

**51st GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022
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

None.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

51-15

FIRST

READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE & SAFETY TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD THE LOWEST BIDDER TO RAZE AND DEMOLISH THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 15/15 ½ W. LIBERTY STREET, GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO ADD 51-15 TO THE AGENDA OF APRIL 25, 2022.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY 2

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1

ZIRAFI

PASSED 7-0 TO ADD 51-15

Attorney Kren said that he had an amendment to the 51-15 that he would explain when they get to it.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF APRIL 25, 2022 AS AMENDED.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND GRUMLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jason McBride, 49 Morris Avenue. Mr. McBride said that he wanted to take a moment to publicly thank our fire department, our police and all of our neighboring communities who lent us equipment, manpower and really saved us as a community on Saturday. Mr. McBride said that he did not have much more to say than that and he is sure that they will discuss Saturday a lot more later. He said one more thing that he wanted to say is that he came in there and noticed 51-13, an ordinance establishing the wage and certain benefit increases for the fire chief. He got to know the fire chief very well over the weekend and spoke with him a little bit more today and he genuinely thinks he deserves it and hopes they all do. President of Council thanked him and said it is not often we have someone come in and thank them. Mr. McBride said that he didn't want to leave out the police because they did a pretty cool job too. If he wasn't in public on the record he would use different words, but they did.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

**MAYOR
PRESENT**

JAMES J. MELFI

Mayor Melfi said starting off this evening, our citizens have received in the mail a notice that

Volunteer Energy who is the City's electric supplier filed for bankruptcy. We have received a lot of calls in the office over the last couple of weeks concerning this. The Mayor said there is nothing to be concerned with. The citizens really don't have to do anything. It reverts to First Energy from Volunteer and then there is a slight change in price. The Mayor said their response to that is that they are going to file in Bankruptcy Court for any chance of recovery. They don't know how that will go but, as always, what he likes to tell their citizens is that the City offers these aggregates as another option. They are not necessarily the best or the lowest but they are comparable in all of the other qualities. Melfi said always look for price of course, but always look for termination. In the City's case they never have a termination fee. A lot of these places have a termination fee. Of course there is no termination fee for Volunteer energy, and, for the record, the price that our citizens have paid for natural gas over the last 2 1/2 years has been remarkable so he hopes that they are in that program. The Mayor said you are always able to go on the Apples to Apples website of the PUCO and determine what the best deal is out there. Mayor Melfi said that in the near future, he wants to make Council aware of this well ahead of what he is going to propose or seek out, funding the improvement of the scout cabin. The scout cabin is long overdue for improvements at Liberty Park. Melfi said there are a couple of different ways to seek funding. They are going to go for the grant process first to determine what monies are there for such a venture. Melfi continued, that of course involves hiring a consultant. He has already started researching who does this type of thing and who has done it for other communities. Melfi said he will be coming to council in the future for their support for improvements or a resolution supporting a grant application for improvements at the scout cabin.

The Mayor said that the City received the response from the Penza family concerning 25 W. Liberty Street last week. Their contractor surprisingly has found our inspector's findings he guesses to be all wet. They disagreed with all of the inspector's findings as it relates to 25 W. Liberty. The Mayor said he finds it humorous that their attorney said that they still hope they will be able to avoid mediation. They begin mediation immediately. They will certainly not avoid mediation when it comes to the demolition of 25 W. Liberty.

Mayor Melfi said the Leatherworks. Just to give them a timetable on the Leatherworks. Melfi said he did bring Council up to date as far as the clearing of the Leatherworks here. He said that the soil remediation work will be bid out soon and the work will begin this Summer. That is moving along.

Mayor Melfi said he would appreciate the passage of the addition tonight to demo 15 W. Liberty separately. Their attorneys feel that this is something we should have in our package going into the court case.

The Mayor said also, like their citizen, he would like to that everyone who was involved Saturday. The police, the fire, all of the adjoining folks. They did a bang up job. This has been, as he told the press today, this has been a business that has been in town on and off, mostly on, since 1950. They employee nearly 60 people. Any concerns that the citizens may have, their record speaks for itself. Any other concerns he is sure will be addressed by the company, its representatives and the state folks as it relates to the fire. As Jason said, he would like to thank fire, police just a terrific job. Melfi said he wants to thank all of the other people that volunteered. They did a fine job.

