50th GIRARD CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL

Councilman Moliterno asked Councilman Schubert to introduce the young people to us that are going to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Schubert said that it was an honor to have Cubmaster Betsy Faulk with Troop 40 there tonight and they are going to lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE

The pledge was led by Scout Troop 40.

Councilman Moliterno thanked the scouts and thanked Councilman Schubert for putting it together.

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	ABSENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	PRESENT
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 ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO EXCUSE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL REYNALD PAOLONE AND COUNCILMAN MARK STANDOHAR FROM THE APRIL 26, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING.

SCHUBERT 2

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI 1

MOTION PASSES 6-0

COMMUNICATIONS

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION KAY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF APRIL 26, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY 1

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO 2

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA PASSES 6-0

2

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND KAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2021 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES PASSES 6-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Councilman Moliterno thanked everyone for attending and thanked the scout troop and said we take the Pledge of Allegiance very seriously and even more so when we have the scouts there to join us.

The Cubmaster asked if there was going to be anything discussed tonight because the scouts are working on a merit badge and they need an issue or two to discuss. Councilman Moliterno said this would be an appropriate time for them to be excused and go off. They are just fine. They do have an agenda they are going to go through and they are not sure how long that will take. It depends on the members of city council and administration and the comments they make. Moliterno said that normally they don't have very long meetings but they have the opportunity to leave at any point and time during the meeting. The Cubmaster said no they can just stay and hear it. Councilman Moliterno said that's fine they are going to get that opportunity.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR JAMES J. MELFI PRESENT

Mayor Melfi said that maybe he better stand up and point towards them. The Mayor said that the issue that he is going to speak of tonight is one that most communities face at one time or another and that is individuals who do not maintain their property. He stated that he is sure that everyone in the audience understands that to be a good neighbor you have to maintain your home, your grass, your structure, your home, clean, neat, paper picked up. Well, that same criteria is used to a larger degree when it comes to commercial buildings or industrial buildings. They have some property owners, just like in neighborhoods, residential areas, who do not want to maintain their property. Who give them great difficulty, the City, great difficulty, and it is embarrassing to all of us who live here and make an attempt to keep our properties nice because it takes work. They Mayor stated that as he looks out there he is sure that everybody out there is pushing a lawnmower at one time or another or using a weedwacker or doing something at your home. No different than any other property that you own. So, as he leads into that Mr. Chairman, 25 W. Liberty Street. Everybody over the age of 55 or so remembers Ben Franklin and it is owned by an individual who owns, unfortunately their family owns other properties in our community, and they don't maintain their properties very well. The Mayor said he spoke with Trumbull County Health Department who condemned the property and was informed that on May 1St they will place a final inspection on the property. At that time, sixty days have gone by since they condemned it, they did give the owner sixty days to bring it up to code. What that means, obviously, is a standard they can all live with. If the owner does not do that by May 1st then the Trumbull County Health Department will notify the City. They will be prepared prior to that date with an environmental test to make sure that the materials in that building are safe for demolition. They certainly don't want, the common problem is asbestos. Asbestos in plaster. Asbestos in wrappings around heating ducts and so forth. This is a problem and they have to remove that asbestos before they demo the property. Before they tear it down. Because they do not want to make the air unsafe to breathe and make it dangerous for the folks who live and work around that building. The Mayor said that unfortunately it has been an eyesore for a long time. Some of the older folks remember when it was a thriving business. They know there are not any Ben Franklins left around, but if the individual who owns it wants to work out of it and maintain it properly he wouldn't really have a problem with the City, but he has not done that. On May 1st, Mr. Chairman, they will be notified whether or not they have made improvements. The Mayor continued, if they have not, he will be coming to this body the next meeting for their consent, even though this is usually the administration's, but downtown has to be a team effort. This would be the start of several properties for demolition. The Mayor said they will incur the cost of demolition of that property. The Mayor said that was all he had at this time.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Moliterno asked if he could ask as councilman, if it is demolished and they incur the cost, would they put that on their taxes? The Mayor said yes they will. Councilman Moliterno thanked him.

Councilman Martuccio stated that she wanted to make sure that the mural that was put on that building gets preserved and relocated, and maybe the city or street department or somebody from a city department could make sure that happens. The Mayor said absolutely.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR JERRY LAMBERT PRESENT

The Safety/Service Director said he just had one thing. Just an update. The Director said if they notice the work on the project on Wellman Avenue is going very fine. They are doing a very fine job. They are moving along. Lambert said they already have replaced some of the sidewalk entering up to some of the houses as well as some of the driveway approaches. They have been contacted by some of the neighbors on Wellman as well. Lambert said what is going to happen, all of those trucks have been taking so much dirt and everything up to the golf course because they are going to put the retentions ponds up there, and it is really taking a toll on Joan Avenue. They are trying to see if they can absorb the price of paving that portion of Joan as well and he thinks they will be able to do it with the amount of money that they are saving. Lambert said to finish the job you are going to be able see it paved from Kline Street from Wellman to the golf course. You are going to see Wellman paved from Kline down to Joan, and from Wellman to the golf course on Joan as well. Lambert continued, everything looks like it is going along pretty fine. He said that's all he had.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Moliterno asked whose responsibility it will be to maintain the pond once it is finished. Jerry said that the engineer is in constant talks with the country club and they have a way, because with the retention pond, he thinks it is going to be a detention pond not a retention pond, because he thinks that they are assuming that it will be dry more than it will be wet so he thinks they wanted to have the landscaping around it so they were able to get their lawnmowers inside so they could cut the inside of that too so it will look nice as well. But it will be on the Mahoning Country Club.

LAW DIRECTOR BRIAN KREN PRESENT

Attorney Kren said that when they get to the one piece of legislation there is an amendment that needs to be made that he will point out at the time. Kren said he would like to ask for an executive session after new legislation to discuss litigation along with the Mayor. He is not requesting that any action be taken after they come out of executive session.

COMMENTS:

AUDITOR JULIE COLEMAN PRESENT

The Auditor stated that she had no further report than what was given at the finance meeting. **COMMENTS:**

TREASURER MARK ZUPPO PRESENT

The Treasurer said he had no report other than what they discussed at the finance meeting as well.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF JOHN NORMAN ABSENT

FIRE CHIEF KEN BORNEMISS ABSENT

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno said they did have a finance committee meeting this evening and they did get an update on their income tax. The City's funds are very healthy at this point and time, but they are lacking in terms of income tax collections. They are falling short of last year's collections as well as their bar they have set which is 2019. Moliterno said they are constantly tracking that and they appreciate the information that they have received. At the end of the finance committee it was determined that as they move through May and be able to monitor those collections, they will get a chance at that point and time, probably in June to sit down with the administration and based on what those numbers are to determine if any additional actions have to be taken with the city budget based on where they are at. Moliterno stated that with the pandemic they are never sure how quickly they will come out of this and how quickly their income tax will rebound. If it is not a quick rebound, which it has not been up to now

of course, they may need to take some additional action, but they are very fortunate that the rest of the City funds are in very good, solid shape. Moliterno said as usual he wanted to thank all of the members of council and the administration for attending that meeting. For those that don't know, their committees meet on a somewhat regular/irregular basis depending on the committee and depending on the activities. The finance committee meets the second meeting of every month a half hour prior to that meeting and they have in attendance at that meeting three members of the committee but all who want to participate because it is an open meeting, have the opportunity to do that and they have consistently had all of the members of city council as well as the Mayor and administration attend those meetings and for that they are very appreciative because it is important that they are all on the same page. Moliterno said that as the Mayor stated they are a team working together and they have to be able to continue to do that for the benefit of the City. Councilman Moliterno thanked the Mayor for attending.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR-MOLITERNO

Councilman Martuccio reminded everyone to support local businesses.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-MARTUCCIO-STANDOHAR

No report.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-SCHUBERT-KAY

Councilman Grumley stated he wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended the earth day cleanup yesterday. It was organized by a local resident and YSU student Corey Kihm and they had students from the Beta Club, National Honor Society and Robotics at the high school as well as quite a few YSU students. The Girard Fire Department was there in force and the Mayor and courtside representative were there also. Grumley said they were able to clean Stambaugh Park, Liberty Park, Mosier Road, Trumbull Hill, South Davis, Dearborn and he said he has to say they have been doing this for quite a few years now, at least the last ten, they had to take last year off due to Covid, but they have always run across mountains of tires throughout the whole area and they found one tire yesterday. That with taking last year off so that's a two year collection. Obviously, either the patrols or maybe people are just finally looking out and keeping their neighbors in check and so forth. It was good to see. Obviously, they still picked up many bags of trash and they can't stop all of the litter but there were definitely signs of improvement as far as dumping in their neighborhood so that was a good point. Grumley stated that after their last meeting the Health and Safety Committee met up at the fire department and they looked over a few items that need to be repaired up there and so forth. They turned the list over to the Safety/Service Director and he has been in contact and they are moving forward with some of the improvements. Councilman Grumley said be patient guys the improvements are coming. Thank you for bringing it to their attention.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Moliterno stated that that is a great thing. To be able to get the people in the community together and be able to help clean up. He thanked Councilman Grumley and the Mayor for their involvement in that.

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

No report. Councilman Kay said he did want to ask the Safety Service Director, he knows they have a lot of roads planned on getting paved this year, will they still be doing any sealing like they did last year with that? The Safety Service Director replied that it has to be a certain temperature. Once the temperature gets up the biggest thing that the have to do, they have a lot of water holes. They had a lot of water breaks this year. So there are a lot of water holes. They are hoping they can hold off doing the final paving of those water holes. They were hoping they would be able to cut them out when the did the paving. Like wait til July but some of them they are not going to be able to wait. They are going to have to do them right away. Lambert said that they have already started putting some of the hot patch in some of the holes right now. When the temperatures are solid and the paving is all behind them, he imagines they will be doing it on a regular basis. Councilman Kay thanked him.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

No report.
COMMENTS:
ZONING-KAY-ZIRAFI-MOLITERNO
No report.
COMMENTS:
<u>ORDINANCES</u>
TO 46
50-46
READING
A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MIL
MACTION CRUMIES SECOND MARTILCOO TO AMEND ORDINANCE TO AC CE

L LIMITATION. MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO AMEND ORDINANCE 50-46 SECTION 1, SECOND

SECOND

PARAGRAPH ADD RENEWAL OF A TAX.

Councilman Moliterno asked if there was any discussion about the motion? He said he knows that was a question they had whether it was a renewal or not. They assumed that it was but are glad that Mr. Kren clarified that. Attorney Kren said, again, this is step 1. This is asking the County Auditor to give them the numbers that the levy will raise and the second ordinance after that will have the precise ballot language to send it to the Board of Elections. He said he also wanted to say that this is the best run meeting he has been to. Councilman Moliterno said they will have an email sent to Mr. Paolone letting him know. Councilman Kay said it is in the minutes.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO 2 **MOLITERNO** ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 6-0 FOR AMENDMENT

Councilman Moliterno said that for those in attendance tonight this is a renewal levy that they have had for sometime in the City to support recreation. Moliterno said that because it is done as five years they need to put it back onto the ballot again as a renewal, but all of those dollars arising from that levy go toward recreation.

NEW LEGISLATION

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

SCHUBERT 2 **STANDOHAR**

GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO MOLITERNO

7IRAFI

MOTION PASSES 6-0 FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2021.

SCHUBERT **STANDOHAR**

KAY

GRUMLEY MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 6-0 FOR ADJOURNMENT.



MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL