREET KNOWN AS ANCHOR AVENUE TO MAGNA AVENUE IN THE ROCK MILL CORPORATE PARK, PHASE 2

Mr. McDaniel explained this ordinance is for the renaming of Anchor Way to Magna Avenue for retribution for the huge economic development boost that they have provided to the City.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Ordinance 18-19, seconded by Mr. Groff.

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.

Ordinance Temporary 19-19 – Third Reading – November 4, 2019 - TABLED
AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT A PETITION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 76.877 +/- ACRES IN GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Groff made a motion to table Temporary Ordinance 19-19, seconded by Mr. Schoonover.

President Uhl requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to table carried 9-0.

Ordinance Temporary 20-19 – Third Reading – November 4, 2019 - TABLED
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP SUBJECT TO PASSAGE OF THE ANNEXATION OF 76.877 +/- ACRES IN GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Groff made a motion to table Temporary Ordinance 20-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

President Uhl requested the Clerk to call the roll. The motion to table carried 9-0.

Ordinance Temporary 21-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A REVENUE NOTE IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-ONE CENTS ($315,038.71) TO REIMBURSE FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB FOR A DRAW ON THE LETTER OF CREDIT IN CONNECTION WITH COSTS OF IMPROVING ETY ROAD, MEMORIAL DRIVE AND MICHAELS WAY BY GRADING, WIDENING, PAVING, CURBING, AND IMPROVING BRIDGES AND RAILROAD CROSSINGS, RELOCATING UTILITIES, AND INSTALLING SIDEWALKS, TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND SIGNS, AND WATER, SANITARY AND STORM WATER LINES AND FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

Ordinance Temporary 22-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF REVENUE NOTES, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION FIFTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY-FOUR CENTS ($1,015,677.54), TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING ETY ROAD, MEMORIAL DRIVE AND MICHAELS WAY BY GRADING, WIDENING, PAVING, CURBING, AND IMPROVING BRIDGES AND RAILROAD CROSSINGS, RELOCATING UTILITIES, AND INSTALLING SIDEWALKS, TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND SIGNS, AND WATER, SANITARY AND STORM WATER LINES AND FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

**Ordinance Temporary 23-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019**
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,260,000.00), IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF THE RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING FOR USE BY THE CITY’S MUNICIPAL COURT, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

**Ordinance Temporary 24-19 – Second Reading – Permanent Ordinance 19-19**
AN ORDINANCE TO SUPERSEDE A PREVIOUS EASEMENT NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRIC LINES

Mr. Groff made a motion to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of Temporary Ordinance 24-19, seconded by Mr. Hall.

Mr. Groff explained this is for South Central Power a new easement replacing a previous easement due to planned development.

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. Groff made a motion to pass, engross, and enter upon the written record Temporary Ordinance 24-19, 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.

**Ordinance Temporary 25-19 – Second Reading – November 4, 2019**
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REPLACE LANCASTER CODIFIED ORDINANCE PART ONE – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE NINE – TAXATION, CHAPTER 183, SECTION 183.03 - DEFINITIONS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, AND TO REPEAL EXISTING PART ONE – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TITLE NINE – TAXATION, CHAPTER 183, SECTION 183.03 - DEFINITIONS, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Stoughton stated that this is the second of three readings.

President Uhl asked if there were any other 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

There was no Unfinished Business before Council this evening.

NEW BUSINESS/SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mrs. Tener has concerns about the article in the local newspaper in regards to salaries for Lancaster Public Transit employees and how they could increase if the levy passes. It is her understanding that all employees are funded through grant funds, with the exception of the Transit Administrator Carrie Woody. She asked for clarification of this issue.

Mayor Scheffler explained that the Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit is funded 57% by state and federal grants, and the City for many years has contributed $73,000.00, with the same for 2020. However, one of the priorities that have been established, for the income tax increase should it pass, would be the General Fund to contribute another $100,000.00 Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit to be used for local match for additional state and federal grants. Due to the fact we are limited by the amount of our local match, this would allow them to apply for additional funding to expand services. The Mayor is not aware that salaries paid to drivers would change if the City income tax would pass or not.

Mr. Bobbitt explained that the Public Works Committee had many meetings in regards to transit. Mrs. Bobbitt does not think anyone around the table is thrilled about taking on new employees. Transit sent out bids and only received one bid, which came in $250,000 higher than what the City has paid before. The City does not have the $250,000.00, on option was to defunct transit or take the employees in house. This is a department that many people in the City rely upon. This department is funded by grants and if the grants go away transit goes away. The transit employees are paid $9.50 an hour by Ride Right. The City attended a meeting with Ride Right, and when the City asked why the increase, but never received an answer. All cities around our city have their own municipally owned transit. This is what the City is faced with, they either have a transit department or we don’t have a transit department.

President Uhl asked if there was anyone else that would like to comment on this specific issue before we move on.

Mr. Woodgeard asked for clarification of the City’s potion they give to Lancaster Public Transit if the levy passes and asked if it is $73,000.00 or $173,000.00.

Mayor Scheffler answered that it would be $173,000.00 if the levy passes.

Mrs. Bobbitt stated that Council were told in these chambers that it was going to be $73,000.00.

Mr. Woodgeard stated that his what he thought as well.

Mayor Scheffler explained a number of priorities have been laid out for the City if the City income tax passes, including a fourth medic, additional police officers and communication techs, a sidewalk program to repair the very needy sidewalks, additional funding Fairfield Public Transit so the City can up their request for state and federal funds, for one additional engineer because the department is buried with work. In addition to that, the City is out of compliance with bond conveyance. The city is required to keep 25% of our General Fund expenses in carryover at the end of each year, which is approximately
$6.2 million dollars, at the end of 2018, the City only carried over $3.8 million dollars and needs to replenish the carryover at the end of the year.

Mr. Groff asked of those other communities that have their transit in-house, do they also run countywide and asked why the county is not participating more with transit running throughout the county?

Mayor Scheffler answered that the county does participate in funding public transit along with many other organizations like Meals on Wheels, which gets county levy and contribute every year, Fairfield DD, and many other organizations and government entities in Fairfield County participate. The City's grant funding is based on the services we provide, which includes services out into the county.

Mr. Schoonover explained that it was early spring/beginning of summer that it was brought to his attention by Carrie Woody that the City only received one bid, and asked if Council would agree to give more local match from the General Fund, and his answer to her was no. Then the question was, what is the alternative going to be? This was all discussed during normal Public Works Committee meetings, a special Public Works meeting was held. Carrie Woody made a field trip, at the request of the committee, to Licking County who brought theirs in-house a couple of years ago. The committee wanted to see what the pitfalls may be to make sure that we don't mess up. A lot has gone into this decision to bring it in house, it was not just hey let's do this. The City will either have transit, or not have transit and this is what it boiled down to. The committee understands if the grants go away that transit will go away. If you look at the state budget and what they have laid out for additional transit, and the City does very well getting those match dollars. The City of Pickerington pays for the Pickerington loop. Transit does more to make their budget go further than a lot of the departments he sees. There are no smoke and mirrors with this, and there are some potential what ifs, but we need to roll with those and hope that it works out.

Mr. Hall stated if the levy passes, and transit is allocated another $100,000.00, the City will need to reevaluate and agree to which those out of the county services are being subsidized versus some of the grant funding is being produced.

Service-Safety Director Paul Martin stated that no transit employee is guaranteed that they will be hired by the City. The positions will all be posted and interviews will be conducted and will be looked at as all other openings are hired with the City. It is not a guarantee they will automatically get the job without going through the normal process.

President Uhl asked if there was anyone who hasn't spoken on this issue that would like to do so.

Mr. Stoughton agreed that $73,000.00 is in the 2020 budget. The proposal that Mayor Scheffler made, and just spoke about again absolutely spoke about Public Transit and is not a surprise. The other issue with Public Transit was keeping or getting drivers because they are underpaid and because of the service that it is providing for those that are using the service, which is heavily subsidized. Carrie Woody has done an amazing job with Transit to ensure that she is getting funded for all things that she is doing. Mr. Stoughton also stated he was not a fan of bringing transit in house, there is no conspiracy here and is absolutely what Mayor Scheffler spoke about when he brought the proposal to Council for the tax increase. Getting rid of Public Transit has been discussed a long time ago, sometimes you have to look beyond the numbers to see the benefits that the City is getting and for what we are getting it for.
President Uhl explained that he remembers Ms. Woody stating that Public Transit in Ohio is designed to be subsidized and it is the way that it is. The fact that it is so heavily subsidized is intentional and is a vital service across our community as we think of the elderly and disabled that don’t have vehicles, they need to get to appointments and to the grocery store and is vitally important. Whether it is $73,000.00 or $173,000.00, it is still less than the Ride Rite bid.

President Uhl asked if there was anyone else left that would like to speak on this issue.

Mr. Woodgeard stated why Transit does so well, in getting grant funding is because we are countywide and we can show that we represent a large area, which helps to bring in those funds. Maybe some money is being spent that is not paid for by a community, but the grant funds we receive is probably paying for it because we are countywide.

Mr. Schoonover stated that he does not have Transit’s budget before him, but using round numbers, their budget is roughly two million dollars a year, with an 80/20 breakdown. Eighty percent grants and twenty percent cash match with the City giving $73,000.00 which is 17% of Transit budget, with all other entities put toward the local match is huge. To continue the service, as it is, with the same dollars and if we have the opportunity to expand, that is what we should do. The Public Works committee has discussed can Public Transit eventually leave the City’s hands and become a county agency. Right now, Transit and the City is doing the best to move it forward with hopes that something like that might happen.

President Uhl asked if there was anyone else, before he turned the floor over to the Mayor for final comment.

Mayor Scheffler explained in the last five years ridership on Public Transit has increased from slightly less than 60,000 to 120,000. Transit is providing a great service to the citizens of Lancaster and Fairfield County. Carrie Woody is a very confident Public Transit Director. Ms. Woody is president of the Ohio Public Transit Association, finishing her third and final term, which is term limited, which organization includes COTA in Columbus, Cleveland Transit, Cincinnati Transit, Toledo, Dayton, Youngstown all the biggies as well as the rural transit authorities like the City has. Ms. Woody is a well-respected expert on public transit in the State of Ohio and didn’t take this lightly.

President Uhl asked if there was anything else on this topic before we move on.

Mr. Stoughton explained that Transit’s budget is almost $2.4 million dollars for 2019, and the $73,000.00 that the City contributes is about 3% of the Transit budget.

President Uhl reminded everyone that tomorrow is Election Day and asked everyone to go out and vote and exercise your right to vote as citizens.

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. November 25th at 6:30 p.m.
2. December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special Meetings:
1. Oath’s of Office – Monday, December 30th at 6:00 p.m. at Olivedale Senior Center
Upcoming Committee Meetings for the next 30 days:
1. Service – November 8th at 7:30 a.m. – Sanitation Dept. Conference Room
2. Safety – November 13th at 7:30 a.m. – City Hall (1897 Room)
3. Water/WPC – November 20th at 7:00 a.m. – WPC (Conference Room)
4. Finance – November 25th at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

President Uhl noted, per the Rules of Council once the election is done and move toward the next term, not later than January 5th, this Council must convene to appoint a President Pro Tem, who will then go about the work of putting committees together and recommending those to Lancaster City Council. President Uhl asked that between January 2nd and 5th those successful in the election tomorrow to prepare to be here for a meeting that will be scheduled no later than the last meeting of the year.

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 7:37 p.m.

Teresa Lee Sandy, Clerk of Council