COMMENTS:

**SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR
PRESENT**

JERRY LAMBERT

Mr. Lambert said that they went over the paving program for this year and the only thing he wants to remind Council of is that he wants to bring in legislation to accept the bids. Councilman Standohar said he already wrote it down. Mr. Lambert said that is all he had.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley asked Monica if she could email them an updated street list for them to look at. She said she would.

**LAW DIRECTOR
PRESENT**

BRIAN KREN

Attorney Kren said that he has spoken with Tom Bellish from Buckeye Energy administration about submitting the City's claim with the Bankruptcy Court.

Attorney Kren stated that the mediation with Penzas is Thursday on site at 10:30-11:00. The Court Magistrate should be there.

Kren said the ordinance 51-15 they originally got bids he thinks on 120 alone and then discovered that they needed to demolish the adjacent building 15 and 15 ½ and got a joint proposal last time they put it out for bid. However, if the Penzas do seek to remodel and bring 120 up to code for them to do that, at least from their position is going to be to rely on them taking down 115 so they obviously want to know what the extra cost of taking down that stand along building will be before making any resolution to 120 because it will obviously be a lot more money to do that one building alone. To that end, Ordinance 51-15 he believes Attorney Jerry had prepared, they can put it out for bids but Council is required another piece of legislation to accept the lowest bid. They can't just put it all on one piece of legislation so he knows everyone would like that but he would recommend they amend and take out the and award the lowest bidder reference.

Attorney Kren said that he also thinks he heard during the finance meeting about the streets, and asked when the bids would be coming in. Jerry said May 12th. Kren said they couldn't have a reading accepting that until after the bids. There was conversation between council and administration regarding this.

COMMENTS:

**AUDITOR
ABSENT**

JULIE COLEMAN

**TREASURER
ABSENT**

MARK ZUPPO

**FIRE CHIEF
ABSENT**

JAMES PETRUZZI

**POLICE CHIEF
ABSENT**

JOHN NORMAN

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno stated that they had a brief finance committee meeting this evening. Neither their Auditor or their Treasurer were able to join them. Both were a little under the weather tonight. Moliterno said that they had an opportunity to talk about some other things that they are looking at. He said he knows the mayor brought up the discrepancy in some of the numbers that they have received on the income tax which they do need to look at and need to have explained to them. Councilman Moliterno said he would certainly agree with that.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

No report. Councilman Kay asked Jerry to have a meeting with their web developer in Jerry's office. He asked Jerry to set something up and discuss where that is headed because it is right there ready to go he thinks it just needs to be turned on. Jerry said he would. Kay said he would stop down.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Schubert said it is great to hear that the city gym is on target and he looks forward to that grand opening. Also, he wanted to reiterate the great job that the police and fire had done not only Saturday, but they had a house fire Sunday as well. Tough weekend but it looks like the cream always rises to the top.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Standohar said that he just wanted to make the chairman aware, he didn't know if he had heard from a few citizens that were asking the committee to look at the possibility of replacing some playground equipment at Tod Park and also ask the administration to look into that also. Standohar said there is a lot of graffiti on the playground equipment and the age of the playground equipment is advancing too so that is something maybe they could just look at. The Mayor said he had a couple of questions. On the same footprint? In other words not expanding out? Do they want a Chevy or a Cadillac? The Mayor said he needs to know this. Councilman Standohar said he just wants him to take a look at it. Look at the situation. See what condition he thinks the stuff is in. He is just bringing it up to start to look at. Councilman Schubert said he had some pictures and would get with the administration for them to look at. President of Council said they need the groundskeeper from Oakmont. The Mayor said that they would talk about it. Standohar said just some slight updating. The Mayor said they would let them know. They will try to get some pricing for that same footprint to start. Some varying degrees.

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley said he would like to thank police and fire for everything they do on a daily basis, not only this weekend but on a daily basis. Grumley said that this Sunday between 9-1 they will be doing the cleanup at Stambaugh Park and the Parkwood area if anyone is available they will be there from 9-1 on Sunday.

COMMENTS:

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

Councilman Standohar said that Jerry has requested that he ask for that ordinance with regard to accepting bids for the 2022 paving project and they will wait for that second meeting in May. Jerry also updated them previously at the finance committee meeting that the delayed 2021 program is certainly underway. Hoping that most of the corners and everything will be done by May 12th. Jerry corrected him and said 9th. May 12th will be the opening of the '22 bids. Councilman Standohar said he would like to thank him and is glad that they are going to get a lot done this year. Also, he assured Council once again that there is going to be a big focus this year on the sealing of the streets that have been done in the last 4 or 5 years to make sure that they are protecting their investments of the paved streets previously. They think that is a positive thing also.

Mr. Lambert asked the President of Council if he wanted to schedule a committee meeting the week after the bids come in so they could address it with the committee and see where the committee is going to go? There was discussion regarding when the meeting would be. It was left that Councilman Standohar would get with Jerry regarding a committee meeting.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley asked if they gave any consideration to the blacktop curbing for one of the streets just to try it. Mr. Lambert asked if he was talking about the ones that sweep up a little bit on the corners? Lambert said Tommy said it is not working where they have them right now. That is why he really wasn't too impressed with it because everybody he has talked to who has had that type of thing attempted to be done the plows just tore apart or it tore up the plows because of the way it curves up. Lambert said that is Tommy's opinion so that is where he is so far. Councilman Grumley said he just thought it would give one of those streets some relief. They watch year after year Elruth as it breaks away right on the edge. They just did Elruth not long ago and it is already broken away. Grumley said he knows it works in Upper St. Clair. Jerry said it might work but that's not what Tommy told him. Grumley said they'll bring it up at the meeting.

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi said he had no report other than a question. Are they still on for May 9th for Ohio Edison? President of Council said as far as he knows they are and asked the Clerk. She said as far as she knows and asked Mr. Lambert. Lambert said he has not heard that they cancelled. Zirafi asked what time? The Clerk said 6:15.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio said no report except that she did have a question for Leo Brian. Are they getting their zoning laws online? Where are they with that? What do they need to do? Attorney Kren said that he offered to get a quote. Ken said they switched (tape garbled) He said he will do that. There is probably one large initial fee because it has never been made part of the codified ordinances for whatever reason. Martuccio thanked him.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

51-09

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE & SAFETY OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-09.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-09 PASSES 7-0

51-10

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WAGE AND CERTAIN BENEFIT INCREASES FOR THE POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF GIRARD.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-10

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-10 PASSES 7-0

51-11

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY AND HOURS FOR THE POSITIONS OF PART-TIME RENTAL/ZONING INSPECTORS.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-11

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-11 PASSES 7-0

51-12

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT PART-TIME POSITIONS FOR THE VARIOUS SERVICE AND RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-12

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-12 PASSES 7-0

51-13

THIRD

READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WAGE AND CERTAIN BENEFIT INCREASES FOR THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF GIRARD.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-13

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-13 PASSES 7-0

51-15

FIRST

READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE & SAFETY TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD THE LOWEST BIDDER TO RAZE AND DEMOLISH THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 15/15 ½ W. LIBERTY STREET, GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT TO AMEND 51-15 REMOVING “AND AWARD THE LOWEST BIDDER”.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI

AMENDMENT TO 51-15 PASSES 7-0

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND 2ND AND 3RD READINGS OF 51-15

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR

KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
MOTON TO SUSPEND PASSES 7-0
MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF 51-15.
SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI 2
51-15 PASSES 7-0

NEW LEGISLATION

Councilman Moliterno said with the job their firemen did and the policemen and the entire administration there was a lot going on for the last three days and he thinks everyone appreciates the job that not only our own people did but the job from everyone else coming to our community to assist us in a time of need. Thank you for that.

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND GRUMLEY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER TO PAVE CERTAIN STREETS IN THE 2022 PAVING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF GIRARD.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND SCHUBERT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2022.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 1
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT PASSES 7-0

**MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL
PRESIDENT OF**

**REYNALD
COUNCIL**

PAOLONE,