

**50th GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	PRESENT
SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. MARK STANDOHAR	
PRESENT		
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

COMMUNICATIONS

President of Council announced that there were two communications and he was going to do them both at the same time because they were for the same company. Paolone stated that Aavee, Inc. bought Town Centre Liquor, obviously, according to the papers, if you read them. Their job for those that have never done this is to contest or not contest the purchase. Paolone stated he talked to Jerry and he asked Jerry if he could give his opinion. Jerry stated that the Chief and he went over these things and, for the new councilmen, the process usually goes it comes to Jerry and the Chief, the Chief takes out the guys and they make sure everything is okay. On these two particular ones, the Chief checked out both entities and he has no problem whatsoever so they are requesting to not contest this thing.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT TO NOT CONTEST EITHER TRANSFER FOR AAVEE INC. DBA TOWNE CENTRE LIQUOR LOTTERY BEVERAGE.

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

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

50-44

FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO BRIDGE AGREEMENTS WITH TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TREATMENT OF SEWAGE AND PROVISION OF WATER FOR A PART OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS THE TRUMBULL COUNTY COMBINED SEWER DISTRICT.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO ADD 50-44 TO THE AGENDA OF APRIL 12, 2021.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES TO ADD 50-44 7-0

50-46

FIRST READING

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

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO ADD 50-46 TO THE AGENDA OF APRIL 12, 2021.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES TO ADD 50-46 7-0

The Law Director stated that the Auditor had previously given him a reminder that they had a levy coming up this year. At the last meeting he inadvertently said that they had a trash levy due and then when he was preparing it he realized it was a recreation levy, not a trash levy. Being a tax levy and wanting to do everything by the book that is why it is under additions because even though council asked for a levy it was a trash levy and they do not need a trash levy. President of Council asked the Law Director if he suggested they rescind that and he responded no.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF APRIL 12, 2021 AS AMENDED.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Councilman Moliterno asked the Law Director if they need to make a change in the minutes where he referenced trash. Attorney Kren said one, he did reference trash, that is a true and accurate statement, he referenced trash. Councilman Moliterno said that he didn't know if there was anything in there that reflected what the levy was about. Moliterno said he was in there saying this is a trash levy up and Attorney Kren said it is a garbage levy that was up. Moliterno said that is all fine staying in there but what you are saying tonight is it is not it is recreation. Attorney Kren said that is correct. Moliterno said okay we'll just make that change then. President of Council asked if they needed a motion to remove that and Attorney Kren said no.

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND SCHUBERT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSES 7-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

JAMES J. MELFI

PRESENT

Mayor Melfi said he had a couple of items this evening. He spoke with Mr. Copeland and he had to leave. They are getting some complaints at the office. The Mayor said it is not unusual this time of year, but nonetheless serious. Pitbull complaints. There seems to be a home on Tod Avenue that has

been a problem with their pitbulls running loose. The Mayor stated that pitbulls, per Ordinance 5916-87, passed July 13, 1987, pitbulls are illegal in the City of Girard. If any councilperson is having a problem in their area with pitbulls, please let us know. The police were at that home earlier today and cited that individual so they will take swift action. They Mayor said it is a very dangerous scenario and they are not going to allow their citizens this time of year to be intimidated and have to stay in their house because people don't follow the law. Secondly, Jerry has sent and the Fire Chief has sent to Mike Burke of the Trumbull County Health District notification they are condemning for demolition, if not brought up to standards, 1047 and 909 Washington Ave. The Mayor stated these are two homes that have been chronic problems for them and they are not taking it anymore. The Mayor said that is all he had.

COMMENTS:

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR **JERRY LAMBERT** **PRESENT**

Director of Public Service stated that he just had a couple of things. The line on Wellman Avenue is progressing. Very few incidents in regards to the progress they are making. Hopefully they will be on time. Really, and he appreciates the utility meeting ahead of time with Councilman Zirafi, and the Mayor and he does have a list of projects that they would like to undertake. Lambert said they will meet with Mr. Zirafi as soon as they can to see if they can put a dollar value on some of these things. If anybody does have anything else, please don't hesitate to get to Sam, him or the Mayor with their recommendations. Lambert stated he had one more comment. On the legislation that is in front of them in regards to the bridge agreement with Trumbull County, basically all that is is that both contracts expired before the end of last year. In order to keep talking and negotiating with these contracts, just to have something in place, this is a temporary thing just to keep it in place until September 30th and hopefully by then they will bring the final version of the contract back to council. Lambert said this is just to keep operating exactly the same way they have operated for twenty years. Jerry said that is all he had.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Kay stated that people are asking him about the road after the Wellman project is done. Will they be patching it? Jerry stated that the last block of Kline Street is going to be completely paved and all of the driveway approaches and everything else are going to be replaced with concrete exactly the way it was and in that particular part of the street it will all be taken care of as well.

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

No report. The Law Director said he wanted to request a brief executive session after new legislation to discuss litigation.

COMMENTS:

President of Council said he would have Mr. Standohar take care of that.

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

No report.

COMMENTS:

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

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

FIRE CHIEF **KEN BORNEMISS** **PRESENT**

No report.

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno stated he just wanted to schedule a finance committee meeting at 6:30 on our next meeting date in two weeks which he believes is the 26th.

COMMENTS:

Mayor Melfi stated at the last finance meeting or caucus he asked the City Treasurer some very basic and elementary questions of what normally a treasurer should be aware of. His answer to the Mayor, if they may recall if they were there, he will not engage the Mayor. The Mayor stated that you can

deduce from that whatever you wish, but once again, these are questions that city council and the administration needs to know. And the public needs to know what is going on with business and so forth. He said one question he has, maybe John can answer it he is the finance chairman. Do they know December's results yet on income tax? Has he been made aware of December's income tax collection? December of 2020. Councilman Moliterno said he understood and was going to defer to their Auditor. Moliterno said that Julie gave them those numbers at the last finance meeting. The Auditor stated she did. Moliterno said they did get the updated numbers from their Auditor at that point and time. The Auditor said that December net collections was \$238,236.92 for the month of December. The Mayor asked if those were from the Treasurer? Coleman stated no from RITA. The Mayor said what he is going to do not to cause any further discussion on the matter, or lack of engagement, he is going to write a letter to the state auditors to determine what their income tax collection was in 2020. They have a Treasurer who has given them a whole different number and the Mayor's number is different. The fact is they need to know the real number. And the fact is John as the port authority sent us some of the qualifications for the upcoming pandemic money, the third bullet point is provide government service affected by a revenue reduction resulting from Covid 19 relative to revenues in the fiscal year prior to the pandemic. This is a revenue loss provision. The Mayor said, in other words, the \$1.8 million as they discussed and they continue to discuss projects, they certainly can replenish the income tax loss to the general fund. They had the fire department in there. They are talking about fire. That's where it comes from. The Mayor stated he certainly would not want to have a tragedy where they would replenish a number that would be incorrect. They better get the right number and he is going to send a letter to the state auditors for them to determine that number because, obviously he is in conflict with the Treasurer's number.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR-MOLITERNO

Councilman Martuccio stated that the new website will hopefully be going live in the next week or so at the most. It will be a .gov not a .com. Shop local and support our local businesses.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR

Councilman Schubert stated that opening day of baseball was this past weekend and it was very nice. The Mayor threw out the first two pitches he was told. Schubert said he was unable to attend because he had soccer in Lodi but he heard everything went well. It is nice to see everyone back out in the park with baseball progressing.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley asked the Mayor if he threw a strike. The Mayor said they were pretty good. One was dropped but they'll leave it at that. The Mayor said he hadn't thrown in two years because Covid shut them out last year. The Law Director said as a proud parent of two contestants there that they did have the Mayor throw the first pitch at the t-ball field. The Mayor said it is a little bit shorter.

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-SCHUBERT-KAY

Councilman Grumley said they met this evening. He wanted to thank everyone that participated in the discussion about a possible joint fire district.

COMMENTS:

STREETS, SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

No report.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilman Zirafi stated that they had a meeting tonight and most councilmen attended and he is very appreciative of them coming and he felt sorry that the one didn't attend. Councilman Standohar said he doesn't ask him to come to his committee meetings when did that become a thing. He has work and other things going on. Zirafi said at the meeting they discussed the need to start to develop a capital improvement program for their water district which is aging and needs to be addressed.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-KAY-ZIRAFI-MOLITERNO

No report.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

50-44

FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO BRIDGE AGREEMENTS WITH TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TREATMENT OF SEWAGE AND PROVISION OF WATER FOR A PART OF LIBERTY TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS THE TRUMBULL COUNTY COMBINED SEWER DISTRICT.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF 50-44.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR SUSPENSION OF 50-44

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 50-44.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR PASSAGE OF 50-44

50-45

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING WATER BOOSTER PUMPS AT THE CITY'S EXISTING PUMP STATIONS.

Councilman Kay stated that the wording is off on this. He was just looking at it and it says something about a roof on it in the second part of the actual ordinance itself. The wording is off and he didn't know if that mattered. President of Council asked the Director of Public Services if that should read pumps? Jerry said yes. Paolone asked Jeff to make a motion to change it. Roof to pumps.

MOTION KAY SECOND ZIRAFI TO CHANGE ROOF TO PUMPS IN 2ND WHEREAS CLAUSE

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY 1
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2

MOTION PASSES FOR CORRECTON 7-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF 50-45.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR SUSPENSION OF 50-45

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 50-45.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 2
MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR PASSAGE OF 50-45

50-46 **FIRST READING**
A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION.

President of Council stated other than Sam, everyone else get their ideas to him for the Covid money. They will have a little caucus on May 10th about 6:40 to discuss that and give their discussions to the Mayor. Councilman Kay said before he makes any suggestions on stuff that they can't use the money for, do they have any kind of criteria on what they could do? The Mayor said what he said was they will gather their thoughts and ideas and make sure that they are approved from a higher source than him. That way they will go forward and council and administration will work together in trying to determine what projects they want. The Mayor stated they will have the state office of budget and management, whosever is going to oversee this we will make sure that those projects are approved before they go forward.

NEW LEGISLATION

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND SCHUBERT TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND SCHUBERT FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2021.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0 FOR ADJOURNMENT.

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL