

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	ABSENT
SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. MARK STANDOHAR	ABSENT
THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. JEFF KAY	PRESENT
FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. THOMAS GRUMLEY	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAM ZIRAFI	PRESENT

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEN STANDOHAR AND SCHUBERT FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2023.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 5-0

COMMUNICATIONS

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF JANUARY 23, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 5-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY Abstain
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 4-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Roslyn Torella, 6821 E. Wood Street, Lowellville, Ohio. Ms. Torella stated that a few weeks ago Mayor Melfi reached out to her and asked her to present to them something they are doing in the Village of

Lowellville and cities of Struthers and Campbell in order to honor their veterans. She said they will see a handout. What this is is it is a campaign that they run that they display veterans' banners in the cities from the period of May through November and it brings a lot of good will to the community. She continued, Mayor Melfi said he was interested in having the opportunity to do this available for your citizens in the City of Girard. She stated that she has been the campaign coordinator for the three cities since 2018 in Lowellville, 2020 in Struthers, and then 2022 in Campbell. It has been very, very successful. How it works is they publicize it. Let folks know that they have the opportunity to provide information about a veteran. It is fully funded by the families. It does not cost the city anything. The only thing it might cost tangibly is the cost of labor to put the banners up. Typically, the street departments are responsible for putting them up and taking them down. Ms. Torella stated that the banners are really well made. They have a local company that does the design, Red Tail Design and Graphics out of Lowellville. She said what she does is, as the coordinator, she does all of the leg work. Ms. Torella said she works with families, gets applications out, sending them out to them, do the publicity, answer their questions, collect the data, fixes photographs because some of these pictures are 80 years old and they end up being really, really nice. Families drive through. They see them. You'll see people stopping and taking pictures under the banners. Ms. Torella said it is just something for them to think about. Right now she can't give an exact cost due to the size of the banners, but usually it is between \$170-200 depending on the size of the banners. That price would cover the banner, bracket and typically display for 3 years. What they do in Struthers, Lowellville and Campbell is after the three year display period they give the families the option to renew it at a small fee of around \$30. What that does is it becomes a fund for the city to help maintain the cost of brackets. The banners really are very hearty and last a really long time. The brackets though have a tendency to break. They can be displayed on a light post or telephone poles. In Lowellville, Struthers and Campbell they do them on lightposts that are available and the rest are displayed on telephone poles. Ms. Torella asked if they had any questions for her. President of Council said that their building and grounds chairman is not there. He said if she had a card or a contact if she would get with Councilman Kay. He is the only one of the committee that is there tonight. Paolone said if you take care of it with him and they can have a committee meeting and relay the information to them and they'll get back to her. Paolone said he appreciates her being there. He asked if they have to be veterans who passed in the war, just veterans, right? And Ms. Torella responded right. They even do active service so if they have people that, well in the other cities, if they lived, worked or attended to school in the city then they are eligible. Paolone said ok then they do not have to be a deceased veteran and she said no and he said they don't have to be killed in the war either. She responded yes. President of Council thanked her for her time.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR	JAMES MELFI	PRESENT
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Mayor Melfi said he had a couple of items. First of all, a question was asked by Councilman Grumley about control of the sidewalks downtown. They are the responsibility of the property owner as far as clearing and maintaining the safety of the sidewalk. Of course, they haven't had much snow this winter but we had a couple of inches today and he just would like to make all of the property owners downtown aware of the fact that to keep their sidewalks safe for all of the passersby and to keep them clear. They don't want to send out notices from zoning unless they have to. Usually, a heavy snow might merit that type of effort, but just try to keep the folks downtown safe. They mayor said that is all he had.

COMMENTS:
 Councilman Grumley thanked the mayor. Grumley said it is important to the downtown businesses that are down there that the neighboring businesses that don't seem to care about their properties at least try to maintain a safe downtown area when people are trying to walk to businesses that are still in the downtown.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR	JERRY LAMBERT	PRESENT
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Mr. Lambert said he only has one thing. He would like to have someone, he doesn't know which category it would fall under, but the backhoe in the water department is bad. It is going to cost anywhere from \$20,000-\$30,000 to fix it. It is probably in the 20 year old category. They have some state pricing that they have and he knows that in the past, as long as it was state pricing, he didn't really have to put it out for bid, but he does have to get the okay from council to spend the money to purchase a new one. The new one is going to cost no more than \$150,000, so if they can get the legislation when it is time to bring in legislation to let him purchase a backhoe through the state pricing and spend no more than \$150,000 he would appreciate it.

COMMENTS:

President of Council asked for the water department? Lambert responded yes. Paolone asked Sam if he would take care of that and he said yes he would take care of it. Grumley stated it would be utilized by both the street and the water department so that's fine.

LAW DIRECTOR **BRIAN KREN** **PRESENT**

Law Director said that some of them might remember back in August of 2021 he requested a special meeting to pass legislation and join the opioid lawsuit and everybody was mad that they had a special meeting, not that he holds a grudge, but anyway Friday he received \$13,500 in the first round of payments that he gave to the auditor and requested that she create a special line item until they know for sure what they can spend that money on. That is the first round of several payments over the years that the city will get over the years.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley said call them anytime.

AUDITOR **JULIE COLEMAN** **PRESENT**

No report

COMMENTS:

TREASURER **MARK ZUPPO** **ABSENT**

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF **JAMES PETRUZZI** **PRESENT**

Chief Petruzzi said the 2023 call total is 151 so far. The chief also announced that Jim Quinn will be retiring March 1st and they are in the process of finding a qualified replacement.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF **JOHN NORMAN** **ABSENT**

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno said they did have a finance committee meeting prior to the council meeting tonight. They got a very good report by the auditor on their finances. Monthly they are in good shape. She also presented the treasurer's report which showed they are up approximately \$300,000 ahead of where they were in the prior year. Councilman Moliterno said it took place at the finance committee meeting and he is not going to present a treasurer's report because he is not the treasurer. He is the chair of finance.

COMMENTS:

Mayor Melfi said since the auditor has that dual responsibility this evening can he ask her a couple of questions about the income tax? President of Council asked the auditor if she was prepared and she said yes. The mayor asked the auditor if that \$300,000 includes V&M's money? The auditor responded that yes it does. The mayor asked what was V&M's money? The auditor responded that it was \$363,000. The mayor said then in otherwards they were about even for 2022 as compared to 2021, non V&M money. The auditor said they were up about \$350,000 from '21 with non V&M money. President of Council said that included V&M and the auditor said no that was non V&M money. Paolone said he misunderstood what she said. The auditor said she is sorry she thought he was talking about V&M money directly that they received. The mayor asked what was the income tax up in total, you can include the V&M money in '22 as compared to '21? The auditor said she will give him both sets of numbers and the mayor said he would appreciate that. The auditor said that in 2022 they were up, the mayor said this includes V&M? She responded this does not include V&M. The auditors said around about \$350,000. The mayor asked if she could give him the total of the income tax? She said sure. For 2022 it was \$3,768,512.51. For the year '21 it was \$3,419,175.63. The mayor said that those figures do not include V & M? The auditor responded that they do not. The mayor asked V&M added to both? She responded V&M's added to both for '21 is \$3,586,053.90 and V&M added in for '22 is \$4,162,617.38. Mayor Melfi said they have been in this plateau before former auditor, right? We've been at 4.2 before? Councilman Zirafi, former auditor,

responded they have been around 4 several times yes. The mayor asked if that included V&M money in those days or no? Zirafi said yes that included V&M. The mayor said these are questions that you should be able to ask at a meeting and get these numbers without having to send an email. The mayor told the auditor he appreciates it and at least they know where they are at.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

Councilman Kay said they had a meeting at 6 pm with a new festival committee that is interested in bringing a festival to Girard. They presented them with a nice framework of what they are trying to do and everyone here at council agrees that they should move forward, or the administration, they would like the administration to move forward in helping them plan and get this actually happening this June. Kay asked if there was anything else they would want from them, other than their blessing on this? Mayor Melfi said that they are used to planning festivals when it is very cold so this might be a nice change as they know about the tree lighting. Melfi said they will keep council abreast. He said he does not pretend to be an expert in the area of festivals. They are learning. They need a good committee like they had with the PTO. The PTO had a great group of girls that did a lot of work. Kay asked if they are going to coordinate with the other parade, the end of summer parade and maybe make it a beginning of summer parade rather than an end of summer parade? The mayor said he has been encouraging them to get the parade together because they have their people here. It would bolster the parade attendance and also give you a group right to work with. Kay said so there is really nothing else they need from them. They were under the impression that they had to ratify something or something. The mayor said what he informed them was that at the direction of council the administration would manage such a matter. It is not their property to tell them just to go ahead and do it. It has to go through council for their approval. Once they approve it then Jerry and he will manage it and they will try their very best. Kay asked if they want to have a vote there to make it public record? Councilman Moliterno asked what would that vote be on? Councilman Zirafi responded, authorizing the safety service director to gather information with those people and present to them for final approval. Councilman Moliterno said they all understood, they had a very good conversation with them. They were very nice talking about a parade, but they also know there are some costs attached to this that nobody has any idea what they are yet, including the committee that came in tonight. President of Council said far more costs than they realize. Moliterno said they understand that but they want that conversation to take place between administration and the group that was in tonight making a presentation. Paolone asked Moliterno if he was going to ask for a vote to give their blessing for the mayor and Jerry to move forward. Moliterno said exactly. He's fine with that and Zirafi agreed. Paolone said he'll do this real easy, are there any neighs? Paolone said 5-0 council agrees to let the mayor move forward with this. Attorney Kren said you do not have to do a roll call but you can say all in favor. President of Council said ok all in favor say aye. All of council said aye.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

No report.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

No report.

COMMENTS:

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Kay said to the service director he has a list together? The service director said he has a list. Kay asked if they could stop down anytime so they could see the list and start making their own list of some of the streets. The service director said he would like to see what they would bring to him. Kay said he wants to see what he has first and then make sure that Kline Street is on there. That's what he is concerned about. Lambert said he's sure about one block of Kline Street. Kay said right up to St. Clair would be perfect. Conversation continued.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

No report.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio said she would like to ask zoning and health and safety, they are looking at some legislation ordinance additions/changes for buildings to help improve the safety of the apartment buildings in the area from the recent meetings that they have had with the Liberty Park and Shannon Terrace people plus others. Martuccio asked if they can get how many buildings there are in city that have 4 or more tenants that have a common door entrance? Mayor Melfi said they have 30-34 buildings in the city that fit that criteria. 30-34 that are a four plex or more. As far as the security of the 30-34, that has to be investigated, but there are 30-34 buildings that fit that bill. Councilwoman Martuccio said then her questions is as a landlord they just received their listing of tenants and their annual fees and such so when people move out whether or not they have water with her or not she still gets an inspection through zoning. She will call zoning to come in and do inspection. Can that report be generated without the water report, would the landlord know of the amount of people moving in and out of their apartments without a water bill generation? Mr. Lambert said he thinks the landlords are aware of it. Whether they follow it or not is another story. He thinks it has to be reinforced with all of them. As far as Liberty Park and Shannon Terrace, he doesn't know if they realize it. He has not had a conversation with the management in their since they had their meeting, lets put it that way. Lambert said that was on his agenda as one of the things to address with her. Martuccio said so you'll let the management know that. Ok. Lambert said the water is the easiest way to do it.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley said that they have to, Lily is telling them that everybody has to register their tenants, so if they have to look at legislation that makes that penalty for not turning it in and not getting proper inspection after each tenant vacates the property and they bring in a new tenant, then they need to look at that. Grumley said he would ask the zoning committee to work with the administration. They cannot bury their heads in the sand and say that they can't follow it because they do it off of water. They have to recalculate a different avenue because they are hearing it from the residents of some of these apartment complexes that they are not getting the proper care and the proper service and they have witnessed it themselves when they walked through they seen some of the situations, so they have to address it. It is not a matter of what they can do. They have to come up with a plan. Grumley said he's sure that they are not alone. There are other communities. He said when he worked on the rental property ordinance twenty years ago they had an avenue where they held them accountable for not turning in new tenants. They need to get back to some of that old legislation. Grumley said John was there with him when they put together that legislation. It wasn't easy. They had a lot of landlords upset with them but it worked and they have to get back to that. President of Council said Monica wanted to speak. The clerk said that was all she was going to say was that is still in the legislation that there are supposed to be fines because when she worked in zoning she had to do all of that and there were fines if you didn't get it inspected. She said she doesn't know, she used to send a letter with their bill to remind them that they had to have it inspected if they changed tenancy. Mayor Melfi said he hates to burden the treasurer's office anymore, but it is very easy to cross check. When someone files their income tax, you have to file by April 15th then a report can be generated to determine where that income tax is filed from. Now, there may be retired folks that have made RITA aware of the fact that they are retired and that may not show up on the report, but anybody earning income would show up so it goes beyond water. That's an easy possibility, but you have to have it done so maybe the auditor would do it for him, but nonetheless that is an easy cross check for anyone who is working and generating income. Councilman Grumley said whatever it takes they have to make it work. Councilman Moliterno said Councilman Grumley made a good point. They had the legislation years ago. It was watered down dramatically in years since. Not by the administration, but by council, but the fact is that we need to, if it means those fines have to increase so that the landlords take it seriously then that is something they have to take a look at or they have to help the administration find another mechanism they can use whether it be income tax or something else. They should try to help with that process because it is too important. Moliterno said they have a lot of these properties. He understands that landlords aren't always excited about saying that there is a change in tenant and they have to come in and pay another sign up fee and inspection fee. More conversation was held. Mr. Lambert said that what they have to do with the list that the mayor just gave Lily they can investigate those. Those things may have changed hands for years and he just thinks that all of this stuff has to be reinforced first and then they go from there because, like he said, he has to be involved in all of this stuff that is wrong with these places because he does have a decent repour with a lot of the landlords of the city. Especially the ones, the big owners. Councilman Grumley said with the media here tonight and everything else, they are not trying to attack good standing landlords in the city because they have good standing landlords in the city. It is the ones that continually ignore the ordinances in place and ignore he inspection process and so forth. There is a reason they are doing it. It is not for the \$35 inspection fee, or whatever the number is today, but it is because they don't want us in there

looking at possible violations and so forth and that is where we owe it to the citizens in every neighborhood to maintain safe housing throughout the city. The mayor said what Jerry says, because we are in the office everyday, so what Jerry says is true that most times when you have a repour with property owners by working with them you get it done. It's the ones that filter down that you cannot deal with or won't deal with you, you end up here. You end up in court and then here it goes. You want to talk about watered down, then it's thirty days and then we'll give you another thirty days and then come back and it's another thirty so most of the time a lot of the things that we hear of, that go through our office, we try to deal with the property owners in a fair way, but you have to understand it has to be an efficient way. Quickly, efficiently. Most of the things get done that way, but if we end up upstairs, it slows down everything. You only end up upstairs with people who are not your best property owners.

ORDINANCES

51-46

THIRD READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND NO/100 (\$72,500) OF THE CITY OF GIRARD'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT REVOLVING LOAN FUND AS PAT OF THE ONGOING FY21 USEPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT TO FUND THE REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED PARCELS LOCATED ON THE FORMER GIRARD LEATHERWORKS PROPERTY AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Moliterno said he is asking for postpone of this. President of Council asked until? Councilman Moliterno said until the next meeting because he will also ask tonight for the law director to put together legislation for the moving of arp funds into the Girard CIC.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE 51-46 UNTIL FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

SCHUBERT

KAY

STANDOHAR

GRUMLEY 2

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1

ZIRAFI

MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT PASSES 5-0

President of Council reminded everyone to fill out their ethics commission report. He said do not let it go. He knows a gentleman in Girard that let it go. They fined him and he can never run for council or any seat again until he pays the fines and he never did. Do it online. Send them a check or pay it on line. Get it done. Word to the wise.

NEW LEGISLATION

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO PURCHASE A NEW BACKHOE FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT BASED ON STATE PURCHASING NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.

SCHUBERT

KAY

STANDOHAR

GRUMLEY 2

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI 1

MOTION PASSED 5-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND MARTUCCIO TO PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR THE MOVEMENT OF ARP FUNDS OF \$50,000 TO THE GIRARD CIC.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO 2

MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSED 5-0

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR A PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION TO THE OWNERS OF THE AVON OAKS BALLROOM.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 1
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 5-0

MOTION KAY SECOND MOLITERNO TO ADD 51-50 TO THE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AGENDA.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY 1
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 2
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2023.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
ADJOURNMENT PASSES 5-0

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL