

**50th GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

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

COMMUNICATIONS

President of Council read aloud the invitation sent to council and the mayor for VFW's Veterans' Day Services in Girard on November 11, 2021.

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MARTUCCIO TO FILE WITH COUNCIL AS A WHOLE.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
PASSES 7-0

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND ZIRAFI TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF OCTOBER 25, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR

KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 7-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO Abstain
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 6-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Fran Wilson, 117 Ella Street. Ms. Wilson stated that she wanted to comment on the raises that council was proposing. She hasn't had a chance to ask for the yet ordinance so that she can read it. Ms. Wilson continued, her concern is that she went back, she knows they had the Covid, and she looked at all of the minutes from the past two years starting from January until now. She doesn't know how many other councils are like theirs, she is sure there are. They are not the only ones that yo-yo this, but they have people that come on council and when she looks through there she is just amazed at the number of meetings that do not occur. This is where Renny appoints people to be in charge of things and they have finances, economic development, building and grounds, health and safety, streets and sidewalks, utilities and zoning and she heard at the last meeting about ordinances. When they were going to put those and start to updates those and she is very fortunate and happy that Jimmy has her back on the Board of Appeals. Wilson said she loves to be on that because they have a chance to make decisions for people that are going one way or the other. She has been on there and she looks at things there too and she does see that they have a problem with the ordinances. Wilson continued that her thing is if they are asking for a raise then they need to be doing their job and if they are in charge of a committee then you have meetings. You don't have to have a lot of meetings but in reading the minutes she has seen that they have had participation from a lot of you people on council so you know they are reading the ordinances because they have questions and they are bringing up good things so she is not saying that they should have meetings all of the time but they can show whether or not they are doing their job by what you are saying and how you participate here. So if you want a raise she thinks you should really be doing something. Wilson said, like she said before, this applies to everywhere. Noone is being challenged in the November election and she has two people who have already called her and said they want to run for office and she

has to tell them where were you in May? Where were you before? She continued these people are on the ballot in November and they are going to be reelected again with no opposition but there will be in the next one she believes from what she is hearing. Wilson said you are seeing it now in the Board of Education where a lot of this group is coming in now and they are coming out and they want to be on the board because they want to make something on that. Ms. Wilson said the other problem is she is still looking at, and she brought this up years ago and she is going to be bringing it up every so often and you're going to get tired of hearing her. The computer, the computer, why they don't have their city up to date on the computer. She said they still have people whose address is Bella Vista and the Girard City Cemetery that are on our screen and she thinks that's embarrassing. She thanked Council.

Annette Minniti, 62 Stambaugh Street. She said she is just coming to see the update status of what she has been questioning about the houses and rentals on her street and also Fran has said about council. We elect people but nobody has, she has been here for three meetings, and her councilman has not offered to help in any which way. Ms. Minniti stated that Jerry has helped her more than anybody so she is just coming to see what the status was on everything. Mr. Lambert replied that he talked to the zoning department this morning and they said they were going to give him something in writing for tonight's meeting for her but he didn't get it. Lambert continued that they said that from the stuff that he gave her at the last meeting there has been progress made but he doesn't know exactly what it was because he didn't read it today. He stated he could probably give it to her once he gets it tomorrow. He can email it to her or text it to her if that is okay. Lambert said there was some progress made. Not much, but some. Ms. Minniti said she knows that the house at the top of the street that was being renovated has come a long way. Even the clean up he has done a wonderful job. She said she drives by now and he is dedicated every day he is down there and has made such an improvement. She said that is fine she'll come down or text her or whatever she appreciates it.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

JAMES J. MELFI

PRESENT

Mayor Melfi stated just to piggyback what was just said. Once again zoning plays such a large percentage of what they do day in and day out. It shouldn't. You shouldn't have to tell people to be neat. You shouldn't have to tell people not to put your couch on your front porch. This is all day long and it burdens our local government. The Mayor continued, worst than that it makes it unsightly for folks around them. No one should have to be around somebody who cannot keep their yard up. It doesn't take a lot. The Mayor stated that his grandmother used to say, they all come from quite common backgrounds, his grandmother said when he was a kid you can be poor but you can be neat. He continued, they had a little bungalow, it was perfect, little flowers, lawn was cut and everything. They didn't have much but they could be neat. Every single day, he was on a call with a woman from Wilson Avenue today and he usually tries to keep his cool and he did, but he can't take it anymore. Melfi said just pick up the toys, cut the lawn, it doesn't take much. He continued, we have a great garbage pickup. A great garbage pickup. They pick up sofas and it doesn't cost you a nickel. They pick up everything. The Mayor said he isn't going to go any further but it has been a rough weekend on zoning and it continues to be very upsetting and he couldn't agree with her more. He said let him come down a minute

here. The Mayor stated that for all of our citizens, and they are going into winter, the city a few years ago struck a price for natural gas. It probably was the biggest positive hit they have ever made. Melfi said if you are not with the city rate you better look into it because our city rate for the past three years has been \$3.06 per mcf. It behooves every citizen, we have a lot of folks who are busy and who run around and don't look at their bill but the going rate is \$5 or more and if you have a cold winter and a big house they don't want them to waste their money they would rather they spend it locally. The Mayor said please take a look at your gas bill and hopefully you are with the city's program, Constellation. If you're not you can get in. President of Council asked if they should call Monica and Councilman Schubert said that was going to be his question how do they do that? The clerk responded that they could call the Mayor's office and speak to either her or Gaye. The Mayor said there is a one month run behind. You run behind a month but this is it. Maybe November and the first of December but you will start getting those cold weather months and they have knocked it dead with \$3.06. It is the greatest rate ever and all of their folks can benefit from it so if you don't have it, please get it and save your money. Don't give it away.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Schubert said that would be something nice to put on their web page. President of Council said that is what Monica just said. It is supposed to be there.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

JERRY LAMBERT

PRESENT

No report.

COMMENTS:

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren stated that the city has received all of the signed paperwork back from the railroad regarding the settlement for the property. He continued, now that they have spent fifteen years or whatever it has been trying to get the property, seventeen, the city administration and council need to think about moving forward. Now that they have it they need to make some effort to move forward with the bike trail. Otherwise, they can't just sit on it indefinitely or the railroad could threaten that they have abandoned the use so there are a lot of steps that have to fall in place but they need to think about that and return to their planning next year. President of Council told Councilman Schubert he is going to put that on him. Attorney Kren said that the access point is coming off of a road from Weathersfield. The Mayor and he should meet with the Weathersfield Township Trustees about extending that. Little things like that they need to do their part now that they have the property.

COMMENTS:

AUDITOR

JULIE COLEMAN

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

TREASURER

MARK ZUPPO

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

**POLICE CHIEF
ABSENT**

JOHN NORMAN

COMMENTS

**FIRE CHIEF
ABSENT**

JAMES PETRUZZI

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno stated that they had a short finance committee meeting tonight. Their auditor and treasurer were not able to be there tonight for a variety of different reasons. They appreciate that they did get the auditor's report as part of the package that she provides to them. Moliterno said that they actually had a lot of time for good conversation. Most of council was there at the meeting as well as administration. It is good give and take on a variety of different subjects that impact the city. Time well used. To make a comment about Ms. Wilson's statement, it is a good chance because most of council is there for their finance committee meeting which means ever month there are a lot of things discussed at that time and it is obviously a public session. It is good that they have that opportunity to say what is on their minds whether it is question of council in general or of the administration they are able to get it out on the floor and get it answered.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Standohar said to add to John's comments to Ms. Wilson. If she would read the ordinance, the raises for city council would begin 2024 so it would not affect the sitting council's pay rate.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR-MOLITERNO

Councilwoman Martuccio said shop local. She stated that she sees a lot of activity going on at the old IGA. She stopped by there and they were replacing the roof that is on there so it looks like they are putting a lot of money into that building. President of Council said they are getting a new trucking company. Paolone said he will defer to the Mayor on that. Mayor Melfi stated that he was going to say he is pretty excited to see it. They had a feeling, because of their location to I-80, Rte. 11 and 422 that that wouldn't stay vacant long. He said he would have hoped the treasurer would have been there with some information today. Maybe to see how many jobs it is creating. To see if it would make up for the tax that they lost from Old Dominion. Old Dominion provided them with about \$35,000 a year in income tax. Melfi said they can only hope that this new company provides us with the same and it would be a quick turn around. If you drove by there was a lot of new equipment and it looked pretty snazzy, so they are pretty

excited about it. They filled that hole and that is a good thing. President of Council said there is a sign on the old Tim Horton's that says coming soon, Hibachi Express so he doesn't know. Mayor Melfi responded that he was contacted by a national chain here recently about Girard. They are looking at Girard for a national fast food chain. He said it is a name they all know and they were looking at Tim Horton's and they missed out on it by about a week they missed it. It is a Japanese food eatery that has bought Tim Horton's. But there is some activity around the city for a national chain and we will see what happens. The Mayor said he has offered their assistance and offered a couple of location and they will go from there.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR

Councilman Schubert said he had one question with regard to the parks, if the cameras are up and running or where they are at on that? The Service Director responded that the cameras are up. They are not running yet. They are still working with Spectrum and the final work as far as the electricians go, but he does believe the cameras are in place. Schubert said also, he will be following up with the administration with the process with regard to the railroad property and the bike trail.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-SCHUBERT-KAY

Councilman Grumley stated that they are going to meet at the next meeting, the 8th at 6:30 p.m. with the two chiefs. The police chief will be first and then the fire chief.

COMMENTS:

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Standohar said Jerome he was unable to make the first finance meeting. He was told when he walked in that there was some update on the situation with the street paving if he could fill him in as chairman. Mayor Melfi said that he did most of the talking. He continued, he spoke with their general manager today. It was a lively conversation. There are two options they are facing: 1. They could possibly pave in the middle of November. They are in Liberty. The Mayor said he asked them many different questions during that conversation. One was why the hell did you bid on it if you knew you were jammed up? Why didn't they let the next person bid on it? Covid came around and so forth. The Mayor said he told them what did he expect the Mayor of a town to say oh jeez you don't have to come here this year? So it got loud. Melfi said all he could tell them is this, they want council to be involved in this. They have two options and he is going to sit down with the law director in the next couple of days and they are going to go over that contract. 1) they could attempt to pave through the November weather. He doesn't know that anybody wants to do that, or they can push it to spring and do an additional paving project without grant money. Get the streets hampered out in January and February and get it out to bid and maybe, just maybe this company, R.T. Vernal, goes ahead and if they would be the low bidder on the second one then there could be some savings in mobilization. The Mayor said he is not happy with it. Who the hell is happy with it? He wanted their streets paved, but this looks to be the reality that we face. Melfi continued that he thinks in the future they won't see grant money for additional streets they will pay it out of the street fund and maybe seek those dollars for other projects. That will be our recommendation. They are obviously very

disappointed over it. He can't drag them here and he doesn't know if they want him there when the cold weather hits but that is where they are at. Councilman Moliterno asked Mark as the chairman of the committee, the next meeting they have is the 8th, once he has had an opportunity to talk to the administration he would like his committee to give them their thoughts as a committee what their recommendations are to do and Standohar responded "absolutely". Moliterno thanked him.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilman Zirafi said no virtual report other than he does have the ordinance for the permit fees for electrical. It has not been updated in awhile and he is going to start contacting surrounding communities to see what their rates are and eventually he will have a committee meeting to go over all of that. When the time comes they will attempt to address that and bring it up to current.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-KAY-ZIRAFI-MARTUCCIO

No report.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

50-64

THIRD

READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE BOARD OF CONTROL TO ACCEPT BIDS FOR PROFESSIONAL MARKETING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD.

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND MOLITERNO FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 50-64.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO 1

MOLITERNO 2

ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0

50-66

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

Councilman Zirafi moved to postpone this ordinance until June 13, 2022. Councilman Grumley seconded. The law director said they might just have to ask for it again because it will be a different council at the end of the year. Discussion continued regarding the best way to proceed.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO TABLE ORDINANCE 50-66.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION TO TABLE PASSES 7-0

50-67

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO TABLE ORDINANCE 50-67.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION TO TABLE PASSES 7-0

50-69

SECOND

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE POSITION OF CITY TREASURER FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND ZIRAFI TO TABLE ORDINANCE 50-69.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION TO TABLE PASSES 7-0

50-70

SECOND

READING

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECODIFICATION AND EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF GIRARD, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

50-71

SECOND

READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #8289-21 AND ADJUSTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 IN THE CITY OF GIRARD.

50-73

FIRST

READING

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE 2ND AND 3RD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 50-73.

Councilman Moliterno stated that himself and Mr. Schubert sit on the board of the Multi-Gen Center but all this ordinance is is to send it to the county to determine if it can be on the ballot and if approved it comes back to this body for approval and then it has to go to the voters anyway. Moliterno continued that this is no approval on their part they are just starting the process.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1

ZIRAFI 2

SUSPENSION PASSES 7-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 50-73.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1

ZIRAFI 2

50-73 PASSES 7-0

NEW LEGISLATION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND SCHUBERT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2021.

SCHUBERT 2

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO 1

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI

ADJOURNMENT PASSES 7-0

**REYNALD J. PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL**

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF