Richmond Heights  
City Council of the Whole  
October 8, 2019

Council President Henry opened the meeting at 7:35pm

Roll Call: Alexander, Henry, Hurst, Kumin, Lentine, Lewis, Ursu

Approval of COW Minutes from 9-24-19. Motion by Alexander, seconded by Hurst; passed 7-0.

Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting from September 24, 2019.

Motion to accept the Consent agenda by Kumin, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.

Guest Speaker: First Energy, Kevin Smalley

OLD BUSINESS: -none-

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 93-2019, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR ROCHE, FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OHIO HOUSE BILL 252 CREATING THE LAND REUTILIZATION DEMOLITION PROGRAM.

- Todd Hunt said this is funding for demolition in the city. City can get the titles to parcels with blighted homes and this will help the city.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Alexander, seconded by Kumin; passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO.: 94-2019, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1309 OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AT SECTION 1309.05, “GENERAL REQUIREMENTS”, TO ADD SECTION 301.4, “SAFETY AND SECURITY”, APPLICABLE TO MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS.

- Alexander said this will tighten up safety and security.
- Jim Urankar said this will help with the problems with Loganberry being pretty dark over there. Requires them to maintain security. Doors are being destroyed and there are security issues. Requires areas to be free of trash.
- Goes into effect 30 days after passage, said Hunt.
- Lentine commented on the pattern of first reading passages and instantly passing. We need to slow down on the passing of legislation, all emergency legislation.
- Alexander said that just because we pass on 1st reading, does not mean it is emergency. Should give residents time to see this before passing.
- Mayor said that most ordinances should be 2-3 readings.
- Keep on first reading.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Kumin, seconded by Hurst; passed 7-0.
GUEST SPEAKER—Kevin Smalley from First Energy

- Discussed recent storms and outages.
- First response is safety with downed wires.
- Highest outage count goes first on fixing.
- Street light issues—hope to resolve.
- 1800-LIGHTS—to report light outages.
- Kumin said that by the time the issue gets to Chief Wetzel, Council has discussed and approved to go ahead and do it (fix lights).
- Mayor Roche---Chief Wetzel gets all the approvals on street lights. Power failures goes to the 1800-LIGHTS.
- Lentine commented on the shuttered lights.
- Alexander said we need to take them down (shuttered). If not on, take them down.
- Kumin and Hurst both agreed to turn them all back on.
- $36 to turn them back on (per light), said Mr. Smalley.
- Monthly cost is pre-defined, said Smalley. It depends on the light.
- Alexander asked about the Rushmore development. They are putting up a new sign. Interested in lighting the sign. Is this something that you (Smalley) handles? He said to call Service in First Energy and it would be a meter service that they pay. Call into customer service and they would get a notification number. They should be minimal cost for them to get electricity.
- Kumin asked about complaints he received on lighting and if there are programs in neighborhoods to provide security on darker streets. Smalley discussed a tariff fee and will get him info.
- Henry said if people want more lights in their yards and neighborhoods, there are inexpensive lights they can get for their yards. Alexander added that LED lighting is very inexpensive and would not add anything to their bills.

RESOLUTION NO.: 95-2019, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VARIANCE FOR A MULTI-FAMILY APARTMENT USE AT 621 RICHMOND ROAD (PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 662-27-049) AS PART OF A MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT.

- Alexander said this is for Dealpoint for the mixed use variance at the mall (Sears). Portion in the back is now added to this variance. They own this parcel.
- Dennis Nevar (with Fischer), atty, said the second half is under contract. They are closing in January 2020.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Kumin, seconded by Lewis; passed 7-0.
- Hunt said they can’t build an apt building unless it’s a mixed use development variance.

RESOLUTION NO.: 96-2019, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR ROCHE, FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER TO THE CONTRACT WITH SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION FOR NECESSARY ADDITIONAL WORK TO REPAIR CITY STREETS PURSUANT TO THE CITY ROAD PROGRAM.

- Courtney said this is for the 2018 Road Program. Final certificates passed to Finance. Not to exceed $300K, came in about $280K.
- Hunt said the limit is placed on contractor’s contracts, so for the Finance final payment they will need an adjustment and authorize $6,000 for one of the contracts.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Kumin, seconded by Lentine; passed 7-0.
ORDINANCE NO.:  97- 2019, INTRODUCED BY URSU, FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 70-2017, THE PAY ORDINANCE OF
THE CITY, TO ADD PART-TIME POSITIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE,
ADJUST PAY RANGES, REVISE AND DELETE POSITION TITLES, AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY.

- Ursu said this was just completed this afternoon. Just getting to look at this now.
- Mayor suggested keeping this on first reading to look into this. Adding 2% to the top level
  wage scale. It is a consistent wage increase across the board and a couple adjustments in
  positions.
- Jim Teknipp said the Building Dept. Admin position was added.
- Mayor discussed the 3 part time positions that are covered in Admin. If Council approves—
  put forth by motion tonight. The Special Projects position will be covered in payroll now.
- Lentine asked why we hired someone without this conversation to pay them first. Is there a
  vehicle to pay this person? Why did we let this happen in the first place?
- Alexander said we talked about this several times. The pay raises had to go forth, and we all
  agreed we had to find someone first. We told them to go ahead and do this.
- Mayor said traditionally we have updated pay ordinance after this has been established in the
  budget and appropriations. We are running the Building Dept. with one less inspector. We
  are spending a lot less money, but did not have the detail in the pay ordinance.
- Henry asked if we are overlooking someone else. We should slow down, discuss, and take a
  look, and agreed that is all Lentine is saying.
- Mayor agreed on passing a motion first before legislation then. Will have to be amended.
- Keep on first reading.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Kumin, seconded by Hurst; passed 7-0.

MOTION to update the title of the part time position known as special projects secretary, to
special projects coordinator and to create 2 additional special project coordinating positions
at compensation ranges as noted in Ord. 97-2019.
Motion by Ursu, seconded by Hurst; passed 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO.:  98- 2019, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR ROCHE, FIRST READING
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT OF SALE FOR THE PROPERTY
AT 2541 HILLTOP ROAD AND A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT AND FINANCING
THEREOF THROUGH THE FEDERALLY-FUNDED NEIGHBORHOOD
STABILIZATION PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Hunt said that Brian Gleisser explained this during the committee meetings. We have a
  buyer and they meet the qualifications of the county program. We need to get rid of the
  federal funds dedicated to rehabbing the house. Selling the land for $63K, and getting the
  fair market value for this. If they move out before 10 yrs., they will have to pay back. They
  won’t take the title until completion. All expenses are paid out of this fund with no cost to city.
  This will end the program for the city and the whole county.
- Motion to recommend to Council by Lentine, seconded by Kumin; passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of computer upgrades at City Hall: Mayor Roche said we have 20 computers will be
upgraded. We have purchased them and they are on site. Started with Chief Neumann’s. Will
have a remote access server and software with firewall. Hope to convert the rest of the
computers to the new system soon. Hope to find a good place to donate the old computers.
NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Planning Meeting: Henry said we need to think of dates for the 2020 Budget meetings. We should start in November with a meeting. Asked Council to think about this.

Audit Meeting: In November, plan to have after the Finance meeting, 3rd Tuesday.

Political Signs: Hurst said he had 3 residents call him on these signs (yard signs). These should only be on resident property and not businesses. Hunt said the Mayor and Urankar will take care of this.

Council President, Eloise Henry, adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm

Minutes taken by Clerk of Council, Betsy Traben